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**St Anne's
College**
University of Oxford



The Ship

2024 – 2025

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St Anne's College Record 2024-2025
Number 114 Annual Publication of
the St Anne's Society
(formerly known as the Association of
Senior Members)

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Keeping in contact with our alumnae
and friends is vital to all that we do at
College. Most importantly, we want
to help you keep in contact with each
other after you have left St Anne's and to
foster and nurture a global community
of alumnae and friends of the College.
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Lost alumnae
Over the years the College has lost touch
with some of our alumnae. We would
very much like to re-establish contact,
invite them back to our events and send
them our publications such as The Ship
and Annual Review. Please encourage
your contemporaries to contact us if
they do not receive our communications
and would like to be back in touch.

Dine in College
College is delighted to be able to offer
alumnae the option to lunch at St Anne's
on a Monday to Friday during term
time (term dates). You are welcome to
dine on up to two days per term and
also to have lunch with up to three
guests in the Hall between 12 and 1.30
pm. Seating will be with the students
and will be chargeable. Lunch includes
two courses and coffee/tea. Book by
emailing: events@st-annes.ox.ac.uk or
calling 01865 274800. Please provide
College two business days' notice to so
that the Events Team can notify Catering
of additional numbers at lunch.

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The views and opinions expressed in
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All alumnae are welcome to contribute
to The Ship. If you would like to write
an article get in touch with us at
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A world in flux

JUDITH VIDAL-HALL

The times they are a-changing. Where shall we be by the time you read this? Right now it's an open question...

In the years I have had the privilege of editing our college magazine I don't think there has ever been a more tense and precarious climate in our world. Quite apart from the escalating death and starvation in Gaza, of which we hear daily, conflict around the world from Europe to across the Middle East into Africa and Asia has escalated dramatically in the past year.

On 6 August, as I start to write, I'm listening to the mayor of Hiroshima calling for the world's most powerful countries to abandon nuclear deterrence, at a ceremony to mark 80 years since the city was destroyed by an American atomic bomb. Three days later another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with the same devastating effect. Kazumi Matsui warned that the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East had contributed to a growing acceptance of nuclear weapons. These developments "flagrantly disregard the lessons the international community should have learned from the tragedies of history," he said.

As Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin prepare to meet in Alaska for their proxy peace talks on Ukraine it might be worth reflecting that between them they control 90% of the world's nuclear weapons.

Had I been writing about a month or so ago, a more common timeline for our publication, I might well have begun with the news of what the media were calling "the worst earthquake and tsunami in living memory". It started many leagues beneath the sea off the coast of Russia, its effect reaching down to Japan and further afield. At the time it seemed like a fitting testimony to the chaos and uncertainty across the world

that have marked the first six months of President Trump's current term.

Indeed, my anxiety that by the time you receive your copy of The Ship all I write could be utterly irrelevant, overtaken by this fast-moving turbulence, has never been so strong. Confirmation of this is provided by our college professor Howard Hotson in possibly our key piece in this issue. It's not the first time he's appeared in the magazine. In the 2018/19 issue, his Gaudy lecture looked at the extraordinary confluence of events during the time of Leonardo da Vinci that changed the shape of the world he and his contemporaries had known. His closely argued piece here looks at the possibility of global change in the world we have been living in since the end of WWII.

But before looking at the amazing range and variety of copy provided by our contributors, the extent of whose interests and experience never ceases to amaze, let me quote the journalist Jonathan Freedland writing recently in the Guardian. "The supply of bad news is voluminous and apparently without end." He continues by arguing both the need for and virtue of "escapism". It doesn't make the other stuff go away, he concedes, but it is a useful antidote to despair that enables us "to look up and see the stars". For him it seems to be cricket; I hope for those of you reading our magazine, despite the presence of some sombre reflections, it might be that reading the range and diversity among our members' experiences and activities will offer not simply "escape", but admiration and inspiration. Sadly, there are far too many to mention them all in this brief introduction to the issue.

Two issues, climate change and Ukraine, have featured in most of our recent issues. Our regular climate expert Rob Gardner looks closer to home in his piece on the state of our rivers, the victims

of a strange confluence of drought and extensive flooding, utterly neglected by those in a position to deal with the threat.

Ukraine demands our attention perhaps more than ever this year as its future hangs in the Trump-Putin balance. Laura Mackenzie writes of her part in driving a convoy of trucks taking much needed medical aid to Ukraine, while Laura Smith writes of how Trump's current approach to government differs from, but finds echoes in, that of his predecessor William Taft.

Another of our much loved regulars, Russell Taylor, mourns the demise of his friend Alex in the pages of The Telegraph, but also assures us that this is by no means the last we'll hear from him. We live in hope...

Simar Bajaj, meanwhile, gives us a detailed and well-informed rundown on something we are starting to hear a good deal more about of late: the dangers of the younger generation spending 24 hours a day alone in their rooms glued to their mobiles.

And while our Principal Helen King warns us of the challenges AI poses to education and research, she reassures us that "science alone will not have all the answers". A sense of confidence reflected by other members of staff. While Development Staff rightly take credit for progress on the Bevington Road redevelopment, Shannon McKellar celebrates St Anne's triumph as the first ever All Steinway School in Oxbridge. What is she talking about? Find out in her fascinating and highly readable piece on the subject.

Our amazing librarian, Clare White entertains and enlightens us with her account of the journey of The Beaver from its humble origins to top the crest of St Anne's.

And there is more good news from college, ranging from its pioneering role in accepting the first Black American

woman student in the 1930s to the current achievements of our rowing teams and the activities of the JCR and MCR, not forgetting the activities of our SAS branches across the UK. I end too soon by mentioning two unique publications from our people, both featured in this issue. The first, *Elements of the Day* by Samantha Lewis, a pioneering and amazingly illustrated book for primary school children on the secrets of science they encounter daily. It won The Times book of the week this year. The second, *Haunted*, by Jay Gilbert is a compelling look at the ways in which old rumours and sightings of "ghosts" persist through the centuries. It's a great read and I recommend you take a look.

And finally, I cannot end without thanking my colleague and co-editor, that same Jay Gilbert, to whom we owe the production of this issue. In my sudden and unexpected absence from the scene she took it on without a moment's hesitation and delivered. It is she we thank and for whom I have nothing but respect and gratitude.

Judith Vidal-Hall (Bunting, 1957)

Co-editor's note:

To quote Eliot, "I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be;/ Am an attendant lord, one that will do/To swell a progress, start a scene or two,/Advise the prince..."

I have neither Judith's panache nor her pedigree as an editor and have missed her enormously while working on this issue, but I hope the quality of our St Anne's contributors will shroud my inadequacies in the editorial arena, and that you'll enjoy the magazine.

Jay Gilbert, Senior Communications Manager

St Anne's At The Heart of Oxford

HELEN KING

Welcome to this year's edition of The Ship, which, as ever, we hope will inform, educate and entertain you with its rich and varied contents from members and friends of St Anne's, past and present. If you have an article you would like to contribute to next year's Ship which would be of wider interest to college alumnae then please do contact Jay.Gilbert@st-annes.ox.ac.uk .

You may be relieved to hear that I'm not going to dedicate my 2025 foreword to the exciting and nearly complete regeneration of the Bevington Road houses, as I've written on this previously, but please do look out for news in the coming months on the houses' dedicated microsite (<https://transformingbevingtonroad.co.uk>) and come and see them for yourself when you're next in Oxford.

Instead, I've decided to write with a slightly wider perspective to tell you about other significant projects that are situating St Anne's ever more centrally within the University, geographically and intellectually. In early July the keys were handed over for Oxford's new Life and Mind Building (<https://lifeandmind.web.ox.ac.uk/home>) in South Parks Road. This state-of-the-art facility will house the Psychology and Biology Departments, making them a leisurely ten minutes' walk through University Parks for St Anne's students and academics. St Anne's teaches undergraduate Biology, Experimental Psychology, Psychology and Linguistics, and Psychology and Philosophy. All these subjects, and other sciences at Oxford, now provide the opportunity to complete a 4 year integrated Masters programme and gain invaluable research experience before progressing into work or further study. They are increasingly popular and

competitive courses, providing highly relevant skills for a broad range of careers.

Then, later this year, English, History, Linguistics, Medieval & Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy, and Theology will move into the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities (<https://www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk>) in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, less than five minutes' walk from St Anne's. Also housing Oxford's new Institute for Ethics in AI and the Oxford Internet Institute, this impressive building will include performing arts and exhibition venues, which will be open to the public and visitors. Additionally, modern amenities and digital capabilities will allow Oxford to share widely the full breadth of its unparalleled collections and research in the humanities.

I am no expert on how to maximise the opportunities and minimise the threats posed by AI to education or research, let alone our planet, society, health, economy and democracy. However, it does seem clear that science alone will not have all the answers. What makes us human must be brought to this endeavour and the humanities are central to this. St Anne's has a strong history across the humanities, which we continue to build upon with initiatives such as the Oxford Centre for Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT), the Weidenfeld Professorship, our links with the Uehiro Oxford Institute of Practical Ethics, the St Anne's Camerata, and most recently our investment in becoming the first Oxbridge College to gain 'All Steinway School' status. For more on this please read Shannon McKellar's scintillating article (page 58) and listen to the unique concert held in Hall with 7 pianos, which included world premieres of pieces for 14 and 28 hands! (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGESMjBO4t4&list=RDuGESMjBO4t4&start_radio=1).

If you recall Oxford geography from a few years or decades ago, you may still have a sense that St Anne's is a little remote from Carfax, the Examination Schools and Departments compared with other colleges. However, that centre of University gravity has been shifting. When the Maths Institute opened in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, St Anne's saw a significant rise in applicants for this subject. I have no doubt that when the Humanities Centre opens students in these subjects will be just as keen to minimise the time it takes them from waking to arriving at 9am lectures. That attraction, along with one of the largest libraries of any Oxford college, Steinway pianos for all, the excellence of Fellows' teaching and research, easy access to green spaces, and the College's down to earth, rigorous, supportive and ambitious values will mean that St Anne's intellectual, cultural and social life will continue to go from strength to strength as we approach our 150th anniversary in 2029.

I know that this important anniversary (which coincides with half a century since male students were admitted) is still some years away, but we are already starting to think about how the College can celebrate its history and best prepare itself for the next 150 years. Whilst the world feels a very uncertain place currently, the University is over 800 years old and it is our goal for St Anne's to still be transforming lives through education and world leading research in 800 years' time, so our ambition has to be about securing what we do for the long term, indeed, in perpetuity. We will share more about what this looks like and how you might be able to help in the coming months and years, but, meanwhile, I hope you stay safe and well and enjoy this edition of The Ship.

With gratitude, as ever, to all our contributors, to our esteemed Editor, Judith Vidal-Hall, and to you all for your interest and support.



Helen King QPM

Helen King QPM is Principal of St Anne's College.

Historical vertigo

PROF. HOWARD HOTSON

The first six months of Donald Trump’s second term have invalidated a whole network of interrelated narratives about the shape and trajectory of modern civilisation. Is the world we knew gone forever? Taking stock of our shattered assumptions is the first step towards finding a new way forward.

The first months of 2025 induced, in a professional student of the past, a sense of what one might call historical vertigo. In a brief space of time, many of the most familiar and foundational stories about the modern world and our place within it were suddenly rendered obsolete, leaving us suspended in dizzy disorientation.

* * *

Let’s start in with a recent story, dating back only 34 years, to 1991. When the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union collapsed, the Cold War ended with the triumph of the West, promoting the Stanford analyst Francis Fukuyama to conclude that we had reached ‘the end of history’. The synthesis of free-market economics and democratic politics, he predicted, marked the endpoint of human sociocultural evolution.

Admittedly, little that has happened since then has confirmed his extravagant view. 9/11, the financial crisis, COVID-19, rising inequality, populism, and climate change: none of these suggest that we have reached a benign steady state. Yet it was a shock to realise earlier this year that perhaps Russia had won after all: the Russia not of Gorbachev, to be sure, but of Putin. The multi-billionaire tech barons lined up behind Donald Trump for his second Inauguration suggested that the next stage of human sociocultural evolution would be a synthesis, not of democracy and capitalism, but of oligarchy and

technofeudalism. Subsequent foreign policy has reinforced this impression: by accepting Putin’s war aims in advance, assaulting Zelenskyy in the Oval Office, and withdrawing weapons and intelligence from a friendly country fighting on democracy’s European frontier, Trump has proven himself more an ally than an adversary of Putin. No one writing ten years ago could have predicted this outcome.

* * *

Before Inauguration Day was over, a second and longer narrative had also ended abruptly: the notion, dating back 80 years, that we live in a world order created by America in the aftermath of World War II. Strategically, the end of this post-war period was most evident in Trump’s assault on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Midway through his second inaugural address, the President vowed to expand the borders of the United States. Within weeks he was campaigning to annex one NATO ally (Canada) and threatening to invade the autonomous territory of another (Denmark), as well as encouraging Putin to attack Europe, questioning whether the US would come to its defence, discounting NATO’s defence of the US after 9/11, and belittling the contribution of allied troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The demolition of the post-war *economic* order was even more dramatic: on ‘Liberation Day’ (2 April 2025) the US president announced unilateral tariffs on virtually every country in the world aside from Russia, with many of the heaviest going to America’s closest friends and trading partners. As America’s allies scrambled to reorganise their international affairs in a manner less reliant on the United States, the President forfeited, within months of taking office, both his own status

as ‘Leader of the Free World’ and his country’s status as ‘the indispensable nation’.

* * *

The post-war order was part, in turn, of a third, slightly longer narrative which has also been called into question: ‘the American century’.

Internationally, the American Century was characterised by balancing hard and soft power – the former exemplified by America’s belated entry into the Great War in 1916, the latter by the Nobel Peace Prize given to Woodrow Wilson in 1919 for his leading role in founding the League of Nations. But Trump has abandoned soft power completely for a foreign policy based on economic coercion and military force. One sign of this is America’s withdrawal from international organs of soft power. Begun with Trump’s exit from UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2018, this retreat has been accelerated with his withdrawal from the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Paris Climate Agreement (for the second time) and the abolition of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the first months of 2025. As the rules-based international order collapses and American leadership is replaced with mere coercion, the world risks descending into a nineteenth-century theatre of great power politics, in which China dominates Asia, Russia intimidates Europe, and the United States reasserts its manifest destiny to control the Western Hemisphere.

Domestically, the American century was characterised by the ‘Great Compression’, as the New Deal initiated by Franklin D Roosevelt in 1933 narrowed the gap between the very wealthy and the very poor while creating the great American



From right to left, Elon Musk, Sundar Pichai (Google CEO), Jeff Bezos and his fiancée, and Mark Zuckerberg, as seated behind the President-elect and his family in Inauguration Day, 20 January 2025. <https://images.app.goo.gl/Ve5cECtaRGZDKaPf7>

middle class. The resulting era of widely shared prosperity is of course long gone. Reagan’s economic strategy of cutting taxes for the wealthiest as a means of stimulating economic prosperity for all succeeded only in enriching the rich, impoverishing the poor, hollowing out the middle class, ballooning the national debt, and transferring enormous political power back to the rich; but this has not prevented Trump from doubling down on the same strategy in his Big Beautiful Bill passed on Independency Day, July 4th. Here too we are moving back to the nineteenth century: the re-emergence of a hyper-wealthy billionaire class returns America’s income distribution to the disparities not seen since the Gilded Age. The enormous power wielded by such vast wealth was nowhere more apparent than in the \$300 million-dollar investment made by the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, in electing Donald Trump and gaining the chainsaw needed to slash government departments which impeded still more profit-making while hoovering up oceans of digital data.



The richest man in the world, Elon Musk, brandishing the symbol of his power slash the US federal government at will, purchased by his £300 million-dollar contribution to the campaign to re-elect Donald Trump as president. Conservative Political Action Conference, 20 February 2025.
<https://images.app.goo.gl/ixACyfkgc4FuzCJQ9>

In the face of this onslaught, America's cultural soft power has ebbed away with astonishing speed, especially in the minds of the young. Americans are no longer the envy of the developed world. The American dream is turning into a nightmare. A vast gap in ethical and political values has opened between the worldview of the electoral majority which chose Trump a second time and most of the modern, democratic world. This is not how the American Century was supposed to end.

* * *

Along with the American Century, the credibility of a fourth and still older narrative has also collapsed: namely, the belief, central to the American liberal creed, that 'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.' The idea originated 172 years ago, in 1853, with Theodore Parker, a Unitarian minister, fierce advocate of women's rights and

fervent campaigner against slavery. For the following 155 years, his qualified optimism seemed justified. Slavery was defeated, albeit at an enormous price in blood. Jim Crow was finally brought down by the civil rights movement led by the man who made Parker's motto his own: Martin Luther King Jr. Four decades after MLK's assassination, Americans elected their first Black president by a landslide in 2008. The creed of Parker and King seemed spectacularly justified.

Not any longer. 'Making America Great Again' means returning America to a golden age before Obama and MLK. One of the proudest achievements of Trump's first term was to create the ultra-conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court which then bent the arc of women's rights back four decades by overturning the right to an abortion (in *Roe v. Wade*). Day one of Trump's second term focused on the 'war on woke', demolishing all initiatives (private as well as public) promoting DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), targeting LGBTQ+ policies across the board, re-instating the ban on transgender individuals serving in the military, cancelling HIV prevention programmes worldwide, and declaring by government fiat (in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence) that sexual difference is a simple binary. Meanwhile, army bases and navy ships, recently named in honour of women and non-white men, are rebranded in honour of Confederate battles and war 'heroes'. White supremacy and Christian nationalism – once unspeakable in the public domain – are represented in Cabinet and broadcast both openly and via dog-whistle messaging.

Meanwhile, in recent years, the basic electoral system in the United States has become progressively *less* democratic, thanks again largely to the Supreme Court. In 2010, the Court ruled (in *Citizens United*) that any limit on corporate spending in support or of opposition to political candidates would be inconsistent with the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Corporations, in other words, have the

free speech rights of citizens, and unlimited campaign donations are a form of free speech. In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled (in *Rucho v. Common Cause*) that, although the nakedly partisan redrawing of constituency boundaries (known as 'gerrymandering') may be 'incompatible with democratic principles', the court was powerless to stop it because the conduct of elections belongs exclusively to the individual states. In 2024, the Court shocked the world by ruling (in *Trump v. the United States*) that the President has

absolute immunity for official actions taken under his core constitutional powers and presumptive immunity for other official actions, including that of attempting to subvert a federal election. Throughout the summer of 2025, the Court has repeatedly protected the Administration from scrutiny by lower federal courts, arguing that lower courts could not constrain the President even when the Executive branch flouts the plain text of the Constitution. Clearly, the current ultra-conservative super-majority are bending the arc of



Masked federal agents subdue a protester in Bell, California, 19 June 2025
<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/trump-ice-agents-immigration-assault-violent-raids-1235374760/>

American history in a direction very different from that envisaged by Theodore Parker and MLK.

* * *

This optimistic belief in the arc of history was undergirded, in turn, by a fifth and even older liberal myth of America's founding. Intended here is not anything as sectarian as the Pilgrim Fathers disembarking at Plymouth Rock in 1620. In the liberal genesis story, America is founded not as a theocratic utopia but as an Enlightenment experiment. Nearly two and a half centuries ago, in the final quarter of the *siècle de lumière*, a group of classically learned colonial gentlemen drew from their profound collective study of ancient history, English law, and modern philosophy the principles with which to found an enduring republic of, by, and for the people. Subsequent history then recalls how their 'self-evident' assertion that 'all [straight, white, landowning] men are created equal' evolved into the principle that all persons of whatever race, creed, sex, gender identity, and net worth are endowed with the same inalienable rights, above all the right of equal democratic participation.

Although driven forward partly by supposedly 'originalist' jurists, Trump's second term represents a devastating assault on this conception. At the institutional level, the robust set of checks and balances which the Founders built into the American constitution has been circumvented with alarming ease, as Congress surrenders its prerogatives; the Department of Justice acts as Trump's personal legal team; the Supreme Court ignores precedent, principle, and the clear text of the Constitution to concentrate authority in a quasi-monarchical chief executive; the Administration ignores inconvenient judicial findings; and the President bullies private law firms into submission. Meanwhile, millions of Americans are being deprived of their healthcare in order to spend \$30 billion on a gigantic federal force of

masked stormtroopers licensed to arrest without warrants any brown-skinned passers-by who cannot instantaneously provide the right forms of identification and \$45 billion to create a gulag archipelago of for-profit concentration camps in which they are detained without due process pending their expulsion sometimes to even more hellish prisons elsewhere.

Democratic norms within the federal government have been swept away with even greater ease. Until January of this year, those norms were policed by a cohort of Inspectors General, who acted independently of the executive branch in investigating potential cases of fraud, waste, abuse, and malfeasance. But four days after taking office, Trump fired 17 of these Inspectors General from major federal agencies including the State Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of the Interior, Defence, Health and Human Services, Energy, Transportation, Housing, and Veterans Affairs. In the following months, the head of the federal Office of Government Ethics was fired and seven prosecutors, including the acting chief of Public Integrity, resigned from the federal Department of Justice rather than act on improper instructions from Trump's newly appointed Deputy Attorney General. A system designed to guarantee the rule of law has now become a theatre in which the most blatant corruption is acted out in the clear light of day. Nixon's little coverup of the Watergate break-in – until recently regarded as the height of presidential criminality – would not even register within the ongoing orgy of corruption in and around the White House.

* * *

Because America has promoted itself as the exemplar of democracy *par excellence*, this institutional crisis within the US is not confined to the US. Here we encounter a sixth and even deeper layer of Enlightenment optimism which



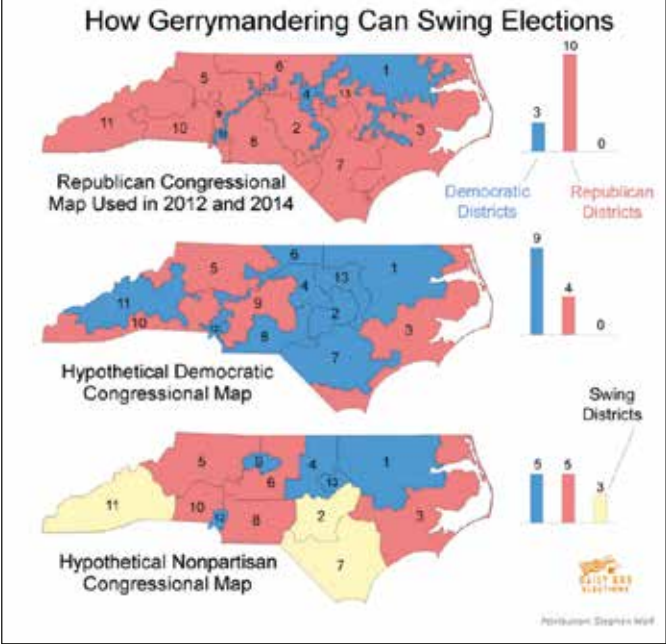
The draft Declaration of Independence being presented to the Second Continental Congress in 1776, as depicted by the artists John Truymbull in 1818 in a painting now hanging in the rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington D.C.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_(painting))

is anthropological rather merely political. Human beings, the Founders believed, released from tyranny, raised in a just social order, educated in democracy, and provided with reliable information, could be entrusted with the most sacred of civic duties: a share in the government of the body politic. How is it, then, that the American electorate could have restored to the White House a convicted felon and sexual predator who lied about losing an election and fomented an insurrection to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power to his successor?

The structural explanations are piled many layers deep. The US news media, long inadequate, is now largely captive; social media is even worse; AI will further confuse fact and fiction; major news networks have been cowed by gigantic lawsuits; Trump has embraced the poorly educated as his firmest base; and the federal Department of Education has been turned over to the founder of 'World Wrestling Entertainment' whose basic task is to shut it down. The slow-motion demise of Germany's fledgling Weimar Republic in the 1930s no longer seems surprising when compared with the overnight collapse of what was supposed to be the world's oldest, strongest, and most mature democratic constitutional order during the first months of 2025.

* * *

Underlying the collapse of Enlightenment optimism regarding the human capacity for self-government is a seventh and even darker void. Belief in historical progress is ultimately founded not on politics but on science. A convenient starting date for this belief is the publication of Newton's *Principia* in 1687, 338 years ago. It was the Newtonian synthesis which convinced Europeans that progress was possible, actual, and perhaps even inevitable in at least one domain: the domain of what they called 'natural philosophy' and we call 'science'. It was in part the hope that the methods of Newtonian natural science



<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/10/27/1579905/-These-three-maps-show-just-how-effectively-gerrymandering-can-swing-election-outcomes>

could be successfully applied to human behaviour which inspired the faith in economic, social, and political progress as well. Nowhere on earth embraced scientific progress more emphatically than the United States of America in the immediate postwar period. To this day, the moon landing in 1969 epitomises the belief that no challenge was too great for the American way of combining political liberty, scientific knowledge, and technical know-how. This combination of industrial, technological, and scientific supremacy ultimately won the Cold War; and the scientific achievements of America's premier universities remained a standard against which all others were judged for decades thereafter.

The single most astonishing aspect of the anarchic revolution of the past few months has been Trump's declaration of war on science. The first half-year of the second term has seen mass layoffs at the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Forestry Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as the dismantling of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), funding cuts for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and withdrawal from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Paris Climate Agreement. Research funding has been cut or frozen across the board, including not only for such politicised areas as climate change, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, DEI issues, and vaccine research but also for bedrock investments such as cancer research. Thousands of scientific databases have been taken offline, notably those on public health and climate change. Appointments tell a similar story: the medically unqualified anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, is now Secretary of Health and Human Services; the leading climate change denier, Lee Zedlin, administers the Environmental Protection Agency; and the co-founder of World Wrestling Entertainment, Linda McMahon, leads the federal Department of Education.

Education brings us to a second front in this campaign: the war on universities. In order to transform independent centres of learning into obedient servants of the Executive Branch, every weapon in the president's arsenal (as well as many properly pertaining to Congress) is being deployed, including withholding federal funds to recalcitrant institutions; slashing research grants in disputed policy areas; threatening to increase the tax rates on endowment income fifteen fold; deporting student activists; obstructing exchange

programmes; curtailing the processing of student visas pending further guidance on 'expanded social media vetting'; and demanding the direct take-over of key departments. Hundreds of leading CEOs have protested that this assault on science and universities will undermine America's economic competitiveness; but their voices are being drowned out by a strange coalition of fossil-fuel interests; biblical fundamentalists; anti-woke warriors; middle-American foes of the so-called coastal elites; and the deep-seated personal vendettas of the President himself.

* * *

Beneath this lies an eighth, final, even older and deadlier story. The faith in scientific progress rests on an earlier belief in technological progress which emerged in Europe over four centuries ago. As Francis Bacon most famously articulated the idea in 1620, in the sixteenth century, technological inventions unknown to the ancients – above all gunpowder, the compass, and the printing press – transformed European life more suddenly and profoundly – in the fields of warfare, commerce, and learning – than any empire, sect, or dynasty. Bacon proposed to restore man's dominion over nature and to better the human condition by using science to accelerate technological advance. Turning from the 'idols' of our own mind (the abstractions of Greek philosophy) to venerate 'the footsteps of God in his creation' (by means of empirical observation and experiment) was, he insisted, an inheritably charitable and pious undertaking which would also restore to fallen man the wisdom necessary to wield immense power over nature wisely.

The most devastating implication of the re-election of Donald Trump is the realisation that this optimism also was unfounded. In effect, our species has obtained tremendous power over nature without gaining the moral and political

capacity needed to wield it wisely. It has been known since the nineteenth century that burning huge quantities of fossil fuels could alter the earth's atmosphere and raise temperatures globally. During the 1970s and 1980s, presidents as diverse as Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter warned of these dangers and began taking steps to mitigate them. But gigantic campaigns of political lobbying and public disinformation have slowed such initiatives to a crawl; and the implementation of such solutions as exist are now being actively rolled back by the Trump administration, with no regard for the future habitability of the planet.

* * *

How has it come to this? What are the roots of this catastrophe? To blame one man is clearly inadequate. America remains a democracy, however flawed. Trump is a symptom of a deeper malaise. Since seventy million Americans voted him back into office, the cause must be inherent in some distinctive feature of American history and culture shared widely amongst the bizarre coalition which has returned him to the White House. One likely candidate is something widely celebrated in its own right, yet concealing within a fatal flaw: individualism.

Rural America has built its identity around the myth of the frontier as a space of boundless freedom and opportunity for the tough, brave, self-reliant, and well-armed individual. The uniquely American love affair with guns is the most obvious manifestation of this identity. Other implications – positive and negative – are too numerous to mention; but one crucial consequence is a culture in which the allure of individualism is never properly balanced by the need for social solidarity. If the defining characteristic of the true American is well-armed self-reliance, then any degree of dependency on public institutions is condemned not merely

as socialist but as un-American. Hence the unique failure of the world's richest country to provide universal healthcare. Hence, more generally, the contempt of many Americans for social arrangements in Europe, the UK, and Canada, and their resistance to learning lessons from the experience of other countries.

Crucially, corporate America shares this love of untrammelled individualism. Libertarianism has forged it into a political philosophy and fused it with the core logic of neoliberal economics: that the sovereign goal of every human being is the maximisation of individual material self-interest; that the free market magically transmutes self-interest into the common good; and therefore that we should celebrate insatiable greed as the font of all public value. The extreme concentration of wealth in an increasingly monopolistic corporate sector is one consequence. Another is the return of a crassly materialist malignant narcissist, predator, bully, sociopath, and convicted felon to the White House, exactly as this value system requires. The current president personifies the worst attributes of American culture because these attributes are rooted in the social, political and economic philosophy which the US has relentlessly promoted worldwide for decades.

Humanity's great wisdom traditions concur in fostering love of the neighbour and harmony with nature as the foundations of the good life. Instead, under American leadership, we have attempted to build a civilisation designed to reward greedy materialism. It is this infinite, insatiable greed that is overwhelming the checks and balances of the US constitution and the survival instincts of modern civilisation. As I write this, the news is breaking that the US Environmental Protection Agency is planning 'the largest deregulatory action in this history of America' by revoking the scientific basis of the government's legal authority to combat climate change. The



The US Supreme Court
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama_of_United_States_Supreme_Court_Building_at_Dusk.jpg

driver of this insane policy is, self-evidently, the insatiable greed of the fossil fuel industry and the insatiable appetite of middle America for cheap fuel.

* * *

President Trump is right about one thing: he is, without doubt, the most consequential of recent presidents. But as any historian knows, consequential does not necessarily mean admirable, great, or good. What we have witnessed this year is a major crisis in American history set within a broader crisis in modern history. The stakes are enormous, and it would be a reckless pundit who hazarded a guess as to the outcome. This is a salutary experience for St Anne's undergraduate historians: to witness, for the first time, history in the making. In retrospect, historians can make almost everything seem predestined. But who can say, in the mid-summer of 2025, how the future will unfold?

Will the American constitutional order hold firm? Will the electorate rise up? Will Trump's destructive policies – the sacking of countless productive federal workers; the

inflationary tariffs; the reckless deportations undermining whole industries; the Medicaid cuts the Republicans had promised never to make; the grotesque corruption from the White House on down; the ballooning deficit, tanking bond market, falling dollar and increasingly precarious national debt – will these policies drain MAGA of support and allow a fight-back to begin in the mid-term elections next year? Or will Epstein, or failing mental and physical health, bring Trump down? Even if Trump falls, will President Vance make us yearn for the days when the White House was occupied by an ignorant buffoon instead of an amoral genius? Will the near-death experience of the American republic prompt thorough electoral reform? Can anything undermine the winner-takes-all capitalism which has brought us to this precipice? Will the tech barons, fortified by AI, engineer the triumph of capitalism over democracy once and for all and consolidate their tyranny as full-scale ecological crisis explodes? Does the arc of history now bend toward Easter Island, understood as a symbol of the capacity of human societies to destroy the environmental conditions of their own existence?

No wonder the experience of the past half year has been one of historical vertigo. Narrative structures centuries deep have been cut from under received views of American, Western, and indeed human political, scientific, and technological history; and the urgent timetable of the multiple underlying ecological disasters makes this a crisis unlike any other. Anything less than a transformative cultural politics will prove an inadequate response to this deep systemic crisis.

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Merze Tate: The Legacy of a Scholar

SONYA BERNARD-HOLLINS

The founder of the Merze Tate Explorers discusses the life and legacy of Oxford’s first African-American woman graduate

“In simple language, I have failed. And I do hope that you will try to forget that I was ever a Home Student and that I ever existed. I beg this of you because I do not want you to use me as a standard for judging others of my race if ever another young coloured woman should apply to come up to Oxford.”
— Dr. Vernie Merze Tate, Oxford’s first African American woman graduate (1934)

When Aliah Ward and her fellow Explorers strolled the cobbled streets of Oxford University, they were more than sightseers. They came as a living continuation of a legacy. Each had joined the Merze Tate Explorers in the fourth grade and had grown up hearing of Tate’s many firsts and world travels as they became travel writers. And while their journey as Explorers was ending, new adventures awaited. For Ward, this visit to Oxford was a full-circle moment, as she would enter Western Michigan

University as a Merze Tate Medallion Scholar. The scholarship was funded by an endowment Tate quietly established at WMU nearly a decade before her death. Aliah would become the first Explorer recipient in the Explorers’ nearly 20-year history.

Ward stood in quiet reverence in St. Anne’s Library and archives, once the home of the Oxford Home Students, where Tate would have sat for her classes. She and her fellow Explorers were fascinated by the presentation given by the archivists. But it was perhaps one particular letter from Tate that brought them to near tears. Written in 1934, it recalled the devastation Tate felt upon learning she had not passed her final examination and would not graduate. Once hidden among the university’s archives, the letter now serves as a powerful reminder of Tate’s vulnerability and monumental strength. For Ward, it was personal.

“When reading this statement, I connected to the authentic and widely known fears Tate experienced as a pioneering Black woman,” Ward later wrote in *Girls Can! Magazine*. “Her resilience reassures

me that I am not alone in my struggles and that I can overcome them, no matter how challenging they may be.”

To understand why this moment mattered so deeply to a young scholar in 2024, one must return to the life of Merze Tate herself—a woman who defied the constraints of race, gender, and geography to etch her name into the annals of history.

Born in 1905 in rural Blanchard, Michigan, Tate grew up in an integrated community of family and mutual respect, unlike the race-divided world outside their wooded haven of pine trees and sprawling farmland. There, she could dream without boundaries. She was the only African American student in both her Blanchard (1920) and Battle Creek Central (1922) high school graduating classes, and the only African American woman in her Western State Teachers College (now WMU) class of 1927. Despite graduating with the school’s highest academic record (45 As, 4 Bs), Michigan’s Jim Crow laws prevented African Americans from teaching secondary education. She left to teach at Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was designated for students of color. As the

school’s history teacher, she created a Travel Club for students that offered educational trips, most notably to Washington, D.C., providing opportunities they had never imagined.

An image of that club, discovered by this writer during research, inspired the founding of the Merze Tate Travel Club (now Explorers) in 2008.

But Tate was never content to stay within the lines drawn by others. During summer sessions, she took correspondence courses and earned a master’s degree from Columbia University in 1930. In 1931, she was accepted to Oxford University—at a time when few women, let alone Black women, were admitted. Her early struggles at Oxford were compounded by isolation: no peers who looked like her, no family nearby, a broken leg from a cycling accident, and professors whose confidence in her was limited. When she failed her first final exams, she feared she had confirmed every prejudice held against her.

She was devastated when she read that her thesis “looked at too many things... almost too enthusiastic.” For the first time in her life, she had not succeeded in something she had pursued. It sent her spiraling into a whirlwind of hurt and confusion. Not only did she feel she had let herself down, but also her race.

In her June 15, 1934, letter to her advisor, Miss Hadow, she wrote:

“There are hundreds of coloured women in America who would have come up to Oxford and been successful... please remember this when you are considering future candidates.” She added that it had been “the greatest failure of my life, but I am anxious that others should not suffer because of my failure.”

Yet Tate did not quit. She refocused her area of study and worked with mentor Sir Alfred Zimmern to concentrate on disarmament. In 1935, she completed what she had started, becoming the first African American woman to earn a B.Litt degree from Oxford. Her scholarly pursuits did not end there. In 1941, she earned a doctorate in government and international relations from Radcliffe College (then Harvard’s coordinate institution for women), becoming the first African American woman to do so. She authored five books on diplomacy and disarmament and became a beloved professor at Howard University, where she taught for more than thirty years.

But perhaps her most enduring impact wasn’t written in books or captured in lectures. It lies in the girls she has never

met, but has inspired. In 2008, this writer founded the Merze Tate Explorers to honor her legacy. What began as a vision to expose girls of color to global experiences has since blossomed into an award-winning program that has taken girls to five continents, introduced them to world leaders and Oscar winners, and given them the tools of journalism, leadership, and academic excellence. The Explorers use video, photography, and writing to tell their own stories. Just as Tate documented her travels in the 1930s across Europe and Asia alone, the girls who follow in her footsteps now publish *Girls Can! Magazine*, chronicling interviews with astronauts, CEOs, and change makers.

The program does more than mirror Tate’s legacy. It amplifies it. In 2021, the work of the Merze Tate Explorers inspired WMU to name the Merze Tate College in her honor. In addition, the non-profit organization solicited letters from various institutions Tate attended to hang in the Merze Tate Library in Blanchard, Michigan. The Explorers recently purchased a commemorative paving stone toward the renovation of St Anne’s College Bevington Road Houses, among other upcoming memorial efforts.

The Explorers who visited Oxford came away with more than a tour; they gained a lesson in fortitude. They stood where she stood, read what she had

written, and emerged not just informed, but empowered.

“After the presentation of new information about Tate,” Ward wrote, “I realized that such an accomplished woman... had the same doubts about her work and impact on her community as many of us have. Her resilience reassures me that I am not alone in my struggles, and that I can overcome them no matter how challenging they may be.”

Tate’s story at Oxford is not merely about triumph over adversity. It is about the humanity of excellence—the reality that even the most accomplished pioneers face moments of self-doubt. It is about how failure, rather than an ending, can be a prelude to deeper success.

The Merze Tate Explorers, founded in 2008, is the world’s only all-girl travel writers organization. Inspired by Dr. Vernie Merze Tate’s 1927 Travel Club, we empower young girls to discover their purpose and voice through media.

Author’s Note: Advancing the Legacy of Merze Tate

My introduction to Merze Tate began in 2005 as a journalist at the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. While researching a series on



Merze Tate’s Travel Club

notable Michiganders, I encountered a photograph that stirred both curiosity and resolve: Merze Tate, impeccably dressed, leading the Travel Club she founded at Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis. That school, created by a city steeped in segregationist policies and established under the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, became a platform for her defiant belief in global education for Black youth.

This article is not only a tribute to her historic achievements but a reminder of what is still possible when girls are given

the opportunity to see the world—and their place within it.

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Phone Addiction: Real or Myth?

SIMAR BAJAJ

Can TikTok change our brain chemistry? Simar Bajaj investigates

Ananya Jain never planned on getting addicted to TikTok.

Jain, who is 24 years old, downloaded the app right during the peak of Covid. She had heard about TikTok’s data privacy issues, so she promised herself that she wouldn’t post or comment on anything – just watch a few videos and call it a day. That lasted less than a month.

“It just pulled me in because I was so lonely,” Jain said. “I was looking for friends.”

And TikTok delivered. A huge Harry Potter fan, she got roped into the BOOKtalk community. She was struggling with acne, but dancing dermatologists told her about over-the-counter skincare products. Later, #polo and #horsesoftiktok became enthralling since she could live vicariously through the players – from underneath her covers. Whenever Jain would feel the loneliness creep in, the platform gave her a quick dopamine hit.

Innocuous fifteen-second videos would turn into two hours of scrolling. Soon, Jain would watch TikToks during work

breaks to de-stress, or in her bedroom as she was trying to go to sleep. The app became the source of all her social and entertainment needs. Yet, she was also feeling lonelier than ever.

“I was addicted to my phone, I had the worst mental health possible that you can imagine,” Jain said. Her online friends were anonymous strangers, after all, not the kind of people you’d ask to pick you up from the airport or call up in the middle of the night. It was a vicious cycle: TikTok fed her loneliness but was also what she used to try and alleviate it.

Jain is the founder of mental health startup FullCircle. Running it was all-consuming work, but now she could barely concentrate. Her co-founder Ankit Kudakia began noticing how Jain was increasingly retreating inside her phone, sneaking off during meetings to scroll through TikTok and neglecting her responsibilities. So, he staged a two-day protest to get Jain to delete the app, giving her an ultimatum that he’d refuse to work with her if she didn’t put a stop to her obsession. “The minute you think about opening up TikTok,” Kudakia said, “give me control of your phone.”



Simar Bajaj

Three tries and 38 days after her first attempt, Jain finally deleted the app for good. The experience was excruciating: living alone, she would find herself sitting at the dining table, anxious and fidgety, not knowing how to fill up the time. She’d lie in bed at night, twisting and turning, the loneliness that had fuelled her TikTok habit burning hotter than ever.

“Your brain behaves differently when it’s addicted to something,” Jain said quietly. “I don’t want to say it was like trying to quit alcohol, but I empathize with people

who are trying to quit an addiction because it really is an uphill battle.”

In its simplest form, addiction is the tipping point where compulsion turns into dependency, where a person’s behavior or drug use spirals out of control despite harmful consequences. Think having the occasional glass of wine versus repeatedly showing up to work hungover.

With no standard diagnostic criteria, the line between excessive phone use and addiction is blurry. Nevertheless, researchers have been exploring this question for the past two decades, and a recent summary of all the best scientific evidence – 82 studies across 150,000 participants – estimated that over 25% of people worldwide had “smartphone addiction.”

The authors of this review demurred on a specific definition, accepting 14 different “commonly used screening tools.” Nevertheless, they showed that the problem of excessive phone use has been getting worse over time, with studies in 2020 and 2021 reporting smartphone addiction rates at much higher rates – around 35%. A recent survey from the Pew Research Center similarly found that 95% of teens had a

smartphone, and almost half reported they were online “almost constantly” – up from 24% nearly a decade ago.

In May, concerns about phone use were brought to the forefront when US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an advisory on social media’s harms to youth mental health, drawing upon decades of scientific research. Arguing that individual action is necessary but insufficient, Murthy called for safety standards for tech platforms, similar to those for toys and car seats. He also called for greater social infrastructure to promote in-person connections – think parks, libraries, and volunteer organizations.

The report suggests that phone and social media use overstimulates the brain’s reward centre and can trigger pathways similar to addiction, but other mental health experts and policymakers have been more explicit. Mandy Saligari, clinical director of Charter Harley Street in London, compared giving children smartphones to “giving them a gram of cocaine,” while Stanford psychiatrist Anna Lembke described phones as “the modern-day hypodermic needle,” offering digital heroin on the ready.

Meanwhile, in a congressional hearing, Democrat Senator Bernie Sanders described how social media companies

“keep coming up with new ways to get teenagers addicted,” while Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville called phones “the biggest drug we got,” more so than even fentanyl.

How much of this rhetoric is fear-mongering? Technically speaking, “phone addiction” isn’t a real medical condition, at least according to the bible of psychiatry – the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). And that’s largely because scientists aren’t sure if phone use has crossed that critical tipping point into social harm. “To be an addictive disorder, you need impairment in daily functioning and psychological distress,” said Dar Meshi, a cognitive neuroscientist at Michigan State University. “There’s a high bar to be set.”

Whether excessive phone use deserves to be called an “addiction” is more than just simple semantics or a debate between academics. By creating a new mental health diagnosis, we risk pathologizing an unfortunate but normal aspect of the human experience.

On one hand, a diagnosis could legitimize the suffering that some people face and enable treatment. But on the other hand, with all the cultural and historical baggage surrounding “addiction,” the label could misrepresent

phone overuse as the absence of free will and do more harm than good.

The history of addiction is one of two competing forces – criminalisation and medicalisation.

In the US, opiates and cocaine were first banned in 1914, followed by alcohol between 1920 to 1933. Drug consumption was seen as a mark of depravity, and treatment options were nearly nonexistent, leaving incarceration the primary recourse.

But as drug addiction began spreading among white middle-class youth in the 1960s, medicine – and a grassroots movement of free clinics – increasingly came into power to serve these more sympathetic victims. Healthcare’s rise had enduring effects: when President Nixon declared a “war on drugs” in 1971, what he really meant was developing a crime-control strategy for urban minority neighborhoods, and a public health approach for the white suburbs.

Within this segregated system, President George HW Bush pushed forward the medical project, anointing the 1990s as the “decade of the brain.” He called for a renaissance of research into this mysterious organ and, in particular,

delving “into how people become addicted to drugs.”

The idea was to go beyond grounding addiction in character flaws and social influences, instead finding “root causation in some kind of genetic or neurophysiological defect,” said Helena Hansen, a psychiatrist at the University of California, Los Angeles. New advances in brain imaging aided this quest, and by 1997, the National Institute on Drug Abuse had officially rebranded addiction as a “chronic relapsing brain disease.”

The goal was destigmatisation, Hansen added, but it ended up painting the brain as a universal, disembodied organ devoid of social or environmental influences. Correspondingly, stressors like racism, poverty, and state violence were largely bypassed, and pharmaceutical treatment was elevated as the solution to this neural defect.

Over 25 years later, this has remained the official party line for nearly all addictions.

To date, there’s only one longitudinal study about how social media affects brain development, according to Meshi. Following 189 Dutch adolescents over five years, the researchers reported

baseline differences in the brains of high and low social media users – and that high users had accelerated thinning in parts of their brains responsible for decision-making and social awareness. But the researchers also cautioned that these findings were subtle at best with “little evidence for severe negative consequences of social media use on brain development.”

That’s a key point when distinguishing between phone and drug use, according to Gabriel Rubio, a psychiatrist at the Complutense University of Madrid who researches cravings and dependence. He argued that excessive phone use might not change our brains’ structure like alcoholism does but might change how our brains *function*. Namely, phones affect how our brains deal with internal emotions (e.g., boredom, loneliness) and external stimuli (e.g., seeing someone else pull out their phone).

“As in all addictive behaviors,” Rubio wrote in an email, “the biological substrate is the brain’s reward circuit.” In other words, phones mess with our brain chemicals to make us feel good and ensure that we keep on using them.

These functional changes aren’t necessarily problematic on their own. “We evolved to find social interaction rewarding,” said Meshi, the Michigan

State neuroscientist, and the need to belong is one of the most powerful, universal human drives. Imagine the pleasure of receiving a compliment – that flurry of happiness, warmth on your cheeks – “and then along comes technology that can tap into that drive, that biological hardwiring,” offering a nearly limitless supply of dopamine bursts at any time of the day. “Just you nodding while I’m talking activates that reward system,” Meshi said. “Now I can get 100 people nodding and giving me a like.”

In his own work, Meshi has shown that decision-making is similarly impaired between excessive social media use and drug addiction, and that over-using social media is associated with decreased real-life social support, as well as greater mental illness and social isolation.

But Meshi is quick to note that research into phone and social media use is in its infancy, with potential harms still poorly understood. “The decision-making stuff and most of my work is all correlational,” said Meshi. “Nothing is causal.”

Social scientists have a word for labels like addiction: they call it an “empty signifier,” bearing no specific meaning

but what’s been imposed onto it. “Folks can have a mutually intelligible conversation about ‘addiction’ and believe they’re talking about the same thing,” said Jennifer Carroll, a medical anthropologist at North Carolina State University, “and they’re really not.”

When the American Society of Addiction Medicine and other medical organizations talk about addiction, they’re usually referring to the DSM-5 criteria and addiction as a chronic brain disease. But for the everyday person, “addiction” has become something of a metaphor, referring to something they enjoy, do a lot, and feel is unhealthy. “I like ice cream a lot, so I used to tell everyone I’m an ice cream addict,” described Meshi. “The average person uses addiction in a different way than a clinician uses it.”

But over the past two decades, the lines between professionals and the public have become increasingly blurred – particularly after the DSM-5 transformed excessive gambling into an “addiction” in 2013. Although some experts criticised the lack of evidence and consensus, the controversy wasn’t really about gambling itself, but the seismic shift this decision symbolized.

For the first time, a nonsubstance addiction – a behaviour – had become

a psychiatric diagnosis by the highest medical court in the land, fuelling concerns that now “virtually almost everything may be considered pathological,” according to Bologna University sociologist Antonio Maturo.

And these premonitions have slowly begun to materialise. Within the hallowed halls of the academic literature, researchers have been coining all sorts of new addictions to shopping, fortune-telling, selfie-taking, and more. “For the substance use addictions, there’s a well-worked out pharmacologic substrate, you can see receptors, drug-metabolising enzymes upregulated, downregulated,” said David Jones, a psychiatrist and historian of science at Harvard Medical School. For many of these “conditions,” however, there’s none of this – just a catchy new label.

In the case of “phone addiction,” however, a similar dismissal feels overly flippant, if only because the term has become a part of everyday discourse. From Reddit forums to the halls of Congress, omnipresence, rather than judicial decree, has begun to reify this issue.

In fact, in a June Senate Health Committee hearing on the youth mental health crisis, phones and social media were all anybody could talk about.

Surgeon General Murthy condemned social media companies’ “utter lack” of accountability and offered support for an electronic warning label on social media, like those already on cigarette packages. Democrat Senator Chris Murphy similarly spoke about his bill to rein in social media’s addictive practices, with his colleagues offering other testimonies on the unique harms of this technology.

“Instead of our children talking to their friends, their colleagues, their teachers, their coaches, they talk to social media; that’s their best friend,” said OB/GYN doctor and Republican Senator Roger Marshall. “I look at social media today as worse than pornography.”

Beyond such theatrical comparisons, some scientists have also sought to legitimise phone addiction by surrounding the phrase with a cast of characters. For his part, Rubio offered up “textaphrenia” (phantom sense of receiving a text), “ringxiety” (anxiety over getting a phone call), and “nomophobia” (the marriage of no-mobile-phone and phobia) as a few examples. After all, how can there be a diagnosis without symptoms?

Meshi is sympathetic toward these efforts; he told me how he had to fire a research assistant who couldn’t stay

off Facebook. But he’s also worried that this discourse is running ahead of the evidence and could cheapen the death and devastation of nicotine, opioids, and other drugs.

“If we start lowering that bar, then it’s like everything can be an addictive disorder,” he said. “I don’t want to go down that path.”

In general, Americans probably overstretch medical terms – for example, the simultaneous “pandemics” of disinformation, loneliness, and poverty. It’s probably innocuous and maybe even helpful to drive attention to important social issues. However, for many experts I spoke with, the overuse of “addiction” isn’t the same value-free proposition.

For one, it risks creating a two-tiered system for patients, similar to how opioid addiction treatments have long been segregated, according to the UCLA psychiatrist Hansen. Methadone is dispensed in DEA-regulated clinics located almost exclusively in low-income neighborhoods, while buprenorphine is given in private doctors’ offices, “removed from poverty, ethnic minorities, and street crime.” The aggressive regulation of methadone – with its daily observed

dosing and frequent urine checks – simply wouldn’t do for the white middle class.

For Hansen, “there’s no question” that creating a diagnosis around phone addiction would promote a similar kind of segregation. Specifically, she envisioned a future where social media and phones themselves become racialised. “Whatever platforms, whatever software tends to be used by poor Black and Brown people, that’ll be demonised first,” said Hansen, with minorities subsequently labeled as “sicker” and “more diseased.”

This racial profiling might seep into the potential remedies as well, Hansen predicted. Namely, the well-off will channel their children to bucolic summer detox camps costing up to \$11,000 while the marginalised are relegated to underfunded, crowded public clinics.

Some of these decisions might even be taken out of the hands of parents and into the courts, according to Carroll, the medical anthropologist. With the brain disease model ingrained over decades, addiction has increasingly been seen as a lack of rationality and inability to make authentic choices, which has enabled all sorts of violations of people’s agency and autonomy.

In Massachusetts, for instance, any person with addiction can be coerced into treatment under the state's Section 35 law. Family members, police officers, and healthcare providers can all ask a judge for a warrant to take patients into custody. And if the judge agrees they are a danger to themselves or others, patients are then sent for addiction treatment – often in prison – and held against their will for up to 90 days. From 2011 to 2018, 42,853 Massachusetts residents were involuntarily committed in this way; around 38 states have similarly coercive policies.

Under a label of addiction, excessive phone use could be employed in a similarly dehumanising logic: “you can't make the choice to go on your own, so I have to make the choice for you,” said Carroll. While the research is clear that compulsory drug treatment doesn't actually work (and might even do more harm than good), these programs remain incredibly popular because they seem like a compassionate response to someone's brain being fundamentally compromised.

“I hear it used all the time – things ‘hijack your brain’ – which is an incredible metaphor if you think about it,” Carroll added. “It's like Ratatouille, but it's TikTok.”

Regardless of whether addiction is the right term, everyone I spoke with agreed that our growing reliance on phones is a real problem.

Never before in history have we had such immediate, infinitesimal access – with literal supercomputers in our pockets. “It's a really slippery slope – this idea of technology as a tool sliding into technology infiltrating every part of your life and structuring reality,” said Stacy Torres, a sociologist at the University of California, San Francisco. “We're in a brave new world.”

Torres herself has been trying to hold onto the past: at 43 years old, she has never used social media or owned a smartphone. Poverty made her a late adopter, getting her first phone at age 26 – a prepaid Nokia brick. But her fear of addiction, given a long family history of alcoholism, kept her away from anything more advanced.

Of course, not everyone who uses a smartphone will have a problem, but it's easy to understand why some might. For these people, a medical diagnosis would probably help, validating their suffering and ensuring they get the care they need.

“The moment you call something an ‘addiction,’ the move is to medicalise it, to push policy in the direction of treatment, to push social reactions from judgment and condemnation towards empathy and patience,” said Jones, the Harvard historian of science. Despite the risks, there's real promise in moving beyond a status quo where patients languish alone.

Even Hansen acknowledged that a label of “addiction” could spread awareness about how repetitive, compulsive screen use can ruin people's lives. She's seen it firsthand: her brother-in-law flunked out of college because he couldn't stop playing video games. “He had friends who were rushed to the ER for rehydration after the release of one of their favorite video games,” Hansen added. “They could not pull themselves away from the screen to drink water.”

However, if society is going to medicalise phone use, Hansen wants to make sure we're pointing our fingers in the right direction – away from brain disease notions that “people are a slave to their own habits and behaviors.” The real problem, Hansen argues, are the social and environmental drivers, from schools cutting arts and physical education programs to tech

companies' increasingly aggressive business schemes. Under the status quo, they commercialise both the drug and cure, with everyday people caught in between, animals eating their own tails.

Hansen thus argues that excessive phone use shouldn't be called an addiction but instead something like “manufacturer-induced compulsive behavior.” It's a mouthful, yes, but getting the language right is critically important since it implies something about causation, and where the solutions ought to begin.

In other words, rather than punting the problem to the healthcare system, Hansen believes that we should be regulating how software is developed and what's permitted to come to market. There's a reason why social media apps are often compared to slot machines, with their bright designs, infinite scrolling, and pull-to-refresh feature suspending our brains in anticipation. You can mitigate some of these effects by changing your screen to greyscale or turning off notifications, but it's almost impossible to win on your own, suggested Jones, because we live in such highly engineered environments.

Jain just celebrated six months of “TikTok sobriety,” telling me that the decision to quit brought her back into reality.

Her mind wanders during breaks. She's started swimming, playing tennis, and going horseback riding – two hours a day without fail. She's been more actively making friends rather than relying on anonymous strangers online. And she finally went to see a dermatologist for her acne. “It's costly, oh my God,” said Jain. “It's definitely more cost-intensive than downloading a free app on your phone.” But for the first time in a long time, Jain feels happy.

“A lot of our generation is more connected than ever on social media, but we're more lonely than ever,” she said. “It's such a weird thing.”

Simar Bajaj (2024) is an award-winning health and science journalist and MSc candidate in Global Health Science and Epidemiology at St Anne's. In addition to being the first author on work published in the journals like the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Nature* and *British Medical Journal*, he has bylines in the *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Time Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, among others.

In 2025 he was recognised in the *Forbes 30 Under 30 list* in the *Science and Healthcare* category.



Ghost Stories and Their Afterlives

E. JAY GILBERT

Britain is a country haunted by its own many, diverse pasts. How does geographical origin affect the way we perceive our ghosts?

At the start of October 2024, I went to Bodmin Jail in Cornwall. If you're unfamiliar, it's most famous for having been the first Reform Prison, but today it's a thriving tourist attraction -- lightshows in underground caverns tell its frightening history; on the way out of the attraction, as you're headed towards the gift shop, you can see the original hanging pit. I had assumed that it would be a hotel with a prison attached, but no: the hotel *is* the prison. When you check in, an obliging boy takes your bags up to your room, then says, "enjoy your sentence".

I was there giving a talk about my new book, *Haunted, Ghost Stories and their Afterlives* (Manilla Press, 2024) as part of an event delightfully named "the Dark Symposium". Having expected this semi-academic conference to take place in a seminar room, I was thrilled to be escorted instead into the aforementioned caverns, where I was invited to stand at a podium with dry ice swirling around it so I felt more like Prince than anything else. This seemed difficult to match as an experience, but better things were still to come.

One of the key points I make in my book is that, although the same ghostly tropes recur everywhere, they also tend to take on local flavour, intertwined with the culture and history and geography of the area -- so, in Cornwall, I talked about Cornish ghosts. But, after the evening was over, a chap came up to say hello to me and that he'd enjoyed the talk, and he had a very familiar accent. I asked him where he was from; he said "the North East". When I probed further he admitted: "Crawcrook, but my Mam's from Rowlands Gill."

"You were talking about White Ladies," he said. "My Mam always told me stories about the White Lady when I was a kid -- the White Lady of Gibside Hall."

An interesting coincidence, I thought. Almost spooky. She gets around, that particular spectre -- and, although she wasn't the ghost that got me thinking about the ghosts and ghouls of the British Isles in the first place, the White Lady of Gibside Hall is, as I told this man, really the main character of *Haunted*.

This particular spirit -- commonly believed to be some lingering shred of the Queen Mother's ancestor, Mary Eleanor Bowes -- was the local legend of

my childhood in Winlaton Mill. However, as we all know, she doesn't stand alone. The North-East of England, where I was born, is sometimes called the Land of Castles or, more romantically, the Secret Kingdom. Many of its fortified stately homes and stark-faced bastle houses, representing the legacy of the borderlands as an embattled no-go area between two kingdoms, are now owned by English Heritage and the National Trust. Once-grand houses of this ilk exist, of course, all over the country in shocking numbers. What all these ancestral piles have in common, whatever their current ownership, is that they are -- legend has it -- riddled with ghosts. Ghosts sell. In some places, though, this is truer than in others.

In 2017, a survey was conducted asking UK citizens whether they believed in the paranormal. The outcome suggested that 33 per cent of UK adults were willing to admit to a belief in 'ghosts, ghouls, spirits or other types of paranormal activity'. A similar survey conducted by Newcastle's flagship newspaper, *The Evening Chronicle*, however, reported the greatly elevated figure of 67 percent of adults believing in the paranormal in the North-East. In 2009, Northumberland Police received a call from one man who

claimed that he could see 'eight witches' on his roof, a self-evidently unacceptable situation which he felt they should do something about. Numerous others across Yorkshire, Cumbria, North Wales and East Anglia chose the police as their first port of call when they became aware of a home invader of the less corporeal sort, with one local medium suggesting that most approached police forces even before trying their luck with a priest.

Gibside's White Lady has spiritual cousins all over the world: the Mexican *La Llorona* springs to mind, or the Japanese *yurei*. However, the way the spirit is understood and appreciated has its roots in the community and context that birthed and sustains her. The same is true of the White Lady of St Michael's Mount, or *Y Ladi Wen* of Carew Castle. All ghosts are like this. While our love of Ghost Trouble may be universal, our ghosts themselves are specific and local, growing out of and feeding back into our communities.

The White Lady of Gibside is a product of her landscape, her time, and *our* time, in more ways than one.

When I was a child, 'looking for the White Lady' was a common pursuit. On long summer evenings, we would cycle for miles with the hair prickling on the backs of our necks, anticipating her appearance. As we cycled, we were

looking for a flash of white glimpsed from the corner of the eye, or another child barrelling back down the hill full pelt, looking as if he might (just might) have seen a ghost. We were looking to be frightened. This is the impulse that drives avid ghost hunters to track the remarkably peripatetic ghost of Anne Boleyn from Hever Castle to Blickling Hall to the Tower of London. It's the reason tourists linger in Marazion, hoping to catch a glimpse of a ghostly stagecoach transporting the White Lady to St Michael's Mount. But it doesn't explain the similarities between all these pallid women -- nor the subtle differences in the stories we tell about them, varying not only with geographic distance, but with chronological distance, too. It doesn't explain what drives us, all over the British Isles and beyond, to anticipate the same group of traits in a fly-by-night spectre defined by her gender.

Mary Eleanor Bowes of Gibside Hall led a colourful, stranger-than-fiction life. At one point the wealthiest heiress in Britain, the death in 1776 of her first husband, the Earl of Strathmore, ushered in a period of mounting excess and increasing disrepute for the Countess. An affair with the working-class George Gray resulted in multiple pregnancies, all of which were illegally aborted by Mary Eleanor while the affair continued. At this point in her life, Mary Eleanor was held in contempt

by much of polite society, so it is interesting to find no trace of this in any of the White Lady stories that circulate about Gibside Hall. The vast majority revolve instead around her second marriage to Andrew Robinson Stoney, during which she gained the appellation of 'the Unhappy Countess'.

Stoney, an Anglo-Irish lieutenant posing as a captain in the British Army, was the man whose name gave rise to the phrase 'stoney broke', so persistent was his state of financial ruin. The story of his seduction of Mary Eleanor reads more like a tale of online sock puppet fraud than of eighteenth-century courtship. Intrigued by her vast wealth, he hit upon the idea of writing a series of articles for *The Morning Post*, under a false name, critiquing the countess's moral character. He also countered each article with a piece in her defence, and finally challenged the paper's editor to a duel for Mary's honour. Mary, romantic by nature, had no reason not to believe him when he claimed to be mortally wounded, and indulged his dying wish by marrying him. Nobody could have foreseen his sudden and miraculous recovery.

Despite the remarkable deviousness of this scheme, it seems that Mary, all too aware of the draw of her huge fortune, had nevertheless made a prenuptial agreement before meeting

Stoney at the altar. In line with the wishes of Mary's now long-deceased father, he had taken her name: he meant to take her fortune, too. By physical force, Stoney induced Mary to sign a revocation of the prenup, which had been intended to prevent him as Mary's husband from controlling her wealth. Thus began a period of intense, sustained physical and mental abuse, during which Mary was frequently confined to Gibside Hall. In 1785, Mary staged a daring escape and filed for divorce on the grounds of cruelty. Stoney, unwilling to admit defeat, proceeded to abduct her.

Although there was initially much sympathy for Mary's plight at the time of her eventual rescue, the mores of the era placed heavy judgement upon her, both for her previous extramarital affairs and because of yet another entanglement with a lawyer which supposedly ensued during the ongoing divorce trials. Mary lost her battle against 1780s' public opinion; in 1800, she lost her life to an unrecorded illness at the age of 51 – some reports have it that she was buried in a pearl-studded bridal gown, as if hoping for a final, happy marriage in Heaven. But Stoney, too, lost his own battle to retain control of the Bowes fortune, and later to invalidate Mary's will. He died, as he lived, in penury.

Mary lived her final years at Stourfield House in Hampshire. The once-grand Gibside Hall tumbled down over the following centuries. As any local will tell you, though, the grounds are still there, and the woods, and the parkland – and the dogged, determined White Lady.

A key element in most stories of the Gibside White Lady is that she is benign, benevolent, determined. One of us. One of the most frequently told tales is that she is seen in a white carriage, escaping the villain who tried to keep her captive in the castle. Boys picking potatoes in the fields outside Gibside have watched her leave, and she lifted a pale hand in salute. My grandfather claimed to have witnessed the carriage, alongside numerous friends. Implicit in this tale is a sense of sympathy for the fleeing spirit which, nevertheless, spares the ghost from victimhood. She is celebrated for leaving a plight any woman must. It is this part of Mary Eleanor's story which has endured, and not her infidelities, nor any of the shocking reputations that dogged her in life.

The White Lady of Gibside, like many such spirits, has become so embedded in the local community that only about half of those who told their stories to me knew even snippets of 'the real story' or the supposed foundation, beyond

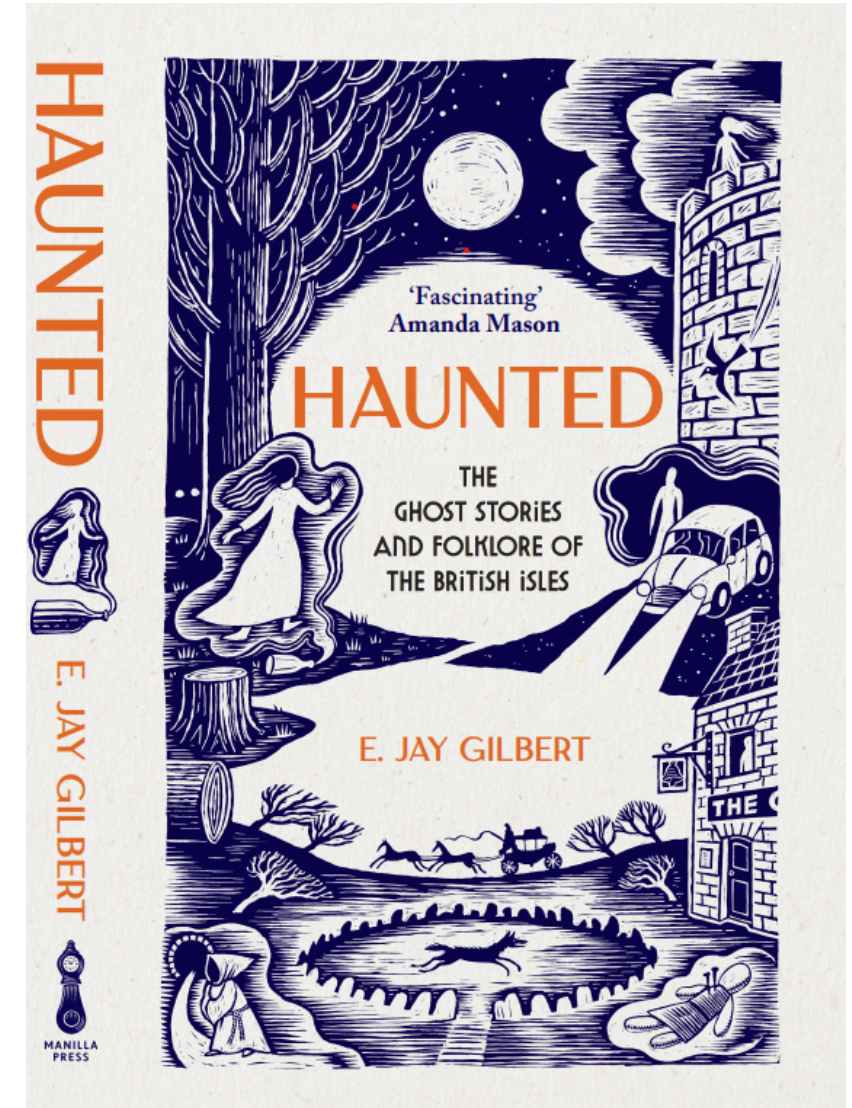
having a general idea of her as a woman in flight from evil. But it is difficult not to find scraps of it in the way the Lady presents herself today – in the way she is seen and expected to be seen. Children walking in the Derwent Valley are still encouraged to keep an eye out for a flash of white in the trees, a sign that the White Lady is roaming abroad.

Ghost stories, of course, serve a purpose. From the slate mines of mountainous Wales, to shaft-ridden Northumberland, to the tin seams of Cornwall and beyond, the mining history of certain parts of the UK has led to ongoing and entrenched belief in protective spirits, shifting with the times and yet never eradicated. So powerful was this cultural belief in the case of the Cornish that their underground companions travelled with them across the Atlantic to the USA: the Cornish were miners, and no mine could be thought safe without its resident 'knockers'. The fact that the Californian mines produced the same physical phenomena that confirmed the presence of knockers in Cornwall merely cemented the connection.

Telling ghost stories is a beloved pastime the world over, whether those ghosts are really believed in or not. As the stories I have collected indicate, however, although many of our stories

adhere to broad archetypes, they are also often specific, local variations, whose characteristics mean they simply could not have appeared anywhere else. Our ghosts grow out of our communities, then feed back into them in a process of constant iteration shaped by local culture, geography and history. A White Lady in rural Northumberland can only ever be, at best, a distant cousin of her central London ghost walk counterpart. Ghost stories twist in the telling, and the spirit in which they are told can have a significant effect. In the North East, that spirit remains extremely potent.

*Dr E. Jay Gilbert is Senior Communications Manager at St Anne's. She is also a writer, academic and researcher, originally from the north-east of England. She has an MA and MSt from the University of Oxford and a PhD from the University of Leicester and is a lecturer in Applied Linguistics at The Open University. Her book, *Haunted: Ghost Stories and their Afterlives* is published by Manilla Press and available anywhere books are sold. It appears in paperback in September 2025.*



The cover for the paperback edition (with slightly revised title).

Mighty Convoy

LAURA MACKENZIE

Laura Mackenzie gives us an inside look into the experience of those providing aid to Ukraine.

On Saturday the 1st of February 2025, at 6am, Angus and I made our way along the quiet streets of Teddington, the short distance between the Travelodge, and Cambridge Road, home of Simon Brake, founder of Mighty Convoy.

Parked outside his house, loaded up with medical supplies, were two ambulances, two pickup trucks and a refrigerated van donated by Iceland supermarket chain. We were greeted by Simon and his wife with tea and a bacon buttie, meeting our fellow drivers for the first time. Clothed in our uniform of grey T shirt and pink beanies, we set off and by 7am we were trundling through the suburbs of London in a convoy of five vehicles with two drivers in each, heading for the Channel Tunnel, and ultimately Lviv. We were Simon's eleventh convoy.



Departure from Teddington. Drivers for Convoy 11



Vehicles ready for departure

We had come down from Scotland, where we live, the night before.

The background to this for me was a tale of being thwarted. We knew an organisation in Scotland operating in Ukraine and supported it financially; however, when I offered to volunteer, I had no response. The organisers of that outfit were in their 40s – we know their parents. I felt there might be a spot of ageism going on. So when a friend in London (just turning 60) wrote her account of driving to Ukraine in secondhand ambulances and pickup trucks with Mighty Convoy, I again offered to volunteer, this time with success. Living in Scotland, having worked as a landscape architect (me) and a surveyor (Angus), we are both used to driving long distances, so the thought of two and a half days' driving wasn't a problem. And Simon, on the strength of telephone calls and maybe a reference from this friend who had done it, accepted us, sight unseen. This was September. We had to raise £7000 to fund our vehicle before setting off in February.

Mighty Convoy is a not-for-profit company which transports ambulances, vans and pickups packed with medical supplies from London to Western Ukraine. It was founded in 2022 by Simon Brake, 61. So far, he has made 15 trips (i.e. four more since we went) and delivered 68 vehicles for use on the front line 600 miles from the drop-off point in Lviv. The aid, which includes crutches, wheelchairs, dressings, bandages, first aid kit, PPE, and in our case two incubators, is donated by medical supply companies, NHS trusts, private hospitals and UK based Ukrainian charities. It is all driven in convoys to the warehouse of the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine in Lviv, and shuttled to the front line by the First Separate Medical Battalion, part of Ukraine's armed forces.

Simon is a football enthusiast. He visited Kyiv with a group of friends to watch the Euro 2012 football tournament, and clearly had a great weekend. Ukrainian hospitality was memorable, and he described his hosts as "soulful and spirited and proud of their nation- and they have a great sense of humour." By the time the war broke out in 2022 he had both sold his business and retired...and had a sense of how lucky he had been in life. Now there was time for making a contribution. He stumbled across an advertisement online from a Ukrainian expat looking for volunteer drivers. In April 2022 he made his first journey to eastern Poland, delivering a pick up to the Ukrainian border. He says he had a sense of a latter-day wartime spirit: Europe needed to be defended and the enemy was at the door. Upon return he set up Mighty Convoy, which has become his full-time job. I can't really imagine Simon ever retiring, but he has transferred his energy from business to charitable enterprise.

Most of Simon's convoys have been a 36 hour continuous drive through the night to Lviv, with drivers swapping every three hours and kiping in the vehicle. This suits drivers who are in full mid-life flow with work and family, who are therefore short of time. We are both on the wrong side of 70, and were glad

that he was also prepared to organise a slightly more sedate convoy which stopped overnight.

On day one, we went through the Channel Tunnel and got as far as the west of Germany, near Cologne, somewhere called Buren. But it wasn't entirely plain sailing. By the time we reached our evening stop, the second pickup (luckily not ours), which had been showing signs of trouble before we crossed the channel, had lost its clutch. So what to do? The relay service was going to take hours. The rest of the convoy was ready to roll the next morning, so a husband and wife team swapped to two men, who knew about these things and proceeded to drive the rest of the way in second or fifth gear... and here they are setting off on the morning of day two.



Starting on day two with a failing gearbox

After that, things went smoothly. Simon organised our stops in places outside or on the edge of towns, with ample parking for five quite large vehicles, one of which had no lock, and which would provide us with an evening meal even when we arrived quite late. On day two we stopped in Poland east of Krakow, and on day three crossed into Ukraine.



Crossing into Ukraine

Crossing the border with a whole lot of fully loaded vehicles we had certainly not packed ourselves was very efficient and only took about half an hour. This can take half a day. We were early enough for there to be no queue, and our “uniform” meant we were readily identifiable as a group. Simon got us through. We arrived in Lviv about lunchtime.

That afternoon we went to a hospital facility called Superhumans (later in the month visited by the Duke of Sussex) where patients are accommodated next to the production of prosthetic limbs. Of course there are far too many patients needing this facility in Ukraine just now, and they can only accommodate about 80 at a time, but for those lucky enough to be rehabilitated there it is the most impressive unit.

In the evening we had dinner with half a dozen or so workers from the Ukrainian end of our arrangement. There was a lad, probably in his late teens or early twenties, below the age of conscription we assume, whose entire family had moved to Lviv



Prosthetic limbs being made in the SUPERHUMANS unit

from Mariupol after their home was destroyed. He at least was employed by the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine, which received and distributed our convoy, but we wondered about his parents who had lost absolutely everything in middle age.

The following morning we went to visit No 33 Secondary School, Lviv. One of their old pupils, Uliana, had encouraged the pupils to write thank you letters for the aid sent by Mighty Convoy.



Pupils and headteacher of No 33 Secondary School Lviv. Back Row: Simon and Mighty Convoy drivers

In return Simon was armed with child sized Arsenal strips he had extracted as a donation, which he doled out to the pupils. They were thrilled. What a uniting force football can be!



Children in No 33 Secondary School Lviv with their headteacher, wearing their Arsenal strips.

We were shown round the school, and as with everywhere else in Lviv, an air raid shelter comes as normal, and the building has

sand bags protecting the basement windows. There was no air raid in the 24 hours we spent in Lviv, but other volunteers for whom this was a second trip had had that experience.

I have never been to a war zone before, and it is a salutary experience. It certainly makes the conflict very real and immediate. One friend who sponsored us said she found it difficult to know what cause one should support just now, there are so many. That is true....but our experience of volunteering made this one particularly significant. We raised a bit more than the required £7000. for our vehicle. Mighty Convoy, The International Medical and Dental Association and the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine, which have now united as Convoy of Hope and have charitable status, continue their association with this school, and have supplied a TEFL teacher for up to 8 weeks to speak English with the children. Our additional funds went directly to help pay the expenses of that teacher. I, with my landscape architect hat on, have volunteered to help them develop their garden, which is an ongoing project, though I feel they probably want fit younger people to do manual labour, so probably nothing will come of it.

We went in taxis to the Ukraine border that afternoon, crossed into Poland on foot, then made our way to Krakow. From there you can fly direct to Edinburgh. We both felt we had covered a lot of ground in a short time in every sense.

We would both volunteer to drive again, if it were useful, but you can only fundraise from your friends and family once in a while. The hope therefore is to reach other audiences and groups who might be willing to make a contribution. Simon Brake has certainly made his!

Laura Mackenzie (1972) is a landscape architect living in Scotland.

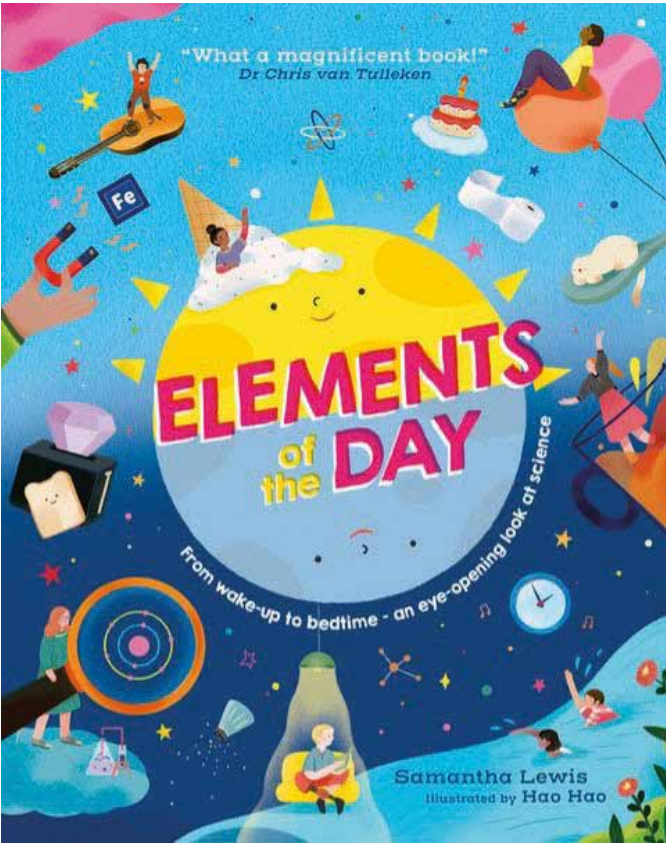
You can donate to Convoy of Hope here:
<https://convoyofhope.org/donate/>

Elements of the Day

SAMANTHA LEWIS

Even before my first Michaelmas term had ended, it was clear from my time in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory that a career at the bench wasn't for me. Talking about science, rather than doing it, was a much better fit.

After a short stint teaching, I moved into television, and have worked in the production and development of science films and podcasts ever since. It was through my work - rather than my education - that I came across the most fascinating stories from the history of science, and I often wished I'd heard them as a child. Aside from being entertaining, they were a wonderful window into the journey of scientific knowledge - replete with curiosity,



tenacity, and serendipity - and a reminder that there's always more to discover.

The idea of writing a book for children that could include some of my favourite science history tales had been percolating for a long time, but it wasn't until last year that I finally got the opportunity to do it. The result, *Elements of the Day* (published by Red Shed) will be released on 19 June 2025. Aimed at children aged 7+, it steps through a typical day to explore



some of the elements and compounds we encounter without a second thought, highlighting some of the fabulous stories behind their discoveries along the way.

It's been a dream come true for me to work on a book about Chemistry for young readers - and to see it come to life through Hao Hao's beautiful illustrations has been an utter joy. If I dare to dream further, it's that *Elements of the Day* might

inspire some budding young scientists. Perhaps they'll have more success in the lab than I ever did, and go on to write the next chapter in the grand story of scientific discovery...

Samantha Lewis (1998) is a freelance science producer/development producer for TV and radio, and a children's non-fiction author. *Elements of the Day* was selected as *The Times* Children's Book of the Week in May 2025.

Trump and Taft: How William Howard Taft’s approach to government efficiency differed from Elon Musk’s slash-and-burn tactics

LAURA SMITH

Laura Smith explores and explains the Trump administration’s most recent tactics – and how they differ from what has come before.

For the better part of a year, the world’s richest man has played an unprecedented role in U.S. government. At the start of his 2025 term, President Donald Trump asked Elon Musk to cut government “waste and fraud.” That translated into the Musk-driven firing of 121,000 federal workers, essentially closing entire government programs and departments.

Many Americans protested Musk’s work. His unsupervised access to sensitive government materials and unchecked influence over the firing of federal employees represents an unprecedented moment in the United States. An unelected billionaire sought to overhaul the federal government, empowered and legitimized not by Congress but only by the president.

There are two individuals intrinsic to any presidential effort to restructure government: the president himself and the person he entrusts with the task.

In 2025, Musk has been the person designated to carry out the president’s aims.

In 1910, it was Frederick Cleveland, an academic, who was President William H. Taft’s designated head of his effort to streamline government.

Both presidents, Taft and Trump, have said they wanted to improve how government functioned.

But while Taft worked with Congress to launch his effort, Trump hasn’t followed that route. And the men each president asked to lead their efforts were vastly different in the responsibility given to them, and different in values as well as temperament.

Power on Pennsylvania Avenue

Among the many historic attempts by presidents to streamline federal government, Taft’s administration provides a distinct parallel to an administration attempting to make government more efficient.

The Taft administration’s early 20th-century equivalent to the Musk-run Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, was called the Commission on Economy and Efficiency.

Unlike DOGE, created by presidential fiat via an executive order, Taft’s efficiency commission was funded by Congress.

Taft also delegated the work of this reorganization to trusted Cabinet subordinates, rather than an outsider who was not confirmed by Congress. Other presidents of Taft’s generation would have found it unthinkable to delegate such consequential work to someone outside of the bureaucracy to the extent that Trump has empowered Musk.

The work of Taft’s commission took place during a time of turmoil for the role and power of the president, as the country itself became more powerful and its governance more complex, calling for increased efficiency through streamlining.

Studying and streamlining government

Taft organized his commission in 1910, a year into his presidency. It lasted until his divided party led to his election defeat in 1912.

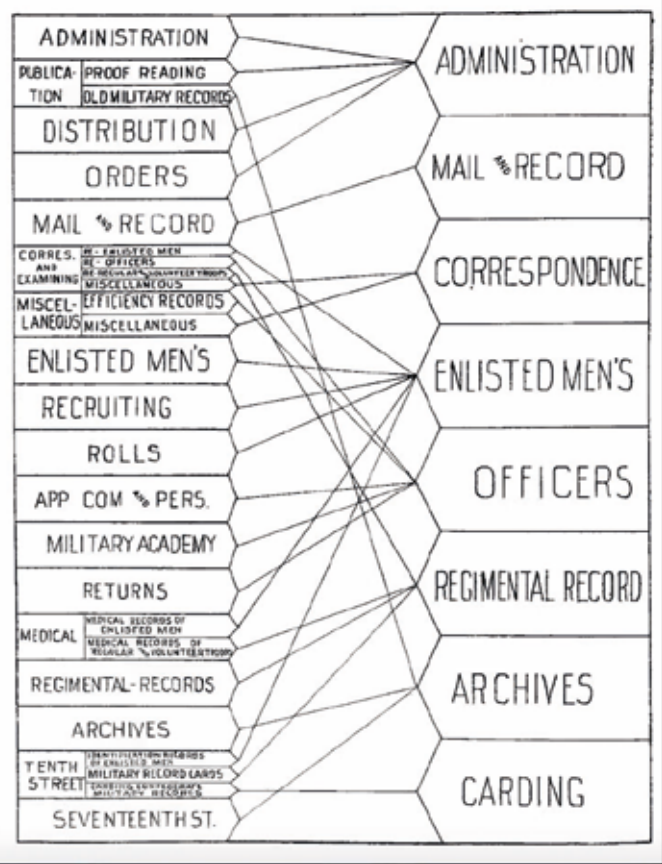
The commission’s aims were tied to economy and efficiency – as the commission itself was named. Indeed, Secretary of the Navy George von Lengerke Meyer, one of Taft’s trusted Cabinet members, concisely explained how the “main object was the establishment of a system which would enable the Secretary to administer his office efficiently and economically, with the advice of responsible expert advisers, ensuring continuity of policy for the future.”

Taft came to the presidency in 1909 with clear concepts of how the nation’s top office needed to become more powerful to meet the growing country’s burgeoning needs.

The presidency, he believed, also needed to expand its power to meet the modernizing demands of the Progressive Era in early 20th-century America. This era put new demands on government to be responsive to the country’s expanding needs, from grassroots demands by voters for greater government activism to professionals seeking more efficient support for their businesses from the government.

Taft was critically aware of existing inefficiency, with bureaucratic work overlapping at expense to the government, without any clear mandate, job description or hierarchy. The vision of the commission is clear in a diagram for the

War Department that sought to streamline the bureaucracy, conglomerating the existing 18 divisions into eight.



A chart of the Taft commission’s proposed streamlining of what was then called the ‘War Department.’ [archive.org](https://www.archive.org)

The Commission on Economy and Efficiency focused on providing solutions for this clearly defined problem of government inefficiency. At the time of Taft’s final message

to Congress in 1913, the commission had submitted 85 reports to Taft encouraging the reorganization of executive departments, including new and specifically defined roles for government employees.

Long-term, targeted changes

Unlike the radical unilateral actions taken by DOGE, the Taft commission recommended action to Congress for the long term, while making more targeted changes to the executive bureaucracy behind the scenes.

Despite Taft’s pleas stressing the need to sustain these changes beyond his tenure, Congress was tired of the empowerment of the executive by Republican presidents Theodore Roosevelt, followed by Taft, and had no incentive to support reorganization.



A chart of the Taft commission’s proposed streamlining of what was then called the ‘War Department.’ [archive.org](https://www.archive.org)

This is in direct contrast to Trump and Musk’s less substantiated concerns over “fraud and abuse” or ongoing vague concerns over the size and cost of the federal government. That phrasing may inspire more consensus over the problem, but not necessarily the solution.

Empowering the executive

Taft’s choice to head his commission, Frederick Cleveland, was a kindred spirit who believed in a strengthened presidency. Cleveland was an academic with past affiliations with the University of Pennsylvania and New York University. Congress accepted Cleveland’s nomination, seeing him as a pioneer in the realm of public administration.

Cleveland fit the Progressive Era’s mantra of employing experts. As a professional but not a member of the wealthy elite, and having been considered by Congress, Cleveland represents a clear distinction from Musk, who appears to have little understanding of what an average American may need from an operative federal bureaucracy.

Cleveland reflected the Taft administration’s approach of wanting to remold the government without animosity toward federal workers specifically or the government more broadly. He embraced the Progressive Era ethos in seeking to rectify inefficiency.

Streamlining did not equate to big cuts. The priority remained ensuring the American government could meet the increased demands of the new century.

Similar to DOGE, the White House was the command center for the Commission on Economy and Efficiency. That enabled Taft to manage reorganization of the executive branch from the Oval Office.

Not all of the modernizing and streamlining of the federal government would come at the behest of Taft’s commission.

Impatient to implement change while awaiting the commission’s reports, and with the commission hampered by a decrease in congressional funding in 1912, Taft had immediately sought improvement within his own administration.

But when the commission’s reports were finally available, Taft was in the unfortunate position of being a lame duck and could do little besides emphasize the need for further action.

While limited in the short term, the commission’s reports were later credited for major changes: “Although the report fell on deaf ears in Congress, it would become an essential roadmap for the budget reforms of 1921. The Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 addressed and mirrored the concerns and proposals of the Commission’s Report,” as described by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation.

Unlike DOGE, the approach of Taft and his commission focused on streamlining rather than gutting federal bureaucracy.

That approach was reflective of an era when experts were revered and sought after rather than maligned. As an experienced bureaucrat, Taft characteristically directed that the problem of government inefficiency be studied. This secured his legacy, as his agenda was eventually put into practice and embraced, proving his reflective approach to be ahead of its time.

Laura Ellyn Smith (2020) is a presidential historian with two doctorates in American history, her latest being her DPhil at St Anne’s College where she studied the development of executive power under President William H. Taft’s tenure. She is an Assistant Teaching Professor at Arizona State University where she teaches both her research specialism and public history. She has contributed book chapters to the edited volumes *The Trump Administration: The President’s Legacy Within and Beyond America*, and *The Obama Administration: Perceptions and Encounters Beyond America*, published earlier this year.

Celebrating twelve years of the Centre for Personalised Medicine

CLAIRE SCHWARTZ AND CATHERINE LIDBETTER

The CPM team reflect on how far the Centre has come

The Centre for Personalised Medicine (CPM) is now celebrating its twelfth year. Established in 2013 as a partnership between the College and the Centre for Human Genetics (CHG) within the Nuffield Department of Medicine, the CPM was created to explore personalised medicine from a variety of perspectives. The CPM was founded by former Principal Tim Gardam and Professor Sir Peter Donnelly, then Director of the CHG. Its inception was made possible by a generous donation from the Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development Foundation, alongside support from the Wellcome Trust through the CHG. We are extremely grateful to the Foundation, whose continued generosity will support our work through to 2030.

Since our founding, the CPM has grown significantly. Our team now includes a Director, a research fellow, five junior research fellows, and a dedicated administrative team. Dr Ingrid Slade, a public health physician with a research background in ethics, served as our

first Director. She was succeeded by Professor Simon Leedham, a clinical academic specialising in cancer and genomics research. Since 2021, Professor Anneke Lucassen, a leading clinical academic in genomic medicine, has held the Directorship. Throughout our history, we have benefited from the guidance of a Steering Group comprising members from both the College and the wider University, as well as an External Advisory Board chaired by St Anne's college alumna Dame Mary Archer.

The CPM serves as a hub for communication, engagement, and scholarship, focusing on research across the diverse landscape of personalised medicine. Through our meetings and events, we bring together a wide range of perspectives and foster meaningful dialogue on topics that are central to the advancement of personalised medicine.

Our strategy

In 2024, we undertook a comprehensive review of our strategic direction for the coming decade.

Our vision is to ensure that effective personalised medicine is accessible to everyone.

Our mission is to be a trusted, collaborative partner, supporting the development of equitable and impactful personalised medicine by identifying key questions, facilitating constructive debate, and exploring solutions across disciplines and communities. We are committed to achieving this mission through a variety of innovative approaches and activities.

To realise our goals, we engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including academics, charities, clinicians, industry partners, patient groups, policymakers, the public, and students. We also decided to focus our work through a series of topics within six broad, interconnected themes (see figure 1).

Each year, our activities are strategically aligned with key thematic priorities. The academic team, comprising the Director and research fellows, lead initiatives that reflect their expertise and interest. In collaboration with partners from across

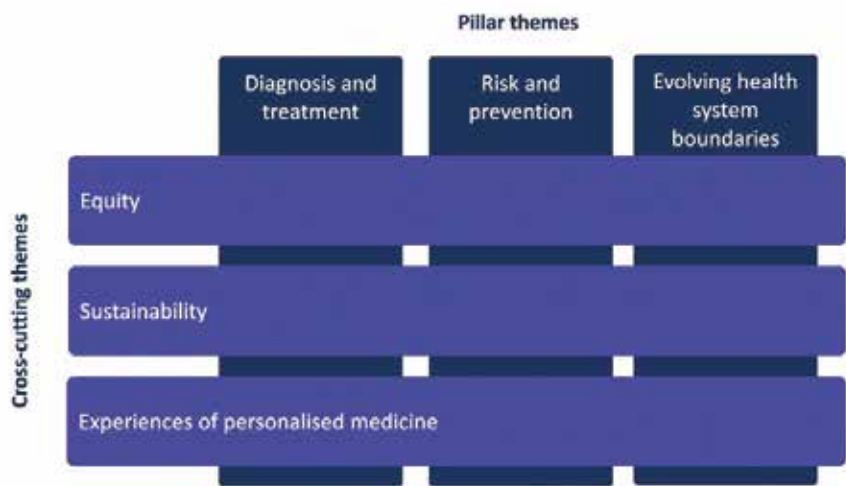


Figure 1- showing how we select our activities according to themes.

the university (for example, Oxford Cancer and the Oxford Internet institute) or more widely (for example, the PHG Foundation in Cambridge, or the British Society for Genetic Medicine) we explore a range of issues related to how we personalise medicine.

Current Themes in Genomics Healthcare Supported by the CPM

We held a day to discuss and debate moves towards using genomes (the entire genetic code) in screening newborn babies for disease. Discussions around this topic often suggest that screening for more diseases must be better than fewer, and we took

a multidisciplinary approach to the many factors to be considered in these assumptions. There are challenges in understanding what genetic variations might mean for a person's health over their lifetime; we all have lots of variants in our genetic code that might have been described as linked with disease in others but do not in fact cause any problems. As we turn genomics as a tool that is used in diagnosis, to one that aims to predict what future diseases a person might have, we begin to realise that this is much trickier than many had thought. Screening healthy babies to predict what their future will hold has opportunity costs and will mean that many babies will need medical follow up only to find that they do not have

the disease in question. When genetic variations are found in a developmental disease gene in a healthy adult, it is easy to be reassuring, but in a newborn baby this is much harder.

How should we balance efforts to identify and treat rare conditions early, against asking many more families and the health service to live with uncertainty? We took the opportunity to bring together experts from diverse disciplines to reflect on these difficult questions together. The report on the event is available here: <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/reports/> and many of the talks are available on our website.

Another event focussed on the description of ReNU syndrome, a condition affecting learning and development, identified via Oxford-based research last year, and potentially impacting many thousands of families across the world. During the evening, we enjoyed a series of talks from key people involved in delineating this syndrome, which is caused by a part of the genetic code not analysed with previous genetic techniques. Their talks described how this research was shared with affected families, and the impact this is having, building a worldwide community of families living with ReNU syndrome, and how much is still being learnt about diagnosing rare disease.

Videos from the event can be found here: <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/watch-our-lectures-interviews/> The last talk included a very moving video created by families living with ReNU syndrome describing what the diagnosis meant to them.

Engagement and Partnerships with public and professionals

Since 2022 we have asked young people to create art that looks at the promises and challenges of personalising medicine. In the first year of this annual competition, children aged 11-14 looked at the theme of ‘measurements in health and disease’. In the second year we asked children to explore the screening of newborn babies for disease. In our most recent competition, we asked them to consider how personalised medicine affects our planet. Our judging panels have been drawn from the Department, College, the wider University and artists outside the University. The quality of the entries we’ve received year on year has been outstanding and we held an exhibition showcasing some of the best entries at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford in spring 2025. The exhibition will transfer to the Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre in College for much of July and August. Please do pass on the details to any secondary school teachers or artistic

young people you know! <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/art-and-science-connection/>

In our podcast series, we’re currently exploring our strategic themes. Episodes to date are examining what we mean by personalised medicine, risk and prevention in personalised medicine, opportunities and challenges regarding environmental sustainability, and how interactions with healthcare systems are changing as health-relevant information becomes more accessible outside traditional clinical domains (such as through wearables or direct to consumer testing). Previous series have involved interviews with researchers at the CHG and members of the CPM’s advisory board to hear about their work exploring ethical and social issues relating to personalised medicine.

You can listen to the podcast via Apple, Spotify, Oxford Podcasts, or through our website at <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/podcasts/>

Looking to the Future

The Centre for Personalised Medicine continues to serve as a dynamic hub for research, engagement, and innovation in the field of personalised medicine. Our commitment to inclusivity and partnership, spanning academic, clinical, and public communities, ensures that

we remain at the forefront of promoting equitable and effective personalised medicine. Please see our website for our forthcoming events <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/events/> If you would like to be involved in our work, or have any suggestions for future activities, please get in touch!

<https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/>
<https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/strategy/>



The 3 CPM Directors, L-R Professor Anneke Lucassen (2021-), Professor Simon Leedham (2016-2021), Dr Ingrid Slade (2013-2016)



The art exhibition at the Churchill Hospital, spring 2025

I am Ragle Gumm

RUSSELL TAYLOR

This morning I woke up to find myself without a daily deadline for the first time in almost 40 years following The Daily Telegraph’s decision to axe Alex, the strip cartoon about the corporate world that I used to write.

For the majority of my adult life, my days have been measured out according to a simple formula. There is an empty Alex-cartoon-shaped space in tomorrow’s newspaper and it is my job to fill it. If I think of an idea for a cartoon on a given day, it means I have managed to stay in the same place in my life. If I think of two joke ideas, then I have hauled myself ahead by one day. If I don’t think of any ideas, then I have fallen behind by a day. OK, there are weekends and holidays to be taken into account and the fact that Charles, who draws the cartoon strip, also contributes jokes, but all the same I find it hard to relax on a given day if I haven’t thought of something funny. My days are ranked red, amber or green according to my comedic output.

It brings to mind my favourite science fiction novel *Time Out Of Joint* by Philip K Dick. It’s a book I loved as a teenager, well before my life began to take on strange similarities with it. The novel is

set in 1959 - the year before I was born. I once read that we are all fascinated by the historical period immediately preceding our birth. From our point of view the world had been trundling aimlessly for millennia up until that point, but now suddenly something huge and significant is about to enter it. *Time Out Of Joint* is set in a small Midwestern town, where very little happens. The hero is Ragle Gumm, which always struck me as a wonderfully exotic name that no one in West Berkshire, where I grew up, could possibly be called. Ragle Gumm is a loner and a loser. The one talent he has in life is to solve a puzzle in the local newspaper called “Where will the Little Green Man be next?”. In fact so good is he, that he wins the competition every single day. He himself has no idea how he solves the puzzle; it’s a combination of intuition and maths, but he always nails it. So his life is trapped in an endless loop. The movie *The Truman Show* is clearly based on this novel, though I don’t think it’s acknowledged in the credits. It turns out that Ragle’s daily preoccupation has a much larger significance than he supposes, but I’ll avoid any plot spoilers here.

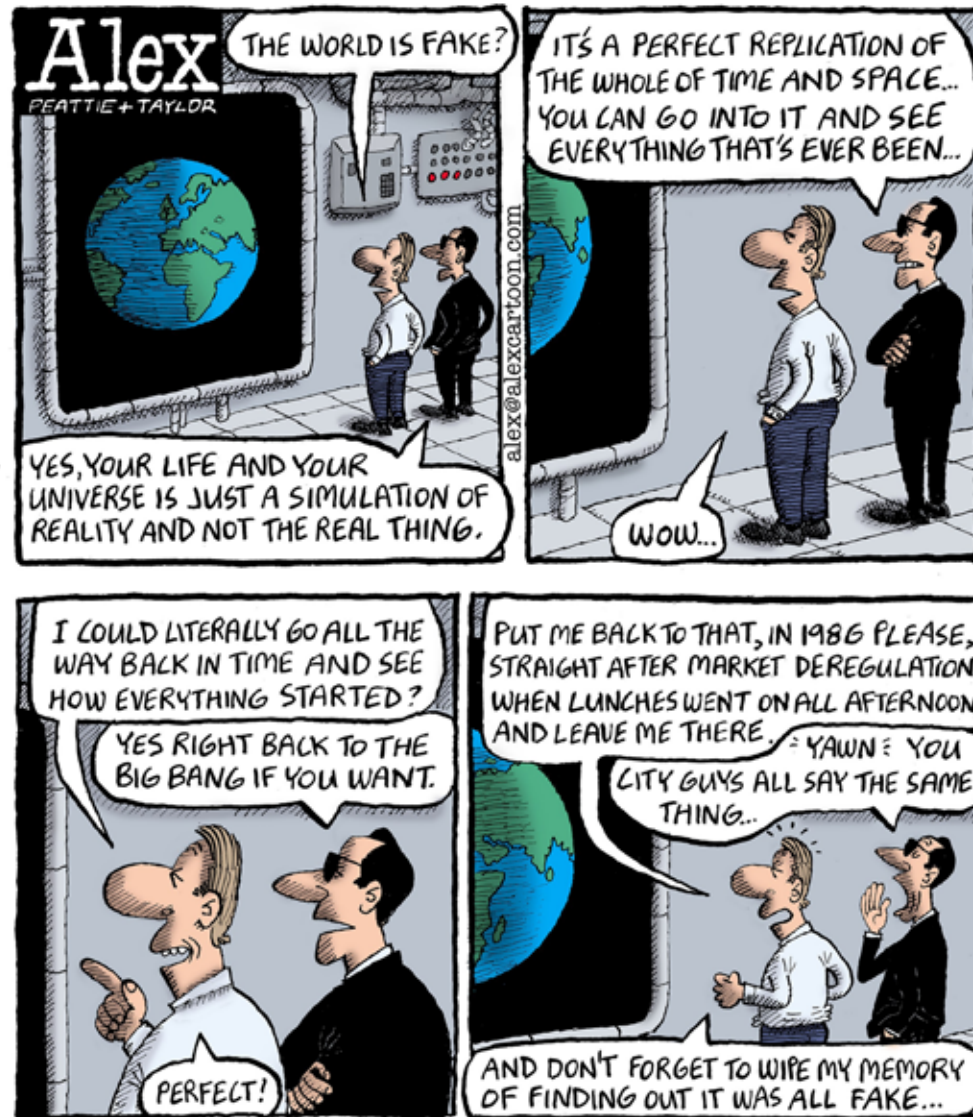
My life (until now) has followed a similar pattern. Every day I have a set task to

do. I complete it successfully and move onto the next day, where I have to do the same thing (hopefully in a slightly different way) all over again. I don’t really understand how I write jokes (any more than Ragle Gumm understands how he solves the Little Green Man puzzle). This is annoying as it means I can’t teach the skill to anyone else and generate some handy extra income in the sunset years of my career.

As a Cancerian I am attracted to routines, but this was also something that gave my life validation. Every day I had to produce something, albeit just a silly cartoon about compliance or expenses claims, which would live on in a book in some investment banker’s downstairs loo forever. OK, it’s not the greatest contribution to humanity ever made. Not like discovering penicillin, but it’s something. But now that Alex has come to an end as a daily cartoon, I am like some animal living in a zoo who is used to having its food thrown to it each day by the zookeepers and has forgotten how to hunt. I will now have to learn to self-motivate to survive, to do bits of writing that I won’t automatically get paid for and that someone won’t obligingly publish in a national

newspaper the next day. Like writing this piece, for example. And unlike Ragle Gumm I might not win every time.

Having the opportunity to do some longer form writing has its attractions. A cartoon strip is like a haiku. I know that sounds pretentious, but what I mean is that both are stripped down, minimalist art forms. In the Alex cartoon we had a (self-imposed) limit of 120 words in each strip and preferably we tried to keep the verbiage down to as little over 100 words as possible. Unnecessary adjectives, extraneous phrases and flowery figures of speech had to be crossed out, as they add to the word count without adding to the sense. Whereas in an article like this I can write as many of them as I like, I can employ a multitude of them, an abundance of them, a plethora, a plenitude, a cornucopia... And now that we're living in the digital age where we are no longer restricted by the physical dimensions of the newspaper or magazine page we are writing for, we have free rein, perhaps dangerously, to ramble on forever and ever and ever and ever...



I was asked by an Australian journalist in an interview the other week whether I feel any bitterness or anger at the plug being pulled on Alex. Not really. Being found out is an occupational hazard that all creative people face. In fact, just about everyone in the middle-class corporate world suffers from imposter syndrome, especially in this age of AI, where an algorithm could probably do most of our jobs anyway. For years I have been expecting the tap on the shoulder and a quiet voice to murmur in my ear: "I'm terribly sorry, there seems to have been a dreadful mistake, we've been paying you real money to publish your silly thoughts for the last forty years. The person responsible for appointing you has been relieved of their responsibilities." The curtain coming down on this part of my career

after all this time may be less end of an era, more end of an error.

It's a marvellous feeling to think that as of today I can wake up, look at the news online and not feel obliged to try to think of some humorous angle on what I read. The world is a grim enough place at the moment without me adding more cynicism to it. Sod's Law of course dictates that this is the week when Donald Trump decides to take an axe (or should that be ax?) to global financial markets and there are endless humorous opportunities for the jobbing financial cartoonist. Maybe this isn't a liberation after all. Maybe I'm already starting to miss those daily deadlines. Maybe the last four decades have turned me into a stress junkie.

I was told recently by a couple of City contacts I was lunching with that whenever people discuss the Alex cartoon the inevitable comment is "How do they keep coming up with the jokes day after day?" (I'm blushing as I repeat this outrageous flattery). That was the easy bit, I'm now thinking. It may be that NOT having to come up with a joke every day could be tougher on me psychologically.

Well, that's this piece finished. Can I have my money now? Er, Hello...Hello?

Russell Taylor MBE (1979)

You can read more of Russell's writing at AfterAlex on Substack

<https://afteralex.substack.com>

Coming to St Anne's as a Visiting Student

EMMA HERMACINSKI

What is it like to arrive at St Anne's as a visiting student? Emma Hermacinski sheds some light

I arrived at St. Anne's on a dreary January day with little understanding of what to expect from the college, Oxford, or the United Kingdom as a whole. I was greeted by an unexpected contingent of the staff—a family of five black cats, lounging near a bowl of food set out for them by the porters. I love cats of all kinds. Though some may claim that black cats signify bad luck, I believe the feline family at St. Anne's signifies that the college is a home. The fact that the college staff care for this group of strays, something they have no obligation to do, represents the way in which the caring community of St. Anne's is built not out of a sense of obligation, but rather the genuine, compassionate spirits of its members. Coming from America, I'd be lying if I said that there weren't some initial shocks. I'm a third-year student at Princeton University studying Politics with minors in Japanese Language, East Asian Studies, and Latin American Studies. I chose to study abroad at Oxford because the programme offered me a flexibility that my home

university could not provide. Princeton is a school with many merits, but it fails in prohibiting students from studying two subjects jointly. Even though I knew Politics and Japanese would be an atypical combination for joint study, I reached out to the Visiting Students Coordinators to ask if I could apply for both subjects. With haste, the College staff responded with friendly affirmation. I'd always known that I wanted to apply to St. Anne's over the three other colleges Princeton holds exchanges with, but the willing flexibility of the staff made my decision even easier. Even when I had little idea what two terms at Oxford would entail, I knew I was in good hands from the moment I began corresponding with the St. Anne's staff.

Over my three years of university, I've developed very specific academic interests. I came to Oxford knowing that I wanted to study Japanese at greater depth than Princeton could allow, since Japanese isn't an available course of study. From my first days at College, my personal tutor, Ted Hui, provided me with tremendous guidance. In my first meeting with him, he asked me, "what do you want to do in your time



Emma Hermacinski

here?" Floored by his willingness to accommodate me, I responded honestly and explained my academic trajectory. I told him that I'd been working on a journal article about early 20th-century Shintō since the spring of 2024, and that I planned to write an undergraduate thesis on the same topic. I also told him of my hopes to apply for a PhD programme a few years after my graduation. Ted listened attentively to

my story and acted on it with attention and support virtually unavailable in the American system. He arranged for me to sit in on a graduate Japanese language class, ensuring the College covered the costs. He also supported me in reaching out to Professor Roger Goodman about attending Japanese Anthropology, the course I'd most hoped to take before I arrived at Oxford. In my first term, I attended five sets of lectures, four of which were focused on Japan and Japanese. The flexibility and individualization of a St. Anne's education continues to exceed my greatest expectations.

I've been amazed by the personal attention that St. Anne's and its tutors have afforded me. At the beginning of Trinity term, I explained to Xia-Kang Ziyi, my Japanese tutor, that I was hoping to practice reading early 20th-century Japanese documents in preparation for my senior thesis research. I made the request to read early modern Japanese tentatively, expecting it to be politely declined due to its specificity. To my elated surprise, Xia-Kang, who had studied early modern Japanese as an undergraduate, had already printed and prepared a 20th-century text for us to discuss that day. Around the same time, I received the Caroline M. Picard Prize in Politics from Princeton, sponsoring my proposal for six weeks of archival

research in Japan. Thanks to Xia-Kang's expert tutelage, I feel confident that I will be able to make the most out of my time in Asia this summer.

Much like my tutors, the College staff have supported both me and my studies to an extent greater than I thought possible. When a Japanese visitor to St. Anne's generously donated a Japanese-language book related to my research to the College Library, the Library staff ensured that I was able to check out the book as soon as I needed it. In every interaction I've had with the librarians, porters, dining staff, scouts, Visiting Students Coordinators, and administrators here, I've walked away with a heart full of gratitude. Even though College staff support hundreds of students, fellows, and other staff members each day, the level of attention and care allocated to each individual is first-class. The community at St. Anne's has also welcomed me graciously. I had the unique pleasure of sharing my first ever tutorial, International Security and Conflict, with Roxi Rusu, the current JCR President. In addition to her cleverness, Roxi's enthusiasm and deep thinking set an excellent example for how to go about learning the Oxford way. Her love for the College and its community inspired me to make the most out of my brief time

at St. Anne's, including by attending several formals over the course of my two terms here. Roxi's love for the College inspired me to think further about what makes *this* place, above all, so special. At the Founders' Dinner, I had a lovely conversation with a first-year law student named Praise that provided an answer.

Remarking on how students beyond Anne's would harp on its distance from the city centre, Praise assessed our college's location in a way that honours its value: "from the central colleges, you only get one song when you walk to class. From St. Anne's, you get three songs." Like Praise, I am a lover of music. I soundtracked all my walks from College: to lectures at the Exam Schools, to meetings of the Oxford Role-Playing Game Society, to try a new coffee shop in Jericho. To the tune of my favourite songs, I found myself walking away from St. Anne's with a deep sense of comfort—knowing I had a place I came from, knowing that, at the end of each day, I'd return to that place with stories to tell and people to greet. Over my sixteen weeks at Oxford, I've assembled a volume's worth of stories to tell. Just as the College was built to support Home students over one hundred years ago, St. Anne's serves Visiting Students like me by providing us a home away from home.

I've told many stories about my triumphs, but my time here has also been punctuated by moments of comic confusion. Finding out that "rocket" was a leafy green and not something more exciting was a bit of a disappointment. I was confused to learn that a "First" could be awarded to multiple people, not just the top-performing student on an exam. I embarrassed myself several dozen times by trying to walk out of doors I hadn't pushed the button to unlock. Through all of it, however, I found myself falling in love with Oxford. The beauty of a thawing Oxford in Hilary and a blooming Oxford in early Trinity enchanted me in ways I had never expected. Soon, I found myself

falling into the same habits as my British peers. After making a practice of getting chips at Hassan's on Broad Street once a week, I've never thought to call them "French fries." I started referring to student groups at Princeton as "societies," even though nobody uses the word back home. When my parents came to town in early June, I found myself talking about "queues" instead of "lines" and "jumpers" instead of "sweaters." Through all the chaos of adjusting to life across the pond, making new friends from around the world, and immersing myself in an academic environment unlike anywhere else in the world, St. Anne's has supported and cared for me as an individual in

a manner that no other place has. While my future remains uncertain, as I look towards a potential Masters' degree in International Relations, my time at College has convinced me that I should do my utmost in applying for an opportunity to continue receiving an Oxford education. Regardless of what academic path I follow, the lessons I've learned and memories I've made here at St. Anne's are sure to remain with me for life.

EJ Hermacinski (Visiting Student, 2025) is a senior at Princeton University studying Politics with minors in Japanese Language, East Asian Studies, and Latin American Studies.



Working through menopause: a critical turning point for women and employers

LAURA HAYCOCK

Do employers need to think about the menopause? Laura Haycock explains why the answer is unequivocally yes.

Menopause is not just a personal health issue. It's a modern workforce challenge that no employer can afford to ignore. The Employment Rights Bill is expected to bring in new measures that will force employers to pay attention to menopause over the coming years. However, proactive organisations are already recognising that if they do not put in place a menopause action plan now, they will be left behind.

With menopause and the collision of life events that come in a woman's 40s and 50s, women can struggle to sustain their participation, performance, progression and wellbeing at work. Too often, just when women are reaching the peak of their careers, they will feel a need to step back or leave altogether to balance the impact of difficult symptoms. Too often workplaces are content to quietly watch women go without exploring options for supporting them through this inevitable life stage. This is a great loss, not least because the menopause transition is time limited. Once through this stage women can find themselves with greater focus, capability and potential than ever before with so much more to give in an organisational context.

What's new about older women at work?

It is a simple fact that workers are getting older, with a third of UK workers now over the age of 50. As a result, employers will increasingly need to plan for the challenges of supporting

those with health issues that impact their work and wellbeing. Already, one in four UK workers face health-related work limitations before reaching retirement, even more so for lower socio-economic groups. However, a gender difference emerges in the impact of health on work that underpins what is now recognised as a "menopause penalty".

Although women live longer than men with an average UK lifespan of 83 years, and have seen retirement ages equalise at 67, they will see an earlier tipping point in their health. Around a third of a woman's career might be impacted by menopause-related issues and the earlier the menopause the more significant the negative impact on careers. It is not surprising that women see their earnings peak at just 42 years with menopause being a major factor in driving the widening gender pay gap for older workers. In 2023, the UK gender pay gap was 4.7% at ages 30-39, but increased to 10.3% at ages 40-49. This contributes to a gender pension gap of 35% by the age of 55.

CIPD 2023 study of 2000 women aged 40 to 60

- 88% of women aged 51-60, and 57% of women aged 40-50, experienced menopause symptoms.
- Two-thirds experienced hot flushes (67%), sleep disturbance (66%) and muscle and joint problems (64%) plus many other symptoms.
- Over 50% had taken time off due to symptoms.
- 23% had considered leaving their job.
- 27% reported a negative impact on career progression.
- 79% felt less able to concentrate.

Despite the challenges women may experience in sustaining their career and earnings, women over 45 years are the fastest growing demographic in the workplace. Women's employment rates are increasing globally, but within this is a new generation who are still showing up beyond marriage, childbearing, and motherhood when their mothers and grandmothers may have been expected to give up their careers. In the US an estimated 25% of workers are now potentially impacted by menopause. And, of course, in some sectors such as healthcare and education, the proportion is far higher. This is far from a niche minority issue.

Why are employers waking up to menopause?

Women's participation in work is driven by a desire for personal fulfilment but also by financial necessity. However, business and wider society benefit too when women can optimise their contribution in paid work. Maximising the value of this talent pool can be a critical factor in an organisation's success with several strategic benefits:

- **Growth:** where there are challenges in attracting and retaining staff.
- **Productivity:** where significant numbers of staff are impacted by sickness absence or impaired performance.
- **Profitability:** where the costs of recruiting and training new staff are significant.
- **Resilience:** where retaining experienced staff and building a diverse senior team supports improved decision making and people leadership.
- **Market penetration:** where older female talent can help tap into valuable older female markets with high spending potential.
- **Brand Value:** where staff, shareholders and consumers show greater loyalty and attraction to the company's ethical credentials.

If it wasn't enough that menopause-friendly organisations deliver value, many employers also waking up to the need to minimise their legal liabilities relating to menopause. Already in the UK tribunals are seeing a growing number of successful claims relating to menopause under the banner of sex, age, or disability discrimination (from 5 to 35 cases per annum over a space of 6 years). It is fair to assume many more are being settled before reaching court to avoid any reputational damage. The onus is on employers to prove they have taken reasonable measures or adjustments to avoid discrimination against women. This is likely to become more acute with expected changes in the law that increase protection for women during menopause such as: the added possibility of bringing dual characteristic claims (e.g. combined age and sex discrimination); and the requirement for employers with over 250 staff to publish equality action plans that detail how they will address gender inequality, and the gender pay gap.

How can we improve outcomes for women working through menopause?

Menopause is a biopsychosocial phenomenon that has complex causes and effects. Rather than leaving women to deal with it alone or purely with medical support, there is a role for organisations in supporting a systemic approach that reflects this complexity.

Biologically, menopause signals the end of fertility and is a point in time when a woman has not menstruated for a full year. However, the menopause transition is so much more than this and can involve chaotic hormonal changes affecting many aspects of body and brain. Although some may still associate menopause with hot flushes alone, it can in fact trigger a wide array of somatic, emotional and cognitive symptoms which vary in type, severity, onset and duration from person to person. Many women are fortunate, but most will experience some

detrimental impact at work. Some of the worst symptoms are experienced in perimenopause, the months and years that come before menopause, but individual women and their health care providers can be caught unaware, very often missing the signs. Whilst HRT can be a great help, it is not a magic solution, can involve a long process of trial and error, and it is not offered to all.

Within the workplace it helps if leaders and colleagues have a better understanding of symptoms women may experience, how these vary from person to person and their potential impact at work to shape targeted and inclusive actions. Some employers can also play a role in signposting accredited medical experts and some may even pay for private consultations to help women secure the best therapeutic options.

Psychologically, women's menopause experience can be impacted by negative attitudes towards this stage of life and our lack of understanding around it. Reinforcing a positive mindset and practising psychological strategies for managing symptoms can be helpful. At the same time, for those who experience symptoms that are more extreme, or which go on for years, it is unhelpful to suggest they should simply "tough it out". The psychological impact will be different for everyone. For example, menopause can be even more complex for those who are transgender as physical symptoms can also exacerbate body dysmorphia and fears of unwanted gender disclosure.

Within the workplace, a compassionate inclusive approach is vital for every individual experiencing menopause. Psychological strategies can be supported through: group and individual coaching; strengths-based approaches that help women tap into their enduring and emerging capabilities and their capacity for growth; and also through the celebration of positive role models and empowering narratives on menopause.

Socially, the menopause experience is also driven by cultural contexts and the changing role of women in work and society. Societal and organisational systems can, on the one hand, create more demand and opportunity for women to participate in the workplace, but on the other hand, can perpetuate barriers that make it difficult for women to access such opportunity in a way they can truly excel and thrive. We are seeing a huge cultural shift that is challenging taboo around menopause and shining a light on the issues. This provides a window for further systemic change but true change demands a consideration of deep cultural, structural and environmental factors within a working world not designed with menopausal women in mind.

Enabling dialogue and building a supportive community can be critical in stimulating further change within workplaces. Many organisations establish menopause networks and seek to engage all colleagues in sharing a role in making the organization more menopause friendly. However, systemic change goes beyond raising awareness and encouraging a supportive culture. It can also mean challenging assumptions about where, when and how people work, and optimising processes, environmental conditions and clothing requirements.

"M-POWER: A Menopause Action Plan for Organizations"

M-POWER by Laura Haycock (nee Andrews, Experimental Psychology, 1988-91), is a ground-breaking book for team leaders, HR professionals, executives, and board members to enable them to shape a more menopause friendly experience for women at work. With expert reviews from medical, academic, legal and organizational perspectives it shares both the strategic context for menopause at work and, also, a practical roadmap for change. Readers love the accessible M-POWERED framework and the real-life case

studies that bring this to life from organizations such as the NHS, Specsavers, Unilever, West Mercia Police, and Zurich. Through her company, Brew People, Laura is working with clients to adapt the M-POWERED framework to their specific challenges and opportunities helping them deliver systemic change. She was delighted to hold a book launch at St. Anne’s College in May and welcomed Principal, Helen King, alongside other guests and speakers to explore this important issue in the working world.

The M-POWERED framework:

M – Menopause

Develop a menopause action plan grounded in real-world awareness of the physical, emotional, social and environmental factors that impact women.

P – Purpose

Make menopause support a visible organizational priority. Engage leadership and frontline staff alike in a shared mission that reflects its strategic importance.

O – Openness

Create a culture where honest conversations can happen. Offer learning opportunities, breaking the silence and shining a light on menopause at work.

W – Will

Give women agency. Empower them to make informed choices, speak up, and shape workplace decisions that affect them. Offering flexibility is key.

E – Effectiveness

Build confidence and capability through celebrating what is possible, valuing women’s new and emerging strengths and supporting further growth.

R – Relationships

Build strong, trusting relationships, where women encounter understanding, empathy and support from leaders and the wider workplace community.

E – Environment

Adjust physical workplaces with cool calm spaces, comfortable uniforms, discrete access to wash facilities, and safe working practices.

D – Delivery

Seek systemic change by integrating menopause into wide-ranging policies and practices and planning for sustained measurable progress.

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Laura Haycock (1988) is a Chartered Psychologist and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. She graduated from St Anne’s in Experimental Psychology and has an MSc in Applied Psychology from Cranfield University, College of Aeronautics. Laura offers over 30 years of international consultancy experience across all aspects of talent management.

When the River Rises:
Investing in Nature to Climate-Proof Britain

ROB GARDNER

Our rivers have changed with
our climate...

It’s a funny thing, really. We insure our buildings against flooding but rarely invest in the landscapes that prevent floods in the first place.

Last year, I wrote about seagrass. This year, I’m writing about rivers.

In many ways, this story begins and flows from the same source. At Oxford, I studied glaciology and hydrology. There, I first understood rivers as bodies of water and as dynamic systems that shape landscapes, economies, and lives.

Now, as an investor working to redirect the flow of capital, I see rivers differently: infrastructure, resilience, and, crucially, investible assets.

Nowhere is this more visible than in the UK, especially around Oxford.

Rivers Remember

Over 25 years ago, I rowed for St Anne’s Boat Club in Torpids and

Summer Eights. I still remember the early mornings on the Isis: fog curling low over the water, oars slicing through the stillness, and the quiet sense of timelessness.

But the river has changed. The climate has changed.

Since the late 1990s, the global average temperature has risen by more than 0.5°C. The UK now sees warmer, wetter winters and drier summers. Oxford has experienced major flood events in 2003, 2007, 2012 and again in 2024. Each caused more damage than the last.

Flooding isn’t just disruptive. It’s traumatic. Research shows that even three years after a flood, individuals are 8.5 times more likely to experience depression. For many, rain has gone from a comforting background to a source of fear. And it’s not just households. Businesses suffer, too. 40% of SMEs never reopen after a flood, and uninsured firms are the most vulnerable. The financial toll is high, but the psychological toll is often deeper.

A System at Breaking Point

Rainfall intensity, particularly in winter, now exceeds what our engineered drainage systems were built to handle. Floodplains, once dynamic and responsive, have been drained, straightened, and severed from rivers like the Thames and Cherwell. Centuries of hard engineering have sped water downstream but stripped away natural resilience. This ‘efficiency’ leaves the land both flood-prone and drought-vulnerable. Roads, railways, and homes bear the brunt. Meanwhile, degraded catchments accelerate water loss, worsen pollution, and shrink biodiversity. If this is what 25 years of underinvestment looks like imagine the next 25 without bold action.

Nature Is Resilience

Our climate is changing through water:

Too much. Too little. Too dirty.

Flood events that used to happen once a century now arrive every decade. The Cherwell, Evenlode, Thames, and Windrush have all overrun their banks in

recent years. Simultaneously, droughts are threatening everything from farming to freshwater ecosystems.

The *London Climate Resilience Review* names flood and heat-driven drought two of the most serious systemic threats to the UK economy. They cost billions through insurance claims, infrastructure repair, and supply chain disruption.

And then there's dirty water. In 2023 alone, Thames Water recorded over **16,000 sewage overflows** into UK rivers. In Oxford, this toxic runoff threatens ecosystems, public health, and reputations. Pollution has become a systemic economic risk.

But Nature has been managing water risk for **3.5 billion years**. It builds resilience through rivers, wetlands,

riparian forests, peat bogs, and beaver dams. These systems slow water, store it, purify it and release it when needed.

Oxford's own flood alleviation projects are already proving this. Reconnected floodplains around Christ Church Meadow, leaky dams in West Oxfordshire, and farmer-led hedgerow buffers are helping to lower flood peaks

and slow runoff. The Evenlode Catchment Partnership is another standout in restoring natural river meanders, wetlands, and riparian planting while working directly with landowners.

Water Is How the Risk Arrives

In 2025, water will be the delivery mechanism for climate disruption. It comes in three forms:

Too Much Water – Flooding:

Floods cost hundreds of millions from Carlisle (2005, 2015) to Oxford (2024).

They overwhelm concrete defences, disrupt infrastructure, and create cascading losses.

Too Little Water – Drought:

Spring 2025 is the driest in 130 years. Reservoirs across the northwest are below 50%. Drought restrictions are in place. Agriculture and industry are under strain.

Too Dirty – Pollution:

Not a single UK river meets 'good' chemical status. Sewage, fertilisers,

and septic runoff are degrading ecosystems — and public trust.

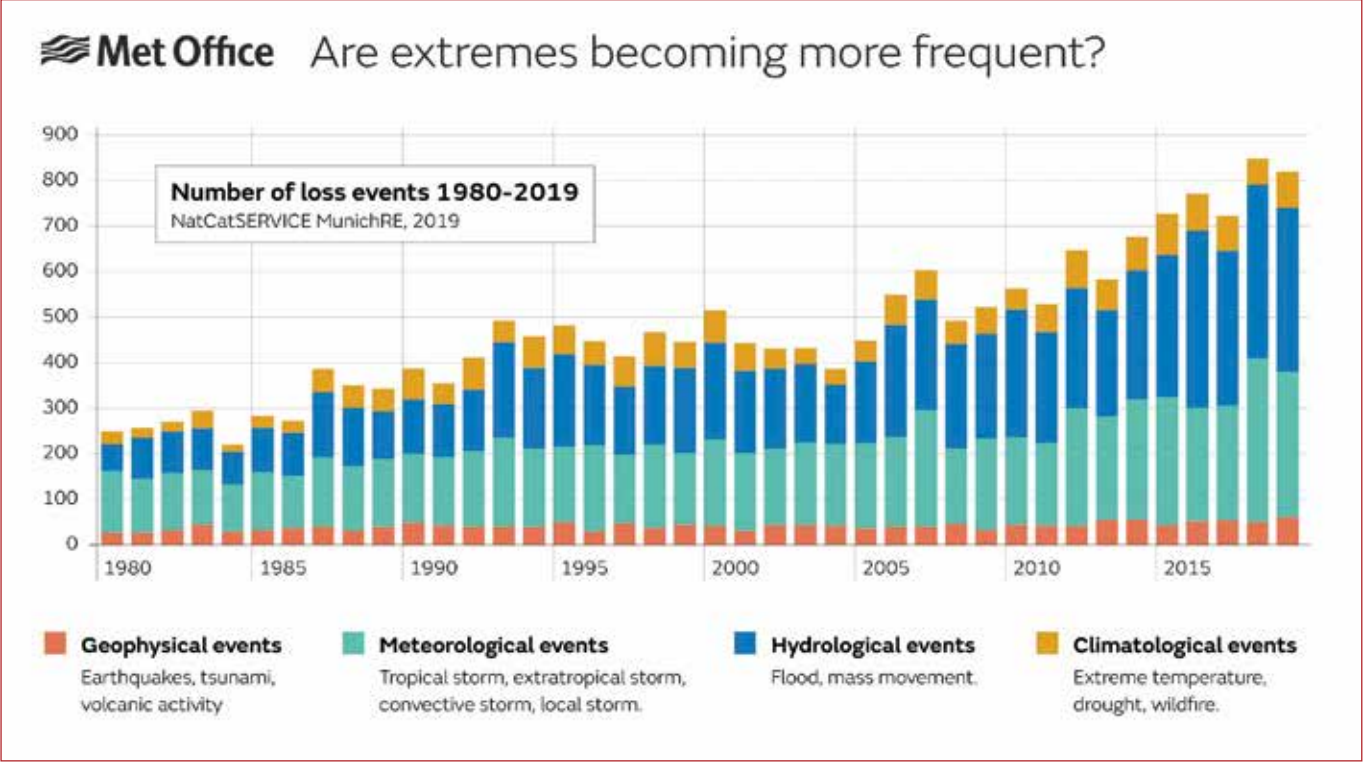
We can't pour enough concrete to keep up. But we *can* invest in the natural systems built for this.

Nature Is Infrastructure

Infrastructure isn't just concrete. It's capability.

Rivers, wetlands, and floodplains are natural infrastructure that provide:

- Flood mitigation



Oxford flooding in 2024 © The Oxford Mail

- Water purification
- Biodiversity support
- Temperature regulation
- Carbon sequestration

Yet they receive just **1% of UK flood defence funding**.

Why? Because what's visible gets valued. Concrete is visible. Resilience is not. But the real problem often begins upstream in degraded landscapes long before the water hits the wall. The Thames Tideway Tunnel was funded as critical infrastructure. It's not a green initiative. It was essential. It attracted long-term capital. It made London safer.



Anglezarke Reservoir, Lancashire, May 2025 at 50%, © Neil Entwistle

We must now apply that same thinking and financing to Nature. And unlike concrete, **Nature gets stronger over time**.

The Business Case for Resilience

This is not philanthropy. It's economics.

- The 2008 Global Financial Crisis cost 5% of GDP.
- COVID-19 in 2020 wiped out 11%.
- Nature and climate loss could cut 15–29% of global GDP by 2050.
- In the UK, 12% GDP loss could hit by the 2030s due to ecosystem degradation.

These risks **compound**. They don't bounce back.

Ignoring them is negligence. Investing in resilience is **risk-adjusted common sense**.

Nature Is Investible

Nature-based solutions like Natural Flood Management (NFM) are:

- Proven
- Cost-effective
- Scalable
- Revenue-generating

They reduce flood peaks. Retain water during droughts. Boost biodiversity. Improve water quality. Store carbon.

And increasingly, they're monetised:

- Thames Water pays to reduce overflow pollution
- Supermarkets secure supply chains by investing upstream
- Developers offset biodiversity loss through wetland restoration
- Councils seek co-benefits like air quality and recreation

To unlock institutional capital, we need **15–25-year offtake agreements** just like those used to scale offshore wind.

Catchments Are the New Investment Unit

The river catchment is where:

- Resilience is built
- Value is created
- Capital must flow

Investing in catchments like the Evenlode, Plym, or Irwell can reduce risks, protect jobs, and boost land value. It's also the best levelling-up strategy we've got.

Carlisle: A Missed Opportunity

In 2005, Carlisle flooded. Substations failed. Rail lines shut. Homes were lost. The damage topped **£250 million**.

What if we had:

- Restored upstream wetlands
- Planted trees
- Built retention ponds
- Partnered with local farmers?

We'd have saved money and lives. Let's not miss the next chance.

A Blueprint for Unlocking Nature Investment

We've done this before with offshore wind. Let's do it again with rivers.



Aftermath of sewage overflows on the River Thames, Barnes © Thames21

- 1. Nature Contracts** – Long-term outcome-based payments
- 2. Incentivise Water Companies** – Let them earn returns from natural infrastructure
- 3. Business Resilience Deals** – Fund solutions that protect operations
- 4. Smarter Insurance** – Lower premiums where Nature reduces risk
- 5. Resilience in Planning** – Update building codes and regulations
- 6. Joint Procurement** – Align utilities, councils, and insurers
- 7. Regulate for Reality** – Use the FCA's ABC: Aim <2°C, **Build for 2°C**, **Create for 2.5°C+**

Final Word: A Dutch Lesson

As a geographer born in the Netherlands, I've seen what happens when a country takes water seriously. The Dutch don't just defend against water. They design with it. So must we. Let's treat rivers like roads. Floodplains like fibre. Wetlands like water pipes. Let's regulate them. Invest in them. Restore them. **The river is waiting.**

Rob Gardner (1997) is a Financial Activist, Author, and Co-Founder of Rebalance Earth.

Purposefully and boldly: St Anne's becomes an All-Steinway School

DR SHANNON MCKELLAR

Imagine seven Steinway pianos in one room, and fourteen pianists, two at each piano, all drawn from a college's student, fellow and alumnae community, performing together, playing music composed especially for the occasion. Imagine an audience of 350 come to see this unique event. This happened at St Anne's on Saturday 14 June 2025. Rows of chairs took up nearly all the space in the large dining hall; tables and brunch had been banished. In a 'U' shape stood seven pianos and from them emerged an experience never to be had again. First the 'Gardam Grace' composed and arranged by Dr John Traill, the College's Director of Music, for 28 hands. Last, by Daniel Reynolds, a peal of bells in a composition called 'Carillon Dream' that echoed around the hall and immersed the listeners in an aleatoric soundscape quite unlike anything heard before. In between, highly accomplished pianists treated the audience to a Dave Brubeck suite of eight jazzy dance movements on two pianos, a Mendelssohn Prelude and Fugue, a piece titled 'Heptalogue' by Nick Samuel in seven parts and 7 time for seven pianists on seven pianos, and a composition by the College's very own Fellow and Tutor of Music, Professor Martyn Harry, called 'Digging Deeper', rearranged for seven pianos.

Layered within the fantastical sound that came emphatically from the hall -- as fourteen pianists are very loud, and the day was very hot, and all the doors of the hall had been flung open as wide as possible -- was a modern fairy tale that went something like this:

Once upon a time there was a little girl of seven summers who lived in a small town in a faraway African land. She loved her piano lessons with a young English professor who had journeyed from a distant college across the seas to teach at the local university. Under the teacher's guidance, the girl discovered a lasting love for classical piano. But one day the piano teacher had to leave town and the little girl was very sad. Despite her heartbreak, the girl's devotion to piano endured, and she went on to study Music at the university in that African town. But she never saw her beloved piano teacher again.

Until one day, nearly half a century later, a wonderful opportunity arrived. That girl, now grown up and living a long way from the African land, in the ancient city of Oxford, joined nine companions from the college where she was now the Senior Tutor, on a journey to Hamburg. Their quest: to visit the legendary Steinway factory to choose a grand piano for the College. To celebrate the occasion, alumnae of the College from across Europe were invited to join the Senior Tutor for an evening reception. And among them, now a graceful elder nearing eighty winters, was none other than that young English professor -- the very same piano teacher who had once lit the spark of music in the little girl's soul. And so the little girl and her piano teacher were reunited. And the Senior Tutor invited her teacher to join her in playing in a concert celebrating the purchase of the Steinway pianos, and the teacher came, and so the music that had once begun in a small town far away was heard again, and the circle was complete.

Seven Steinway pianos?! Most colleges would be pleased to have just one. But not St Anne's; its motto is 'purposefully and

boldly'. Its aging piano stock certainly needed replacing, the quality of the old pianos in College long failing to match the musical talent of its pianists. After several years of thought and research, the decision was made to replace all seven pianos with Steinways, thereby ensuring the highest quality instruments for all students and staff, no matter their subject.

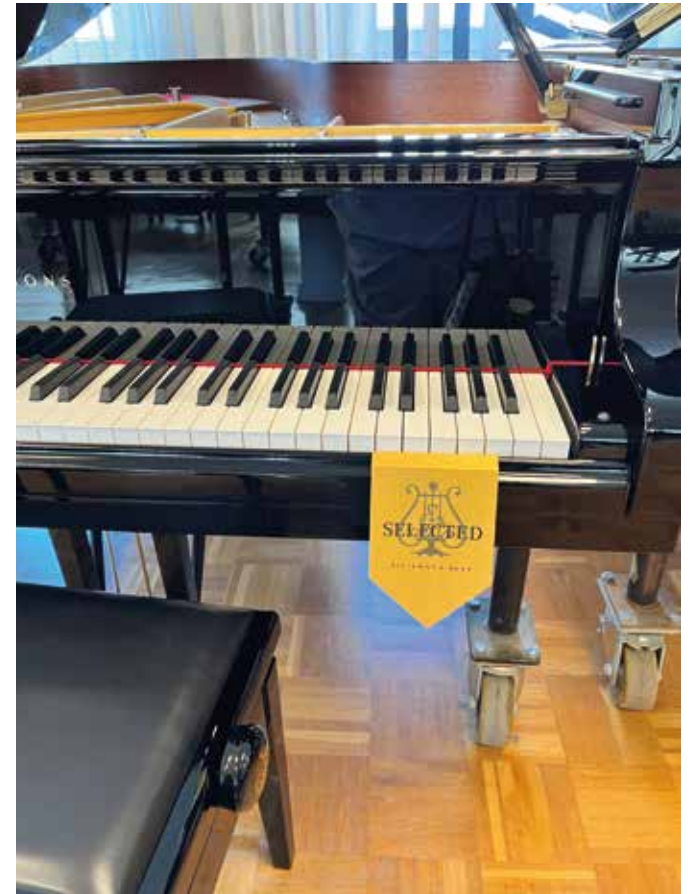
"Every performance and every recording we make of our students' compositions and performances will be improved by the quality of instruments being used, enhancing the existing qualities of the students' work and magnifying the impact of what they are able to do once they leave Oxford."

Professor Martyn Harry, Fellow in Music

And so in late March a group of 10 students and staff from St Anne's College, all with a passion for the piano, flew to Hamburg to visit the Steinway factory. After observing the years-long process and the skill that goes into hand crafting a piano, the pianists spent some hours in the 'Selection Room' choosing the best Model B grand piano for the College's acoustics and use.

And then, finally, on Friday, 13th June, that very grand piano selected in Hamburg arrived in College alongside six other Steinway pianos, and St Anne's became the first Oxbridge college to be designated an 'All-Steinway School'.

"The arrival of seven new pianos in College will enable us to build on an already superb portfolio of performing activities -- whether it be the College recital series, outreach programmes within the community, social music in the JCR or bar, performances with College ensembles, or private practice. Enabling all College members to have access to high quality instruments is central to our ethos of inclusion and access. St Anne's takes pride in collaborating with local partners and welcoming musicians into College through a variety of activities, including the Oxfordshire Concerto Competition,



Steinway piano selected by St Anne's

Music Across the Pond, and the Oxford Conducting Institute. The opportunities presented by being an All-Steinway School include Steinway scholarships, masterclasses with Steinway artists, outreach activities as a Steinway Pop-up Hub, and performances at Steinway's halls worldwide."

Dr John Traill, Director of Music

From the moment the first piano was unwrapped in the dining hall, a steady stream of students, staff and Fellows came to take a turn playing a Steinway, and the following day the College saluted the arrival of the pianos with a Celebratory Concert for Seven Pianos. The biggest audience we’ve ever had streamed into the hall; how wonderful it was to be able to share such a special moment in St Anne’s history with so many alumnae, students, fellows, staff, family and friends.

For those not able to be at the concert, and for those who want to look back at the moment, a recording is available online: A Celebratory Concert for Seven Pianos - YouTube

And what lies ahead? We hope many happy years of music making for our community. The Seven Steinway concert programme note said of the Brubeck:

“Its combination of jazz and classical concepts seemed perfect for our celebration, showcasing some of the many styles of music that St Anne’s embraces, from the classics, to jazz, to aleatoric music, and beyond. The eight pianists also evidence the strength of our community, and its diversity. You will find current undergraduates and graduates, a couple of recent music alumnae and some who are a little

older, current fellows, and emeritus fellows, all rubbing shoulders together, joining forces, to perform the work.”

This is the spirit of St Anne’s.

“Our All-Steinway School status marks a bold new chapter for St Anne’s Music, and this transformative step is the foundation of our commitment to secure the long-term future of music at St Anne’s. In an era of declining arts funding and shrinking university music programmes we are committed to music as a vital academic and cultural pillar of College life.”
Edwin Drummond, Director of Development

With the pianos now in their forever homes in the Mary Ogilvy Lecture Theatre, the music teaching room, the practice rooms, the JCR, and the MCR, we are settling back into everyday life, the concert now a shared extraordinary memory. Yet as I write this the sound of someone playing the piano in the JCR is a reminder that this is just the beginning of our journey as a Steinway School and we look forward to even greater music making and Music study at St Anne’s. Music indeed has a remarkable power to cross boundaries and unite people.

Dr Shannon McKellar Senior Tutor, 28 June 2025

Details of future music events will be advertised on the St Anne’s Events webpage: Events | St Anne’s College, Oxford. For more information about supporting the Music Fund, please contact development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk, or call +44 1865 274804.

Ambitious plans to support transformative social and economic change in Oxford

DAWN HINSLEY

Beyond Town and Gown: Working Towards a More Inclusive Oxford outlines the collegiate University’s commitment to making a positive contribution and creating opportunities for all in the city and county. As St Anne’s contributes to this initiative by becoming an All-Steinway School – offering opportunities for local and community engagement with music education – we explore how the wider University is contributing.

A new report detailing Oxford University’s ambitious plans to support positive social, economic and environmental change in the city and county has been released.

Through our research, hospitals, museums and parks, commitment to lifelong learning and schools’ outreach programmes, contribution to the regional economy, and collaboration with local partners, the University is committed to making a positive contribution and creating opportunities for all.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey CBE, FRS, FMedSci said:

‘I am born and bred in Oxford as well as being an academic and researcher. It matters to me that my hometown university, that I have the enormous honour to lead and serve, is not only a well-recognised, global institution that changes lives and the planet for the better, but is also a positive presence to the people of Oxford city and county.

‘So, strengthening Oxford University’s beneficial impact on the community is a key priority during my tenure.

‘We are committed to finding ways to support inclusive growth and innovation, ensuring that everyone across our community shares in the benefits of living close to one of the world’s greatest universities, just as we benefit from our relationships with them. Through our research, innovation, and world-class teaching, we are eager to collaborate with local businesses and local government to create opportunities for all. We also have extraordinary cultural and historical assets. This report explains some of the ways in which we are realising our collective vision to shape a more positive future for people across the region, nation and world.’

New post

In May 2023, Professor Alexander Betts took up the newly created University post of Local and Global Engagement Officer. Since then, steps have been taken towards developing a more integrated University-wide approach to local engagement, exploring the most effective ways to make a positive difference.

Professor Alexander Betts, co-author of the report and also Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs at Oxford, said:

‘I first came to Oxford as a student more than two decades ago. I loved it so much, I stayed on, and eventually became a professor. It’s important to me, personally and professionally, that the University has a positive impact on the city and the county. That’s why I feel immensely privileged to have been appointed as the University’s first Local and Global Engagement Officer. It’s an opportunity to creatively shape our relationships with the city, county, and the community on our doorstep.

‘The University has the most extraordinary assets, in terms of its

research, education, people, and facilities. I'd like everyone across the city and county to be able to share in the benefits of being a stone's throw away from such exceptional resources. For that to happen, I know we need to do far more to be accessible and relevant to people's daily lives. But what I have discovered, since taking on the role, is that a lot is already underway. There are some truly amazing projects built on genuine collaboration between my colleagues, including our students, and the wider community.'

A local strategy

For the first time, local engagement will be a central theme within the University's next five-year strategy (2025-30).

In a region with significant privilege and opportunity, the University recognises there is also massive inequality and needs to be part of the solution by expanding opportunities for local people through partnerships with local government, business, and community organisations and making a positive social contribution by sharing research, teaching, people and facilities.

The University contributes significantly to the regional economy through employment, spin-out companies and



Oxford University has been working with schools in the Oxford City area, with pupils taking part in a programme of interactive sport sessions and educational workshop at the University. Image: Andrew Bailey

attracting tourism, and is committed to finding ways to support inclusive growth ensuring residents share in these benefits. Find out more about Oxford University's economic impact.

Other priorities include: Supporting local state schools to offer greater opportunity to their students; Creating opportunities for local communities to engage in sport and cultural activities; Sharing research expertise to support evidence-based local policy and practice.

Education, sport and culture

Across the collegiate University, staff and students are already working to tackle educational inequality with initiatives and collaborative projects that aim to reduce barriers to educational achievement and support pathways to higher education.

One initiative is the Oxford College Twinning Project in partnership with the Oxford Hub, which is helping bridge the

educational attainment gap and sees colleges paired with Oxford primary schools. The new Laidlaw Scholars Programme has seen undergraduates offer after-school clubs across the city's primary and secondary schools, in areas from drama to debating.

As well as working with school children, the University is committed to doing more to open-up career opportunities for young people, including through more strategic use of apprenticeships and work experience placements.

Through our new Sport and Community Engagement Partnership, the collegiate University is sharing sports facilities and coaching capacity with schools and local sports clubs, including through a recent partnership with Oxford City Football Club.

The University wants to be more open and inclusive to the public. For example,

the new Schwarzman Cultural Arts Programme is open to all and many colleges and departments support Oxford Open Doors.

The University is also committed to inviting the wider community to take part in inclusive educational and social activities as well as co-creating major events with local organisations, such as the Leys Festival and Bannister Miles.

As St Anne's becomes a Steinway School, opportunities for outreach and collaboration in concert with the Steinway team will regularly present themselves.

In order to share research expertise in ways that make a difference, the University has created a new Local Policy Lab, in collaboration with the County Council and Oxford Brookes, which is supporting more evidence-based public policy in areas such as health and environmental policy. Alongside this,

Science Together supports community-led research in collaboration with a range of local organisations.

Oxford's garden, libraries and museums have partnered with local organisations, charities, and health providers to help improve the health and wellbeing of the Oxfordshire community.

Citizen science programmes at Wytham Woods also provide opportunities for non-scientists of any age to participate in ecological monitoring as part of the ongoing research projects in the Woods.

Read more about these and many more initiatives in the full report here: Beyond Town and Gown: Working towards a more inclusive Oxford.

Dawn Hinsley is News and Information Officer at the University of Oxford.

St Anne's and The Beaver Emblem

CLARE WHITE

Our Librarian explains the long and interesting association between St Anne's and the beaver...

The chances are that prospective students turning up at open days in College this month will be greeted at some point by a 6ft cuddly beaver, and this will be their first introduction to our beloved College mascot and a little piece of College history. In the Library & Archives we have been looking into the symbol of the beaver at St Anne's, from its humble beginnings in the 1910s to its heyday in the 1930s, its semi-disappearance from the 1950s and reintroduction in the 2000s.

The first mention of the beaver can be found in the second issue of *The Ship* from December 1912. With attitudes towards the presence of women students at Oxford slowly changing, and the recent establishment of the Delegacy for Women Students as a University body to supervise the women's studies, the Society of Oxford Home-Students came to the conclusion that it needed a crest and a motto to give its dispersed members a more corporate identity. The Principal, Bertha Johnson, solved the problem of a motto, offering that of her family, "faire sans dire," which was considered "as suitable to the unobtrusive but stirring [sic] virtue so characteristic of the Society."¹ As for the crest, the beaver was suggested as a fitting symbol for the Home-Students, with the reasons for the choice being listed in *The Ship*:

- "(1)—The beaver is a silent animal, but most industrious, exceptionally intelligent, and fond of rivers!
(2)—It is further, a social animal, living in large communities composed of separate houses or "lodges," each accommodating a family or household of five or six.

¹ *The Ship*, vol. 2, p 22.
² *The Ship*, vol. 2, p 22.

- (3)—It not only does its own work, but "joins in work intended for the good of the community."
(4)—It is, probably, an Oxford animal, as it appears as a supporter of the City Arms."²



Menu card by Violet Butler for Miss Burrows' farewell dinner, 1929

Readers of *The Ship* were invited to send their opinions or alternative suggestions to the Editor and the final decision rested with the students. The following issue of *The Ship* records that the Home-Students voted by a large majority to choose the beaver as the Society's crest, and, following Governing Body approval, from that edition for almost 40 volumes up to 1952, the emblem of the beaver and the "faire sans dire" motto appeared on the front cover.

As far as we can tell there is no record of where the suggestion originated, but it is very likely to have come from sisters Ruth and Violet Butler, both former Home-Students, founding committee members of the Society's Old Students' Association, and tutors to the Home-Students. It was Ruth Butler's "Oxford Letter" in *The Ship* which outlined the reasons for suggesting the beaver. Meanwhile Violet enjoyed producing witty sketches of beavers hard at work based on a quotation from Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales, a 12th century priest and historian) which describes (in Violet's words) "how certain beavers are so anxious to serve that they lie on their backs to form (beaver-)sledges, on which their fellow beavers can pull logs down to the beaver dam." Her sketches featured on many cards for Home-Student Society events including a farewell dinner for retiring Principal Miss Burrows in 1929.



3 iterations of the crest from covers of *The Ship*, 1914, 1924, and 1936,



The Library's Beaverly in academic dress and an earlier incarnation of the beaver toy (c. late 1990s)

The original design of the crest and motto drawn in 1913 by Maud E. Williams (the wife of a member of the Home-Students' Governing Body) was adapted numerous times to improve its quality in print. Throughout the 1920s and 30s the beaver crest appeared widely on official documents such as the Society's headed notepaper, Christmas cards,

and the leaflet printed in 1936 revealing the plans for Hartland House in an early fundraising campaign. The ubiquitous beaver was included on the Library's bookplate commissioned in 1931 from the artist and book illustrator Leonard Leslie Brooke, as well as giving its name to a youth club run by the Home-Students in one of the poorer districts of Oxford. By 1938 the much-loved emblem had been immortalised in stone with two carved beavers guarding the main entrance to the newly-opened Hartland House, and a further two supporting a shield containing benefactress Amy Hartland's initials above the balcony doors of the Library's Geldart Room. The carvings were not without controversy – correspondence in the College archives between the Principal, Grace Hadow, and the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott refers to the cheeks of the beavers being modified as the building neared completion, apparently because they were considered to be too chubby. Sir Giles had the final word in a letter dated 17th January 1938, shortly after the students began to use Hartland House:

"I am delighted to hear that everyone seems to like the new building so much and to find it interesting, and I hope that the "anti-beaverites" will modify their views on further acquaintance"

Times change, and by 1942 the Society of Oxford Home-Students had become St Anne's Society, then the Society became a College in 1952. With this new status came a new crest and a new motto. The beaver was replaced by Principal Eleanor Plumer's family coat-of-arms and the modest "faire sans dire" was replaced with the more resolute and determined "consulto et audacter." As the students went purposefully and boldly through the second half of the 20th century, the beaver all but disappeared as a symbol of the College, visible only in the stone carvings on Hartland House, fading silently into the background.



Commemorative shield for the Society of Oxford Home-Students



Beavers guarding the original entrance to Hartland House in 1936 and today

Then curiously, by the late 1990s and early 2000s, the beaver began to enjoy a renaissance in the life of the College. From being a crest which united the early students but perhaps was viewed with mild embarrassment in the early 1950s, the beaver became a fun College mascot and rekindled student affection. As College records are patchy, I turned to my predecessor, David Smith, for his recollections on the comeback of the beaver. In his words, "it was a creative collaboration between development professionals and exuberant student reps, and by now it's an established college tradition!" The Development team sourced beaver toys whilst the JCR donned a beaver costume for open days, and soon the beaver was everywhere. One alumnus from 2007 recalls "a College gossip rag named *The Beaver*," described as "usually very controversial, mean-spirited and very personal about some members". The Butler sisters would not have approved. They would, however, have been much more in favour of Hazel Rossotti's stained glass panels of a ship and paw prints representing beaver tracks, added to the Library in 2011 to commemorate the centenary of our alumnae society and the one hundredth issue of *The Ship*.

By the late 2010s it was possible to buy Beaver Beer in the College Lodge and our cuddly mascot began to enjoy



Student-designed facemask, 2020.

international fame, travelling with College staff to alumnae events abroad and accompanying students in the Long Vac as they travelled, volunteered, undertook research and learned new skills through internships. More than just a gimmick, the ensuing holiday snaps of the students plus the beaver highlighted the variety of experience they gained, often thanks to the support of alumnae and friends of the College. The beaver's days of travelling came to an abrupt halt when the COVID-19 pandemic struck but it was not long before our mascot appeared in a new and unexpected situation - the winning student design printed on the obligatory face masks supplied by the College featured, of course, the mouth and cheeks of a beaver.

For the Library & Archives the beaver has more or less become an additional member of the team – to the extent that one former Library Assistant even named it. "Beaverly" regularly appears in the Library's social media and generally gets more "likes" than any other content we produce. Like Barbie, she has her own mini wardrobe lovingly sewn by talented former colleagues, including sub fusc, and an angel outfit worn when she perches on top of the Library's Christmas book tree. Beaverly even has her own beaver-themed playlist on Spotify, selected with a little help from our Reader Services Librarian as something fun for our students to listen to whilst they study.³

From its earliest appearance on the cover of *The Ship* in 1913 to Library Instagram fame in the 21st century, it is clear that the beaver is still a cherished symbol of St Anne's. Long may our association with this industrious, intelligent, community-spirited animal continue!

Clare White (1990) is St Anne's College Librarian.

³ For more examples of Beaverly's contribution to the Library, see <https://www.instagram.com/stanneslibrary/>

The Development Office Looks to the Future

EDWIN DRUMMOND

I want to begin by extending heartfelt thanks to all our alumnae, academics, students, staff, donors, and friends who have supported the College and the work of the Development Office over the past year. Whether you have attended events, helped to organise reunions, offered careers advice or internships, provided valuable feedback, supported us financially, or given your time in countless other ways – your involvement is deeply appreciated and continues to make a real difference.

The Bevington Road regeneration project has been a major focus this year, and I'm delighted to share that, as of July 2025, the project is moving at real pace and starting to take shape visibly. The phased return of the houses should begin this month, with furniture currently going into Houses 1-4 as I write. We are excited at the prospect of having the accommodation ready for students to move back in this October, ahead of the new academic year. Thank you to everyone who has already supported the project so generously. It's been wonderful to see the progress on site and look forward to the different naming and recognition opportunities coming to life across the buildings. We are already anticipating the official opening event scheduled for April 2026. With the final stages of fundraising still ongoing, there is still time to get involved and help us successfully close this transformational project.

In parallel, our efforts to strengthen the College's endowment continue. St Anne's continues to punch well above its weight, offering a vibrant, supportive, and academically excellent environment for students and academics alike, all despite the fact we remain among the least well-resourced Oxford colleges



Bevington Road in progress



Tiles in an ensuite bathroom based on stained glass by former St Anne's Fellow, Hazel Rossotti

in terms of endowment wealth per student. This makes your support, and the momentum we are building, even more vital. Over the past year, we've been fortunate to see ongoing support across a range of areas: from teaching and research, to student support and College infrastructure.

Looking ahead, our thoughts are also turning towards an important milestone in our history, the College's 150th anniversary in 2029. Planning is already underway for how we will mark this major moment in the life of St Anne's, both in the run-up to 2029, during the anniversary year itself, and beyond. It will be a time to reflect on the incredible legacy of the last 150 years, to celebrate the College's values and achievements, and to look forward thinking about how we can continue to shape and support generations of St Anne's students over the next 150 years. We look forward to sharing more information in due course and hope as many of you as possible will be able to take part in some form for these celebrations as they unfold.

It has also been a real pleasure this year to welcome so many alumnae and friends back to College and to see you at events around the UK and across the world. Highlights have included the Boat Club reunion and generation races, including the memorable recreation of the historic Henley to Oxford row, as well as the celebration of St Anne's becoming the first Oxbridge college to be an All-Steinway School. We've enjoyed a lively and well-attended 1970s decade reunion, along with numerous other regional events bringing together members of our community far and wide. We look forward to seeing many more of you at upcoming events through the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.

As always, we remain immensely grateful for the many different ways in which St Anne's alumnae, friends, and supporters continue to give back to the College. Whether

through your time, advice, donations, or simply by staying connected with us – your support helps to secure the College’s future and to enhance the student experience for current and future generations.

On behalf of everyone in the Development Office, thank you once again. If you would like more information about any of our projects, or if you would like to get in touch, please contact

me or a member of the Development Office at development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

With many thanks again,

Edwin Drummond
Director of Development

Forthcoming Events for Your Diary

2025

- 20th September 2025 – St Anne’s Gaudy
- 16th October 2025 - 91st Domus Seminar with Dr Jay Gilbert
- 20th November 2025 – Young Stanners’ Winter Drinks
- 6th December 2025 – St Anne’s Festive Concert

2026

- 21st March 2026 – 2000s Decade Reunion
- 9th March 2026 to 13th March 2026 – Community & Giving Week
- 19th September 2026 – St Anne’s Gaudy

SAS Branch Reports 2025

Cambridge Branch Report

We continue as a small group of members who are, nonetheless, keen to continue our branch activities. Our programme of events this year has fallen into a similar pattern to previous years: the AGM in November, lunch at a Cambridge restaurant in early January, a spring visit to a place of interest in East Anglia, and the ‘strawberries and cream’ summer party held to support the Sarah McCabe Fund at our Chair’s garden in Fen Ditton in June.

Six members, plus partners, enjoyed a delicious New Year lunch at Browns restaurant opposite the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Afterwards, we visited the exhibition Glenn Ligon: All Over the Place. In this, the Black US artist interspersed his work with the museum’s collection in an interesting juxtaposition of the new and old. His paintings use text as images that are dense with quotations, repetitions, annotations, and corrections which seek to question why and how the museum’s extensive collection was assembled.



Lunch in early January



At Wymondham Abbey, Norfolk in Late April

Our spring visit to the old market town of Wymondham, located 12 miles south-west of Norwich, took place in late April. First, we explored Wymondham Abbey which had started as a Norman priory church in 1107 and, over time, became

shared between the monks and the townspeople. This led to serious disputes that were resolved by dividing the building in two with the construction of a wall behind the altar of the townspeople's side. This side remained after the Abbey was dissolved in 1538. The interior is an architectural delight which is famous for its fine hammer-beam roof incorporating human-sized wooden angels with outstretched wings. We then had a delicious lunch at a restaurant near the 17th century octagonal market cross, after which we visited the museum where we learnt more about the long history of the town. It is well known as the home of Robert Kett, who led a rebellion of peasants and small farmers against the enclosure of common land in 1549. More recently, as the town's connection to its agricultural hinterland diminished, it developed as the centre of wood-turning and brush-making industries. These ceased in the 1980s and Wymondham is now as a dormitory town to Norwich and a place where small-scale businesses thrive.

Our garden party in June was particularly pleasant this year as the weather was lovely and the garden was looking good despite the very dry conditions in East Anglia. We welcomed a new member and a returning member who had found us through College's Alumnae Relations Manager. This is the first time in many years that membership numbers of our Branch have gone up rather than down!

London Branch Report 2025

Since our report last year we have enjoyed a number of small group outings as well as our major event, the AGM and dinner. The dinner was postponed from its usual end of November to the end of January due to threatened transport strikes, a change generally well received as diaries are less busy then. 24 members and guests enjoyed a dinner at the Army and Navy Club in Pall Mall followed by a fascinating talk by College's own Dr Minna Jeffery about modern feminist

interpretation and reception of Norwegian playwright Minna Canth's play *Anna Lisa* (1895).

We have decided to continue with a January timing for the AGM and dinner, set next for January 29th 2026.

In January also we enjoyed a performance of Brahms 4th Symphony conducted by Sir Simon Rattle at the Barbican followed by supper at a local restaurant. In April a group saw *The Importance of Being Oscar* at the Jermyn Street Theatre. This one man show starred Alastair Whatley as Oscar Wilde in a rare revival of Micheal Mac Liammoir's renowned play recounting how Oscar Wilde's life of fame, glamour and romance led him to become an imprisoned outcast. It intersperses excerpts from his plays and other writings with biographical highlights of his life.

We are about to take a tour of the Highgate Cemetery with lunch beforehand.

Our online book club is thriving and a list is available on our Facebook page, which we are endeavouring to keep more active. New members are always welcome.

Our annual Freshers' event last October was a great success as ever with 20 Freshers and JCR members meeting up in a restaurant in the Barbican.

Midlands Branch Report

Our small but friendly book club continues to meet two to three times a year, discussing publications by St Anne's alumnae or fellows. Our picks this year have been Elif Shafak's *There are Rivers in the Sky* and *After* by Anna Patrick. In a brief departure from our usual St Anne's connection, we have selected an 'oldie' in *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy L. Sayers. We

are set to meet next in September, so if you would like to join us, please do get in touch via our Facebook page 'St Anne's in the Midlands', or by email: stansmidlands@gmail.com. Our usual early summer walk and pub lunch took place in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside on one of the hottest days of the year. Pictured below are three of our members who, determined not to let the heat beat them, walked to the site of the Civil War Battle of Edgehill, followed by a delicious pub lunch with fellow alumni who met us at the pub. We welcome any St Anne's alumnae, family and friends to join any of our events. Please do get in touch!



North East Branch Report

Once again, the North East Branch kicked off the academic year with our annual Freshers' event. With a mix of alumnae, current students, and freshers getting together for some drinks at The Town Wall in Newcastle. It was wonderful to bring 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 alumnae) to come along and welcome new members to the St Anne's family. We are very much looking forward to hosting the event again this year. Please do get in touch if you are in the region and you would like to get involved. iamdavidroyal@gmail.com

South of England Branch Report

Once again we have had a very happy year of discussions and outings, as well as welcoming and involving some lovely new members. In March we held our Bi-annual general meeting, which confirmed that our membership is very happy with the range of activities we offer and grateful for the companionship and stimulation that the branch provides, in addition to the ongoing connection to the College which shaped all our lives. Here is a flavour of what we have been doing.

Activities

Book Group sessions

In July, Maureen hosted a fascinating discussion of the biography of St Anne's alumna Rose Dugdale, by Sean O'Driscoll. She had recently died, and an obituary appeared in last year's edition of *The Ship*. Not many of us enjoyed the book, but it provided much material for debate about St Anne's and Oxford in the early 1960s, and why she adopted the IRA as her 'cause'. We had another great turnout (11 members) to talk about Andrew O'Hagan's *Caledonian Road*, this time at Ruth's house in Winchester in November. This novel certainly divided opinion and proved there is as much fun to be had in saying why you do not like a book, as why you do. This point was also proved in March when the book in question was Daniel Mason's *North Woods*. In this case

the debate continued afterwards by e-mail. Thanks to Zoom, we now worry less about the geographical location of these events, although being together in person for a good chat over tea certainly adds to the enjoyment.

Theatre trips

Although we usually visit the theatre in Chichester in early summer, this year there was no play that took our fancy, whereas many of us wanted to see *Redlands* by Charlotte Jones which ran in October.



This depicts the events which took place at Keith Richards’s country house in West Sussex, and which led to the trial of Richards and Mick Jagger. They were defended by Michael Havers, leading QC and future attorney general and brings into the spotlight his relationship with his son, aspiring teenage actor Nigel Havers. With singer Marianne Faithfull also involved, the play also reflects upon the differing impact on women of challenging social norms. Better still, it incorporated some wonderfully performed Stones music! It certainly lived up to expectations, and was worth the wait. We were grateful once again to Maureen for hosting all 11 of us for tea, and delighted to get to know some newer members who came for this event.

This year a rather smaller group of seven saw Gogol’s *Government Inspector* on 24th May, followed by Maureen’s hospitality once again. We agreed with Spy in the Stalls’s judgement that this production *‘flirts with deeper contemporary parallels through its satirical edge, but ultimately settles for broad, enjoyable farce’*. And the sets were amazing, as we have come to expect from Chichester Festival Theatre.

Autumn Talk

Following the success of our Patrick McGuinness event in 2023, this year’s Autumn talk again took the form of an informal brunch at Beech Village Hall near Alton. Principal Helen King kept 30 people enthralled with her ‘four stories’, which explained how her experience as a former senior police commissioner had been applied to running an Oxford College.



As we had hoped, her talk had a wide appeal and attracted people from our wider OUS network. Helen’s talk was illustrated by a number of objects which she brought with her, and she talked openly and from the heart. We do hope that Helen will be able to replicate this talk elsewhere – perhaps by visiting other branches or in a piece for *The Ship*.

Outings

In April we went to West Horsley Place, location for the BBC sitcom *Ghosts*, and where our new branch member Beverley Nash volunteers as a guide. We really benefited from her knowledge and experience – thank you, Beverley. The house has a fascinating history but was in a state of tremendous disrepair when it was inherited by Bamber Gascoigne in 2014. Renovation is ongoing, making it all the more interesting to explore. Thanks are also due to Jason, who circulated

the invitation letter to alumnae with Surrey postcodes. As a result we gained 4 additional sign-ups (3 eligible to become members), bringing the total group to 20. One commented that it was the first time she’d heard about the branches, so this shows how important is personal, direct contact to the health of the SAS branches.



Membership and networking

We have achieved a small increase in our membership this year, which now stands at 35. We are really delighted to welcome new members Pippa Riley, Beverley Nash, Shelagh Jones and Yvonne Baatz. However, we are sad to have lost touch with one or two older members. This year we sent our condolences to Pauline Lewis’ husband David. She passed away in June 2024. As a couple they were very regular attenders of our events. We had been unaware until we read *The Ship* last year that previous member Mary Withrington had passed away in May 2024. Mary was

a committed reader, founder-member and enthusiastic contributor to our book group until she developed Alzheimer's, and we sadly lost touch with her when she was moved by her family into a care home.

Partnership working with the Oxford University Society Hampshire and West Sussex branches continues to enhance our events and enrich the programme of activities available to members. West Sussex OUS Events Secretary is Susan Ellery who is also on our Committee. This year we will offer our Autumn lecture on 21st November by naturalist and writer Tristan Gooley jointly with West Sussex.

Engagement with College

In November the branch committee decided to give £750 to College, divided as follows: £250 to the Bevington Road fund, £250 to St Anne's outreach fund, and £250 to the welfare fund. Many thanks to Ruth who looks after our money so conscientiously, and also serves as Treasurer on the Main SAS Committee.

Our branch is now well represented at College level as Roshan is also an ordinary member of the Main Committee, and it is Stella's last year as Vice-President. We encourage members to engage with College and attend the various events organised for us by the Development Office. In March several of us had a great time, and enthusiastically took to the dance floor at the 70s Reunion. It is always a pleasure to see so many South of Englanders at the Gaudy, and enriching on many levels to be part of the friendly and inclusive College community that is provided by St Anne's.

South of England Branch Committee:

- Roshan Bailey
- Stella Charman (Chair)
- Susan Ellery
- Maureen Gruffydd Jones
- Rachel Knowles (Secretary)
- Ruth Le Mesurier (Treasurer)

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

Steering the racing line

BEN O'DONNELL

A Boat Club is a bastion of performance, friendship, sport and community – and nowhere is this more true than at St Anne's.

It is with great pride that I outline the past year as being full of success, both in and out of the boat. The club has gained a competitive stride that will carry forward much momentum into the next year, as well as further establishing strong roots with the alumnae community. We have been represented in 5 external regattas, fielded 4 competitive boats in Summer Eights, and supported a very successful Generation Races and Henley Alumnae Row in April. Our committee is healthy and ambitious, and we are developing ever-stronger connections with other boat clubs. The club looks to the next year with a lot of ambition, seeking to further the upward trajectory of our competitive boats, to widen the field of participation, and to foster a flourishing alumnae network.

On the water

Heavy rain curtailed several races this season, but St Anne's rowers successfully overcame many obstacles thrown at them. The M1 Novices sported the fastest 4 x 500m time at an "Ergatta" organised to replace the drowned Michaelmas Novice Regatta, beating our friends at Wadham and St Hugh's on our own home soil, outside the Dining Hall.

The W1 mobilised their watts to beyond the scope of the Isis, fielding a crew at Quintin Head, Women's Head of the River and Bedford Regatta. Entry to these competitions is a crucial milestone in proving our sides are legitimate, not just restricted to the Isis. Tideway experience sets the trajectory



W1 at Summer Eights

for more competitive success in such regattas next year. With a superb coach in place, devoted captains and a much-loved fleet, the Women's side boasts massive potential to further a storied legacy of Women's rowing at St Anne's College. The Eights campaign for the W1 was dignified and proud - but ultimately foiled by decisive crews that deserved their bumps. Torpids was a chaotic period for most clubs, and Anne's was no exception. River rules mandated S status coxes, which interfered with the sacred relationship between the W1 and their cox, and clashes with exams yielded a less experienced crew than those surrounding at the bunglines. Yet every cloud has a silver lining; the W1 is set for steely revenge at the next Torpids.

Rigging and de-rigging also became a habit for the M1, who made frequent and successful migrations to Dorney



All crew photos at Summer Eights

Lake for training, and to Bedford Regatta and Reading Amateur Regatta for racing. Alongside the W1 or the M2, Dorney Lake enabled each crew to clock in up to 30km on straight, Olympic-standard stretches of water. Liberated from the bends and congestion of the Isis (not to mention the prohibitive “Red Flag”), our crews came on in leaps and bounds through uninterrupted, clinical pieces. Progressing to the finals of both Bedford and Reading, but claiming

a tight second place in both, was a tantalising flirtation with victory. The Eights campaign was equally fruitful yet agonising: bumping into division 3, and bumping again to secure it was glorious, but rowing-on for the other two days marked the unpredictability and chaos of bumps racing. The yearning for the pleasures of victory will further propel the M1 to ambitious heights next year, with sights set on Isis Winter Leagues, Torpids, Eights and Head of the River. There



M1 at Summer Eights

are whispers amongst the crew that if the hand is dealt in our favour, and the gruelling hours put in, Henley qualifiers could be on the cards...

The M2 emerged this year for the first time in several seasons. Entries to each of the Isis Winter Leagues and Summer Leagues were met with impressive times that rivalled some college M1s. Despite Torpids proper being cancelled for divisions 4-7, due to unprecedented levels of downpour in the week prior, the crew rowed-on with a punchy time that had the scent of blades. The misfortune was continued further at Eights, with the first two days cut short by the dreaded sound of klaxons. Bumping on the final day of Eights was a deserved culmination to a great three terms of training and camaraderie – and marked the start of a superb day of celebration.



M2 at Summer Eights

The W2 rivalled the M1 for their success at Eights this year, climbing a division to further their upward march. Trinity saw an inspiring display of commitment for this crew, which drew visiting students, DPhils and fresher undergraduates into a slick, clinical machine that evaded being bumped at all, whilst claiming two decisive bumps for themselves. This taste of glory will fuel another campaign in the season to come – and be immortalised in GoPro footage of each race (youtube. com/@benodonnellrowing).

Fostering the relationships of SABC-past has been a core focus of the past year and will continue to be so for years to come. Paying homage to the Oxford to Henley row that funded the beloved boathouse 50 years ago, this April the club supported alumnae making the same pilgrimage along the Thames, reconnecting former teammates in glorious Oxfordshire sunshine. Generation Races saw more than 20 alumnae descend to the Boathouse for friendly battle paddles, before a Formal Hall and successful fundraising auction in College. We owe a massive thank you to everyone who attended and made such a great event possible!

The year ahead

There are great ambitions for the year ahead. Alongside competitive entries to WEHORR, HORR, external regattas and OURCs events, we will be taking our crews on an external training camp in week 9 of Hilary. Without doubt, 15 sessions over five days will make our crews the crunchiest, most clinical machines on the Thames. Further, we are seeking to raise the bar on previous continuous “Ergathons” - extending way on into the dark and through to the morning, with whispers of world records floating around...

It is a great personal pleasure to outline the year prior and the year ahead. The journey has been supported by

incredible individuals across the committee, club and beyond, so we'd like to extend massive gratitude to all who have fostered the community. Furthermore, we'd like to thank the members of SABC past for laying such positive foundations. We are very fortunate to have a legacy of camaraderie and goodwill behind us, that helps us march ever closer to Head of the River, and beyond!

Best wishes,
Ben O'Donnell President of the Boat Club 2025/ 2026
Insta: [instagram.com/stannesbc](https://www.instagram.com/stannesbc)

W2 at Summer Eights



St Anne's College: the hidden gem unearthed

ROXANA RUSU

St Anne's often goes under the radar in the wider college community, so our mission as a JCR this year has been to affirm our presence on the Oxford stage.

We have enriched our representation through all avenues around the University this year. Some of our students contributed to the Student Union's transformation, while others helped to draft our submission for the University's

Ethical Investment Review. Our sporty Stanners have represented us in Blues Athletics, Hockey, Basketball, Lacrosse and Cricket. The MGA succeeded in getting promoted, and both the Netball club and the MGA went on successful international tours. We have had St Anne's representation in the Varsity Boat Race, as well as in Varsity Ski Races. The St Anne's Boat Club competed in Torpids and Summer 8s, collecting the most impressive set of spoons in a generation.

For the first time in Oxford living memory, we even had St Anne's representation in the 2025 Corpus Tortoise Race! As the JCR president, I took it into my own hands to train up and transport my own tortoise from home to compete for St Anne's. Although Dave felt the imposter syndrome that we all experience from time to time, he succeeded in fending off last place! (Trinity's tortoise was asleep.)

In the artistic sphere of Oxford, we have introduced the new St Anne's Magazine, the Stanza, and hosted poetry readings, life drawing and live student bands. From the Steinway Concert for 7 pianos in the dining hall to Anne-ebriated karaoke in the bar, all areas of the college have been brimming with life. This year's Arts Week has been a memorable moment of Trinity term, with many students taking a break from the library to engage in lino-printing, film screenings and museum trips.

With the Bevington Road houses in the final stage of renovation, a few past and future residents had the chance to tour the building site. The bittersweet mixture of anticipation and nostalgia was definitely in the air. Those who will be living in them next year were admiring the careful preservation of fireplace intricacies, while past residents nodded approvingly at the new insulation and heat pump that will bring these



Dave the tortoise competing for St Anne's in the Corpus Tortoise Race



Touring the Bevs

antiquities into the 21st century, while preserving their authentic charm.

The JCR committee has had significant input into the design and balloting of the refurbished Bevington Road, therefore we are just as excited as all our college officers to unveil the finished masterpieces to all next spring! At the 1960s decade reunion, we heard impressive stories that took place in these houses, and we hope to live up to this reputation when we inherit them.

This year was also one of internal unity between common rooms. We have seen more collaboration between the JCR and MCR than ever before, with cultural events like Diwali and Lunar New Year, joint oil painting welfare events and our famous megabops in the dining hall. With themes like Naughty or Nice and Olympus or Olympians, sticky floors have never been so appealing.



Olympus and Olympians Megabop in the Dining Hall

Trinity term is always the culmination of the intensities of the year, whether that be in the form of exams or summer events. The extreme contrast between those lounging on the Quad and others toiling away in the library can seem jarring, but it is also relieving to see that you can do both. The appeal of the sun is best paired with smoothies and iced tea, so the St Anne's Coffee Shop, our beloved STACS, becomes a central location in students' lives and hearts. We inaugurated 'Anne's Aperol' this Trinity, which we hope will be seen as a summer staple in years to come. Ball planning has officially begun for next Trinity and the new JCR committee is getting ready to inherit the rewarding task of welcoming in the next set of Stanners. Life at St Anne's College is a beautiful mosaic, and everybody knows it.

Roxana Rusu (2023)
JCR President 2024-25

St Anne's MCR 2024-2025: Year in Review

THUY (PETER) LE

As the 2024-2025 Academic Year comes to a close, I look fondly back at all the activities, accomplishments, and especially the postgraduate community that has been built in the MCR for the last three terms.

We started out the year with a reimagined Freshers' Week, offering both social and welfare activities to welcome our new members. The highlight was certainly the College Induction Day, where freshers participated in a scavenger hunt across College and explored the nooks and crannies of the campus. The day also included a new University Consent

Training initiative that was piloted in the MCR, where current students were trained to lead discussions about healthy relationships in small groups. This was appreciated by many of the new students as they could discuss openly and set community norms regarding appropriate conduct and boundaries.

We are especially delighted this year to have formed a close relationship with the JCR through joint cultural and social events. We celebrated Diwali and Lunar New Year together, co-organised by our International Student Reps. Painting and yoga classes were also organised

by Welfare Reps from both Common Rooms. These events helped bring the College together and were especially helpful to undergraduates thinking about postgraduate studies to connect with postgraduates in their discipline. Of course, our joint MegaBOPs in the Dining Hall continue to be the largest and one of the most popular social events in Oxford.

The MCR has also strengthened our relationships with other MCRs in Oxford and with our sister college, Murray Edwards, in Cambridge. We had formal exchanges with Balliol, Brasenose, Harris Manchester, Lady Margaret Hall, and



MCR Photo Day (TT 25)



Garden Party HT 25 (featuring MCR veggie band)



Murray Edwards Exchanges (up: at St Anne's, down: at Murray Edwards)

many others. We were especially delighted to come to Cambridge and visit Murray Edwards College in June, where we were welcomed by the Senior Tutor and enjoyed a wonderful tour of our sister college.

Within the MCR, we continued to find ways, large and small, to bring our postgraduates together and improve the Common Room experience. Both our Academic and Welfare officers rolled up their sleeves to make omelette breakfasts and pancake brunches, which were a hit with students. We also embarked on an ambitious revamp of the committee, realigning positions to better match the needs of the community and to encourage even more collaboration between different officers.

As St Anne's becomes the first All-Steinway Oxbridge college, the MCR was delighted

to receive its own Steinway piano, which meaningfully contributes to the cultural life of postgraduates. We celebrate its addition with a student performance in the MCR and a finalist signing ceremony in the MCR Graduate Ledger.

I want to end my note, which is my last as the MCR President, by thanking St Anne's for providing me with an unforgettable experience over the last 2 years. I am indebted to my committee members, who have worked tirelessly to ensure a fun and inviting MCR for everyone. I am also incredibly grateful to the College Officers and staff members who have supported the MCR along the way. This College and its community will always have a special place in my heart.

Thuy (Peter) Le (2023)
(MCR President 2024-25)



Omelette Breakfast

Fellows' News and Publications

Tom Barrett, DPhil Candidate in Earth Sciences, led a study which has helped overturn the popular theory that water on Earth originated from asteroids bombarding its surface. Instead, the material which built our planet was far richer in hydrogen than previously thought. Using a rare type of meteorite, known as an enstatite chondrite, which has a composition analogous to that of the early Earth (4.55 billion years ago), they have found a source of hydrogen which would have been critical for the formation of water molecules. Crucially, they demonstrated that the hydrogen present in this material was intrinsic, and not from contamination. This suggests that the material which our planet was built from was far richer in hydrogen than previously thought.

Dr Katarzyna Bera, Lecturer in Medical Sciences, has recently published an article as part of a team also involving St Anne's graduate, **Dr Joseph Barsby**. The article draws on work which was begun when Dr Barsby was under Dr Bera's supervision as a Year 2 GEM student, and was published this year in *BJS Open*.

Joseph Cutteridge, Joseph Barsby, Samuel Hume, Hamish A L Lemmey, Regent Lee, Katarzyna D Bera, External validity of randomized clinical trials in vascular surgery: systematic review of demographic factors of patients recruited to randomized clinical trials with comparison to the National Vascular Registry, *BJS Open*, Volume 9, Issue 2, April 2025, zrae156, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsopen/zrae156>

Professor Andrew Briggs, Senior Research Fellow, became Honorary Lay Canon of Christ Church on 1 February 2025.

Professor Christian Coester, Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science, has been awarded one of 494 major European

Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants. The funding – totalling nearly €780 million – is part of the Horizon Europe programme and will support researchers at the beginning of their careers to launch their own projects, form their teams, and pursue their most promising ideas.

Each of the Oxford researchers selected for a Starting Grant will receive €1.5 million for a period of five years.

Professor Coester's work addresses questions at the forefront of theoretical computer science, both in classical algorithm paradigms as well as how machine learning can be leveraged to improve algorithms. Using the ERC Starting Grant, he will explore how to develop more effective strategies for handling the associated uncertainty of online algorithms – algorithms which receive their input over time and have to make decisions before future parts of the input are revealed. One strategy is to design learning-augmented algorithms that can take advantage of predictions when these are good, while simultaneously avoiding being misled if these predictions prove to be erroneous.

Professor Volker Deringer, Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry, with St Anne's DPhil candidate **Louise Rosset**, has published a paper in *Nature Communications* arguing that signatures of local "paracrystalline" order can provide a more complete picture of the amorphous state than fully random models. The authors used advanced computer simulations, based on quantum mechanics and machine learning, to create a library of a-Si structures with varying degrees of local order. (Publication: *Rosset, L.A.M., Drabold, D.A. & Deringer, V.L. Signatures of paracrystallinity in amorphous silicon from machine-learning-driven molecular dynamics. Nat Commun 16, 2360 (2025).*)

Members of the Deringer Group have since published a paper offering a high-profile perspective on their research area: *Liu, Y., Madanchi, A., Anker, A.S. et al. The amorphous state as a frontier in computational materials design. Nat Rev Mater 10, 228–241 (2025).*

Professor Peter Ghosh, Emeritus Fellow in History, notes that his students from the 1980s and 1990s might be amused to read that an article about Disraeli written some decades ago has appeared, to his surprise, in *Printemps: 'Disraeli and the Eastern Question 1875-78: Finance, Defence and Politics', Cahiers Victoriens et Edouardiens 101* (*Printemps*, 2025) <https://journals.openedition.org/cve/15996> Open access.

Professor Siân Grønlie, Associate Professor in English and Kate Elmore Tutorial Fellow, has been shortlisted for the Vice Chancellor's Awards 2025. Siân has been shortlisted in the category of "Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion", which recognises colleagues who role-model equality, diversity and inclusion through their work, and have made a difference to EDI at Oxford. Senior Tutor, Shannan McKellar said "Siân's EDI work has a clear purpose and rationale: to enable all students to do well, to help all students feel that they belong, and to encourage other tutors and staff in the College to do the same, and her work is making a difference to students' experience. Siân doesn't just talk about EDI; she takes action and leads by example."

Professor Julia Hippisley Cox, former **Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and General Practice** departed from St Anne's to take up a new position at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) as Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Predictive Medicine. Reflecting on her time with the department, Julia said: "It has been extraordinary being part of such a research-intensive and vibrant department and university, with so many opportunities. I would like to thank everyone for making this such

a memorable experience, especially during the Covid pandemic. We have many ongoing projects and new grants together, so I look forward to continuing our fruitful collaborations." She added: "I have so much enjoyed my time at St Anne's; it's been an absolute privilege to be part of such a lovely College."

Professor Saiful Islam, Professor of Materials Science and Professorial Fellow was awarded the 2025 Environment, Sustainability and Energy Prize of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the 2024 Faraday Institution Award for Public Engagement and STEM Outreach. He appeared as a guest on the BBC Radio 4 science programme 'Curious Cases' with Hannah Fry and Dara Ó Briain to squeeze out a zesty discussion about a lemon-powered spaceship.

Saiful presented the plenary 'President Address in Chemistry' on energy materials using 3D glasses at the British Science Association Festival in London (Sept 2024). His recent publications include studies on novel two-dimensional solar cell materials in *Nature Communications*, and on lithium battery electrodes in *Nature Materials*.

Professor Patrick McGuinness, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, Sir Win and Lady Bischoff Fellow in French, and **Tutor in Modern Languages**, has won, jointly with fellow-translator, Stephen Romer, the Scott Moncrieff Prize for their translation of Gilles Ortlieb's *The Day's Ration* (Arc Publications). This is the 60th anniversary of the prize. Established in 1965, and named after the celebrated translator of Proust's *À la Recherche du Temps Perdu*, the prize is generously sponsored by the Institut français du Royaume-Uni.

Professor Simon Park, Associate Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Portuguese and Tutorial Fellow, published *Wreckers: Disaster in the Age of Discovery* (Penguin) and spoke about his book at the Oxford Literary Festival 2025. Drawing

on maritime stories from various languages and continents – from Brazil and Southeast Africa to India and the Philippines – *Wreckers* shares dramatic tales of the sea and the events on land that followed. This offers an alternative timeline for the century after Columbus’ 1492 voyage and sheds light on the fractures and fault lines that accompanied the increasing geographical range of European ships. <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/457186/wreckers-by-park-simon/9780241741320>

Professor Budimir Rosic, Associate Professor of Engineering Science and **Tutorial Fellow**, and **Dr Dylan Rubini, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Engineering**, are some of the 2024 SCGC-FIRST Awards Recipients and will lead the Turbocharging Catalysis for Energy-Efficient Processes project. Catalysis underpins industries ranging from ammonia production to emissions control and plays a critical role in the energy transition. Professor Rosic and Dr Rubini are reimagining catalytic systems with a ground-breaking innovation: the turbo-reactor. By integrating catalytic surfaces, pumps, and thermal controls into a compact turbomachine, this project has the potential to dramatically reduce energy losses and system size. The £1 million SCGC-FIRST fund can provide up to £80K to nurture novel ideas and early-stage research.

Professor Sam Sheppard, Professor of Microbial Genomics and Evolution and **Tutorial Fellow in Biology**, is leading research which has been awarded a £5 million Wellcome

Discovery Award to develop vaccines against pathogens which cause diarrhoea. Sam is the Principal Investigator at the Ineos Oxford Institute and will lead this international collaboration to create a framework of meta-genomic epidemiology surveillance. Diarrhoeal disease is responsible for killing around 444,000 children every year, mainly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Worryingly, antibiotics are becoming increasingly ineffective against the bacteria that cause diarrhoea as these evolve to resist the action of these medicines. This work will focus on *Campylobacter*, the most common bacterial cause of diarrhoea.

Professor Clive Siviour, Professorial Fellow and **Statutory Professor in Materials Engineering**, has published *The Split-Hopkinson Bar: Techniques, Applications and Methods* (Springer, 2025).

Dr Nicky Whiffin, Research Fellow, was awarded the 2025 Balfour Lecture by the Genetics Society.

She and her team have also made a significant discovery: that *de novo* variants in the RNU4-2 snRNA genome cause a frequent neurodevelopmental syndrome. The article was published in *Nature*: Chen, Y., Dawes, R., Kim, H.C. et al. *De novo variants in the RNU4-2 snRNA cause a frequent neurodevelopmental syndrome*. *Nature* 632, 832–840 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07773-7>

Alumnae 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 our Librarian would be delighted to showcase your book if you would like to provide one. We are also very pleased to list alumnae publications here in The Ship. Please get in touch with development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk if you’d like to be included in any of these places.

Carys Davies (1978) has published her third novel, *Clear* (Granta, 2024). ‘An island, two men and providence that brings them together. The landscape, language, and weather distils the characters making them magical and memorable. Beautifully written, sparse and barren. A masterclass

in storytelling the brevity of words and action and yet in the lull you can continuously feel a storm brewing.’

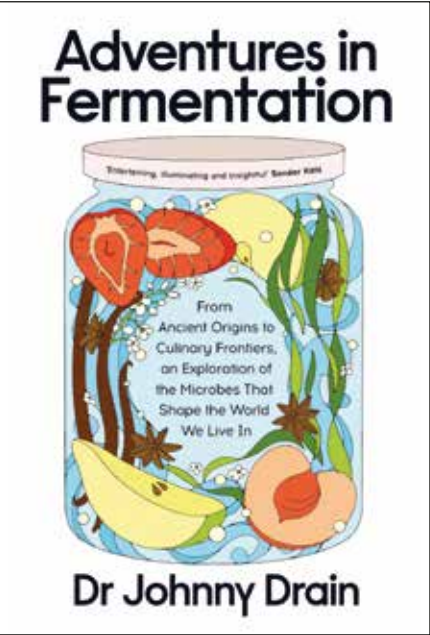
Johnny Drain (2010) has published *Adventures in Fermentation* (Penguin Random House, June 2025).

Imagine a world without bread, butter or wine. Without soy sauce or chocolate. What if we also take away cheese, coffee and even antibiotics? This is what life without fermentation would be like.

Fermentation is so much more than a current health trend, it has shaped the world we live in, the bodies we inhabit, the staple foods we eat and the even has the potential to shape our future. The truth is, when we ferment, we’re tapping into a collaboration thousands of years in the making between humans and a hidden microbial cosmos, one which we’re only just beginning to understand.

Adventures in Fermentation is the first book to lift the lid on the power of this ancient practice, exploring how it has been utilised in different cultures across

the globe and how we can do the same. With irresistible wit and verve, chef and scientist Dr Johnny Drain illuminates the vast and unsung possibilities that microbes bring to the table, sharing stories and recipes that will entertain and delight readers as they embark on their own journey of discovery.



You can order the book here: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/461317/adventures-in-fermentation-by-drain-dr-johnny/9780241699133>

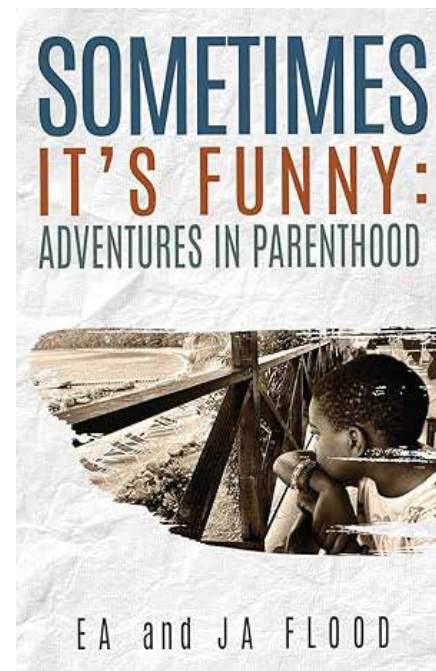
Edward Flood (Law, 1998), alongside his wife, has published *Sometimes It's Funny: Adventures in Parenthood*.

"Sometimes It's Funny: Adventures in Parenthood" takes readers on the roller-coaster ride of early parenthood, from nappy changing to nursery drop-offs and everything in between! Told from both parents' perspectives, through humour, heartfelt anecdotes, and introspective moments, Edward and Josi explore the layers of raising a child—particularly a child of colour in inner-city London. Drawing from their Saint Lucian and Montserratian heritages, they reflect on the cultural expectations that shape parenting, adding depth and richness to their journey. While not a parenting manual, this book offers a candid and relatable glimpse into the joys, challenges, and surprises of family life. It's a book about parenting and the life that swirls around it.

EA Flood and JA Flood were raised on the Caribbean islands of Saint Lucia and Montserrat during their formative years. They have spent most of their time living in London,

where they met—an interesting story in itself. They married in Saint Lucia and continue to reside in London with their son, Jahdiel. 'Sometimes It's Funny: Adventures in Parenthood' is their first book.

"A life-affirming read. Edward and Josi guide you through the ever-changing landscape of early parenthood, with its shifting sands. It's a book you'll want to revisit time and time again." Sam Genever, Award-winning author of *Savage Territory* and *The Day She Disappeared*.



"What a joyous, inspiring book! Laugh, cry and celebrate on this journey of parenthood." Jonathan Herring, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Oxford University.

Andrew Geoghegan (1991) has recently published *Effective Brand Building: Unlock growth with strategy, insights and measurement* (Kogan Page, 2025). The publisher describes the book as follows: "Investment and focus on brand building skills have diminished across the marketing industry in recent years. But without the knowledge and understanding of how to build strong brands, marketers end up jumping between short-term tactics and struggle to deliver reliable, long-term growth.

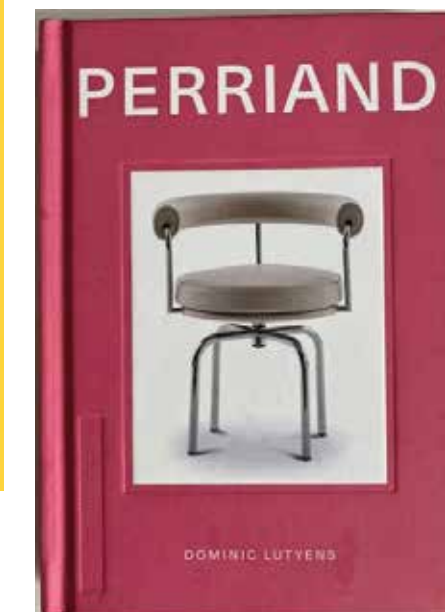
Effective Brand Building is here to change that. It provides practical, everyday wisdom in how to drive effective growth for brands for the long and short term, in synch with broader organizational goals and business processes. From award-winning marketer and columnist for Marketing Week, Andrew Geoghegan, this book is the ultimate guide to developing the skills and knowledge you need to create a brand building strategy that delivers growth. Containing best practice frameworks, tools, and approaches to measurement, this book enables marketers to create repeatable

results and maximize their return on investment."

Andrew Geoghegan is an experienced CMO and brand strategist who has held senior roles at businesses including Diageo, PepsiCo, William Grant & Sons, and PZ Cussons. Based in London, UK he has worked on brands including Guinness, Johnnie Walker and Tropicana.



Dominic Lutyens (1981) has recently published *Perriand* (Welbeck Publishing/Headline, 2024). *Perriand* is a monograph of French interior and furniture designer Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999). It is part of the publisher's Design Monograph series of remarkable architects and designers of the 20th and 21st centuries. The extraordinarily driven, independent, Paris-born Perriand forged a successful, 70-year career in a male-dominated world. Her indispensable input into a trio of iconic modernist pieces of furniture – co-created in the 1920s with Swiss



architect Le Corbusier and his cousin Pierre Jeanneret – was only officially recognised in the 1960s. Her proto-feminist and eco ideas were ahead of their time: she designed open-plan dining room-cum-kitchens from the 1950s, firmly believing that women shouldn't be confined to a separate cooking area (at a time when gender roles were more fixed). And from the 1960s to the 1980s, she oversaw the design of three ski resorts in the French Alps that reflected her concern for the environment.

Dominic Lutyens is a London-based arts journalist. He has written several books, all of which, including *Perriand*, are held by St Anne's College Library.

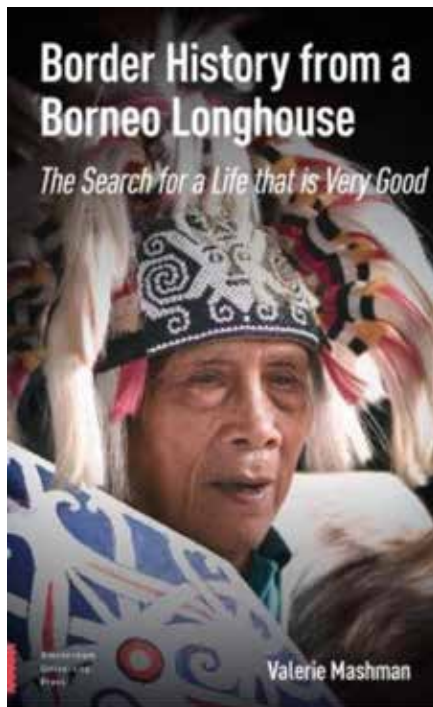
Valerie Mashman (1976) has published *Border History from a Borneo Longhouse: The Search for a Life That Is Very Good* (Amsterdam University Press, 2024). This work is relevant to Austronesian studies, Southeast Asian history, oral history, the anthropology of value, sociality and ethnic identity, Christian conversion, and issues of borderlands, decolonization, and indigeneity. It is of interest to readers concerned with the history of transnational peoples of Borneo, including the Kelabit, Sa'ban, Kenyah, Ngurek, Penan, and the Lun Dayeh.'

Nanette O'Brien (2008) has published *Food and Culture in the Works of Ford Madox Ford, Gertrude Stein, and Virginia Woolf: Culinary Civilisation* (OUP, 2024).

"Writing about food has long been a part of autobiographical expression that combines culinary record-keeping and histories, drawing on the personal and the cultural. Concentrating on the transatlantic work of Ford Madox Ford, Gertrude Stein, and Virginia Woolf, this book illuminates modernist uses of the terms 'civilization' and 'barbarism', showing how these concepts are shaped by the rules of preparing and eating food in literature and in public.

Nanette O'Brien introduces the concept of 'culinary Impressionism' as an extension and repositioning of current scholarly thinking about Ford's literary Impressionism and his synesthetic writing about cookery and small farming. She also presents a new reading of Stein's crafting of her modernist authority as interlinked with her cooks, and shows Stein's and Toklas's jointly authored unpublished cookbook draft as evidence of their direct authorial collaboration and of Stein adapting domestic culinary techniques into her other writing. O'Brien goes on to present new archival research demonstrating that

Virginia Woolf's representation of the financial and culinary difference between men's and women's dining in colleges at the University of Cambridge is justified and the material inequality was in fact worse than previously understood. This disparity in institutional food intensifies Woolf's later reimagining of the term 'civilization'. While drawing on themes of modernism and life-writing, the everyday, domestic life and gender, the book argues that food is a vehicle



for positive modernist re-conceptions of civilization."

Nicholas Walton (1991) is the author of three books: **Genoa, 'La Superba':** The Rise and Fall of a Merchant Pirate Superpower (Hurst, 2015); **Singapore, Singapura:** From Miracle to Complacency (Hurst, 2021) and most recently, **Orange Sky, Rising Water:** The Remarkable Past and Uncertain Future of the Netherlands (Hurst, 2025).



In this most recent book, Journalist Nicholas Walton paints a vivid portrait of one of the world's most remarkable places. Drawing on interviews and his own years living in the Netherlands, as well as Dutch history and popular culture, he tells a story of floods and riots, engineering brilliance and wartime treachery. Through ten walks around their towns and

cities, fields and beaches, he reveals how the Dutch built a system that organised politics and tamed the water. But now, the country faces an unpredictable future: sea levels are rising, and extreme weather is swelling the rivers that cut across this flat land. At the same time, farmers are protesting with their tractors on the streets and voters are voicing

their discontent over everything from immigration and inequality to a dysfunctional housing market.

Amid the existential challenges of the twenty-first century, *Orange Sky, Rising Water* asks whether the extraordinary Dutch success story can continue—or will the country, its people and its way of life be swept away?



Alumnae News

Josh Asokan (Music, 2016), a performer in our recent Steinway concert, has established a new charity to raise awareness of unaccompanied child asylum-seekers. Odyssey Ensemble is the UK's first professional orchestra exclusively dedicated to amplifying real-life stories of asylum-seekers and refugees through orchestral music, inspiring empathy and respect for their human dignity.

Carys Davis (Modern Languages, 1978) has won the Royal Society of Literature's

2025 Ondaatje Prize for her novel *Clear* (Granta, 2024). The prize was instituted in 2004 to celebrate outstanding writing that best evokes the spirit of a place. On her achievement, Carys said 'I'm thrilled that CLEAR has been awarded this lovely prize and extremely grateful to the Royal Society of Literature and the Ondaatje family.' Carys was made a Fellow of the RLS in 2022.

Paul Donovan (PPE, 1990) has been made a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society.

Stuart Faulkner (Modern History, 1991), retired at 50, after a thirty year career as an investment banker, and has emigrated, with his beloved wife, to her home country of New Zealand / Aotearoa, where he is spending his time pursuing whole bunch of new, Kiwi, passions, including attempting to learn Te Reo and, finally, learning how to ride a bike! Any St Anne's alumnae are always welcome to drop in for a drink, should they be in Auckland or Northland.

Beth Fussell (Mathematics, 2014) and Conor McGuinness (Physics, 2014) were married in 2024, ten years on from meeting as undergraduates at St Anne's.

Martha Kearney (Literae Humaniores, 1976) has been awarded a CBE in the King's Birthday Honours for her outstanding services to broadcasting and journalism. She has also been made a trustee of the British Museum.

Valerie Mashman (PGCe Educational Studies, 1976) updates us that 'a looted Kenyah badeng hat at the Pitt Rivers museum resurfaced during my term as a researcher at the Sarawak museum Department in 2018. I was able to trace the story of the hat, and it was returned to Sarawak in 2024.'



Chris Shepherd (*English Language and Literature, 1970*) updates us that 'having happily retired to Sidmouth a deux - it is a place where many couples decide to end their days together - we hoped for long years here, but the fate of many has befallen me: my beloved husband Terry died last May (2024). We had had a few last happy holidays including a trip to Australia, and a final wine-collecting journey to Germany at Easter.

I will stay in East Devon as it is still a wonderful place to be, and there are

many friends here, much to do, and, since Terry was made anxious by travel, many places to visit. But it feels like a long, lonely sentence. I am blessed with supportive family and with heavy involvement in church, school, and (something new) sport, including Short Tennis and cold swimming!

Amelia Standing (*MEng Engineering, 2018*) was in the Gold winning crew (Women's Eight) at the World Rowing Cup in Italy this year. Leading from the start, the team sailed through the finish

line, leaving the teams from the USA and Australia in their wake.

Anastasia Tennant (*Literae Humaniores, 1983*) has been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for her dedicated services to museums and galleries.

In Memoriam

Patricia Bell (Seed) 1950
Kathryn Bevis 1995
Margaret Birch 1953
Jeanne Bisgood 1941
Susan Black (Hill) 1955
Robert Brooksbank 1985
Denise Carson 1978
Sally Carus (Bishop) 1954
Elizabeth Cragoe (Elmer) 1950
Valerie Dean (Slater) 1966
Susan Dixon (Spence) 1978
Alison Dodd (Peel) 1955
Lesley Evans (Kruse) 1962
Helen Falconer 1976

Judith Finnemore 1959
Philippa Gerry 1950
Vincent Gillespie 1972
Deborah Honoré (Duncan) 1948
Grania Jones 1959
Margaret Latimer (Pirie) 1957
Helen Leach (Ivens) 1945
Barbara Leech (Bailey) 1963
Pauline Lewis (Hughes) 1956
Helen Lewis Butler 1967
Peter Lloyd 1983
Joan Macgregor 1947
Margaret Makin (Winchurch) 1952
Pat Marshall (Woodcock) 1951

Pauline Matarasso (Sanderson) 1947
Patricia Mercer 1959
Celia Merrick (Richards) 1947
Jennifer Ogilvie (Roberts) 1955
Beatrice Painter (Dobbs) 1949
Guillaume Paugam 2017
Ruth Penwarden (Wright) 1953
Frances Perry (Olver) 1974
Susan Read 1956
Edward Seager 1982
Margaret Tarratt 1958
Mario Vargas Llosa
Helena Woddiss (Wills) 1959
Barbara Young (Clifford) 1957

Obituaries

IN MEMORIAM
PATRICIA BELL
(SEED, GEOGRAPHY, 1950; PGCE
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, 1953)
12 DECEMBER 1930 – 13 DECEMBER 2024



My mother was born and raised in Lancashire. In 1942 she would take the Scholarship Examination and achieve the top score for Preston along with the son of a family friend who went on to become Chairman of ICI, a fact she was given to relate while ironing shirts years later.

Following a period at the Sorbonne, and much whizzing around Paris in fast cars, she would arrive at St Anne's and secure her goal of a place at Oxford. It would become for her a community of friends -

as it would for me years later - and over the decades those many friendships would continue to enrich her life, bringing her companionship and joy.

Her time at Oxford was a period of exploration and discovery; indeed, when the then Principal, Miss Eleanor Plumer, visited her digs for lunch on one occasion, my mother would recall her reproach that she was 'interested in too many things'!

She revelled in all the opportunities Oxford brought her, whether it was singing madrigals from Magdalen Tower on May morning; dancing with the Cecil Sharp Society and to the music of steel bands at the West African Club; or meeting my Father at the Taj Mahal on the High for a blind date, so beginning a relationship that would span over sixty years.

Once her teacher training was over, she had planned to work in West Africa. But her mother's illness signalled a return to the North West, where she would teach geography at Preston's Park School for Girls, her own alma mater. In time, however, childcare issues would bring that to an end.

Following my brother's arrival several years later, my mother established a village pre-school which continues to thrive to this day. She would also set up an Oxfam shop; run the local Meals on

Wheels; teach primary French; play the piano for ballet lessons; and, over many years, act as a governor of the local primary school.

However, her greatest impact was on her own family. There would scarcely be an expedition in the car without an extensive commentary on riverbeds, glacial valleys, and the geological substrata as we sped along. Castles, museums, galleries and theatres were all to be visited and wondered at, and wherever we went there would always be picnics!

Music was a great love, and as children we would be transfixed by her piano playing: Brahms and Schubert were her favourites, but for a long time the Blue Danube Waltz and Teddy Bears' Picnic were ours.

Once grandchildren arrived, she threw herself into supporting their path through life with dedication and fun. Elaborate obstacle courses would appear in the garden, and wild dancing take off in the kitchen with timpani provided by an eclectic mix of wooden spoons and pots and pans - 'Reach for the Stars' was number one!

She was a force of nature, whose spirit touched us all.

Jane Bell (1979), daughter

IN MEMORIAM
ROBERT ALAN BROOKSBANK
(BIOCHEMISTRY, 1985)
17 OCTOBER 1966 – 14 JULY 2024



Robert - Rob or Bobby to friends - was born in Grimsby to Sheila and Jack, as the younger brother to Susan and Peter. I met Rob on 18th December 1983; he was in the lower 6th form and I hadn't yet done my O-levels. His first words to me were that he wanted to be a biochemist, and I told him of my ambition to become a pathologist, and we realised that, if not kindred spirits, we were kindred intellects. We were inseparable from that point.

St Anne's had funky architecture, a reputation for favouring northern

applicants, and catered for his vegetarian girlfriend. I joined him at St Anne's as an undergraduate medic in 1986. Rob had already made a loyal circle of friends, and his tutorial partner, Martin Welch, became a lifelong friend.

Thanks to support from David Harris and Hazel Rossotti, Rob waltzed a first in Biochemistry, and we both defected to Cambridge in 1989 for our PhDs. We married in 1992, with Martin as Rob's best man and many Oxford friends in attendance. Rob then secured a postdoctoral position at what is now the Wellcome Sanger Institute, where he worked with close friend and colleague Alison Coffey to clone the gene for X-linked lymphoproliferative disorder.

By 2000, Rob was working for Pfizer in neurological research in Cambridge. When the closure of Pfizer's Cambridge lab was announced, a breakaway faction decided to set up start-up company, Cambridge BioTechnology Ltd. It was immensely exciting (and somewhat stressful). CBT was floated and then bought and sold numerous times; Rob took it all in his stride and did what he loved doing.

We had moved out of central Cambridge and into an ancient thatched cottage in Foxton. What it lacks in practicality it certainly makes up for in charm. We had cats, chickens and even, at one

misguided point, three Indian runner ducks. Rob's music tastes were diverse, and he also became a truly talented home-brewer. Travel also played a huge part in our life together; we had some fabulous adventures. Sport of all varieties was another passion, and cricket-laden conversations with his Dad were a regular feature of our Sunday afternoons.

But all was not as it seemed; Rob had another love in the USA. We divorced quietly and efficiently on in 2015, and Rob moved to Minnesota and married Sharon in 2016. I cannot tell the story of Rob's final decade in the same vivid detail, but I know that he loved Sharon deeply and that she made him truly happy.

In 2021, Rob discovered he had stage 4 colorectal cancer, which had lain undiscovered until a brain metastasis caused debilitating dizziness. Rob was fortunate to benefit from the most advanced treatment and maintained a good quality of life until very close to the end. He and Sharon did a 'swan song' tour of the UK last September, to visit family and friends from all phases of Rob's life. Rob died early in the morning during a dramatic thunderstorm, at home with Sharon and their cats. He loved a good storm.

Rob was a supportive friend to many and a thoughtful partner to me for decades. His unique flavour of gentle humour and

quiet extroversion is deeply missed. I feel the lack of his footsteps on the Earth, and I know that many others do. St Anne's shaped us both, as we shaped each other, and this is why I feel compelled to share his story with our alumnae.

Catherine Dibble, (Spencer, previously Brooksbank, 1986), former wife

IN MEMORIAM
VALERIE DEAN
(SLATER, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1966; PGCE EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, 1969)
28 JUNE 1947 – 14 JANUARY 2025



Valerie Dean (née Slater) was born on 28 June 1947 and spent most of her

early years in Huddersfield, where she attended Huddersfield Grammar School for Girls. She went up to St Anne's in 1966 to read English and immediately met Roger. They married shortly after finals, in 1969, and stayed in Oxford to take Certificates in Education.

They then spent a year in central Sicily, teaching highly intelligent poor boys from the Province of Palermo. After a brief period at schools in Kirkby, near Liverpool, they settled in Stevenage where Alexandra and Paul were born. Valerie taught English there in a secondary school and at Stevenage College; she also marked and moderated English examinations, including for English a Foreign Language.

In 1980 the family moved to Brussels, where Laura was born shortly afterwards. Valerie taught English, mainly as a foreign language, privately, in one of the European Schools and in the European Commission. She loved the opportunities for travel from Brussels and its internationalism and multi-lingual atmosphere, a period sadly marred by the death of Alexandra. She took up painting with a number of teachers and had successful solo exhibitions, both locally and in the European Commission.

On returning to England in 2007, she continued to exhibit her work, in Rochester, elsewhere in Kent and occasionally in

London. She also became involved in working with the visually impaired and with local foodbanks. Towards the end of her life, she was becoming increasingly involved in the life of Rochester Cathedral.

She died very suddenly on 14 January 2025.

Roger Dean (St Catherine's, 1966), husband

IN MEMORIAM
DEBORAH MARY DUNCAN HONORÉ
(DIP POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, 1948; PGCE EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, 1966)
26 MARCH 1926 – 8 APRIL 2025



Deborah was born in Muizenberg (Cape Town) South Africa, the youngest child

of Sir Patrick and Alice Duncan. She grew up with three older brothers in the privileged world of high office: her father was Governor General of South Africa (from 1937 to his death in 1943).

At 97 she wrote her memoir and mentions after studying at Wits University, having interviews in 1947 for both LMH and St Anne's who both accepted her. She liked the rather freer atmosphere of St Anne's: 'no formal buildings, mainly scattered houses, less reminiscent of school. The Principal was the Hon. Eleanor Plumer, intelligent, open and non-judgemental - an immediate hit with me'.

Deborah first studied History (with a wonderful tutor called Marjorie Reeves) but 'got stuck with early English history: it all felt so remote. I was too South African for my interests to be stirred by Anglo Saxon Witenagemots.' She decided on PPE where her philosophy tutor was Iris Murdoch. At the first tutorial Iris asked her whether the black of the fireplace was in the fireplace or in her eye. 'It seemed demented. I said the fireplace had been blacked with blacking and I had rods and cones in my eyes to see it with, not the right answer - it was meant to have something to do with whether God existed'. Philosophy was soon dropped and she ended up with a diploma in Politics and Economics. A few months after starting at Oxford, her mother died and the Nationalists won the election in

South Africa. She commented: 'This was like two deaths: I had lost my parents and my country'.

Deborah returned to South Africa after Oxford, working for a time on Drum magazine, with colleagues such as Todd Matshikiza (the composer of the musical King Kong). She then worked as a secretary at Wits University where she met her first husband, a brilliant lawyer, Denis Cowen, with whom she had two daughters, bringing them with her back to Oxford when the marriage failed. She worked for the Oxford English Dictionary for many years, and also in Oxford met and married Tony Honoré, another brilliant legal mind. They lived happily on the top floor of a large Victorian house on the Banbury Road until his death (at 97) in 2019. She remained in the flat, reading, writing, knitting, drawing, gardening in the large garden, listening to music and discussing matters of interest (she was very attracted to life of the spirit, and had translated several books by the mystical French writer, Marianne Dubois). She enjoyed a chocolate after lunch and a good glass of wine each evening until her very last days. She was looking forward to what lay ahead, and died peacefully, her daughters sitting either side of the bed. She is survived by her daughters Diana and Gina Cowen.

Gina Cowen, daughter

IN MEMORIAM
HELEN LAWRENCE FORBES FALCONER
(PPE, 1976)
8 MARCH 1958 - 1 FEBRUARY 2025



Helen spent her childhood in London and was latterly educated at Dartington School in Devon. She arrived at St Anne's in October 1976 to study PPP, but switched to PPE after Prelims to focus specifically on philosophy and politics. Helen and I met on our first day of college and have stayed friends ever since.

At Oxford, she excelled academically and was known as someone with ferocious intelligence, insatiable curiosity and generous confidence. Always a lateral thinker, Helen demonstrated a strong determination to question orthodoxy, reaching out beyond conventional boundaries to challenge traditions,

knowledge and occasionally even evidence. She could be fierce in arguments, but she also listened and considered different points of view, as a good philosopher should. In her Finals exams she achieved the highest marks of anyone across her year for the whole university.

Shortly after graduation she enrolled for a Ph.D. at London University, considering the minds of robots or what we would now call artificial intelligence. She took some time out to marry and had her first son, Jack. Sadly, she never completed her thesis as her studies were overtaken by life events

Helen's commitment to justice guided her personal, political and professional life. While living in London, she worked for the communications team at the public services union, NALGO, where she met her second husband, Derek O'Flaherty. At about the same time, her career as a writer began to take off. Her first novel, *Primrose Hill*, exploring some of the many gritty challenges facing youngsters growing up in north London, was followed by *Sky High* (both published by Faber and Faber). She was also a gifted author of fantasy fiction for young adults, with the acclaimed *Changeling* series, published by Penguin/Random House and translated into French.

Alongside her fiction writing Helen worked as a sub-editor on the Morning

Star and the Guardian, contributing book reviews and articles drawing on her own experience. After the birth of 3 more children, Derek and Helen moved to County Mayo in rural Ireland and involved themselves in a variety of community activities and campaigns. She loved living in Killala and welcomed visitors of all ages. As well as a big brain, Helen had a huge heart. She showed wonderful compassion and generosity – always ready to help her friends or advise fellow writers. She was a skillful editor and sympathetic mentor for other aspiring writers.

A philosopher to the last, Helen expressed curiosity about her imminent demise from a metastatic cancer, saying to a close friend visiting her at the hospice: "To me death is a wonderful mystery, as wonderful as life itself."

Helen wrote poetry all her life, so I'll end with her own words:

"One day I will ride alone along some shore,

Then over the edge of the world into unsupported space."

Helen is mourned by Derek and her children Jack, Mollie, Imogen and Sean, as well as many friends from St Anne's and beyond.

Alison Gilchrist (1976), friend

IN MEMORIAM
TESSA FRANK
(HOAR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1951; BLITT ENGLISH, 1969)
8 FEBRUARY 1929 - 22 MARCH 2024



Tessa went up to St Anne's College in 1951, at which time she was known as Sister Mary Agnellus. By then she had already been in religious orders for four years, having entered the convent at Mayfield at the age of 18 just three months after taking her Higher School Certificate.

She studied English and was fortunate in the people who were teaching at Oxford in her day. These included CL Wrenn, CS Lewis (who vivaed her), Lord David Cecil and JRR Tolkien. The latter's son was a

priest who said Mass in Tessa's convent. His father used to serve the Mass and the nuns fancied that if only Professor Tolkien had had hair on his heels, he would have been a perfect Bilbo Baggins. Tessa remembered him as a wonderful person and his humanity and humility added untold charm to his lectures.

A nun at Oxford in those days led a very disciplined life – seven hours of work, four of prayer and no outside interests. No visits to plays even in college gardens; no membership of societies, except for the Archaeological Society because that did not serve coffee during its meetings or have a social side. Tessa learnt an enormous amount about Piltdown Man and Roman Britain at those meetings! The student nuns formed their own small discussion group to which they read papers in turn. Tessa remembered Sister Wendy Beckett (later of TV fame, but in those days known as Sister Peter) at one such meeting reading a paper about Auden and an "Emily-coloured primrose".

Tessa's references were extremely complimentary. Elaine Griffiths, the St Anne's English Fellow, said "I consider her one of the ablest people I have taught". Tessa got a distinguished First in Finals in 1954. She was surprised. It wasn't quite the thing to do in a convent; it made for jealousy and the suspicion that one might be an intellectual snob. The College wanted

Tessa to do research, but such a thing was unheard of for a nun in those days.

On leaving Oxford, she taught English at Winckley Square Convent School in Preston (sadly no more), which she remembered as an excellent school where teaching was a pleasure. A former pupil describes her as a kind, understanding teacher who cared about the welfare of her pupils. Later she taught for four years at Mayfield School where she became a housemistress.

In 1969 she was offered the opportunity to return to St Anne's for a B.Litt degree in Renaissance Literature under the stimulating supervision of Professor Dame Helen Gardner. Her studies included *Treatments of the Passion* in English Poetry, 1590-1660. She remained in holy orders but life as a nun was now more liberal. She had the use of a car at times, was allowed to go to see plays at Stratford and didn't always have to wear a habit.

On finishing her degree in 1972 she decided to leave religious life, although she always remained a devout catholic. She left the convent with just £400. After a brief spell in Milan, where she taught English to middle management in the Leyland Innocenti factory, she returned to England and became Head of English and Housemistress at Beechwood School in Tunbridge Wells.

In 1976 she married Val Frank and lived in Chislehurst where she taught at Farringtons School. The couple subsequently retired to Yorkshire where Tessa took an MA at York University. Her dissertation was on the differences in the three medieval liturgical uses of York, Sarum and Hereford.

Tessa spent her final years at Holy Cross Priory Care Home at Cross-in-Hand, East Sussex. Despite her great age she retained such a life force that her passing came as a real shock to us all.

Nick Frank, stepson

IN MEMORIAM
VINCENT ANTHONY GILLESPIE
ST ANNE'S TUTORIAL FELLOW IN ENGLISH 1980-2004
11 FEBRUARY 1954 - 13 MARCH 2025



Professor Vincent Gillespie died on 13 March 2025, aged 71; he was a St

Anne's Tutorial Fellow in English from 1980 to 2004.

The first part of his academic life – from 1972 to 1980 – consisted of his undergraduate and graduate studies at Keble College followed by 3 years as a lecturer at Reading University. The second part – from 1980 to 2004 – covered his time as a Fellow at St Anne's. The third part – from 2004 until 2021 – was his time as the University's third J. R. R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language based at Lady Margaret Hall.

Vincent – the son of a Post Office driver – was born in Liverpool in 1954 and applied to Keble where he was offered a place to read English. Being an undergraduate was a life changing time for Vincent: he was dazzled by all that Oxford had to offer. Many years later, when preparing the St Anne's English Fellowship fund-raising document, he wrote from the heart: "an Oxford education is expensive to provide, but priceless to receive".

He worked hard and was awarded a First, but he also hoovered up every new experience that came his way. Money was tight, but he worked out how to survive on a weekly cash withdrawal of two £1 notes from the Midland Bank. Inevitably the cash would run

out by Sunday, so supper that day was generally the culinary low point of the week consisting of cold baked beans on buttered Weetabix.

Vincent moved on to graduate studies at Keble, where his supervisor was Professor Douglas Gray: the first Tolkien Professor. Vincent's thesis led to the award of a DPhil in 1981. But, before he had completed his graduate studies, Vincent had secured a lecturer's post at Reading University in 1977.

In the Autumn of 1979 (at the age of 25), Vincent was appointed to a Fellowship at St Anne's with a start date of 1 April 1980. His appointment continued the great St Anne's tradition of young pre-doctoral appointments to Fellowships. But there was an event that could have led to Vincent not being appointed. On the day of the interview, Vincent arrived in Oxford by train but – walking from the railway station – he became aware of a draught about his thighs. His trousers had split along the inside seam. Horrified, he hastened to Woolworths to purchase needle and thread. Then he found his way to the nearest gents' lavatory and sewed up the seam. The interview had a happy outcome even though his attention was only partly focused on the business of answering the questions, with his mind being distracted by the need to keep his knees together at all times.

Vincent's time at St Anne's was marked by his tireless efforts to improve the quality of students in the English School. There was also a steady output of books and papers: most notably, in 2001, he published *Syon Abbey*, an analysis of the late-medieval library registum of the Birgittine brethren of the Abbey.

In addition, Vincent did not forget the need for College Officer and Committee roles. He was President of the SCR and refurbished the Lower Common Room. He was the Fellow Librarian who oversaw the extension of the Library on the ground floor of Hartland House. He helped develop the early relationship with the Tsuzuki family by visiting the Far East to judge their annual Asia-Pacific Cup. Vincent was Dean in the early 1980s and served as Vice-Principal in the 2000s. And last – but by no means least – he was Vice-Chair of the Ruth Deech Building Committee. On many occasions, Vincent remarked that this was the best committee that he has ever served on during his time at Oxford: quite an accolade.

Baroness Ruth Deech, then-Principal, said: "He was a real joy as a fellow, the best of the traditional Oxford tutors, with time for everyone and everything, good hearted, supportive and sharp when necessary. We could

not have got the RD Building safely delivered without him. As one of the first male Fellows he set the tone for going co-ed while retaining all the warmth and collegiality of a women's college. He was a tremendous asset to the college and the English school, and followed in the footsteps of all the marvellous English tutors we have had over a century."

Vincent placed great store in the role of Governing Body at St Anne's, believing it to be a fine example of democracy at work. Over the years, he built something of a reputation among the Fellowship of keeping the Principal and full-time College Officers on their toes with tough questions. Colleagues have indicated that Governing Body was an occasion not to be missed because of the chance that Vincent's rhetoric might take off. Nevertheless, Vincent would be first to say that the professionalism of the Principals at St Anne's was such that whether he won or lost the argument he knew that fair play had prevailed.

In 2004, the University wisely selected Vincent as the third J. R. R. Tolkien Professor at Lady Margaret Hall. Whilst he now had more time for research, there were regular invitations to give lectures at universities around the world (including the USA and New Zealand)

and Vincent's chair also brought a significant requirement for Oxford lectures as well many University and Faculty roles such as: Curator of the Bodleian; Co-ordinator for the English Research Excellence Framework; Membership of the Humanities Divisional Board and Chair of Masters' Examiners to name but a few. Fund-raising for medieval studies in Oxford was also a time-consuming activity. Overall, he raised £9M and part of that was the £4.2M needed to maintain the Tolkien professor's chair.

In addition, he supervised about 40 Oxford doctoral dissertations and the same number of Masters' theses. He published over sixty articles and book chapters ranging from medieval book history, through Chaucer and Langland, to the medieval mystics such as Julian of Norwich.

LMH announced Vincent's retirement in 2021 with a tremendous description of him:

"Vincent's eclectic knowledge of not only literature but music, art, film, architecture, and all forms of culture, has inspired many conversations with colleagues and students over the years and his presence in college will be sorely missed. His ability to move seamlessly between Tarantino and Shakespeare,

between medieval architecture and modern jazz, testifies to a mind endlessly curious in and delighted by intellectual and aesthetic inquiry."

Following his initial diagnosis of prostate cancer in 2014, he continued to cope with his professorial duties against a requirement for very demanding treatment.

Vincent achieved much in his long career with the full support of his wife, Peggy, and their sons, Thomas and Edward. He also gave much to his faculty, his colleges, his colleagues and his students. It was no surprise that his distinguished achievements and contributions were properly recognised with his election – in 2013 – as a Fellow of the British Academy.

When coupled with his Honorary Fellowships at St Anne's and Keble, plus his Senior Research Fellowship at Campion Hall, it is clear that he was a professor of serious academic distinction who would not have believed such things were possible as he travelled from Liverpool to Oxford in 1971 for his admission interview.

Martin Jackson, former Domestic Bursar of St Anne's and long-time colleague of Vincent

IN MEMORIAM
GRANIA FRANCES JONES
(ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE,
1959; DIP PUBLIC AND SOCIAL
ADMINISTRATION, 1962)
20 JUNE 1941- 12 APRIL 2024



Grania was born and educated in Lancashire, the first of five children. Her father was Welsh, a teacher, and artist of some renown, and her mother was Irish. She was spiritually a true Celt, and a practising but open-minded Roman Catholic, full of poetry and imagination.

After reading English at St Anne's, being drawn to social work, she took a year's diploma in Social and Economic Studies at Barnett House, in Walton Street. With this Diploma, and subsequently one in counselling, and another in art therapy, she lived for a time in London, working in nurseries and schools, as she loved children, until a lack of Academic fulfilment drew her to Toronto University

where she worked on a PhD, on "Aspects of Time in 19th Century Poetry"

After Toronto and visits to New York and friends in South America, (she loved to travel), Grania completed her thesis in her much-loved Oxford, and, now a Doctor of Philosophy, bought a four storey house in Mornington Place, London, which she made her own domain, and where she remained until her last years, amongst her interesting neighbours, such as Alan Bennet, presiding at home over a stream of literary tenants: but throughout her life, it was her Oxford friends she most cherished.

Grania remained single, and lived in refined and creative solitude, but she enjoyed many friendships. She loved her house, and created a prolific and fragrant garden, being a knowledgeable plantswoman, with a "Green Thumb"

She loved literature and had a living room crammed with books, her father's paintings and her mother's delicate crockery. She had membership of several London museums and art galleries, and of the London Film Theatre, always inviting friends to join her in her visits there and to the theatre.

She used her enthusiasm for the arts in different areas of her work. She

worked with end of life sufferers in the Eden Hall Hospice in Hampstead, where she encouraged patients to write poetry, printing pamphlets of their work, believing that creativity could be a healing process. Later she ran an Art Therapy group at the Royal Free Hospital in the Psychiatric Outpatients Clinic. She offered her love of the arts to the work.

In later years she enjoyed working with young children, in primary schools in some of the less affluent areas of London. She encouraged them to paint out the anguish in their sometimes difficult young lives, and to talk to her about it. She was sad when retirement obliged her to let go of this work.

Grania was determined to spend her single life generously amongst people. Friendship was invaluable to her, and she was loyal and exacting in her friendships. She also gave herself fully to those for whom she worked. In her last years she moved to a flat next door to a family with four children. She was soon teaching and playing with them.

A great lover of life, she died at home, of natural causes, at the age of 83.

Helena Woddiss (Wills, 1959), friend and tutorial partner

IN MEMORIAM
BARBARA LEECH
(BAILEY, GEOGRAPHY, 1963;
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, 1966)
2 OCTOBER 1944 – 18 OCTOBER 2024



Barbara Bailey arrived at St. Anne's to read Geography a few weeks after the start of Michaelmas Term 1963, delayed by a back problem that caused her discomfort for much of her life. It was rumoured that she owned a slide projector, and later that term Tony Leech (Brasenose, 1963) was deputed to ask her if the OU Scout & Guide Club could borrow it for an inter-varsity event. She said yes. And a few years later she said yes again when he asked her to marry him.

After her degree, Barbara gained a Diploma in Education and taught at Kendrick School, Reading whilst living in Oxford. Two sons were born and, after spending a year in the United States, the family moved to Norfolk. Here Barbara continued to teach, part-time at Gresham's School, where her husband also taught.

Barbara continued her strong association with Girlguiding, starting a Ranger Unit and, at various times, being a Guide leader, a Brownie leader and a Rainbow leader. She also held posts at District and County level, promoting outdoor activities and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Her other time-consuming passion was teaching pool lifesaving skills to pupils and others needing qualifications. She could neither stop teaching nor helping people.

Towards the end of an active life, Barbara developed a Parkinson-like condition. She remained positive but died, shortly after her 80th birthday, after a series of aspiration pneumonias.

Tony Leech (Brasenose, 1963), husband

IN MEMORIAM
PETER ALAN LLOYD
(JURISPRUDENCE, 1983)
20 NOVEMBER 1961 – 21 AUGUST 2024



Peter Alan Lloyd (Jurisprudence, 1983-1986) passed away peacefully at the age of 62 on 21st August 2024 in Bangkok after a five-year battle with cancer.

Peter was born 20th November 1961 in Crosby, Liverpool and attended St. Mary's School in Crosby. He left school at 16, to play bass guitar in bands that emerged from the well-known club,

Eric's, however he returned to his studies, keen to follow a career in the law. At Oxford, he was active in many aspects of college and university life, and represented the College at football and rowing. After Oxford, he qualified as a solicitor and worked as a property lawyer in the City of London. His love of travel took him around the world, and he eventually settled in Thailand, where he met his wife, Araya, who survives him. His daughter Lydia Lloyd and four grandchildren also survive him, all living in Derby.

Those who were fortunate enough to meet Peter are unlikely to forget him. He was relentlessly cheerful, good at talking and hard-working, always full of ideas. After he gave up practising as a lawyer, he applied his talents to many diverse pursuits, including property investment, scuba diving, prospecting for diamonds in Africa and screenwriting. He continued to follow his beloved team, Everton, and captured his experiences of the 1980s music scene in his book *Bombed Out!*.

Peter lived an epic life and was truly one of a kind. He is greatly missed by his family and friends, all of whose lives have been enriched by his company.

Araya Lloyd, wife

IN MEMORIAM
CELIA ROSEMARY MERRICK
(RICHARDS, MODERN HISTORY, 1947)
24 NOVEMBER 1928 – 30 MARCH 2024



Education mattered enormously to Celia. Her own schooling was disrupted by war. As their sole surviving child, her parents evacuated her to American friends. Celia found American life and education stimulating. Soon after her return she gained a place to read History at the Society for Home Students. She adored her time at Oxford, pressing me to follow her example, which I did!

Celia taught History and Religious Studies. Her happiest time was spent as

Headmistress of Hurst Lodge, Sunningdale, which had a strong interest in drama. In a birthday tribute organised by her granddaughter Chloe, one student recalled Celia perched on the side of desks with chalk-covered fingers in her tweed skirts regaling the class with fascinating stories about History and Religion. Pupils stressed her patience, fairness and kindness to homesick boarders. One commented that Celia made all students feel cared for.

Her other chief love was our father, Geoffrey. He intrigued her initially by lacing his soup liberally with sherry. They both enjoyed travel, theatre, cinema and friendships, retiring to live opposite Chichester Festival Theatre to ensure continued access as they aged.

When Geoffrey died, life was hard. Celia continued her generosity to my brother Jonathan and myself as well as to our families. She was fortunate in retaining her independence until the end.

Celia loathed funerals. Instead, her Chichester neighbours arranged a summer lunch party outside her flat. A joyful occasion which Celia would have loved. In her memory they planted a rose bush in their communal garden. The variety is called Wonderful Life.

Caroline Elizabeth Browne (Merrick, 1971), daughter

IN MEMORIAM
BEATRICE PAINTER
(DOBBS, ZOOLOGY, 1949)
1 DECEMBER 1929 - 22 JUNE 2024



Beatrice, usually known to family and friends as Topsy, was born in Birmingham to Muriel Ware, an actress in repertory theatre, and Patrick Dobbs, an economist who worked as a researcher for Cadbury's. Topsy grew up in Birmingham, with her parents, three siblings and a fluctuating menagerie of pets, initially in Bournville and later in a large farmhouse near Selly Oak. Early in the second world war she lived for a time in rural Gloucestershire away from

the bombing, first as an evacuee and then with her family in rented cottages. On returning to Birmingham in 1941 Topsy joined King Edward High School, which she generally enjoyed, and where she formed a group of life-long friends. During the war, her father had been seconded to the Ministry of Food, and when it ended he accepted an offer to join the civil service in London on a permanent basis. The family moved to Hampstead and Topsy completed her schooling at St Paul's Girls' School, where she took science subjects before joining St Anne's in 1949 to study Zoology.

Having been encouraged by her parents to study science on the grounds that it would be the best basis for a career, Topsy was never sure that it was her real vocation. She found the physiology lectures uninspiring and genetics difficult, but she enjoyed ecology and despite her reservations would go on to become a science teacher. After falling ill before her finals she was given permission to repeat the third year and had an enjoyable time before graduating in 1953.

With no firm idea about what she wanted to do after university, Topsy took a temporary job as a biology teacher, before returning to Oxford as a research assistant in ecology. She considered a career as a social worker before settling

on teaching, taking a post at St George's School in Harpenden in Hertfordshire. While in Harpenden she met Desmond Painter through a mutual family friend, and in February 1960 Topsy and Desmond were married.

A desire to travel and a spirit of adventure led the couple to apply for teaching jobs in newly independent Nigeria. In 1961 they left the UK for two years in the tropics, working in schools in Warri and Ilaro, and exploring Nigeria and neighbouring countries in a red VW beetle during the holidays.

On their return to Britain, they settled in St Albans and soon produced three children, Joe, Sophie and Charlotte, with Topsy becoming a full-time mother and home-maker. After moving to Dorset in 1974 she resumed teaching until her retirement in 1989. In retirement she spent much time researching her family's history, particularly on her mother's side, becoming a skilled genealogist and social historian in the process. She and Desmond remained keen travellers into their eighties, clocking up trips to Australia, Syria, India and Uzbekistan as well as many European destinations. In addition to travel and genealogy, Topsy loved gardens, poetry, country walks and spending time with her five grandchildren.

Joe Painter, son

IN MEMORIAM
FRANCES ANN SOBEY PERRY
(OLVER, MODERN HISTORY, 1974)
1 JUNE 1955 - 8 JANUARY 2025



Frances, the second of six children, was born in Axminster but moved as a toddler to Kenley in Surrey where she lived for most of her life, worshipping at the same church where she met her husband, where she was married, where she taught Sunday School until the last weeks of her life, and where her funeral took place before a packed congregation.

After a schooling characterised by brilliance rather than diligence, she came to St Anne's in 1974 to read

History. Her first night in college was election night and a group of freshers met around the television in the JCR to listen to the results as they came in – and thus began lasting friendships. Frances made the most of her three years at St Anne's. She never wasted her time, was always open to new ideas and quick with practical kindness. Frances rarely if ever finished an essay but was a voracious reader, capable of absorbing a great deal of knowledge and of analysing and applying it. She literally sang for her supper in St. Peter's Chapel choir and twice participated in the annual Oxford to Cambridge walk to raise money for charity.

Following graduation, she enrolled at what was then the Polytechnic of North London for a diploma in librarianship. After gaining experience at Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) and several months backpacking around Greece, she began work at the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. Except for a short spell at the Council on Aging, she spent the rest of her career at the IMM and its successor organisations, abstracting, cataloguing, researching and advising – while also teaching herself classical Greek on her daily commute and growing plants in whatever urban soil and space was available to her.

A degree in History was not enough. In 1984 Frances embarked on an Open University science degree, relishing modules in geology, astrophysics and mathematical modelling. In 1986, for possibly the only time in her life, she submitted an assignment well before the deadline to focus on her wedding to Brian. Later assignments were fitted around her children (Anna, Helen and Alan) and, most of the time, a full-time job. She emerged with a First in 1994.

Frances never lost her zest for life, her intellectual curiosity, her taste for new experiences, her ability to give total, selfless, non-judgemental attention to the person or situation in front of her. As Brian's health deteriorated, she looked after him devotedly.

Her terminal illness was a sudden shock, barely two months from diagnosis to death. Frances faced the inevitable with characteristic faith and courage, sad only that she could no longer care for Brian, making practical arrangements, sending notes to her Sunday School children and friends, following current affairs and scientific developments on Radio 4, and choosing an upbeat hymn for her funeral to celebrate a life well lived.

Terry Barringer (1974) and Clare Sharp (1974), friends

IN MEMORIAM
MARGARET TARRATT
(ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1958; BLITT, 1961)
2 AUGUST 1940 – 22 MAY 2024

My younger sister, Margaret, was an avid reader from a very young age. She loved reading and literature, and she was forever grateful to the teachers at Queen Elizabeth's Barnet Grammar School, who helped her to gain a place at St. Anne's. She had visited me on several occasions at Cherwell Edge, which at that time was one of the houses for St. Anne's. She still felt long afterwards that having been to Oxford was a privilege and she shared many nostalgic memories of her time at St. Anne's.

Her love of literature and film remained with her throughout her life. It was the same with the adult poetry groups she planned in later years and right up to her end. Her talent was much appreciated. In the late nineteen sixties and seventies, she worked as a film and literary critic, writing film reviews and various essays, including "Essays in Criticism:".

Through her expertise and enthusiasm Margaret inspired and supported friends and family members across the generations. They were always impressed by her perceptiveness and knowledge. She in turn enjoyed the

discourse with them and passing on her ideas. For those of us who knew her well, Margaret will always be there when we enjoy a film, poem or novel.

Wendy Cox (Tarratt, 1954), sister, and family members

IN MEMORIAM
HELENA WODDIS (WILLS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1959)
1 MARCH 1940 – 11 APRIL 2025



Helena Wills was born on March 1st 1940. One of five children, she always spoke of the importance of family life.

Her father trained as a music teacher and the family moved quite often, finally settling in Felixstowe in Suffolk, where she attended the grammar school and won a place at St Anne's.

I first met Helena when we discussed, often very late at night, what we were going to put into our essays to be read out the next morning at our shared tutorial with a member of the English team at St Anne's – Dorothy Bednarowska, Patricia Ingham or Miss Kirsty Morrison. There never seemed to be enough time to fit all we wanted to fulfil into the short eight-week Oxford term – or, indeed, into the three short years we would be at St Anne's.

Helena enjoyed every moment of her time at Oxford and was able to pursue her desire to act. When we went for auditions to the rooms of student producers, she always won the part that everyone wanted and was in many notable college productions. The theatre brought her great joy and intellectual interest all through her life. My last meetings with Helena were at the Almeida Theatre in Islington before Christmas in 2024 for two complementary productions and then again at the Richmond Theatre in February this year. She still took in every word, despite her illness which was already limiting her activity.

Obituaries

In 1962 we believed that life would be a blank after Oxford, but Helena went on to do a post-graduate diploma in sociology at Barnet House in Oxford, to marry Paul Woddiss a year later, and soon to have a child, her first son. Much of their life with a young family was spent abroad as they travelled to Venezuela, Argentina and Paris while Paul worked with considerable success for Reckitt and Coleman. Another son and a daughter were born in 1965 and 1972. In Venezuela she joined the English-speaking theatre club and was in Twelfth Night and The Importance of Being Ernest and in Buenos Aires she was in Ring Round the Moon by Christopher Fry.

After their travels, they moved to Manchester when Paul worked for Cussons and Helena studied for a post-graduate counselling certificate at Manchester University. She became a Quaker attender in 1995 and a member of the Society of Friends in 2001. She later became an accredited member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists. She worked as a therapist for the rest of her life and was employed by Relate, The Marriage Guidance Council and The Citizens' Advice Bureau; she worked with young adults at Farnborough Art School, amongst other organisations.

Retirement was first to a much-loved house in Surrey with frequent contact

with family and friends - there were five grandchildren - and then to Suffolk, where Paul passed away in 2019. Later Helena moved to live with her new partner, David Palmer, near Bury St. Edmunds, and they spent a happy few years together. But she had been feeling unwell for a year or so, when she was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, from which she knew it would not be possible to recover. With courage and equanimity, Helena decided to go to Dignitas in Switzerland: David and her three children travelled there with her on April 11th 2025, and Helena's life came to an end. She will be much missed.

Miranda O'Connell (Taylor, 1959), friend



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Scholarships and prizes	£133,951	Outreach £80,483
Teaching and research	£395,759	Capital (including Bevington Road) £732,780

In the year 2023/24, we raised around £7.76m from 1,025 donors. This sum includes a significant gift which has enabled us to launch The St Anne's Uehiro Endowment for Future Generations, a new fund which has been made possible by the generous support of The Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education. The fund will offer opportunities to graduate students in Humanities subjects which focus on developing critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills, aiming to provide students with a well-rounded education. It will support doctoral students from the UK and overseas, providing much-needed financial assistance and helping people to grow in vital, but underfunded areas of scholarship.

Alumnae

Aaron, Jane: 1978
Adebisi, John: 1986
Alexander, (Holland) Marguerite: 1965
Alexander, Danny: 1990
Althouse, (Roach) Lesley: 1972
Alvares, Fleur: 1988
Anastasiou, Angelos: 1982
Archer, (Weeden) Mary: 1962
Artlingstall, David: 1982
Ashford, (Seymour) Anne-Marie: 1972
Ashley, Jackie: 1974

Astles, Rosemary: 1975
Athron, (Ogborn) Ruth: 1957
Atkinson, (Pearson) Helen: 1963
Axe, (Roberts) Patricia: 1965
Axford, Shelagh: 1968
Baatz, (Watson) Yvonne: 1975
Bacon, (Mason) Ann: 1957
Baderin, (MacGregor) Alice: 2001
Baines, (Smith) Jennifer: 1963
Baird, (Dutton) Audrey: 1945
Baker, Simon: 1994
Ball, (Flanagan) Justine: 1985
Barber, Wesley: 1997
Barnard, (Langford) Caroline: 1979
Barrett, (Hudson) Philippa: 1977
Barrett, Jane: 1973
Barringer, Terry: 1974
Barron, (Taylor) Enid: 1964
Barzycki, (Polti) Sarah: 1976
Bates, Jon: 1991
Baxandall, (Dwyer) Cathy: 1977
Baxter, (Lewis) Diana: 2000
Beer, (Thomas) Gillian: 1954
Belden, Hilary: 1966
Bell, (Watt) Christine: 1957
Belton, Eleanor: 2013
Benson, Chris: 1983
Bernstein, (Bernie) Judith: 1975
Berry, Stuart: 2001
Bertlin, Piers: 1979
Bevis, Jane: 1977

Biggs, (Perrin) Lynn: 1972
Bittar Barra Coelho De Souza, Matheus: 2023
Black, Robert: 2005
Blandford, Sally: 1978
Blatchford, (Rhodes) Barbara: 1960
Boddington, Andrew: 1980
Boehm, (Lees-Spalding) Jenny: 1965
Bolton-Maggs, (Blundell Jones) Paula: 1971
Bonham, Sarah: 2006
Booth, Simon: 2002
Booth, Heather: 1992
Borkowski-Clark, (Clark) Joshua: 2012
Bourne, Jon: 1996
Bowley, John: 1993
Bowman, (Ward) Christine: 1976
Boyde, Susan: 1957
Bray, Heather: 1985
Breeze, (Horsey) Fiona: 1965
Brendon, (Davis) Vyvyen: 1959
Brettell, Francesca: 1988
Brett-Holt, (Roscol) Alex: 1969
Breward, Christopher: 1991
Bridges, (Berry) Linda: 1975
Brodie, Pete: 1981
Brooking-Bryant, (Walton) Audrey: 1953
Broomhead, (Lemon) Christine: 1960
Brown, Elaine: 1968
Brown, (Cullen) Jennifer: 1987
Brown, (Lichfield Butler) Jane: 1965
Brown, (Page) Sarah: 1994
Brown, Alexander: 2007

Brown, Camilla: 1993
Broyden, Chris: 1981
Brunt, (Coates) Ivy: 1961
Buckrell, (Mason) Jo: 1990
Burge, (Adams) Sue: 1972
Burling, (Hudson) Hilary: 1962
Burney, Matthew: 1989
Burns, Julian: 1981
Burrows, Peter: 1987
Burton, Lauren: 2016
Burt, (Waite) Audrey: 1942
Butler, (Dawnay) Gillian: 1962
Butler, Jenny: 1985
Bynoe, (Robinson) Geraldine: 1969
Campbell-Colquhoun, Toby: 1996
Carlin, Norah: 1960
Carney, Bernadette: 1978
Carpenter, (Barker) Nancy: 1993
Carroll, Oliver: 2012
Carter, (Gracie) Isobel: 1967
Carter, Diana: 2006
Cassidy, (Rhind) Kate: 1975
Castlo, Paul: 2000
Charman, (Rees) Stella: 1975
Chea, Henry: 1992
Chesterfield, Jane: 1977
Chilman, John: 1986
Chow, Martin: 1994
Chowdhury, Mohammad: 1986
Chowla, Shiv: 2007
Christie, (Fearneyhough) Susan: 1970
Clark, (Balfour) Judith: 1964
Clark, (Jamieson) Sheila: 1991
Clarke, (Gamblen) Alice: 1957
Clayman, Michelle: 1972
Cliff, Jackie: 1989
Clout, Imogen: 1975
Clover, Shirley: 1953
Cockerill, Sara: 1986
Cockey, (Ward) Katherine: 1970
Colling, Mike: 1979
Collins, Susanna: 1989
Collinson, Shawn: 1980
Colville, Johnny: 1993
Constable, Jeanne: 1969
Conway, (Nicholson) Sheila: 1969
Coo, (Spink) Kathryn: 1972
Cook, (Clark) Cornelia: 1966
Cook, (Gisborne) Janet: 1962
Coote, Hilary: 1967
Copestake, Phil: 1999

Cottingham, Faye: 1995
Cotton, Andrew: 1980
Court, (Lacey) Liz: 1968
Cowell, (Smith) Janice: 1966
Crichton, (Hunter) Ele: 1996
Crisp, Roger: 1979
Crosby, (Stephens) Sarah: 1989
Cubbon, Alan: 1980
Cunliffe, David: 1985
Curry, (Rouillet) Anne: 1965
Cutler, (McColl) Veronica: 1960
Dalton, (Fletcher) Caroline: 1958
Damerell, (Bell) Peter: 1998
Darnton, (Baker) Jane: 1962
Dave, Saraansh: 2005
Davey, (Macdonald) Elizabeth: 1960
Davidson, (Mussell) Jenny: 1962
Davies, Mike: 1996
Davies, (Baxendale) Jane: 1970
Davies, (Mornement) Margaret: 1956
Davis, (Tabberer) Jenny: 2005
Davison, (Le Brun) Pauline: 1956
Delahunty, Jo: 1982
Delaney, Colette: 1980
Derkow Disselbeck, (Derkow) Barbara: 1965
Devenport, Richard: 2002
Dewhurst, Janet: 1974
Dey, Jennifer: 1975
Dineen, Brian: 1996
Dixon, (Gawadi) Aida: 1957
Dixon, Clare: 1995
Dobson Sippy, (Chadwick-Dobson) Maegan: 2005
Dodd, (Peel) Alison: 1955
Donald, St John: 1986
Donaldson, Sarah: 1995
Donovan, Paul: 1990
Doran, (Savitt) Sue: 1966
Dorner, Irene: 1973
Dornhorst, Anne: 1971
Drake, Carmel: 1999
Draper, (Fox) Heather: 1957
Drew, Philippa: 1965
Drew, (Markland) Judith: 1967
Dryhurst, Clare: 1979
Dumbill, (Weiss) Charlotte: 1984
Dumbill, Simon: 1981
Dunbabin, (Mackay) Jean: 1957
Dunkley, (Eastman) Shirley: 1953
Durant, James: 2022
Eade, Deborah: 1975

Eades, Cynda: 1985
Eastmond, Tony: 1984
Eger, Helen: 1992
Ellis, (Eton) Rachel: 1975
Elmendorff, Justine: 1986
Ely, (Masters) Hilary: 1969
Endean, James: 1992
England, (Prestidge) Sara: 1973
England, Richard: 1982
Ettinger, (Instone-Gallop) Susan: 1953
Evans, Martyn: 2006
Evans, (Moss) Isabel: 1964
Evans, (Trevithick) Elaine: 1953
Everest-Phillips, (Everest) Anne: 1950
Ewart, Isobel: 1998
Eysenbach, Mary: 1954
Fairweather, (Everard) Pat: 1965
Farmer, Sinead: 2005
Farris, Dianne: 1951
Fatkin, Duncan: 1983
Faulkes, (McNeile) Fiona: 1989
Faulkner, Freddie: 2012
Faure Walker, (Farrell) Vicky: 1971
Featherby, Jack: 2010
Feldman, (Wallace) Teresa: 1968
Feltham, David: 1983
Fenton, (Campling) Heather: 1961
Ferguson, (Marston) Catherine: 1970
Filer, (Bernstein) Wendy: 1982
Findlay, (Boast) Judith: 1959
Fisher, Elizabeth: 1978
Fisher, (Hibbard) Sophia: 1966
Fleming, (Newman) Joan: 1957
Foggo, Andrew: 1984
Forbes, Eda: 1961
Forrest, Benjamin: 2006
Foster, Tony: 1980
Foster, Shirley: 1969
Fowler, Brigid: 1988
Fox, Sebastian: 2002
Fox, Jane: 1971
Franas, Kasia: 2008
Franklin, Hywel: 1997
Freeland, Henry: 2007
Fresko, (Marcus) Adrienne: 1975
Friar, Sarah: 1992
Fuecks, (Ford-Smith) Rachel: 1957
Fulton, Guy: 1989
Furness, Corinne: 2001
Gallant, Julian: 1984
Galley, Katie: 1974

Gaul, Pat: 1980 Giaeever-Enger, Thomas: 1994 Gillingwater, (Davies) Helen: 1974 Girardet, (Schafer) Ruth: 1990 Glasgow, Faith: 1980 Godfrey, David: 1983 Golding, (Bond) Jean: 1958 Goldsmith, Ruth: 1998 Golodetz, Patricia: 1970 Gornall, Gill: 1976 Gough, (Cobham) Catherine: 1984 Graham, (Portal) Mary: 1957 Graham, Mark: 1982 Graves, Lucia: 1962 Green, Alistair: 2012 Greenhalgh, (Stott) Rosie: 1971 Greig, Victoria: 1992 Griffiths, Robert: 2003 Grocock, Anne: 1965 Groom, (Withington) Carola: 1977 Grout, (Berkeley) Anne: 1971 Growcott, Simon: 1986 Gruffydd Jones, (Woodhall) Maureen: 1959 Grundy, (Rich) Jill: 1962 Gurney, (Hopkins) Karen: 1989 Hadwin, Julie: 1976 Haile, (Tovey) Helen: 1965 Haiselden, Jon: 2014 Halim, Liza: 1981 Hall, (Wills) Caroline: 1966 Halls, (Pett) Judy: 1967 Hammett, Jack: 2008 Hancock, (Knox) Janet: 1967 Hanes, (Foster) Kathy: 1965 Hardy, (Speller) Janet: 1958 Harger, Judith: 1976 Haria, Rushabh: 2013 Harman, (Bridgeman) Erica: 1952 Harris, (Telfer) Judy: 1964 Harrison, Carol: 1975 Hart, Rachel: 1987 Hartley, Liane: 1996 Hartman, (Carter) Pauline: 1951 Harvey, Judith: 1965 Hatfield, (Bratton) Penny: 1971 Hawker, Daniel: 1991 Hayman, (Croly) Janet: 1958 Hazell, (Littlewood) Maureen: 1971 Hazlewood, (Hazelwood) Judith: 1978 Heavey, Anne: 2006 Helm, (Wales) Sue: 1965	Henderson, Oliver: 2008 Hennessy, Jo: 1989 Hensman, (Hawley) Barbara: 1956 Herring, (Weeks) Jane: 1986 Hewitt, (Rogerson) Paula: 1955 High, (Martin) Lucy: 2004 Hill, (Davies) Valerie: 1971 Hobbs, (Galani) Efrosyni: 1977 Hodgkinson, Ruth: 2007 Hodgson, (Giles) Dawn: 1952 Hogg, (Cathie) Anne: 1957 Holland, Richard: 2008 Holland, (Tracy) Philippa: 1968 Holme, (Simon) Philippa: 1984 Home, Anna: 1956 Horsley, Alexander: 1995 Houlding, Mark: 1996 Howard, Andrew: 1987 Hudson, Julie: 1975 Huelin, Toby: 2011 Huggard, Patrick: 1994 Hughes, Rosaleen: 1975 Hughes, (Goldsmith) Katy: 1980 Hughes, (Marshall) Susan: 1970 Hughes-Stanton, Penelope: 1973 Hunt, (Siddell) Ann: 1963 Hurry, (Williams) Olwen: 1977 Hurst, Kathy: 1996 Hutchison, (Keegan) Ruth: 1972 Huxley-Khng, Jane: 2008 Hyde, Caroline: 1988 Ingram, Jackie: 1976 Innes, Duncan: 1992 Innes-Ker, Duncan: 1995 Irving, Paul: 2000 Isaac, Daniel: 1987 Isard, (Mccloghry) Nicky: 1978 Jack, Susan: 1970 Jacobs, (Watson) Ruth: 2004 Jacobus, Laura: 1976 James, (Lucas) Cherry: 1977 Jefferson, (Glees) Ann: 1967 Jenkins, (Bannister) Catherine: 1981 Jensen, Kristin: 1997 Jessiman, (Smith) Maureen: 1953 Johnson, (Davies) Rhiannon: 1987 Jones, (Farror) Shelagh: 1966 Jones, Gareth: 2001 Jones, Madeline: 1949 Jones, Scott: 2010 Julian, (Whitworth) Celia: 1964	Kaier, Anne: 1967 Karow, Julia: 1993 Kavanagh, (Harries) Shirley: 1968 Keegan, Rachel: 1967 Kenna, (Hamilton) Stephanie: 1968 Kennedy, Ian: 1979 Kent, Simon: 1996 Kenwick, Patricia: 1958 Keohane, (Overholser) Nannerl: 1961 Key, Adam: 1984 Khaliq, Alishba: 2010 Khawaja, Nasir: 1991 Killeen, (Fenton) Louise: 1992 Killick, (Mason) Rachel: 1961 King, Emma: 2008 King, Rosanna: 1970 King, (Wheeler) Rosemary: 1951 King, Helen: 1983 Kingston, Charles: 1993 Kisanga, (Taylor) Carly: 2002 Klouda, (Iyengar) Lekha: 1968 Knowles, (Davis) Jane: 1957 Kuenssberg, (Robertson) Sally: 1961 Kuetterer-Lang, Hannah: 2006 Kurz, Eva: 1983 Lally, Jagjeet: 2004 Lambert, Anne: 1974 Lambley, (Booth) Janet: 1966 Landor, Gina: 1975 Lanning, (Creek) Rosemary: 1968 Large, (Moore) Pip: 1979 Latto, Andrew: 1980 Laughton, Stephen: 1989 Lawless, (Freeston) Sally: 1971 Lawrence, Mark: 1986 Lear, Brooke: 2016 Leckie, (O'Donnell) Elizabeth: 1981 Lee, Edward: 2001 Lee, Judy: 1966 Lee Williams, (Williams) Michael: 1999 Legros, Victor: 2010 Leighton, Monica: 1970 Lessing, Paul: 2008 Lewis, (Glazebrook) Jane: 1973 Lewis, (Hughes) Pauline: 1956 Lewis, (Morton) Gillian: 1954 Lindblom, (Jackson) Fiona: 1985 Lipscomb, Nick: 1991 Little, Tamasin: 1978 Littlewood, Barbara: 1960 Littlewood, (Baxter) Joan: 1951	Lloyd, (Chanter) Catherine: 1977 Lloyd, (Wallace) Sarah: 1975 Lloyd-Morgan, Ceridwen: 1970 Lockton, Tom: 2007 Loughlin-Chow, (Loughlin) Clare: 1991 Loveridge, (Knight) Fiona: 1981 Lowe, Andrew: 2006 Lumley, Margaret: 1965 Mace, Anne: 1962 MacLennan, (Cutter) Helen: 1957 Madden, (Strawson) Nicky: 1974 Mahmood, Uzma: 2003 Makin, (Winchurch) Margaret: 1952 Malde, Sneha: 1999 Man, Bernard: 1995 Mandelli, Giorgio: 1995 Mansfield, Ben: 2005 Mantle, (Gulliford) Wendy: 1957 Marett, Karen: 1967 Marett, Richard: 1991 Marlow, (Evans) Iris: 1953 Marlow, Julia: 2001 Marsack, (Airlie) Robyn: 1973 Martin, (Pearce) Mary: 1971 Martin, (Sandle) Patricia: 1948 Martindale, (Berry) Rebekah: 2004 Mather, Christopher: 1998 Maude, Gilly: 1972 Maxim, Jon: 1996 McBain, Niall: 1986 McCracken, (Chavasse) Gabrielle: 1954 McDowall, Alex: 1992 McGuinness, Catherine: 1978 McIntyre, Elizabeth: 1972 McKinnon, Christine: 1976 McMaster, (Fazan) Juliet: 1956 Micklem, Judith: 1978 Micklem, Ros: 1975 Mill, Cherry: 1981 Miller, Ian: 1983 Milner, Liam: 2008 Milton, (Ward) Irene: 1948 Minikin, (Kennedy) Gillian: 1971 Mole, (Atkinson) Nuala: 1964 Monaghan, Craig: 2006 Montefiore, (Griffiths) Anne: 1972 Moore, (Slocombe) Anne: 1955 Moore, Matthew: 1992 Moore, Susan: 1964 Moran, Susan: 1974 Moreton, (Stone) Jane: 1957	Morgan, (Egan) Clare: 1973 Morris, (Cope) Susan: 1973 Morrison, (Hammond) Penny: 1966 Morrow, (Southon) Dan: 1997 Moss, (Flowerdew) Barbara: 1963 Moss, Celia: 1969 Moss, Simon: 2013 Moughton, (Parr) Elizabeth: 1951 Mueller, Kai: 2008 Mullen, Anne: 1988 Murdin, (Milburn) Lesley: 1960 Mussai, Francis: 1998 Nanji, Sabrina: 2004 Naqvi, Mohammed: 2003 Nash, Emily: 1997 Nasmyth, (Mieszkis) Lalik: 1971 Neale, (Lunghi) Xanthe: 1978 Nentwich, Hilke: 1991 Neville, (Clark) Susan: 1960 Nevin, William: 1994 Newlands, (Raworth) Liz: 1960 Nicholson, Paul: 1992 Nisbet, Isabel: 1972 Nosworthy, Tim: 1988 O'Brien, Sue: 1977 Ocampo Herrera, Ernesto: 2015 Ogilvie, (Milne) Moira: 1965 O'Grady, Claire-Marie: 1986 O'Mahony, Andrew: 1992 Onslow, (Owen) Jane: 1972 Opotowsky, Stuart: 2001 Ormerod, (Tudor Hart) Penny: 1972 Orr, Frank: 1984 Osborne, Marian: 1949 Osborne, (Billen) Stephanie: 1981 Osborne, (Neal) Joelle: 1971 O'Sullivan, Helen: 1969 O'Toole, Thomas: 2005 Ough, (Payne) Alison: 1979 Overend, (Old) Sarah: 1978 Ovey, Elizabeth: 1974 Owen, Catherine: 1975 Owen, (Lytton) Stephanie: 1969 Packer, (Sellick) Sally: 1964 Padfield, (Helme) Nicky: 1973 Palmer, (Allum) Marilyn: 1962 Paramour, Alexandra: 2011 Park, Sophie: 2019 Parker, (Russell) Gillian: 1974 Parrott, Daniel: 2011 Patel, Alpesh: 1995	Patel, Hiten: 2003 Patel, Priyen: 1998 Patel, Sheena: 2005 Paton, (Hodgkinson) Anne: 1955 Paton, (Parfitt) Sara: 1960 Patterson, (Wilson) Hazel: 1966 Paul, (Driver) Anne: 1971 Paule, Steve: 2008 Payne, Martin: 1989 Peagram, (Jackson) Christine: 1962 Peirce, (Hankinson) Margaret: 1955 Pendry, (Gard) Pat: 1966 Perrett, (Parsons) Isabelle: 1984 Perrin, Julie: 1986 Perry, (Hudson) Penny: 1965 Perthen, Joanna: 1994 Peter, Kai: 1994 Phillips, (Palmer) Wendy: 1977 Phillips, Susie: 1978 Phillips, (Gray) Emma: 1981 Pickersgill Draper, (Pickersgill) Mary: 1952 Pitt, (Hall) Imogen: 1995 Pollinger, Edmund: 1983 Pollitt, Graham: 1986 Pomfret, (Pearson) Carole: 1979 Porrer, (Dunkerley) Sheila: 1963 Powell, (Lim) Chloe: 2007 Powell, Helen: 1956 Powell, Matthew: 2007 Price, (Fox) Meg: 1967 Price, (Meredith) Lucy: 2005 Pritchard, (Breaks) Amanda: 1994 Probert, Rebecca: 1991 Quillfeldt, (Raw) Carolyn: 1967 Rabheru, (Pathak) Sarika: 2003 Radcliffe, Rosemary: 1963 Rae-Smith, (Perkins) Melanie: 1974 Raine, Peter: 1991 Ramsden, Isobel: 2005 Rawle, Frances: 1976 Reed, Martha: 2013 Reid, (Massey) Su: 1961 Revill, (Radford) Ann: 1955 Reynish, (Anderson) Hilary: 1958 Reynolds, (Morton) Gillian: 1954 Rhys, (Plumbe) Leah: 1961 Richards, (Machin) Gillian: 1976 Richards, (Wardle) Alison: 1973 Roberts, James: 1987 Roberts, (Stiff) Nicholas: 1980 Roberts, David: 1983
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Robertson, Valerie: 1955
Robin, Sophie: 2009
Robinson, (Cast) Annabel: 1960
Robinson, (Neal) Patricia: 1958
Robinson, (Sutton) Jill: 1967
Robinson, Crispin: 1979
Rose, Keith: 1981
Rowswell, Ann: 1974
Royal, David: 2007
Roydon, Karen: 1995
Rudolph, Dana: 1988
Ruff, Alexander: 2013
Rumford, (Margrim) Kay: 1983
Russell, (Gear) Moya: 1979
Rutter, Mary: 1956
Sainsbury, (Burrows) Gillian: 1950
Sanderson, Andy: 1986
Sargeant, Tom: 1996
Saunders, (Roper Power) Claire: 1960
Saxton, Helen: 1980
Scholz, Anna: 2005
Scott, Andrew: 1986
Scott, Liz: 1986
Scott, (Groves) Miriam: 1958
Scroop, Daniel: 1992
Seaton, Katharine: 1997
Seligman, Henrietta: 2006
Senechal, (Gayford) Anne: 1981
Sensen, Oliver: 1995
Setchim, (Andrews) Elizabeth: 1973
Seymour-Richards, (Seymour) Carol: 1963
Shah, Rehan: 2014
Shail, Robin: 1983
Shakoor, Sameena: 1980
Shales, Dominic: 1988
Shao, Robin: 2004
Shapiro, Leonid: 1991
Shaw, (Haigh) Clare: 1983
Sheather, (Hall) Judith: 1962
Shelley, Felicity: 2006
Shenton, Joan: 1961
Shepherd, (Cullingford) Chris: 1970
Sheppard, (Raphael) Anne: 1969
Shipman, Shirley: 2001
Shipp, (Nightingale) Phillida: 1961
Simon, (Holmes) Jane: 1973
Skelton, Judy: 1965
Skottowe, (Thomas) Elizabeth: 1961
Slater, Shane: 1990
Smith, Lizzie: 1977
Smith, Susan: 2006

Sobel, (Cowen) Leanne: 1999
Sondheimer, (Hughes) Philippa: 1969
South, (Hallett) Vivien: 1964
Speake, (Workman) Lucy: 1988
Spinks, (Wallis) Leila: 1964
Stacey, Martin: 1980
Staempfli, William: 2005
Stainer, Mike: 1979
Stark, Steve: 1994
Stawpert, (Hulme) Amelia: 2000
Stoddart, (Devereux) Frances: 1955
Stoker, (Vaughan) Laura: 2000
Stone, (Strauss) Frieda: 1954
Stone, Chris: 1998
Stone, Edward: 1983
Storer, Andrew: 1983
Stratford, Owen: 1998
Street, Michael: 1986
Stringer, Judith: 1953
Sumner, (Palmer) Gill: 1958
Suterwalla, Azeem: 1996
Swann, Simon: 1989
Sword, (Boyle) Beatrice: 1949
Sykes, Helen: 1975
Tao, Bernard: 2008
Taplin, (Canning) Angela: 1974
Tapson, James: 1998
Tate, (Hardy) Valerie: 1960
Taub, Andrew: 2010
Taylor, Philip: 1985
Taylor, (Moses) Karin: 1968
Taylor, (Nelsey) Pamela: 1968
Taylor, Chris: 1982
Taylor, Eleanor: 2008
Taylor-Terlecka, Nina: 1961
Thomas, Roy: 1981
Thomas, (Covington) Anne: 1974
Thomas, (Parry) Kathleen: 1971
Thomas, Carla: 2008
Timpson, (Still) Julia: 1993
Tinsley, Mark: 1988
Titcomb, Lesley: 1980
Tjoa, (Chinn) Carole: 1965
Tone, Keiko: 2000
Tonkyn, (McNeice) Shelagh: 1970
Tordoff, Benjamin: 1998
Tovey, (Williams) Maureen: 1973
Trew, Patrick: 1988
Tuck, (Pye) Dinah: 1964
Tucker, Sam: 2007
Turner, (Chang) Mei Lin: 1963

Turner, (Griffiths) Clare: 1986
Tytarenko, Margaryta: 2022
Unwin, (Steven) Monica: 1951
Uttley, Mark: 2010
Valente Lopes Dias, Isabel: 1975
Valentine, Amanda: 1983
Van Heyningen, Joanna: 1964
Varley, (Stephenson) Gwendolen: 1956
Vassiliou, Evelthon: 1991
Vernon, (McArdle) Sarah: 1979
Verrall, (Silvester) Peggy: 1959
Viala, (Lewis) Katharine: 1990
Vodden, Debbie: 1974
von Nolcken, Christina: 1968
Waddington, (Rosser) Lindsey: 1968
Wagner, Rosemary: 1964
Waites, Daniel: 1998
Wan, Sheila: 1989
Warren, Clare: 1996
Warren, Nicky: 1990
Wates, Julia: 1981
Welch, Martin: 1985
Weller, (Williams) Isobel: 1977
West, Colin: 1994
Wharton, (McCloskey) Barbara: 1954
Wheare, Julia: 1977
Wheater, (Jones) Isabella: 1974
Whitby, (Field) Joy: 1949
White, (Pippin) Ailsa: 1962
White, Clare: 1990
Whiteley, (Daymond) Sarah: 1966
Wight, Greg: 2000
Wightwick, (Lombard) Helen: 1979
Wilcox, (Williams) Joanne: 1981
Wiles, Michael: 1996
Wilkinson, (Spatchurst) Susan: 1970
Williams, Edmund: 1981
Williams, Mark: 1997
Williams, Paul: 1987
Williams, (Ferguson) Fiona: 1962
Williams, (Parry) Kate: 1986
Williams, Anne: 1980
Williams, Charlotte: 1997
Williams, Mary: 1972
Williamson, (Hodson) Valerie: 1960
Wilson, (Hay) Lindsay: 1969
Wilson, (Latham) Kate: 1984
Wilson, (Szczepanik) Barbara: 1965
Winter, Liz: 1975
Witter, Mark: 2000
Wood, (Chatt) Sara: 1958

Wood, (Gunning) Maureen: 1952
Woodhouse, Sally: 2012
Woolfson, Deborah: 2005
Wordsworth Yates, Alan: 2008
Wright, Ellen: 1977
Wright, Nicholas: 1994
Wyatt, Paul: 1995
Wyatt, Nicholas: 2003
Wylie, Fiona: 1967
Yates, (Crawshaw) Sue: 1967
Yip, Tim: 1989
Yu, Jacob: 2016
Zhang, James: 2024

Non-Alumnae Friends

Aoki, Sunao
Austin, Michel
Barnett, Laura
Black, Ian
Brittan, Yvonne
Cadwallader, Jim
Dawson, Elizabeth
Drummond, Edwin
Ellis, Cliff
Foard, Christine
Ford, John
Gardam, Tim
Harper, Tom
Henderson, Jane
Keymer, Tom
Kuspisz, Jackie
Leong, Sin-Hong
Luzzatto, Alexandra
McCall, Marsh
Mclvor, Malcolm
Olney, Kiri-Ann
Pyle, David
Rabinowitz, Lisa
Richards, Paul
Shelley, Sue
Smith, Suzanne
Taylor, Barry
Wallace, Louise
Walters, Richard
Walton, Ivan
Weidenfeld, Annabelle
Wood, John

Organisations and Charities

Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

COSARAF Charitable Foundation
Danson Foundation
Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development
Foundation
PAM Foundation
SAS Cambridge Branch
SAS Midlands Branch
SAS South of England Branch
T W Roberts Trust
The Draper's Company
Tsuzuki University

Legacy Gifts

Bannister (Taylor), Jean: 1958
Barry (Morris), Elaine: 1951
Boggis, Margaret: 1940
Cramp, Rosemary: 1947
Donald, Margaret: 1950
Hare, Diane: 1967
Kerslake, Celia: 1968
Kirk (Swindells), Ann: 1956
Livingstone, Elizabeth: 1948
Newson (Dawson), Janet: 1954
Ogilvie (Milne), Moira: 1965
Orsten, Elisabeth: 1953
Paton (Hodgkinson), Anne: 1955
Pattisson, John: 1952
Price (Berridge), Dorothy: 1947
Rossotti (Marsh), Hazel: 1948
Silvers, Margaret: 1945
Strawson, Ann: 1946
Taylor, Rosemary: 1951
Vincent, Louise: 1968

Plumer Society

Alphey, Nina: 2005
Austin, Michel
Baker, (Gibbon) Ruth: 1955
Barnes, (Gould) Amanda: 1979
Barringer, Terry: 1974
Beeby, Valerie: 1952
Belden, Hilary: 1966
Bennett, Eric
Bennett, (Thomason) Phyllis: 1974
Biggs, (Perrin) Lynn: 1972
Bone, (Lawrence) Jennifer: 1959
Boyde, Susan: 1957
Beward, Christopher: 1991
Brooking-Bryant, (Walton) Audrey: 1953
Broomhead, (Lemon) Christine: 1960
Bryson, (McGregor) Barrie: 1991

Burton, (Heveningham-Pughe) Frances: 1960
Burton, Lauren: 2016
Burt, (Waite) Audrey: 1942
Bush, (Hainton) Julia: 1967
Bynoe, (Robinson) Geraldine: 1969
Carasso, Helen: 1976
Chadd, Linda: 1967
Chesterfield, Jane: 1977
Chleboun, (Wyvill) Carol: 1974
Chow, Martin: 1994
Collard, (Dunk) Jane: 1977
Colling, Mike: 1979
Coo, (Spink) Kathryn: 1972
Cox, (Ware) Frances: 1968
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
Faulkner, Stuart: 1991
Ferro, Stephanie: 1987
Fisher, (Hibbard) Sophia: 1966
Fleming, (Newman) Joan: 1957
Foster, Tony: 1980
Fox, Clemency: 1956
Gardam, Tim
Gent, Lizzie: 1976
Grange, (Cross) Natasha: 1982
Greenway, (Denerley) Ann: 1959
Grocock, Anne: 1965
Halcrow, Elizabeth: 1943
Hamilton, (Pacey-Day) Susan: 1965
Hampton, Kate: 1977
Harrison, (Greggain) Vicky: 1961
Hatfield, (Bratton) Penny: 1971
Hensman, (Hawley) Barbara: 1956
High, (Martin) Lucy: 2004
Hill, (Davies) Valerie: 1971
Hilton, Catherine: 1965
Home, Anna: 1956
Hudson, Julie: 1975
Hunt, (Siddell) Ann: 1963
Huzzey, Clem: 1963
Huzzey, Christine:
Hyde, Caroline: 1988
Ingram, Jackie: 1976
Jack, Susan: 1970

Thank you

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
Khursandi, (Strange) Di: 1960
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
le Page, (Inge) Sue: 1973
Leckie, (O'Donnell) Elizabeth: 1981
Lewis, Keri: 1947
Lintott, (Stone) Dinah: 1955
Loughlin-Chow, (Loughlin) Clare: 1991
Lygo, Martin: 1979
Lynch, Fionnuala: 1989
Mann, Paul: 1988
Martin, (Pearce) Mary: 1971
Mason, (Childe) Rosemary: 1958
Massey, (Glaser) Lili: 1967
McCracken, (Chavasse) Gabrielle: 1954
McDonnell, (Phillips) Marie-Louise: 1971
Minford, (Tomlinson) Louise: 1981

Moore, (Slocombe) Anne: 1955
Mottershead, (Roberts) Ann: 1977
Moughton, (Parr) Elizabeth: 1951
Munro, Rob: 1982
Murdin, (Milburn) Lesley: 1960
Nasmyth, (Mieszkis) Lalik: 1971
Nelson, Graham: 1990
Newlands, (Raworth) Liz: 1960
Newman, Sarah: 1952
Newton, (Little) Clare: 1970
Nixon, Gill:
O'Brien, Sue: 1977
O'Sullivan, Helen: 1969
Packer, (Sellick) Sally: 1964
Palmer, (Allum) Marilyn: 1962
Paul, Helen: 1994
Peacock, (Forrester) Margaret: 1952
Penwarden, (Wright) Ruth: 1953
Pickersgill Draper, (Pickersgill) Mary: 1952
Pickles, (Wilson) Jane: 1953
Pomfret, (Pearson) Carole: 1979
Preston, (Haygarth) Barbara: 1957
Price, (Fox) Meg: 1967
Pritchard, Heather: 1975
Radcliffe, Rosemary: 1963
Regent, Petra: 1975
Revill, (Radford) Ann: 1955
Richards, (Machin) Gillian: 1976
Rutter, Jill: 1978
Sainsbury, (Davies) Audrey: 1947
Salisbury, (Jones) Elisabeth: 1956

Secker Walker, (Lea) Lorna: 1952
Sheather, (Hall) Judith: 1962
Shore, (Smith) Gill: 1955
Simon, (Holmes) Jane: 1973
Skelton, Judy: 1965
Smith, David: 1974
Stanton, (Beech) Mandy: 1981
Stoddart, (Devereux) Frances: 1955
Swinburne, (Holmstrom) Monica: 1954
Thakurdas, Yva: 1977
Thirlwell, (Goldman) Angela: 1966
Thomas, Stella-Maria: 1977
Thompson, Jean: 1942
Thorpe, Patty: 1973
Tindall-Shepherd, (Dunn) Gwen: 1963
Tjoa, (Chinn) Carole: 1965
Tricker, (Poole) Marilyn: 1964
Tuck, (Pye) Dinah: 1964
Tuckwell, (Bacon) Margaret: 1949
Turner, (Griffiths) Clare: 1986
Twamley, Delia
Venner, (Malet) Zenobia: 1961
Wagner, Rosemary: 1964
Whitby, (Lodge) Mary: 1970
Whitby, (Field) Joy: 1949
William-Powlett, (Silk) Judith: 1960
Wood, (Russell) Margaret: 1954
Wright, Lynne: 1970
Wylie, Fiona: 1967
Yamauchi, (Myers) Mara: 1992
Yates, (Crawshaw) Sue: 1967