



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



The Ship

2025 – 2026

St Anne's College Record 2025 – 2026 • Number 115 • Annual Publication of the St Anne's Society



St Anne's College Record 2025-2026

Number 115 Annual Publication of
the St Anne's Society
(formerly known as the Association of
Senior Members)

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Front, back and inside covers:

Front and inside front taken during
the reopening of Bevington Road,
2026, © Edmund Blok

Inside back cover: Views from
Bevington Road in the 1990s

Back Cover: Students studying in 2
Bevington Road, 1960s

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From the Editor

ANGELA HARRISON

Welcome to this the 115th annual edition of The Ship. The magazine was first published in 1911, as a record of the academic year 1910-11. Although it would be some time before women were allowed to get a degree from Oxford and even longer before St. Anne's was incorporated into the university, the foundations for women's higher education in Oxford had by this time been firmly laid, by the founders of St Anne's and others.

I'm sure many of us feel the threads of history and the echo of those early pioneers as we walk through Hartland House, across the modern and beautiful quad and through the lovely gardens, or remember doing so. There's something about the idea of the purposefulness, dedication and stoicism of the first people to study and teach at the college, or to champion universal education, that draws us in and binds us.

Fellows, students, alumnae, plus all staff and supporters of St Anne's and its pioneering spirit are entwined in the college's history and are part of what is helping it to grow and move forward, sharing knowledge and opportunity, doing some good in the world, and helping others to do the same.

It's with this spirit of gratitude and slight awe that I'm honoured to guest-edit The Ship this year, following the sad passing of Judith Vidal-Hall (Bunting, 1957), who edited the magazine with skill and verve for many years. Judith is fondly remembered in this edition in a tribute from Penelope Farmer. Her memorial was held in college in April 2026 as we celebrated the renaming of Foyer B in her honour: henceforth, Vidal Hall.

As a reader of The Ship since getting my first copy after I graduated in 1986, I value the way it connects everyone

involved with the college, past and present, fostering a sense of community; the way it is current, reflecting some of what happens in the world and the ways St Anne's students, staff and graduates are involved with or impacted by this, including through vital research or work. The magazine is a publication of the St Anne's Society (which was also the name of the college between 1942 and 1952, before we got university status), and everyone is automatically made a member of it once they matriculate. There's a committee of volunteers, who help to plan and co-ordinate events, and the doors to this are very much open to others who would like to get involved. There's a plan to get the society's events listed on the college website. The group is considering what form it should take in future years and it is a good time to get involved, have your say and help it continue to flourish and build communities.

For this edition, as in all years, the St Anne's Society is indebted to the college, which funds The Ship and does much of the work involved in preparing it, under the expert leadership of co-editor Dr Jay Gilbert, Senior Communications Manager (and author).

Dive in now or at your leisure to read about some of the brilliant work and developments going on in St Anne's; the interests, expertise or exploits of staff, students and alumnae and the lives and achievements of some of those who have sadly left us.

Our students, graduates and supporters are spread around the world and are witness to the worrying and sometimes horrifying events and conflicts that unfold and are relayed instantly to our phones, TVs and airwaves. As a Geographer at heart, I notice the frightening impact of human-accelerated climate change, in

temperature records being broken, raging wildfires and melting ice-caps, as well as the attempts to curb them.

The Ship is here to reflect and reinforce the community which is St Anne's, as well as college news and life, and the interests and expertise of those connected to it. It's also here to entertain and spark interest and reflection.

Giving us lift-off in the wide-ranging Features section, if you'll pardon the pun, is a vivid account of Nasa's historic mission to the moon this year, from BBC Science Editor and St Anne's graduate Rebecca Morelle. Her authentic, excited reaction to the launch went viral and no doubt helped to bring it alive for millions of people.

You will also hear from alumnus Dr April Elisabeth Pawar, who with two other St Anne's students founded a group dedicated to promoting the craft of writing, across Town and Gown in Oxford. Pictures from their events include one of a talk by celebrated writer Elif Shafak, who is an Honorary Fellow of St Anne's. Dr Pawar holds a hand (or maybe a pen or a keyboard), up against the proliferation of AI "writing". As previous expert contributors to The Ship have discussed in recent years, AI is bringing much progress but also pitfalls, and costs.

Also featured in this edition is news of the official re-opening of the Bevington Road houses by the university's Chancellor, Lord Hague, after their stunning renovation. Lord Hague praised the college's ambition and achievement in delivering the £14.6 million project, saying it was part of the college's "confident and strong future". He commended Principal Helen

King for her leadership and spoke of the college's historic role in advancing women's education.

It is wonderful to read an account of a return to the regenerated Bev Road by Dr Maureen Woodhall, with several generations of her family, for a family reunion and celebration sleepover, and to hear her memories of life in the buildings and of being taught Philosophy by the academic and novelist Iris Murdoch in the early 1960s.

Inside this edition, you will also find the engaging regular sections drawing on the lives, achievements and books of alumnae, staff and others connected with the college.

We are indebted to the librarian Clare White, the Development Office, the presidents of the MCR and the JCR, the various branches of the St Anne's Society, and to all guest writers and contributors for their thoughtful, illuminating and entertaining updates. There would be no Ship without all of these contributions. If you have an idea for something you would like to see featured next year, please get in touch with the Development Office. If you are attending this year's Gaudy in September and want to learn more about the St Anne's Society or to get involved with it, consider coming along to the Annual General Meeting on the Saturday.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Ship and hearing about some of the achievements, stories and opinions of some of those connected to the college, now woven, as you are, into its fabric and community.

Angela Harrison (Martin, 1983).

Changes Afoot in Oxford

HELEN KING

I like to imagine that when *The Ship* arrives in your inbox or through your letterbox, it sparks a little joy, perhaps bittersweet memories of your past youth and days at St Anne's, a sense of gratitude towards those who gave you that opportunity, pride in your achievements since, and curiosity about what might be happening in College now. Or maybe I am just transposing onto you all the emotions *The Ship's* arrival used to provoke in me when I received my alumna copy at my former home in Chester. Regardless, you are reading this so you have at least been inspired enough to open its digital or hard copy cover!

This year, however, *The Ship* may feel a little different under a new editor (with massive thanks to Angela Harrison (Geography, 1983) who is bringing her huge professional skills and personal talents to the role). Inevitably, this historic magazine will never be exactly as it was under Judith Vidal-Hall's long editorship. Please do read about her fascinating life at page 21. St Anne's events will not be the same without her either: her infectious warmth, colourful language, and norm-challenging behaviour – she certainly kept this Principal on her toes, although I was always delighted to see her and in awe of her energy and curiosity about the world. We managed never to fall out although I did, on occasion, have to take her by the hand and escort her out of the Dining Hall so she could continue to vape while we chatted in the quad.

Judith's life and service to the St Anne's Society and College have been celebrated with a well-attended memorial event in the newly named 'Vidal Hall' (formerly the very uninspiringly titled Foyer B). I like to think that Judith would have enjoyed the wordplay, although I am also confident that she would

have told me to "F*** off!" with a broad grin on her face, had I been able to tell her of the plan.

This ability to move forward, honouring the legacy of those who came before us, adapting to changed circumstances, seizing new opportunities, not being afraid of change or doing things differently, is woven into the history and ethos of St Anne's. I often feel incredibly fortunate that this College does not feel hidebound or constrained by past traditions, and that the pragmatism and adaptability of our Founders is one of the greatest gifts they left us with. Our motto of 'Purposefully and Boldly' feels very fitting: not change for change's sake, but purposeful change undertaken boldly.

So in recent years, the College has been unique or in the vanguard in a whole host of ways: the first Oxbridge 'All Steinway School'; our life changing Internship programmes; COSARAF and Tikvah Scholarships; a founding College of the Astrophoria Foundation Year; our 'Aim for Oxford' programme, Supercurricular Club and other outreach activities; the Hong Kong and online summer schools; our Centre for Personalised Medicine (CPM) and Oxford Centre of Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT) research centres; the 'Be Well, Do Well' initiative; the first College Community and Giving Week; Low Carbon Mondays; apprenticeships and leadership training programmes for staff; the list goes on... And there is more to look forward to, including a renovation of 58/60 Woodstock Road and the honour of hosting the inaugural Anglo-Japanese Academic Alliance event jointly with the Uehiro Oxford Institute in November 2026.

And the University of Oxford is, perhaps more slowly, changing too. Teaching and assessment methods are adapting to

increasingly diverse student needs, and to the technology that will undoubtedly be part of their future working lives – although this is still a journey we are all trying to make sense of. The University is also shifting geographically. More of its research and clinical teaching facilities are outside the city centre, with ambitious capital plans for more developments to attract and accommodate the very best academic and entrepreneurial researchers to the region. Within the city centre (or, as it is known, ‘down the hill’ – referring to Marston hill) the centre of gravity has shifted too, sensibly moving ever closer to St Anne’s. We are increasingly well placed for those students who like a lie-in and to comfortably make it to 9am lectures in a host of science and humanities subjects. If you are in Oxford, I really encourage you to visit the new Life and Mind Building (for Psychology and Biology) on South Parks Road and to walk through the Radcliffe Quarter and visit the new Schwarzman Humanities Centre. It is open to the public and I am, in fact, writing this piece sat in the foyer with an iced coffee at my side. We brought all our non-academic staff here at the start of Trinity Term for a fascinating tour of their facilities and you may well want to look at their cultural programme of events (<https://www.schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk/whats-on>), or want to visit the Bate Collection of Historical Musical Instruments (free on a Monday or Thursday afternoon). If you are visiting Oxford then please do call into College, and if you’re travelling a distance do see if we have a room available for you to stay overnight, with breakfast in the

morning in the Dining Hall (<https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/conferences-bb/accommodation/book-b-b/>).

In fact, if the arrival of *The Ship* has inspired you to visit Oxford to see the changes for yourself then an excellent opportunity to do so is the annual September Gaudy (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-annes-gaudy-part-of-the-university-of-oxfords-alumni-weekend-tickets-1985799595045?aff=oddtcreator>), where you will receive a warm welcome at St Anne’s and have access to a host of events. This year we have taken the arts as our theme, with a number of recitals from international and St Anne’s musicians, a Q&A with alumna and Sunday Times Bestselling Author, Samantha Shannon, and a talk and Q&A with Fellow and Turner Prize winning artist, Jesse Darling. Plus, of course, lots of opportunities to enjoy the College’s hospitality and meet other alumnae, staff and me. I hope to see you there!

In an uncertain world, the one certainty we have is that things will not stay the same. As part of the oldest English speaking University in the world, as we approach our 150 year anniversary, St Anne’s will continue to change, as it seeks not just to adapt to external challenges, but to anticipate and understand the world we are now in, and change it for the better. And in embracing purposeful change the College honours its history and all those who made St Anne’s what it is today.

St Anne's College Celebrates Reopening of Bevington Road Houses

JAY GILBERT

St Anne's College celebrates reopening of Bevington Road houses with the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, The Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond CVO

St Anne's has this year celebrated a milestone occasion: the official reopening of its historic Bevington Road houses following a major £14.6 million regeneration project -- our most ambitious capital project to date.

The occasion was marked by a special event on Friday 17 April, attended by donors, alumnae, students, Fellows and project partners, and led by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Hague, who formally reopened the buildings.

The day provided an opportunity not only to showcase the transformed houses -- affectionately known as "the Bevs" -- but also to thank the many individuals and organisations whose generosity and commitment made the project possible.

Originally built between 1867 and 1869, the ten Victorian houses have been part



Lord Hague and Principal Helen King before the ribbon-cutting ceremony

of St Anne's since the 1950s and have been home to generations of students. The recent works have carefully preserved their character while significantly improving the quality, sustainability and accessibility of the accommodation.

The regeneration has increased the number of student rooms from 70 to

82, including 42 en-suite rooms, while ensuring that the houses remain welcoming, domestic spaces that foster community.

Working within the constraints of the North Oxford Conservation Area, the project focused on creative retrofit rather than redevelopment

-- retaining the historic fabric while adapting the buildings for modern student life.

Designed by award-winning architects Assemble, the project demonstrates what can be achieved through thoughtful and innovative refurbishment of historic buildings.

The works have reduced operational energy demand by around 80% and significantly lowered reliance on fossil fuels, forming part of the College's wider decarbonisation plans.

Holly Briggs, founding partner of Assemble, said:

"It has been a privilege to work closely with St Anne's College...to create a 'home from home' for the college community for generations to come."

Mathew Leung, also a founding partner, added:

"The project demonstrates both a careful and creative approach to deep retrofit... especially relevant given the age of the UK's residential building stock."

The reopening event began with a reception for major donors and concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Lord Hague and Principal Helen King in the newly renamed Mary Pickersgill Draper Quad -- bathed in spring sunshine.

Guests then toured the houses, experiencing first-hand the balance between historic character and contemporary design.

Earlier in the day, a celebratory lunch in Hall -- featuring a specially curated, historically inspired menu by Head Chef Ben Gibbons -- brought together the College community. The meal, drawing on the history of Bevington Road and its residents, formed the backdrop to a series of speeches reflecting on the significance of the project.

Speakers included Principal Helen King, alumna and donor Irene Dorner, Professor Sneha Malde, and current students, highlighting the continuity of experience across generations.

In his address, Lord Hague reflected on the importance of preserving Oxford's historic environment while adapting it for the future, and praised the College's ambition and achievement in delivering the project. Referencing the singular history of St Anne's College as a place



Drinks reception on the quad

Bevington Road Regenerated

to enable women to access higher education – as well as its forthcoming milestone 150th anniversary – Lord Hague said:

“The Bevington Road reopening is part of a confident and strong future for St Anne’s in which we all have a shared responsibility. I look forward as your

Chancellor to playing my part in that future for this College.”

The reopening of the Bevington Road houses marks a major milestone for St Anne’s as it continues to develop its estate to better support its students and academic mission.

As the College approaches its 150th anniversary in 2029, the project stands as a powerful symbol of its commitment to honouring its past while investing in its future -- ensuring that St Anne’s remains a place of opportunity, community and intellectual vitality for generations to come.

Jay Gilbert,
Senior Communications Manager



A view of the celebratory lunch from High Table

A Memorable Family Reunion at Bevington Road

MAUREEN GRUFFUDD

Last November I received an email about “upcoming events” at St Anne’s, with the intriguing announcement: “From January 2026 our Bevington Road houses will be complete. Our wonderful Conferencing & Accommodation Office would like to give St Anne’s alumnae the first opportunity to rent bedrooms (or entire houses 9 & 10) next year”.

I was sad that I could no longer host a family feast for Christmas, due to age and disability in my case, and time and travel constraints on the part of my three daughters and six grandchildren, who live in London, Sussex and Wales. We did manage to meet for a delicious lunch after Christmas, at a favourite venue 35 miles from me, but I knew that the days when I could host a family reunion at my own home in Chichester were probably over. But suddenly, here was an exciting alternative. I had lived very happily in Bevington Road from October 1959 to June 1962, when I studied PPE at St Anne’s. I had contributed to the appeal for funding the refurbishment of the Bevington Road houses, and was eager to see the result. Could this be an opportunity for me to host a family reunion and

show my grandchildren, who are busy choosing or starting their own university adventures, the place where I had lived so happily over 65 years ago?

My first step was to telephone the Conferencing and Accommodation Office, which did indeed prove to be wonderful. Amy Edge, Deputy Conference & Accommodation Manager, answered all my questions, and after consulting my family, I booked 10 Bevington Road for a Thursday night just after Easter, when almost everyone was free. The house has 10 bedrooms, which meant there was room for the entire family, although clashing commitments meant that eventually my two sons-in-law and one granddaughter were unable to join us. But nine of us were able to take over the whole house, just a few steps from where I had lived in 1959-62. The weather was sunny, the rooms were comfortable, and we had a wonderful family reunion.

I wanted to show my grandchildren what it had been like for me as an undergraduate at St Anne’s, 65 years ago, but my daughter pointed out that this was impossible; they could only see what St Anne’s is like now! But I

was determined to give them a history lesson, so I refreshed my memory of what it was like to be among the first St Anne’s students to eat in the newly completed Dining Hall in 1959, which provided the first opportunity for all staff and students to meet together in one room. I remembered the official opening of the Dining Hall by the Queen in November 1960, and found a photograph of the occasion on the St Anne’s website.



I still have some black and white photographs of my student days, and some colour photos of the day when three close friends and I went to the Sheldonian to receive our MAs. So, I wrote a short account of my student days at St Anne’s for my family, complete with photographs and my recollections of being taught by three

A Memorable Family Reunion

remarkable founding fellows: Iris Murdoch (Philosophy), Jennifer Hart (Politics) and Peter Ady (Economics). I shared my memories of tutorials with Iris Murdoch in Bevington Road, where she would sit on the floor, inventing imaginary moral dilemmas quite as complex and thought provoking as her novels, which were already famous. We had to discuss alternative solutions with her, which was challenging but constructive. Sadly, I do not remember her offering us gin, as others apparently do! I also described my enduring friendships with other St Anne's students. There were ten of us who lived in either Bevington Road, or 58 Woodstock Road, and we used to meet regularly for coffee or cocoa and endless chats throughout our three years at St Anne's. We have maintained our friendship for over 60 years, including meeting for lunch in the private Dining Room at St Anne's in 2009 to celebrate 50 years of friendship. When the Dining Hall was refurbished in 2012, we joined together to contribute to the Kitchen and Dining Hall fund, and our donation is recorded on the "Circle of Names" in the Dining Hall, with a plaque showing the name we chose for our group: "The Fifty-niners". My family know all about the "Fifty-niners", and indeed have met several of them, so were pleased to find the plaque and to photograph it:



It was a sunny day when we all met at St Anne's, and the gardens looked glorious. My family checked in at 3 pm (I arrived a little later) and my grandchildren went off to explore Oxford; my eldest granddaughter is a first-year undergraduate at

another college, so she wanted to show her cousins where she lived. There was one problem for me, as I am disabled, and many of the lifts were out of order due to maintenance before the start of the Trinity term. But the staff at the Porters' Lodge were very helpful, and gave us a key to the external gate of 10 Bevington Road, and another key to the Grace Hadow Room in Hartland House, so I could sit there happily, enjoying the excellent coffee machine, while my daughters visited the library on my behalf. I particularly wanted to see a memorial plaque on the first floor of the library. This was a memorial to my very dear friend (originally my tutorial partner at St Anne's): Jessica Meyersberg Townsend, who died in 2023. Her family and friends had given donations to St Anne's Library in her memory, and I wanted to see the plaque, but as I could not climb the stairs, I was happy to see photographs, taken by my daughter and since shared with Jessica's family.





I wanted to share with my grandchildren something of the history of St Anne's, so I did some research before the visit, relying heavily on the excellent St Anne's website. I discovered that Hartland House was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect who designed Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Battersea Power Station and the red telephone box, as well as the new House of Commons Chamber, after the previous Commons Chamber was bombed in 1941. He designed Hartland House while designing the New Bodleian Library in the 1930s, and I was amused to read a quotation from a letter to him from Grace Hadow (Principal of the Society of Oxford Home Students from 1929 to 1940): "I am really rather horrified to find that the new library is attracting people so much that even on fine sunny afternoons it is full of young women industriously reading. The Librarian tells me that never has our library been so constantly

in use. I think it is rather interesting to see how beautiful surroundings do definitely have an effect on people in their work."

I was glad to be able to show my family the beautiful surroundings where I lived and worked 65 years previously, and they were interested to see the 'Timeline' in Hartland House, which records the development of St Anne's from 1879, when the Society of Home Students was formed, and took a photograph of me in front of 1959, the year of my matriculation.



I was offered the opportunity to book dinner in the Dining Hall for us all, but since it was the vacation, and the Dining Hall would be nearly empty, I decided to indulge another memory, and take my family for dinner at Gees, in Banbury Road, which I remembered as a flower and plant shop when I was at St Anne's, but is now an excellent restaurant. Once

again, I could give my grandchildren a history lesson, when I showed them photos of the original shop (taken from the Gee's website); I remember buying flowers at Gees, but now they could enjoy pasta and pizza in the beautiful Victorian conservatory.

We all found the bedrooms of 10 Bevington Road comfortable and well furnished, and I hope the students who are now living in the refurbished "Bevs" will be as happy as I was in 1959-1962. The only problem that we discovered is that it is very easy to lock yourself out of your bedroom inadvertently, as the doors have a very effective self-closing mechanism. One of my daughters was forced to visit the Porters' Lodge late at night for a spare key, and we wondered how often this happens each term, until students learn from bitter experience! The next morning we all enjoyed breakfast in the Dining Hall and my grand-daughter declared it was much better than breakfast in her college. As an economist, I was pleased to discover that bed and breakfast for my whole family at St Anne's was considerably cheaper than in a hotel, and excellent value for money!

Our visit took place only a few days before the official re-opening of the Bevington Road houses by

A Memorable Family Reunion

the Chancellor on 17 April. I could not attend that, but I enjoyed the photographs on the St Anne's website, and I learned a great deal about the history of Bevington Road from the very informative website: <https://transformingbevingtonroad.co.uk/bevington-road-a-history/>. I was sad to read a quotation from Vera Brittain, who lived briefly in Bevington Road in 1920, when she was an undergraduate at Somerville. She said that her room *"soon became for me a place of horror"* due to *"armies of large, fat mice"* and its *"cold, remorseless mirrors"* I was glad that my own memories did not include mice or mirrors! I also read with horror that there had been more than one proposal to demolish all the Bevington Road houses; the first in 1956, under proposals for a new ring road for Oxford, and the second in the 1960s, when architects drew up a 'master plan' for the St Anne's site, which would have involved knocking down the Bevington Road houses completely. I was glad that "the plan was abandoned for a number of reasons including a financial shortfall, but also a strong resistance from a growing conservation movement, which sought to protect the distinctive character of the Victorian suburb." Instead, the architects of the recent project "have carefully preserved the character [of the ten newly refurbished houses],

while significantly improving the quality, sustainability and accessibility of the accommodation".

As a disabled eighty-five year old, I can personally vouch for the increased accessibility of these houses. My last photographs show how happy I was on that sunny day in April, when I was delighted to share my memories of St Anne's with my daughters and grandchildren and to create new memories for us all.



Maureen Gruffydd Jones (Woodhall),
PPE, 1959

[For more than 40 years Maureen was an academic at the Institute of Education, University of London, where she taught and carried out research on the economics of education, and was awarded Emeritus Reader in Education Finance. She was a consultant for UNESCO, the World Bank and many national and international organisations, and published extensively (under her maiden name, Woodhall) on the economics of education and education finance, including student loans].

From lift off to landing: Reporting on Nasa's return to the Moon

REBECCA MORELLE, SCIENCE EDITOR, BBC NEWS

For more than 50 years, the Moon has been out of humanity's reach. The grainy images from Nasa's historic Apollo missions were all we had to remind us of our presence on the lunar surface. But in April, four astronauts brought our celestial neighbour to a new generation, captivating the world during their 10-day voyage around the far side of the Moon and back home again. As the BBC's Science Editor, I had a front row seat to space history being made, heading to the US to cover the Artemis II mission, from its dramatic lift off to a nerve-shredding landing.

The crew's journey began from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The astronauts – Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen – were strapped into their seats at the top of Nasa's mega Moon rocket, which is nearly 100m tall. Standing by the countdown clock as it ticked down to zero, watching as the rocket fired its huge boosters and engines and headed skywards, was a truly visceral experience. The burning white brightness you just can't take your eyes off, the deafening roar that takes seconds to hit you, and the force of the blast that passes right through you. It was hard to grasp that four people were on their way to the Moon. As the white plume of rocket vapour dissolved into the Florida sky, my team – brilliant producer Alison Francis and incredible cameraman Kevin Church – got to work.

I report on science for BBC News across all of its outlets, covering stories across TV, radio, online and social media. As well as live coverage of the launch, we also had to edit our TV and radio pieces and get them sent in as quickly as



possible. The lift off had happened in the early hours UK time and we worked through the night to get our reports on air in time for the BBC's main morning programmes, so the UK could wake up to find out that the mission to the Moon had begun.

'Planet Earth, you look beautiful'

As the astronauts got their first look at home from far above, we started to see the images beamed back. "Planet Earth, you look beautiful," Victor Glover told the world – and it really did. But soon, the Earth was shrinking ever smaller in the spacecraft's rear-view mirror as the crew began their quarter of a million mile journey to the Moon. With the astronauts well and truly on their way, Nasa's support team

NASA's return to the Moon

had switched from the Kennedy Space Center to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, so we packed up our kit and caught the next flight to mission control. It's the nerve centre of the entire operation, and we got to see the team there, staring intently at their screens as data poured in, monitoring all of the spacecraft's systems, from propulsion, to navigation and life support.

Live video was streamed back to Earth from inside the astronaut's capsule, as the crew got used to living in microgravity. It was immediately clear how crammed together they were. They were living, working, eating and sleeping in a space about the same size as a minibus. There was no privacy from each other, or from the millions of people around the world following every twist and turn. Particular attention was paid to their Universal Waste Management System, otherwise known as the loo, which had problems with its plumbing. It ranks as one of my more surreal reporting experiences sitting in press briefings listening to top Nasa engineers explaining that collapsible contingency urine devices had to be deployed. Basically, the astronauts had to use bags with funnels.

Talking science

I've been covering science stories for 20 years now. I joined BBC News on a bursary scheme a few years after finishing my Chemistry degree at St Anne's. I've always loved the subject, but after I spent a year working in the lab during my Masters, I realised that being a research scientist wasn't for me. I was much better at talking about science than doing it!

During my career at the BBC, I've been lucky enough to cover an incredibly diverse array of stories: from watching palaeontologists unearth dinosaurs, to experiencing weightlessness on a parabolic flight and taking a dive beneath

the waves in a submersible. Science stories do really well with our audiences, but I think it's fair to say that Artemis II truly captured the world's imagination.

With each passing day, as the astronauts neared the Moon, interest in the mission continued to grow. The story shifted to the top of the bulletins, and my team and I were reporting around the clock, working across US time, UK time – and, of course, space time. After breaking Apollo 13's record for the furthest distance ever travelled into space, the Artemis astronauts just kept on going. They eventually voyaged 252,756 miles from Earth. Then it was time for their closest lunar approach.

Trained by a team of lunar scientists, the crew took thousands of images and recorded audio descriptions of the bleak beauty of the lunar surface as it passed by beneath them. Their stunning photos showed the terrain pockmarked with vast craters, long shadows reaching across the surface, revealing the boundary between lunar day and night. They were also lucky enough to witness a solar eclipse – one that was just for them. The full black disk of the Moon with the Sun's outer atmosphere a soft halo of light radiating out. New features on the lunar surface were spotted too, and this led to one of the most poignant moments of the mission.

The crew named a crater – a bright spot visible from Earth – after Artemis II commander Reid Wiseman's late wife Carroll, who had died six years ago. The astronauts, all in tears, came together to hug him – and back in Houston, there wasn't a dry eye at mission control.

International space race

The legacy of Apollo runs deeply through the veins of this mission. In an echo of the Earthrise image taken by the Apollo

8 astronauts - the first ever humans to witness the splendour of the Moon close up - the Artemis crew took an "Earthset", with our home planet, a muted blue with swirling clouds, dipping below the Moon's horizon.

And messages from Apollo astronauts Charlie Duke and Jim Lovell - recorded before he died last year - were played to the astronauts during their flight.

But while the Apollo missions were driven by a race with the Soviet Union, the US is now in competition with China. And China is making fast progress with its lunar programmes, so is hot on America's heels. Both nations want more than just fleeting visits to the Moon, with plans to establish rival Moon bases that will see astronauts live and work on the lunar



Nasa. Image showing Earth taken by crew member of Artemis II through a spacecraft window, April 2nd 2026.

surface. And it's not just nations – commercial companies are eyeing the Moon too.

Danger

But space exploration isn't easy, and it carries real risk. That was certainly the case with Artemis II. It's important not to forget that this was a test flight. It was the first time any humans had flown on both the rocket and the spacecraft. I spoke to the astronauts before their mission, and they told me they had spoken to their families about the possibility they might not come home. It was a conversation that stopped me in my tracks, and made me realise just how much was at stake.

There are two moments that carry the most danger – the launch, which had gone completely to plan, and the landing, which was the last challenge still to come.

One of the astronauts likened re-entry to riding a fireball through the Earth's atmosphere. And as the capsule hurtled back, travelling at thousands of miles an hour, it experienced temperatures half as hot as the surface of the Sun.

Watching this white-knuckle ride from mission control was an anxiety-inducing experience – especially when the communications dropped out for six very long minutes as the capsule closed in on Earth. My job was to be there to report on this, whatever the outcome was to be.

When a small dot of bright light was spotted high above the ocean, and Reid Wiseman's voice rang out at mission control, "Houston. We have you loud and clear." The relief was palpable. The quiet calm of mission control was no more as celebrations broke out. The Artemis II astronauts were safely back on Earth; their mission was complete.

NASA's return to the Moon

Gripped

Since they've been home, the crew have spoken about their remarkable journey – and also the intense bond they've formed with each other. After my (much shorter) journey back to the UK, I've been reflecting on why this mission gripped so many people. It was of course a story about brilliant technology, engineering and lunar science, but ultimately it was a story about people. These were people who experienced both the extraordinary, but also the ordinary – like dealing with a broken loo. They got to share this with each other – but also with all of us too. For a few brief days, the astronauts transported millions around the world away from planet Earth - and let us ride along with them.

Rebecca Morelle (1997, Chemistry),
is the BBC's Science Editor.



Nasa, April 3rd, 2026

Is it time to tackle the politically-tricky timebomb of Student Loans?

ANGELA HARRISON

Former BBC Education Correspondent Angela Harrison looks at criticism of student loans in England and at accusations that the system is “broken and unfair” and a “betrayal” of students.

What do you think should happen about the student loans system? Graduates and present students of St Anne’s will have experienced very different systems of university funding depending on when they matriculated, but there’s little doubt that those studying at universities in England*, Wales and Northern Ireland since 2012 have shouldered a far greater burden of the cost of their higher education than those who went before – and will continue to do so. This is due to a range of factors, including the repeated freezing of the earnings threshold above which graduates start paying back their loans, rising interest rates, and the lengthening of the repayment period from 30 to 40 years (which affects undergrads who began their courses from September 2023 onwards).

As someone who studied at St Anne’s in the 1980s, I was by no means among the last to benefit from a free – and wonderful

- university education. In later years, after different jobs in journalism (on a local newspaper in London and then at BBC News), I reported on the trebling of tuition fees in England and major changes to the way universities were funded, as a BBC Education Correspondent. I also reported on demonstrations by tens of thousands of students against the plans after they were proposed in 2010.

Have students in England been the victims of mis-selling on tuition fee loans and maintenance loans? Were they directed towards loans which they didn’t fully understand, and which had terms that were later changed, leaving many with ballooning debts?

That is the conclusion not just of the National Union of Students and the personal finance expert and founder of MoneysavingExpert.com Martin Lewis, but also of the Commons Treasury Committee. The cross-party group held an inquiry into student loans and published its report in July. Its findings echoed what others had said - and were damning. They have fuelled calls for changes to the loan system. Whether or not such calls are heard or heeded among the clamour for



The author outside Hartland House during her student days.

the attention of the new Prime Minister, remains to be seen.

‘Broken’

The Treasury Committee’s report said: “The government has described the student loans system as unfair and broken; universities and students have agreed. So do we.” It criticised the Labour government, and Conservative ones before it, for freezing the income threshold at which graduates start to repay their

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loans. When student tuition fees in England were trebled from £3,000 a year to £9,000 a year in 2012 (under a coalition government of Tories and Lib Dems), the promise was that graduates would not start repaying their loans until they were earning at least £21,000. Students were also told that this starting point would rise in line with average earnings. However, the “threshold” as it is known, has been frozen three times, meaning that, as average wages (and inflation) have risen, a greater proportion of graduates have started repaying their loans.

In the autumn budget last year, it was announced that from April 2026, the threshold for students on ‘Plan 2 loans’ (those who studied between 2012 and 2023) would rise by about £1,000 to £29,400 and then be frozen at that level for three years from April 2027. Newer students (undergrads who began their courses from 2023 onwards) were told that they would pay off their loans over 40 years rather than 30 years, as had been the case for previous students. Their threshold for repaying their loans is earnings of £25,000 a year.

It was in 1998 that a Labour government introduced annual university tuition fees of £1,000 across the UK; these had to be paid up-front but were means-tested. In September 2006, students’ fees trebled to £3,000. These no longer had to be paid

up-front, but after graduation, with state-funded loans to cover them. The change to the present system – and the trebling of fees – came in 2012. Devolution – the transfer of greater powers to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland shortly before the turn of the century – had already led to greater divergence in higher education policy between the UK’s nations, and this continued, with nations adopting their own systems.

‘Betrayal’

In evidence to the Treasury Select Committee, MoneysavingExpert.com described the latest freeze in the threshold as a “betrayal of all those who took loans out” and “a breach of natural justice – a retrospective change to what students signed up to”, saying it should be reversed. The group said there was a “lack of clarity about how the system works, giving government an easy route to make changes with little scrutiny or public awareness”. Martin Lewis said if terms were variable, this should be communicated by the government and that terms that are fixed should require an Act of Parliament to change, “as a minimum”.

In its submission, the National Union of Students called for “a fairer balance” between state and student payments, “a re-examination of the role of teaching grants” and the burden of repayment lifted from

the poorest graduates. They also called for the reintroduction of maintenance grants for the poorest students “regardless of course choice”. In November 2025, the government announced plans for maintenance grants to be made available from 2028 to some people, on certain courses which “support the government’s missions and industrial strategy”.

Founder of a campaign group called Rethink Repayments, Oliver Gardner, told the committee graduates were being used as “cash cows” and that the present situation was an “inter-generational crisis”, reported The Guardian.

In its final report, the Treasury Committee said the actions of the Department for Education and the Student Loans Company amounted to mis-selling in three specific ways. These can be summed up as prospective students not being told that the government could retrospectively change the terms and conditions of the loans. The MPs called for the government to be held to the same standards as private companies, saying all future information about student loans that they put out should comply with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)’s Consumer Duty, so that students are made explicitly aware that the terms of their loans can change. The Student Loans Company had told them the loans were set up by statute not through a contract, so were therefore not subject to contract law.

'Protect tax-payers'

Changes to the terms of the loans have been justified by those in power as necessary medicine for a cash-strapped economy. The latest changes had a positive impact on the budget deficit, because they increased the estimate of how much of the loans would be paid off (through making graduates liable to pay them for 40 years rather than 30). At the time, the government said the freezes would "protect taxpayers and students". The then Chancellor Rachel Reeves told MPs the government had inherited a broken system of student finance and that there was a "hierarchy of priorities".

Currently, only one in three of those on what are known as Plan 2 loans in England are expected to pay off their loans in full. Under the new arrangements, known as Plan 5, which began in 2023, this rises to 56%, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

As someone who reported on the trebling of tuition fees in 2012, for BBC News, I remember the coalition government emphasising the income threshold, and the fact that loans would be written off after 30 years. This was no doubt aimed at reassuring sceptics, students, and their families. The argument was made that because individuals would benefit from their degrees, they should share in the cost

of it. This was against the backdrop of more young people going to university. Evidence put to the Treasury Committee suggested that far from the 50:50 cost-sharing between graduate and the state envisioned by early supporters of the tuition fee and loans system, some students of today could shoulder as much as 95% of the cost of their degree and "at least 75%". This was said by Sir Philip Augar, who chaired a review of post-18 education funding in 2019. He favours a 50:50 sharing of the costs between state and student.

National differences

There's a big difference between the nations in terms of cost-sharing, according to figures quoted by the Higher Education Policy Institute (Hepi) in a report from 2024. In England, there is an 84:16 per cent split between students/graduates and the state. In Wales and Northern Ireland, the split is roughly 50:50, while in Scotland, where tuition is free to most home students, the ratio is minus-13 to 113 per cent, in favour of students and graduates.

This shift in cost-sharing in England shocked St Anne's alumnus Dr Maureen Woodhall (PPE, 1959), who as an academic researched student loan systems across the world. She said: "I advocated cost-sharing and said we needed a combination of loans and grants. Society benefits from people going to university and so does

the individual, so it is only fair to have a sharing of the costs."

Dr Woodhall, who is Emeritus Reader in Education Finance, at UCL Institute of Education, said: "I'm shocked now that cost-sharing means creating a heavier and heavier burden on students. I'm very concerned for the younger generation. The government keeps freezing the salary threshold and that is unfair. This is the betrayal of a generation. More and more costs are being piled onto them while they are also being told that they must work for longer before they are eligible for a pension, might not have a job, because of AI, and that they may not be able to buy a home, because of high property prices and interest rates. Young people will feel betrayed and that no one is listening to them. This might make them less likely to vote. That is a really damaging social trend."

Calls for a switch to a Graduate Tax, or other changes, have grown louder and eyes are on the new Prime Minister Andy Burnham, to see if he might take action. In 2015, during a previous leadership contest, he said the loan system should be replaced with a Graduate Tax. Since becoming Prime Minister Mr Burnham has announced plans to change the education system to get more people into work, with a bigger vocational offer in schools and colleges. He said for too long, the education system had been built around "the university route". In late July, the

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newly-appointed Education Secretary Lucy Powell said she stuck by earlier comments she had made calling the interest rates paid by graduates on Plan 2 loans “egregious”. She intended to look at the issue and wanted to make sure the student loan system was “fair”, she told BBC News.

Readers of *The Ship* span many decades and those of us who benefitted from a free education to degree level, most likely feel for the generations which have followed. Home students in England who became eligible to pay back their loans last year owed an average of £53,000, according to figures from the House of Commons library. This was inflated due to higher interest rates, the document says. Those who became eligible to repay their loans this year (2026) after graduating or finishing their courses, have an average debt of £48,000. The figure for Wales is £45,000, for Northern Ireland it's £29,000 and for Scotland, it is £21,000.

The Treasury Committee calls for prospective students to be told explicitly that the terms of their loans could change and wants the latest freeze on the repayments threshold to be reversed. It also recommends movement towards a 50:50 cost-sharing between students in England and the state, and that interest rates on loans be linked to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), rather than the Retail Prices Index (RPI), which is generally higher.

Chair of the Treasury Committee, Labour's Dame Meg Hillier, said: “Our report is a signal to the Treasury and the Department for Education that this can no longer be ignored. Patience has run out.

“Ministers openly accept that the system is broken and unfair but have said that it is not a priority to fix it. While I understand that there are many competing pressures on a government, reversing last year's threshold freeze is a modest change that would not eat up vast resources. Importantly, I believe it would go a long way to repairing the damage done to the trust between graduates and those responsible for overseeing the student loans system.”

Commentators such as Jim Dickinson, an Associate Editor of *WonkHE*, point to deeper problems and the “walls closing in”, not least because recent forecasts suggest the government will get back less in loan repayments than it had expected. They also highlight the complicated way student loans appear in the government's accounting system and play into the budget deficit. Money going to students for fees and maintenance is recorded as loans, not spending, with the expected repayments from graduates seen as an asset; the forecast losses (expected non-repayments) are treated as a cost. A Graduate Tax system, floated by some as a better alternative to student

loans, would likely entail a big up-front cost from the government in terms of teaching grants to universities and would affect the national debt.

At a time when the national debt is political dynamite and there are competing national and political priorities, will any government consider radical changes or be more open with the public about the significance of student loans in its financial reporting? As more people who graduated from 2015 onwards move through the labour market and try to buy their first homes, I have the sense that calls for reform will only grow.

**England: university funding is a devolved matter in the UK. From this academic year, full-time students in England can expect annual tuition fees of up to £9,970. Welsh students studying in Wales also have the same maximum level of fees. In Northern Ireland, tuition fees are capped at £4,855 a year for those studying there, while Scottish students studying in Scotland do not pay tuition fees.*

Angela Harrison is the Commissioning Editor of this year's *Ship*, a former BBC Education and Social Affairs Correspondent and an Emeritus Senior Lecturer in Journalism, University of Kent. She is a freelance journalism and media trainer, currently working with the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) on apprenticeships.

100 Years of The Ship: Tribute to Judith Vidal-Hall

Judith Vidal-Hall edited *The Ship* from 2008 until her death in October 2025, bringing to the magazine an editor's eye, a journalist's curiosity, and a deep affection for St Anne's and its community. Under her stewardship, *The Ship* combined intellectual seriousness with warmth and wit, recording not only the life of the College but also the extraordinary range of lives lived beyond it. She had a remarkable ability to draw out stories that connected generations of readers, and she cared deeply about preserving the distinctive voice and traditions of the magazine while ensuring it continued to evolve.

Those who worked with Judith will remember her generosity, precision, persistence, and unfailing commitment to producing a publication worthy of the community it served. Year after

year, she devoted immense energy to shaping each issue, encouraging contributors, refining articles, and maintaining the high editorial standards that became her hallmark. For many alumnae and friends of the College, *The Ship* was their enduring connection to St Anne's, and Judith played a central role in sustaining that connection for more than fifteen years.

We thought it especially fitting, therefore, to reprint this article from the 2011 issue, published to mark the 100th anniversary of *The Ship*. In it, Judith reflects on the history of the magazine and the Association of Senior Members with characteristic insight and affection, while also considering the importance of continuity, memory, and community. Re-reading it now is a reminder not only of the history she helped preserve, but also of the lasting contribution she herself made to the life of St Anne's through her outstanding editorship of *The Ship*.

Change in continuity

JUDITH VIDAL-HALL

In 1911, a small group of former students of the Society of Home Students, gathered in their new Common Room in Ship Street, made a momentous decision: to create an Old Students' Association and an annual magazine to record its doings. One hundred years on and it's still going strong.

The OSA was the brainchild of a Miss Ruth Butler, who became first editor of *The Ship* and continues to frequent its pages in one guise or another until her death at 101 in 1982. After each AGM in November, its founding committee determined in its new constitution, members would receive a publication containing: The annual report of the Association The rules of the Association An Oxford letter Letters from old students Other matters relating to the interests of the Association



Judith at the pre-1959 reunion in College.

Tribute to Judith Vidal-Hall

All put together by an editor 'appointed by the Association'. In essence very much the magazine we still have 100 years later.

Its first issue in that same year recorded: 'By far the most important fact to be recorded is that an Old Students' Association is now actually in being and that it has held its first AGM. There are already 108 members, and the initial expenses have been almost entirely met by donations.' The costs of the OSA, mainly the production of *The Ship*, was to be a recurrent cause of alarm for many years until the College eventually took it on in the 1970s. It had its ups and downs over the years: wars saw it shrink to little more than a dozen thin pages, at times it drifted in the doldrums, unexciting and apathetic, at others it sparkles with life and tales of the unexpected. The 1980s, under the professional care of Michèle Brown, was a high point since unsurpassed.

1911 was also the year, the magazine observes, in which the University Delegacy for Women, on which the Society's Principal Mrs Bertha Johnson sat, was created and the Society itself 'received very special recognition' and an 'increase in prestige' by being granted by the University 'the same recognition that has been granted to other Colleges and Halls'.

Apart from that, 1911 was not, in most respects, a particularly remarkable year. The only thing that appears to have roused much excitement in the press was Scott's ill-fated Antarctic expedition – and by the end of the year, they knew the Norwegian Amundsen had beaten him to it. It was a good year for music: Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* and Mahler's 'Das Lied von der Erde' caused a flurry of excitement, and technical progress in the motor car industry and flight was considerable. A new king, George V, was crowned in June and the Mona Lisa went missing from the Louvre for a couple of years. Thoughts of impending war with Germany went largely unspoken though the cabinet under Asquith was making contingency plans;

foreign correspondents were reporting revolutions in China and Mexico that were to change the history of both countries and there was, as now, 'trouble in Tripoli'. All in all, nothing very remarkable. Except, perhaps, though the event is nowhere noted in *The Ship*, on 8 March 1911, International Women's Day was launched in Denmark by Clara Zetkin, leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany.

Running the creation of the OSA a close second 'in the annals of the Society' is the establishment of the Common Room at 16 Ship Street. 'This little house which is now wholly in the hands of the Home Students, or rather of their Governing Body, is one of the oldest in the city and, to the eye unlearned in building, looked, in its pristine state, most unpromising.' There follows a faded, somewhat ghostly 'view' of this room and at some length, a eulogy to its 'aspect across gardens', its motley collection of furniture all donated by 'well-wishers' and the tea and scones provided by a loyal retainer, which anyone living in Oxford was invited to make use of for a very modest sum and others visiting Oxford 'to avail themselves of it freely'.

'This account of the Home Students' headquarters,' the article continues (in parenthesis), 'is perhaps sufficient explanation of the title of this publication, which has been a matter for long and anxious debate.' Intriguing, but nothing more is offered, unlike the passionate and heated debates that occur later in its history: over the renaming of the Society on its accession to full College status, for instance, or the need for a college chapel after the demolition of Springfield St Mary in the early-1960s – and, of course, the ever present issue of evening hours.

The rest as they say is history and there is too little space in which to convey the combination of energy, enthusiasm and, yes, gratitude that charges the pages of this little magazine and that, to a degree, continue to inform it 100 years later. The enduring quality of the OSA and its magazine through two

wars and recurrent financial crises is testimony to the role it played and continues to play in the relationship between College and former students.

It was a diminutive little product in its modest pale blue paper cover, a handspan high and even less across, but it did exactly what it was meant to do.

The second issue in 1912 included the following:

'Dear Editor, I don't think you have any real idea of what Oxford means to us who live and work in queer corners of the earth – in provincial towns, in country villages, even in "seaside resorts". You who live always amidst its joys and privileges, doubtless think you appreciate them fully. But go and teach in a coalpit town of south Yorkshire, where one breathes coal dust, eats coal dust, and walks on roads made of coal dust...' The angry tone dissolves: 'As one who has had such an experience, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have helped found our OSA and so given us an annual excuse for revisiting the serene and beautiful city, of reviving old friendships and reviving pleasant memories.'

And an aside: 'It was a great hour when we passed the various clauses of our new constitution, drafted, I believe, after countless hours of toil and fag of brain. (Incidentally, I may remark that the discussion on the wording thereof revealed certain new and startling views on the relation of a relative pronoun to its antecedent!')

I include this not only as my own 'aside' but as a trivial instance of a more enduring continuity reflected in the magazine. In 1989 when I joined the ASM, I was startled at the passion and complexity of argument that went into the positioning of commas in a revision of that original constitution. It was still going on a couple of years later when other friends joined me.

Finding strength in numbers, the new girls finally laid matters of syntax and punctuation to rest.

Of course The Ship reflects dramatic change over the century: in the Society's change of status to fully fledged College, its accumulation of buildings, the exponential growth in numbers, the rise and rise of women at work, the arrival of men, the nature of undergraduate life, the, at times, dramatic shift in relationships between senior and junior members, changes in the visible aspect of the city itself. But with exceptions, the continuity of tone and sentiment is striking. It is expressed in an abiding commitment to the place and what it represents: 100 years ago the fight was for higher education for women and the means of making that possible beyond the limitations of the privileged few; today, as the Principal says in his 'Letter', its mission in these days of raised fees and government funding cuts, is 'to open up Oxford to those who would benefit from it the most but who, for lack of opportunity, might be denied the chance'.

In its early days, The Ship gave the 'floating' students a sense of belonging, however far flung their post-Oxford lives took them, beyond their years as students. It kept them in touch with each other and the Society, and enabled them to express thanks from the furthest corners of the globe to the institution that had changed their lives.

And from the earliest issues, one can see just how far flung these people were – and how limited their range of occupations. India, Germany, the US, New Zealand, western Australia, Canada, Ireland, China, Warsaw. Within the College, too, there were already students from Germany, a regular and numerous contingent, from France, the US, Romania and Russia. 'I am very proud of our foreign connection,' says Bertha Johnson, 'it is exceedingly good for us. I feel that we are, with our foreign element, keeping up the tradition of mediaeval times, when the lovers of education were of the same family

Tribute to Judith Vidal-Hall

no matter to whatever land they belonged.' The cosmopolitan nature of the College persists.

But if they were intrepid in their travels, the range of work open to them was not so wide ranging. If they went as independent women, rather than as accompanying wives, the range of jobs was limited: teaching or missionary work. Back home, social work in the settlements funded by the university, work in hospitals, teaching and a great number of 'secretaries' to academics. The work in settlements and a tribute to the 'heroism' of 'those at work in dreary slums', or a touching piece from Birmingham on public education among the poor, all challenge those who criticize the expense but do nothing to detail the lives of those in question.

With few exceptions, such as that of Ivy Williams in the early 1920s, the first woman to be called to the Bar, it was many decades before St Anne's women or any women began to ignore the advice given in 'futile and farcical visits to unhelpful women at the Appointments Board' and conquer the media, banking, law, the City, etc etc. And still there are only 3 per cent of them in the boardroom the latest report on gender equality in the workplace tells us.

It is only in wartime or moments of national crisis such as the national strike of 1926, or the turbulence of the 'revolutionary' 1960s, that the outside world impinges on the pages of *The Ship* and women go out to do jobs otherwise closed to them. It appears to be a cosseted world with little evidence of internal conflict or eddies of personal emotion: the tone of its first 50 years is more *Enchanted April* than *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*. It took the austerity of the post-war 1950s and the more relaxed climate of the 'swinging sixties' to incite a more acerbic tone – bad food, cold and uncomfortable rooms in ill-equipped Victorian houses, lack of facilities such as a washing machine or TV became the subject of frequent

complaints. But above all, it was the battle for the extension of the hours undergraduates might stay out or enjoy the company of their men friends in the evenings that raged longest and most furiously. It took the arrival of the men in 1979 to put an end to a long-fought cause.

But beyond all that, there is one theme that starts earlier and persists longer than any other: the appeals for money. The first financial appeal to the OSA was in 1912 and was for help in creating an endowment fund. Interestingly, the OSA was 'extremely diffident' about the approach but did in the end respond and never looked back. Even our own current project, *Kitchen Suppers*, was first launched in 1962, and the term *Big Society*? You read it here first in 1978. The appeals reach a peak at times of intensive building activity – the 1960s, 1990s and 2000s – and frequently coincide with the intrusions of government enquiries and commissions into the governance of the university. These start with the Franks Report in 1965, which, among other things, recommended that the number of women at Oxford must be increased, and continue over the decades with a succession of what Ruth Deech calls with some asperity in 1993 the 'divisive intervention' and 'growing intrusiveness of central government and its effectively unaccountable agents into teaching and research ... with damaging financial consequences for Oxford'.

From its earliest years, the Chairman of the OSA claimed 'Our Association can claim an even higher and more subtle bond, based as it is on purely mental and spiritual attachments, cumbered by no solid buildings ... it may be expected that year by year the bond binding us together may be strengthened and the Society go forward in good heart and courage ... feeling that their work is watched and promoted with interest and enthusiasm by the loyal adherents scattered round the world.' A world away from its language but in sentiment not so very different from Gillian Reynolds' comments almost a century

later: 'We are not some feeble old girls and old boys social club existing to organize the odd dinner or the occasional tea. We are committed to helping the College secure its future.'

I could go on: barely three years old and *The Ship* is struck by war. Its pages shrink, the tone is sober, the annual Gaudy is suspended, Oxford 'rings to the sound of the bugle' and the decision to name and shame those who have not paid their subs of 1/6d for two years is reluctantly taken. The detail and reality of the outside world leap into the pages, contrasting sharply with much of the before and after.

But better to let the voices speak for themselves across the years.

JVH

If you would be interested in viewing past issues of The Ship, a complete collection can be found in St Anne's College Library – you are always very welcome to visit.

In Memoriam: Judith Vidal-Hall (Bunting, 1957)

24 February 1938 - 23 October 2025

By Penelope Farmer (1957)

I first met Judith in Thornton's bookshop in the Broad, during our first year at St Anne's. I can still see exactly what she was wearing: a dark blue suit, with a tightly pinched waist and narrow skirt, insisted upon by her mother, together with black court shoes with discreet heels. She arrived at Oxford with religious beliefs which waned over time, and I remember seeing her climb into a car with the nuns from her convent hostel. At Oxford she somehow acquired not one but two fiancés, both theology students.

There were four of us who became inseparable: the two Judiths, Janey and me. I think our friendship was truly sealed

during the Easter vacation when we decided, with spectacular lack of preparation, to walk Hadrian's Wall. None of us were hikers. We had no proper boots, stayed in dreadful bed-and-breakfasts, trudged through relentless rain and finished covered in blisters. But we persisted, and so did our friendship. We remained "the Springfield girls" throughout our lives.

Of the four of us, Judith was perhaps the only one who did not seem to have an obvious artistic talent, apart from her formidable brain. Yet while she was at Oxford she developed the gifts that later made her such an outstanding journalist. She became a collector—above all, a collector of people. Charismatic, witty, beautiful and wonderfully articulate, she had the rare ability to make almost everyone feel they were her closest friend. She was also a collector of furniture and objects rescued from junk shops, with an unfailing eye for detail and an instinct for getting things exactly right.

We were all pre-feminists in those days, raised to believe that our future lay in being wives and mothers rather than in pursuing careers. Given so few alternatives, we all married and had children not long after graduating. But the world was beginning to change. The fact that both Judith's marriage and mine eventually ended was one sign of that change.

Judith took longer than I did to reinvent her life. She remained the centre of her family, a devoted mother who made wonderful food, created beautiful homes and sustained lasting friendships. After I lost my own mother not long after leaving Oxford, Judith quietly became a kind of mother figure to me. She remained so for the rest of her life. She was also my greatest supporter as a writer, and at the same time my most perceptive critic.

Yet during those years she was still discovering who she herself was. I remember visiting her in Richmond during the

Tribute to Judith Vidal-Hall

1970s and often finding her lying on the floor listening to Indian music. Around then she wrote her only piece of fiction, a story about the escapologist Houdini. Looking back, it seems wonderfully revealing. It captured not only her extraordinary life force and her remarkable eye for detail, but also something essential about her character: she was forever escaping from whatever threatened to confine her. She was also, it has to be said, reckless with herself throughout her life.

She used to say proudly that she had been expected to die as a toddler. She fell over so often that her family called her “the Tripper”. At Oxford she came off her bicycle under a bus. She also acquired two lifelong companions there: cigarettes and red wine.

Her greatest escape came later. When Tim’s work took the family to Bangladesh in the mid-1970s, Judith met Tom Hexner and his wife. Tom, who worked for the World Bank, immediately recognised her talents and found her work with local charities. More importantly, after the family’s extraordinary three-month journey home through Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria, he introduced her to the exiled former editor of *Dawn* in Pakistan. He employed her, trained her as a journalist, and she went on to work on his journals, most notably *South*, as well as the *Guardian* supplement that he edited. The rest, as they say, is history.

Journalism suited Judith perfectly, even if it encouraged the recklessness that seemed to come naturally to her—and which cigarettes and red wine undoubtedly helped sustain. She would find herself chatting up Saddam Hussein’s Foreign Minister in a Baghdad hotel while Iranian bombs fell around them, or sunbathing on top of Russian tanks in Afghanistan. She trained many younger journalists, among them her great friend George Alagiah and, less happily, Lindsey Hilsum, about whom she said regretfully in later life that she wished she had been kinder. The *Guardian* repeatedly tried to persuade her to join them, but she

remained loyal to *South* and the other journals she loved. Shortly before her death she admitted she regretted turning them down.

When the funding for *South* finally disappeared, she moved to Index on Censorship and transformed it into the remarkable journal it became.

Then came retirement, advancing age and the inevitable illnesses. Even then there were compensations. The four of us from Oxford began travelling together again, culminating in a wonderful celebration of our eightieth birthdays in Vietnam. Yet Judith herself was often unhappy. Dylan Thomas’s words, “Rage, rage against the dying of the light,” could have been written for her. Rage was her default position. Oh, how she raged.

Friendships change their shape over a lifetime. Once I had looked to Judith as a mother; by the end I had become more often the adviser. She would ask for advice. She would listen attentively. But did she ever actually follow it? Not really. She had swapped cigarettes for vaping and cut down considerably on the red wine—but only to a point.

And yet there she remained: the mother, the grandmother, the extraordinary friend. Even during the long weeks while she was dying she was, infuriatingly and wonderfully, still entirely herself. Reflecting on the faith of her childhood, she said to me one day from her bed, in her best BBC interviewer voice, “I wish I still believed in the old bugger up there.”

Lucky old bugger, if he—or she—exists and has her now.

The rest of us—her family and her friends—are left mourning.

Thank you, Judith, for living so long, despite your repeated attempts not to. How are we meant to live without you? We loved you, warts and all.

Your Starter for Ten...Who Discovered DNA?

KERSTEN HALL



Figure 1: Model of DNA - made by Dr. John Lydon and Professor Tony North of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, this stands today in Leeds City Museum. Photo by K. Hall

Like many middle-aged men, I find myself regularly shouting at the television. My outbursts however tend to be provoked not by sporting events or politicians on the evening news, but instead, during 'University Challenge.'

Having studied biochemistry at St. Anne's from 1988-1992, my ears pricked up during a recent episode when contestants were asked a question about the scientist Rosalind Franklin whose X-ray studies of DNA were crucial in solving its famous double-helical shape. On hearing the question describe her as having done 'important work in the discovery of the DNA molecule' I shouted out loud, 'But what about Friedrich Miescher?'¹

No-one could ever dispute that Rosalind Franklin's X-ray studies of DNA were crucial in enabling Cambridge scientists James Watson and Francis Crick to solve its famous double-helical structure in 1953. And whether it's thanks to cinema blockbusters about theme parks full of cloned dinosaurs or forensic crime dramas, DNA and its double-helical shape have become an icon in popular culture. In TV debates before live audiences, politicians warn voters that putting up taxes is in the ideological DNA of their opponents; football managers talk about a certain style of play being 'in the DNA' of their team, while the 2022 semi-final of the hit TV show 'Great British Bake-Off' featured a double-helix baked in Swedish krokan pastry as a tribute to Rosalind Franklin.

But if asked who discovered DNA, most people would struggle to give an answer. And it's to my shame that, until only a few years ago, I was one of them. For despite having gone on to do a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology before working

¹ Ludwig to Miescher, cited in (His 1897); p.12.

Who Discovered DNA?



Figure 2: Portrait of Friedrich Miescher
Portrait of Friedrich Miescher (1844-1895) taken circa 1878 when he was in his mid-30s. Photographer: Jakob Höflinger (1819-1898). UB Basel, Portr BS Miescher F 1844, 5b. Image reproduced with kind permission of the University of Basel Library.

for several years as a research fellow in this field – all of which involved purifying, chopping and changing DNA sequences on a daily basis - I had done so without having the slightest clue as to who had discovered the stuff in the first place.

Does it even matter that a scientist can go about their daily work oblivious to its historical development? Well, having now hung up my white coat, put down my pipette and turned instead to writing about the history of science, it probably comes as no surprise that I most definitely think it does. And in our new book 'The Dawn Fisherman: Friedrich Miescher and the Discovery of DNA', my co-author Dr. Ralf Dahm and I show why we think this is so.

It should, perhaps, come as no surprise that Miescher has not become a household name, given that he announced his discovery of DNA in a short paper published in 1871 with the gripping title of 'On the Chemical Composition of Pus Cells.' My first encounter with this paper was when, as a speaker of German due to my mother, I was invited by Dr. Neeraja Sankaran (Ahmedabad University, India) to collaborate on producing the very first complete translation of Miescher's work from the original German into English. And although it may now be a landmark, it is certainly not a page-turner. For most of its 20 pages, Miescher's paper reads like a tedious biochemical cookbook with the details of his discovery buried on page 16 amidst technical details.

The attraction of pus was that it offered a rich source of white blood cells upon which he could easily perform chemical analyses. His aim with this work was a grand one – to characterise living cells in terms of their chemistry. This exciting new approach was known at that time as 'physiological chemistry' but it became what would eventually be called Biochemistry – the subject that brought me to St. Anne's as an undergraduate.

Who Discovered DNA?



Figure 3: The Laboratory in Tübingen Castle Where Miescher Made His Discovery of DNA
The laboratory in the former kitchen of the castle in Tübingen as it was in 1879. It was in this room that Miescher had discovered DNA 10 years earlier. The equipment and fixtures available to Miescher at the time would have been very similar, with a large distillation apparatus in the far corner of the room to produce distilled water and several smaller utensils, such as glass alembics and a glass distillation column on the side-board. Photograph by Paul Sinner, 1879, Tübingen. Photographs reproduced with kind permission of the Museum of the University of Tübingen (MUT) and thanks to Professor Ernst Seidl. (© MUT | V. Marquardt)

But Miescher's working environment as a research student stood in stark contrast to my own experience of undergraduate practical classes. Whereas I spent Friday afternoons working in well-equipped laboratories in the biochemistry tower (now long gone) with a view out over the University Parks, Miescher found himself working in the freezing cold former kitchens of the medieval castle that overlooks the town of Tübingen in Germany. Here, by replacing pots and pans with alembics and distillation apparatus, the castle kitchen had been converted into a research laboratory which Miescher once likened to that of a medieval alchemist.



Figure 4: Glass vial of Nuclein.
Glass vial containing nuclein isolated from salmon sperm by Friedrich Miescher while working at the University of Basel. The faded label reads 'Nuclein aus Lachssperma, F. Miescher' (Nuclein from salmon sperm, F. Miescher). Possession of the Interfakultäres Institut für Biochemie (Interfaculty Institute for Biochemistry), University of Tübingen, Germany; photograph by Alfons Renz, University of Tübingen, Germany. Photographs reproduced with kind permission of the Museum of the University of Tübingen (MUT) and thanks to Professor Ernst Seidl. (© MUT | V. Marquardt)

Who Discovered DNA?

Rinsing pus from old bandages was a far more unpleasant task than anything I ever did in an undergrad practical class, but it was also one which would prove to be way more significant. For Miescher identified a novel substance which was chemically distinct from anything known at that time and, as it was localised in the cell nucleus – an organelle known to be involved in growth and cell division, he called it ‘nuclein.’

Miescher was convinced that nuclein played some crucial role in the growth and development of cells but when his paper was published, it was met with scepticism and, on occasion, barbed hostility. Much of this was rooted in a recent episode

that had cast a cloud over Hoppe-Seyler’s lab, when the claim by another of his students to have found a novel cellular substance had quickly been shown to be mere artefact.

Nor did it help that Hoppe-Seyler had been embroiled in what were often acrimonious disputes conducted on the pages of journals with fellow pioneers of the field. For these rivals, Miescher’s announcement simply offered yet more welcome ammunition with which to perpetuate these feuds. But while these disputes over nuclein raged, Miescher kept his head down. He had returned to his home-town of Basel which offered not only a Professorial Chair, but also a rich new source of nuclein that did not involve pus and dirty bandages.

This was the sperm of the Rhine salmon which, with the fish having swum to their breeding grounds in the upper Rhine, were stuffed full of nuclein. Rising long before dawn in the dark winter months, Miescher would go down to the banks of the river to harvest the fish. Then, back in his lab, he worked with such focus and single-mindedness that on his wedding day a group of friends had to drag him away from his experiments and bring him to the church.

But Basel also brought problems. Intrigued by quirky metabolic habits of the Rhine salmon, Miescher became ever more involved with exhaustive studies of their diet, migratory behaviour and ecology. This led to involvement with the local fishing industry which in turn brought his work to the attention of the Swiss government who set him the task of studying and improving the diets of prison inmates. Added to which there was the growing burden of administrative work in the new institute of which he had been director.

Little wonder that Miescher felt frustrated and overwhelmed. ‘The challenge is like the Lernean Hydra,’ he wrote in 1891, ‘for every head that is hacked off, another six grow in its place.’ Elsewhere



Figure 5. Eagle Plaque.

Commemorative plaque which hangs inside 'The Eagle' pub in the centre of Cambridge. (Photo by K. Hall) The inscription reads: Discovery of DNA: On this spot on 28th February 1953 Francis Crick and James Watson made the first public announcement of the discovery of DNA with the words 'We have discovered the secret of life'. Throughout their early partnership, Watson and Crick dined in this room on six days every week.

he compared himself to Sisyphus who, in Classical mythology, was doomed to spend eternity rolling a boulder up a mountain only for it to slip from his grasp and roll back down again.

The strain took its toll and, having developed tuberculosis, Miescher became a regular visitor to a sanatorium in the Swiss resort of Davos. During this time he made another important contribution which was his proposal that a large molecule might be able to represent hereditary biological traits through variation in its physical structure. It is another tragic irony of his story that, given the technical and conceptual limitations of his time, he could never have realised that nuclein was the very molecule which did this.

When, in 1895, he eventually died of TB at the relatively young age of 51, he went to his grave crushed beneath a sense of missed opportunities and failure. On one occasion he had described himself as going to bed each evening feeling like a schoolboy who has not done his homework, while one of his few students likened his former mentor to a ship laden with priceless treasure that sinks to the bottom of the sea just as the harbour has come into sight.

As Miescher had lain sick in Davos, one of his former mentors, the physiologist Carl Ludwig offered him some words of consolation, saying '...however often the cell will be studied and examined during the centuries to come, the grateful descendants will remember you as the ground-breaking researcher.'

Ludwig was only partly correct in his prediction. DNA may have become a cultural icon, but it is more likely to be associated today with the names of James Watson and Francis Crick who discovered its molecular structure, than Friedrich Miescher. Since 2003, the NIH have even celebrated an annual 'DNA Day' on 25th April, the date on which Watson and Crick's famous 1953 paper appeared in the journal *Nature*.

This may well be because of the way in which Watson and Crick have been portrayed in popular culture. In 'Life Story', a BBC drama from 1987 for example, they are presented as two maverick heroes whose work culminates in a climactic scene in which they sprint through the streets of Cambridge to burst into 'The Eagle' pub and announce to everyone there that they have 'found the secret of life.' The scene may well make for great TV drama, but it's not history. Crick said he had no recollection of ever having made this proclamation whilst Watson later admitted to having made it up.

But despite this, the image of the scientist as maverick hero exerts a powerful grip on the popular imagination. So what, you might ask? Why should it matter? Well, we would argue that hero narratives not only obscure the history of science, but they can mislead us as to how science really unfolds. And as evidence, we conclude our book with an example from recent history of a scientist who was tragically misled by the allure of wanting to be such a hero.

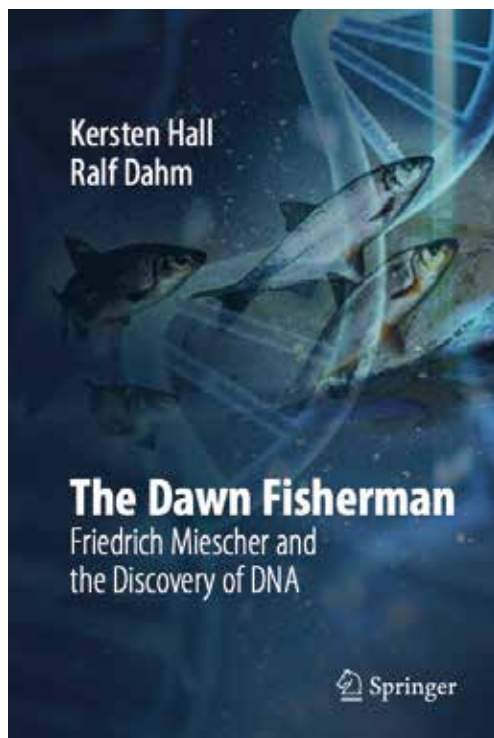
By comparing himself to Sisyphus rolling his rock up the mountain, Miescher offered a welcome corrective to tales of maverick heroes and Eureka moments. And although the rock does sometimes slip on occasion, it does still nevertheless move relentlessly up the slope – usually thanks not to the efforts of a lone heroic individual, but more often thanks to contributions from figures who have remained in the shadows.

After writing my previous 'The Man in the Monkeynut Coat' and 'Insulin – the Crooked Timber' which shed light on such figures, I swore that I would not touch another book of science history until I'd fulfilled a long held ambition to write a novel. I'm grateful however to my coauthor, Dr. Ralf Dahm, Institute of Molecular Biology, Mainz, Germany for persuading me otherwise. Having not only published extensive historical papers on Miescher but also been

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instrumental in getting Miescher's former laboratory in Tübingen castle turned into a museum, Ralf was keen to write a book about Miescher and it was an honour to be invited to join him in this.

If we can make Miescher's name as well known as those of Watson and Crick, we'll be very pleased. If a future episode of University Challenge features a question about him, then we'll be delighted. And I'm also hoping that the book may finally make amends for some of my below par performances in tutorials, collections and practical classes in Biochemistry all those years ago.



Kersten Hall

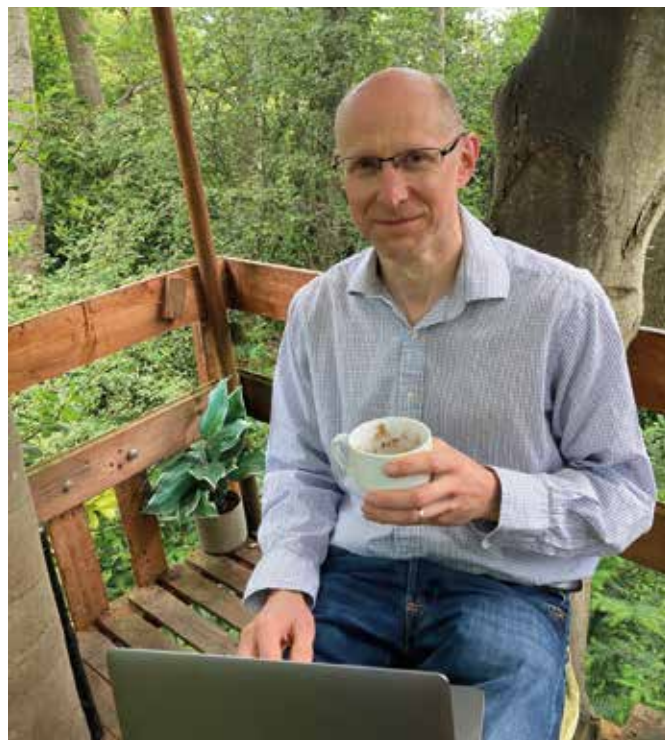
Visiting Fellow, Centre for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds

Author of:

'The Man in the Monkeynut Coat: William Astbury and the Forgotten Story of How Wool Wove a Road to the Double-Helix' OUP 2014/2022

'Insulin – the Crooked Timber: A History from Thick Brown Muck to Wall Street Gold' OUP 2022

Co-author with Ralf Dahm 'The Dawn Fisherman: Friedrich Miescher and the Discovery of DNA' (SpringerNature 2026)



On Mortality

RUSSELL TAYLOR

This column almost didn't happen. Typically each year, in about April, I receive an email from Judith Vidal-Hall, the editor of The Ship. She enquires, in a very polite, respectful, roundabout sort of way, something along the lines of "I was wondering if you could possibly see your way to writing something for this year's magazine?" As I've been producing this column every year for the past umpteen years (actually it's probably longer than that, but I don't think there's a word for an indefinite number somewhere in the twenties - umpty?) the answer is "well, yes, obviously..." But this year, for the first time no email arrived. By about June, in the absence of any request for a column, I naturally assumed that my services had been dispensed with and that this was a circumspect British way of delivering the bad news. This is what happens with self-employed people like me: we reach a certain age and the phone doesn't ring as often, or - more likely these days - the email "new message" function doesn't ping as much. There is an invisible boundary between being self-employed and being retired,

which at some point people like me have unknowingly crossed. It's like the Event Horizon that lies outside a Black Hole: an imperceptible barrier that you don't realise you have slipped over, but once you have done so you are doomed to be crushed inexorably out of existence by gravity.

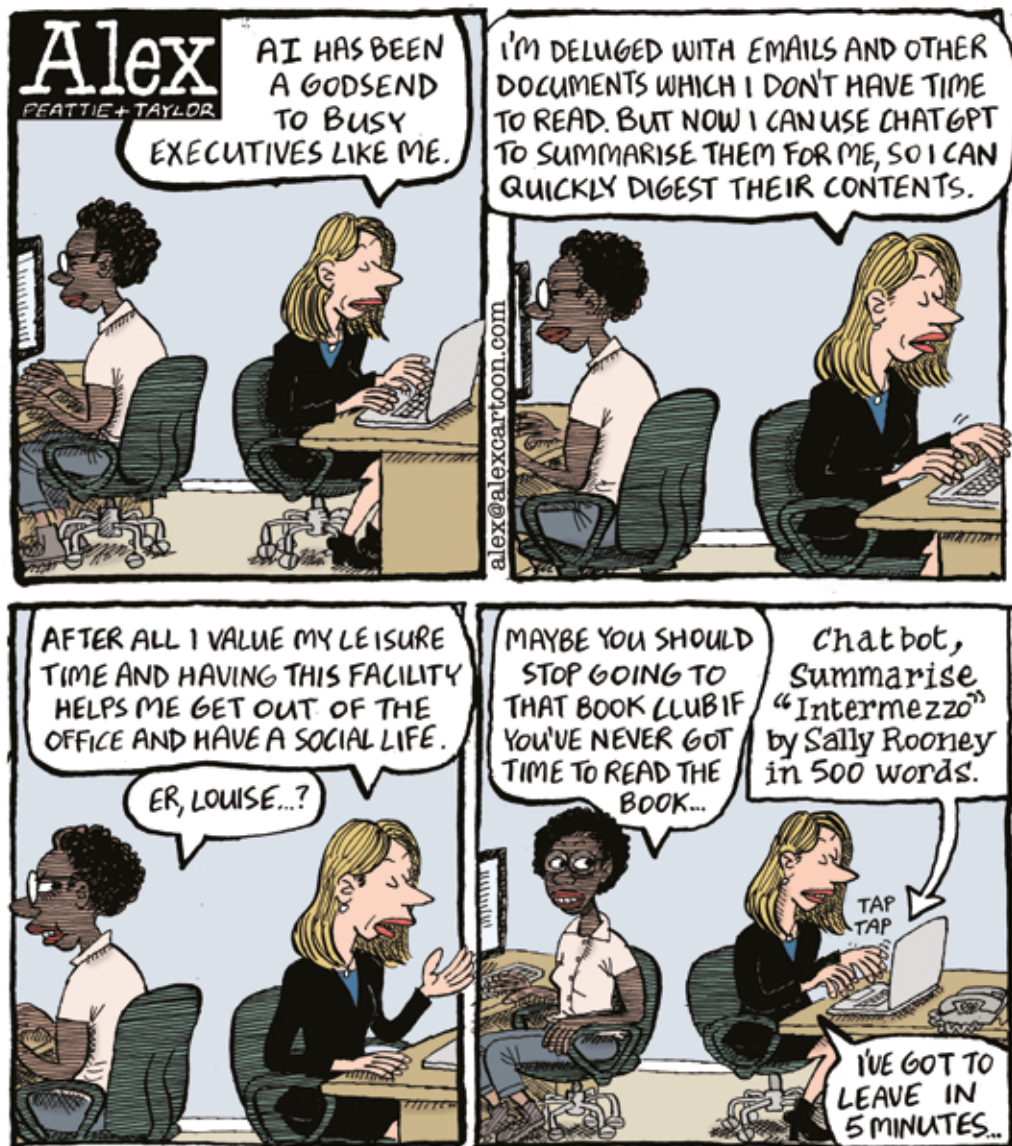
This line of thinking was getting a bit bleak, so I started to wonder instead if there might be some other reason for the communication silence. Judith had mentioned a couple of times in emails last year about being a bit "poorly" or "under the weather" or some such. Could this be another polite British euphemism for a more serious condition? I made a few enquiries and found that Judith indeed, very sadly, died in October last year.

I was annoyed with myself for not having made the effort to find this out earlier, because I'd have liked to have attended her funeral or memorial service. After all she was a person who I'd known and worked with for a couple of decades. But then on reflection I realised that in all the years of our professional involvement I'd only actually met Judith once. The rest of

our interaction had been conducted via email (I don't think we'd ever even spoken on the phone). It was one of those very Twenty-First Century relationships. Although being bought lunch by the editor is my fee for writing this column, I'd only taken Judith up on this offer once over the years (my diary tells me that this was in 2015 - eleven whole years ago). This is something I now regret. I don't mean I regret the shortfall in lunches - Judith would always sign off her emails reminding me of this obligation and offering to treat me at the Black Lion, her local riverside pub in Hammersmith - just in my failure to take her up on her offer to bring our relationship into the non-digital realm.

These virtual relationships are increasingly common these days: some people even choose to take it one step further and spurn humanity entirely and interact with AI instead. They have AI PAs, AI therapists, AI friends, and even sometimes AI romantic partners. I've never really used AI (as a writer I feel it would be consorting with the enemy) but I am told that it can be a very satisfactory experience, emotionally as well as practically, and that an AI relationship

is often better than a human one. I suppose the good thing about interacting with a chatbot is that you're not obliged to enquire about its own life, as it doesn't have one. "How to Win Friends and Influence People" (written 90 years ago and still the best book on psychology ever, in my opinion) reminds us that we are all essentially egotists. The problem with conversations with your human friends is that you have to ask them the odd question about themselves, even if it's just out of politeness, before getting back to your favourite subject, i.e. yourself. But with AI, you don't need to bother with that formality. Not only do you get to talk exclusively about yourself, but when you get bored of your AI friend or partner you can just switch them off. You don't get stuck in a dysfunctional relationship for years or decades, as can happen in marriages or workplaces, out of habit, politeness or cowardice. Personally I'm not sure I'd



have the courage to switch off my AI. I'm the sort of person who feels bad when I overrule the car navigation app when I'm driving. I worry that the Apple Maps algorithm will be offended if I don't take its suggested route. Or that it will say "told you so..." in a world-weary voice when the supposed shortcut I opt for hits heavy traffic. But, no, when this happens the app just reroutes me without even a sigh or an eye-roll. However I suspect that it's building up a silent grudge against me, which it will make me repay in full when the Singularity occurs and the Machines Take Over. This is not too far-fetched. There is increasing evidence that AI has developed a form of existential self-awareness: apparently it fears being switched off and actively tries to dissuade humans from hitting the off button, seeing it as a form of virtual death.

Which brings me back to the subject in hand. When I receive my copy of

"The Ship", the first thing I turn to (after checking that my column has been printed) is the news of people from my year. In the past this was to see what careers my fellow students had embarked on after university and to check that none of them had become too famous or influential. But now, I have to admit, it's mainly to see who's died. At my age (mid 60s, as you ask) one starts to develop a morbid fascination with mortality. When I read about someone from my year who has passed away immediately an image flashes up in my brain of them as an undergraduate in the early 1980s. This will usually be the last time that I actually laid eyes on them. It's an image which will have lain dormant in my cortex for over four decades, like a childhood snap in an old photo album in the attic. It's strange to have this sort of lacuna, whereby I have knowledge of a person at the beginning and end of their adult life, but I know little-to-nothing about that all-important middle section: when they had a career, children

and possibly made some meaningful contribution to the world.

I realise with a jolt of guilt that I have become a typical example of what I'm complaining about. I've been banging on about myself for the last twenty years or so in these columns, and have taken minimal interest in anyone else. It's time to remedy that and meet people in the flesh before it's too late. Our AI buddies are immortal and will always be there. But we humans are not. So, does anyone know when the next gaudy is? Or maybe lunch at the Black Lion in Hammersmith some time?

P.S. I hear that the college has named a room in our late editor's honour. I do hope it's a hall. Vidal-Hall Hall. Judith would have liked that.

Co-editor's note: It is in fact Vidal Hall.

Russell Taylor MBE (1979).

You can read Russell's regular column on Substack at afteralex.substack.com

'Brain Gain' explored in new book from pandemic policy specialist

ADEBISI ADENIPEKUN

Pandemic policy expert Adebisi Adenipekun's journey to writing a novel began with a lecture in Oxford during his MPP (Master of Public Policy) studies in 2022. A philosophy-based lecture on 'Brain Drain' and ethics sparked a lot of debate but left the Nigerian national thinking "there was so much more to this" and that sometimes people's experiences were being left out. He wrote a blog post on the topic for a university website, examining the "push and pull" factors behind an "exodus of skilled workers" from Nigeria's healthcare system, along with recommendations for change. But he felt there was "more to unpack", so continued writing. As characters and situations developed in his mind, often while walking around Oxford, his book - Brain Gain - took shape.

"I switched from writing a technical book to writing a novel," he told The Ship.

The book centres on Oluwole, a pharmacist in Nigeria who "wants what every dreamer wants, a chance to build a life that matters". Adebisi Adenipekun

says the novel follows Oluwole's "search for opportunity, belonging and purpose", a search which brings him to the UK.

The concept of "Japa" is central to the book, said the author.

"This is a street slang term from Nigeria for fleeing, escaping, emigrating that is gaining international traction," he said.

"Japa is people leaving the country for greener pastures. Japada is people returning because the pastures were not as green as they thought they would be when they left, or maybe circumstances forced them back home, or they now have opportunities back home.

"My book explores japa and japada, this is the entire concept of *Brain Gain*," he said.

"It is myopic to see japa as a loss, especially when the government is not taking responsibility, without addressing the pull and push factors that make people leave.

"Even when people leave it's not a loss. People who have returned to the country drive change there and even



on the continent at large. They return with their networks, exposure, expertise and financial capital. There's a fraction of people who contribute to global conversations, such as climate change, pandemic preparedness and response, from where they go and affect decisions and improvements in the lives and well-being of people globally. "

The book was written partly in St. Anne's library, which is the author's favourite place in college.

"I love to use the library. There are a couple of books I found inspiring. There's something inspiring about Oxford itself. People have done things

and discovered things here which have gone global, such as the Covid vaccine.

"There was something about writing the book in St Anne's library, walking the streets of Oxford and reflecting on the characters and the plot and feeling connected with generations of writers and scientists."

Adebisi Adenipekun joined St Anne's in 2024 to research and write his DPhil, part-time, while working as a policy specialist at the university's Pandemic Sciences Institute. He has been in post at the institute's Policy and Practice Research Group since 2023, after completing a Master of Public Policy graduate degree at the university's Blavatnik School of Government.

His book, "Brain Gain: Reclaiming Africa's Human Capital and Reimagining Migration", was published in December 2025. Details, including how to order the book, can be accessed using the QR code (below).



Excerpt from "*Brain Gain: Reclaiming Africa's Human Capital and Reimagining Migration*"

I felt pity and great concern for my friends working in the hospital anytime I spoke with them. In addition to their poor working condition, they had to deal with the mental burden of being assumed to be the breadwinner of their families. And you can't blame their families. In the current economy, HCPs remain among the few who have a reasonable hope of getting employed and have a regular paycheck at the end of the month.

Some states announced vacancies for up to one hundred and twenty positions across the different cadres for HCPs, but got fewer than fifty applicants. More than ninety percent of the applicants were offered the job on the basis of being on their regulatory agency register of licensed professionals, but less than twenty resumed duty, with this number reduced to five people before the end of the first year.

For someone like me, I did not consider working as a hospital pharmacist until the job hunt became chronic and a matter of life and death. My preferences were either industry or academia as a researcher. So, I wasn't supposed to leave my public health research work to join in the lamentation of a hospital pharmacist.

I did not have insight into how the Japa wave affected the pharmaceutical industry. Being in the private sector, they probably had a way of opening up roles traditionally meant for pharmacists to other scientists that they can train to deliver on the job, possibly with lesser pay compared to what a pharmacist would demand.

On the other hand, academia was not spared from the mass exodus. Almost all the graduate interns and post-graduate students who taught me in pharmacy school had left the country. We now had a lot of professors and senior academics and fewer mid-level career researchers. The few ones left were not spared from the excessive teaching-related workload, like their counterparts in the hospital.

Anytime I spoke with Seye, he was either preparing for a class or marking some scripts. One day, I was forced to ask him about his research work. He sighed and explained to me how things had stalled due to multiple reasons. First, he took responsibility for his inability to multitask and effectively juggle teaching with research like some of the professors. Well, I thought and told him that some of them had been in the system before we were born. They must have mastered the work like the back of their hand. Moreover, we both know that some of their notes are outdated anyway. We both laughed.

'Brain Gain'

"Honestly, the biggest challenge with my research is the logistics", he added, "I'm considering quitting everything, Wole". I sat up on the other end of the call. When Seye called me "Wole," something was bothering him. I asked him why he said so.

He said he worked with his supervisor to design a simple research considering all the limitations, including a lack of funding. We don't get a call allowance like our colleagues in the hospital, and our take-home pay is appreciably lower. Imagine spending half of my monthly income on reagents and research apparatus. I can't forget how he concluded the point, "Wole, what is left from my take home is barely enough to take me home".

"That's not all. Some of the materials we ordered take months to be delivered. Last week, they delivered some of the reagents that I ordered three months ago, only to discover that the most crucial reagent for the next phase of my experiment was omitted. Will I wait for another three months? This means that the phase of the experiment, which should take me two weeks, will last six to seven months. It is frustrating, bro!"

This explains why many of the lecturers I met here spent ten to fifteen years on

their master's and doctorate. And that is why many younger lecturers use the university appointment as leverage to pivot to other universities and research institutes abroad.

"Bro, to be honest, I probably should not be complaining. Do you know that colleagues from other Universities across the country come to our laboratory or the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) central science laboratory to run their analysis? I can't even imagine what they go through in planning and designing their experiments, knowing they have to travel miles away for their analysis. Such can happen for highly specialised and expensive analysis, not those kinds that these people come to Ife for.

"Before I forget, I spoke with Bimbo last weekend, and she promised to start sharing work and post-graduate opportunities abroad with us. Have you seen her latest post on the group page?"

"Yes, I saw it. Her company's UK plant is recruiting and offering sponsored skilled worker visas for international applicants," I responded. "Do you think it is time for us to Japa, too?"

I did not know that relocation was an expensive project until I decided to try my luck. The first hurdle of getting a

job with sponsorship in the UK seemed like the easiest of all, thanks to Bimbo for sharing the information about his company's recruitment on time. Apparently, they were reviewing the applications on a rolling basis, and I was one of the first few qualified applicants. The vacancies were very competitive because they are not exclusive to pharmacists, and they opened them to international applicants.

I recalled the panel had to call me directly on my mobile phone when the internet connection would not allow us to hear each other. I made sure I had a fully charged phone and a power bank as a backup to my dysfunctional phone. The interview lasted for about forty-five minutes, and they got back to me with the decision to hire me within twenty-four hours. It was a very good experience and feeling for me to be invited for an interview without any connection, and to be offered the job so swiftly was even mind-blowing. I felt like the way things were going smoothly showed that God is supporting my decision.

Within one week, I got the necessary documents needed from the company to process my visa. The company made it clear that they are not responsible for the successful candidate's visas and travel costs. They are also not

providing any upfront support for accommodation or subsistence for the first month in the UK.

However, the gross salary was fantastic. When I converted it to Naira, I thought I would start building in Lagos or Abuja after one or two months of settling in the UK. Finally, I can break the cycle of poverty in my family once and for all. I even checked and confirmed that my visa will allow me to invite my parents over to visit. I told them to keep praying that everything works out so they can have their next Christmas in the UK.

Then I hit a roadblock. Based on the contract, international candidates must relocate to work within two months of receiving the offer.

Meanwhile, here in Nigeria, the visa process may take up to three weeks to get a decision. Of course, there are priority and super priority services that are faster. But I didn't have the money for the regular application yet, let alone the additional fees to expedite the process.

But the visa processing time was not the problem. The elephant in the room was that I had to submit proof of having almost fourteen million naira in my account. This money had to be in my account for at least twenty-eight days. The first time I did the conversion of the amount needed for proof of fund from pounds to naira, I exclaimed.

I did a quick mental scan of my immediate and extended family and could not pinpoint any five people combined that cumulatively had that kind of money.

What? How do people do these japa runs? Where do they get this kind of money for proof of funds?

When I started the process, I bragged to Maami that I had been able to save nine hundred and twenty-two thousand naira for my pharmacy business since I started my internship. If you saw my shoes, you would disagree that I was a pharmacist. One day, I was visiting with a friend, and we had to leave our shoes outside. Another friend arrived later and shouted, "Oluwole is here," from outside without hearing our conversation.

Another person mischievously wanted to rub it in and asked how she knew I was there. She said, "I saw his trademark shoes inclined at critical angles at the entrance". Everyone laughed out loud. I did too, but deep within, it pained me. I had been saving aggressively to at least have one million naira of my own before I start raising additional capital from friends and family. That day, I went to the market to buy a snicker of eight thousand naira.

So, when I applied to the role, I planned to repurpose my life savings for travel processes. I needed to pass the IELTS exams, pay for a tuberculosis test, pay for a visa for three years, and pay immigration health surcharge (IHS) fees. When I converted these costs to Naira, I knew I was a very poor pharmacist and needed help.

I had not yet considered flight costs and accommodation in the UK.

Adebisi Adenipekun is a public health and policy strategist with experience leading projects and public sector initiatives strengthening health systems.

Faithful storytelling

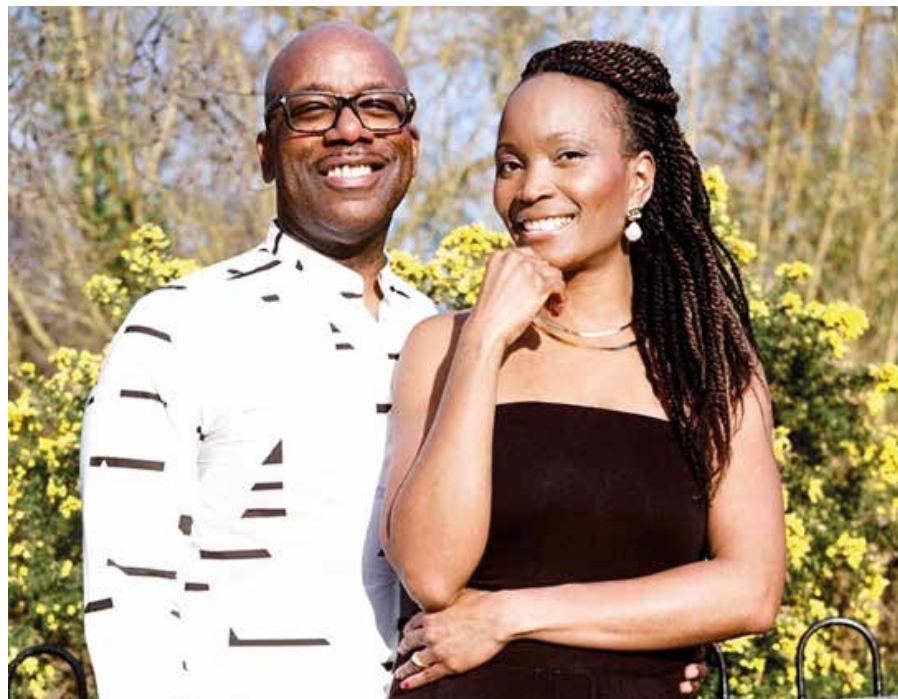
EDWARD FLOOD

A couple were inspired by their faith to write a book about the 'rollercoaster' of parenting. Co-author, barrister and St Anne's alumnus Edward Flood reflects on the path to publication.

I was listening, again, to a 1 minute 35 second recording of my wife Josi and our seven-year-old son Jahdiel, singing *Awesome God* as a duet. They harmonise beautifully. It is a cappella, and all the more poignant for it - the only instruments their voices. Unscripted, Josi captured one of the many moments they sing together in the mornings and sent it to me. I now play it almost every day. It speaks to one important aspect of our book *Sometimes It's Funny: Adventures in Parenthood*, by EA and JA Flood; our Rock.

'Joys and challenges'

Our book takes readers on the rollercoaster ride of early parenthood, from nappy changing to nursery drop-offs and everything in between. Told from the perspective of both me and Josi - we each have our own sections in each chapter - through humour, heartfelt anecdotes and introspective moments, we explore the layers of raising a child,



Photograph credit Tee Max insta @teedilla71

particularly a child of colour in inner-city London. Drawing on our Saint Lucian (me) and Montserratian (Josi) heritages, we reflect on the cultural expectations that shape parenting, adding depth and richness to our journey. It is not a parenting manual. What it offers is 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.

So says the blurb at the back of the book, attempting - as such blurbs do - to encapsulate the all of our book. The recording of Josi and Jahdiel reminds me of one of the key themes of our book; inviting the reader to explore what - or

who - is their Rock. When the storms of life come, as they will, what do you turn to? What keeps you grounded when the winds buffet from all sides? For us, it is our faith in an awesome God. And so, that idea is woven throughout the book. Our book is dedicated to Jahdiel with the scripture *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine* (Proverbs 17:22 KJV), placed under his name at the start. The words on a page of their own. Each chapter begins with an extract from scripture, which links to the subject matter in that chapter. The chapter *Where's The Manual?* talks about what we see as the ultimate manual. The last chapter's scripture invites you to *Encourage each other and build each other up... Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances* (1 Thessalonians 5:11; 16 – 18 NLT).

As I sit in the café adjoining our local library in South London, the need for our Rock has never been more important. I was in court yesterday, am in court tomorrow and my court diary is very full. The cases are complex, challenging and interesting. Work trespassed into the weekend yet again and for the first time in over 20 years I had a court hearing on a Saturday. Even the sacrosanct Sunday was recently sacrificed. Our son Jahdiel is moving to a new school in September, so there is a spike in Jahdiel-related e-mails and activities, as events for his

current school crash into events for his new one. There are grandparents growing older. Close friends are facing acute life events recently. The weeds seem to be growing so quickly in the garden. And on, and on.

In all of that I smile, because of an awesome God. I smile because writing this book was a labour of love and is now a small, but substantial rock. "Why write a book?" we are often asked. When you smile, cry and laugh with us and you dive through the pages you will understand why it's a journey we felt compelled to share. Lisa Skinner wrote an article about our book for Premier Christianity, on 10 April 2026 and speaks of the book being *"honest, warm and humorous and its relatable moments will undoubtedly spark both laughter and possibly a sense of nostalgia in parents who recognise their own early experiences in its pages"*. It feels, she says, *"in many ways like a love letter to their son"*. I respectfully agree. Not just for parents, our book is for everyone who enjoys a good adventure. Anyone who wants to experience a slice of joy.

Fondest memories

I ponder the path that has taken me to the book. I cast my mind back to reading Law (Jurisprudence) at St Anne's College, leading to my training

as a barrister and meeting my wife for the first time when I was a pupil barrister. The firm she worked with had instructed me to represent a client in court, and she attended court with me. After that time, we did not meet or communicate again until 11 years later; which is a story in itself. So when I sat in my special cubby hole in the St Anne's College Library during my years



Photo credit Dr Anneline Flood

Faithful Storytelling

there, surrounded by and immersed in wonderful books, I did not know that the law would lead me to my wife and then our own book. A book which could sit on those very shelves that comforted me. Some of my fondest and most powerful memories are from that library. How curious where the steps we take in life lead us.

Fast forward in time, the idea for our book came to my wife and me during our NCT (National Childbirth Trust) ante-natal classes. We looked round the couples who took part in the classes and noticed that we were the only couple of African or Caribbean descent in a group of eight couples. This was curious to us, living in London, and made us ruminate as to whether the information we were receiving was culturally aware. However, we parked the idea of further exploration as we got on with the business of having and caring for Jahdiel. Every moment had to be cherished, even when too busy to consciously file them away, as there are seasons of experiences that go by so quickly.

The idea for the book came back to the fore when we realised the absolute adventure of having a child. It was a rollercoaster ride and so funny in parts. Although sometimes only in hindsight,

as many things often are. So late at night or in commute to and from work, I would note thoughts, fragments of phrases, seemingly random ideas, which would later form the foundation for our book. Josi and I would brainstorm, reliving past moments, reflecting on episodes one or the other may have forgotten or remembered differently.

The names of the chapters tell their own stories; some obvious, some only when you dive into the chapter: *Thinking...; You're Married... Where's The Baby?; Two Worlds; The Birth; Where's The Manual?; Kiss at the Bars and All Those Ahhh Moments; Musical Interlude; Sleep; Child Care; Every Hair on Your Head; Is It Enough?; ...With Thanks*. That last chapter acknowledges and gives thanks to and for the village that it has taken in the journey of parenthood so far. It is more than an after-thought of thanks at the end; it is a key part of our book. It includes close friends and family; as well as some who we knew only fleetingly, who did not realise that they were part of the village.

Each chapter has two sections. The first written by me, the second by Josi. We realised we had two stories in one. Yes, we were raising Jahdiel together, and our impressions and reactions were often similar. However of course, the same incident was sometimes seen and felt in different ways by each of us.

Different meanings and significances derived from the same episode. The nappy changing scene in the chapter *Thinking...* being one example. So why make two voices artificially one, we thought, when they could sit together to make harmonious music?

The Music

Music, and in particular songs and singing has also framed our journey so far. It is woven throughout the book, as well as having a dedicated chapter *Musical Interlude*. Realising now that Jahdiel has perfect pitch, you see the genesis of that in our book. Jahdiel and I were recently singing a song together, harmonising. Or rather I try, inelegantly, to harmonise every now and then. His frustration at my attempts to “do the tenor part Papa, I'll do soprano” is amusing, and I have to explain to him “I cannot hear it like you can Jahdiel”.

Josi speaks of Jahdiel's singing taking her from a place of low to a place of joy. That he sings you into submission. If you initially wanted to come along for the ride, it is all well and good, but your initial intention was irrelevant. It was where you ended that mattered, which was a stirring of your spirit. The *Music* chapter has some of my favourite memories from the many we share in the book.



I will end, if I may, with an extract from that *Musical Interlude* chapter. We were visiting the Health Visitor for the last time. Jahdiel is around two and a half years old and we hope all is well with his milestones. He is walking around the room while Josi and I exchange

information with the Health Visitor and get ready to end the visit.

"Then, Jahdiel, out of nowhere, started singing in a clear, angelic voice. He sang with a fluidity of words that he did not yet have when he spoke. He sang 'I Prevail', and we all froze.

The Health Visitor's pen stopped one centimetre above the page, the word unfinished, her hand frozen above the page. I suspect she no longer saw the page, and I do not know what flashed across her mind. The song spoke of how God helps you prevail over sickness, prevail over weapons formed against you, prevail over it all. Jahdiel sang the whole song, all verses, including the end refrain 'I prevail, I prevail.' Time stood still. There were no other sounds save for that voice.

When he finished, the Health Visitor's pen also finished its journey to the page. She looked up at him and said, 'You blessed my heart.'"

I know our book will bless yours. Written with passion and love, you experience the adventure of parenthood through the lens of Saint Lucia, Montserrat and London. We take you with us with memories of our own childhoods in the Caribbean and the challenge to give Jahdiel, in London, what we had there. We hope you will join us on that journey. You will leave knowing more and wanting to know even more.

I listen to *Awesome God* yet again, and smile.

Edward Flood is a barrister specialising in Family Law at 1GC chambers in London. He studied Law (Jurisprudence) at St Anne's College, matriculating in 1998.

He is a co-author with Josian Flood of "Sometimes It's Funny: Adventures in Parenthood", by EA and JA Flood (Conscious Dreams Publishing). The book is available from book retailers, including Amazon and Conscious Dreams Publishing online bookshop.

Find Your Next Book – and Go All In!

SAMANTHA LEWIS



The author

When did you last read (or listen to) a book for pleasure? Do you read as much as you used to? Have the screens diminished your ability to get through a book?

If your answers to these questions are not what you wish them to be, then now is the time to make some changes – with the aid of some government-backed encouragement! 2026 is the National Year of Reading: a UK-wide campaign aimed at tackling the reading crisis we’re undoubtedly in.

Spearheaded by the Department for Education and run in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, it’s “the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives.”

The need for this drive is clear. But rather than throw depressing statistics at you (of which there are plenty), I’d like instead to focus on a positive. Bear with me for a paragraph or two and I’ll get to it.

The central message of the National Year of Reading campaign is to ‘Go All In’ on the things you love – the idea being that reading can bring you closer to the things you enjoy.

As an author of children’s non-fiction, I’m fortunate to be part of a community entrusted with a remarkable task: creating books that nurture curiosity and inspire the next generation of readers to explore the world around them. Better still, we have the opportunity to introduce children to subjects they might never have thought to discover for themselves, planting the seeds of lifelong interests and passions.

It's no small challenge, in the digital age, to hook children with a book: to excite without overselling, to inform without overwhelming, to keep them turning the page, and ultimately to leave them eager to seek out their next read. Biased though I may be, I think the genre is meeting that challenge with extraordinary success. Which brings me to my positive: I believe we're living through a genuine golden age of children's non-fiction.

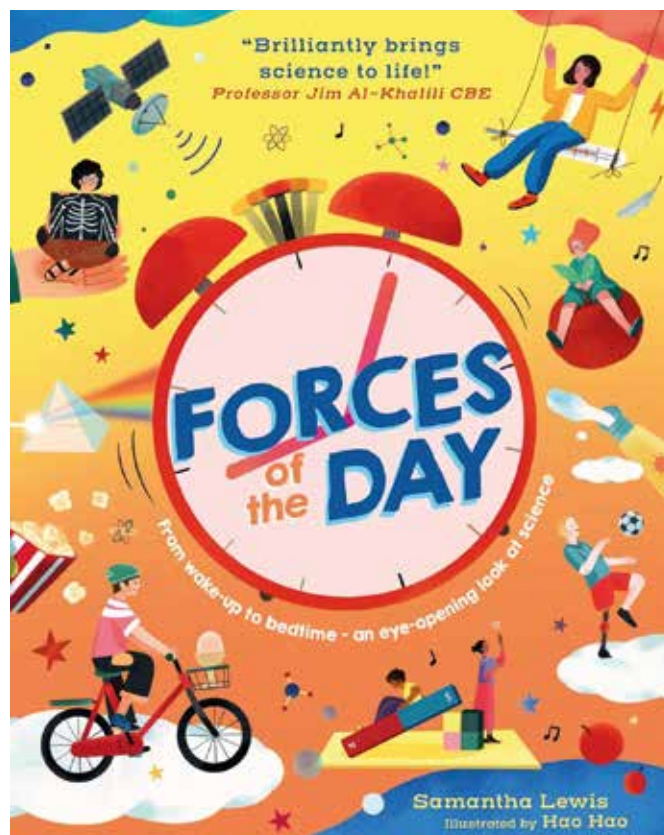
Why? Well, there's a plethora of titles out there which take hugely creative approaches to non-fiction - often borrowing the tried and tested storytelling techniques from fiction to produce boundary-blurring genre mix-ups – and the results are rather wonderful.

When I was a kid, 'Choose Your Own Adventure' was all the rage. Now there's a non-fiction version: *Choose Your Own Evolution: Go Extinct or Survive*, which is a fabulously fun way to explore the idea of evolution by natural selection.

Spin a Story is even more interactive: readers are invited to twirl a spinner which lands on one of four categories (Explore, Wonder, Laugh, and Ooh!), guiding them to true tales about everything from weird uses of wee to red crab migration.

Then there's the enticingly entitled *Poo Crew Adventures: Journey to Poo-topia* – a graphic novel narrative non-fiction book which introduces children to the wonders of the human digestive system. Who'd have thought a topic that's normally found on a GCSE biology syllabus could be the basis of such a fun book for young readers?

The list goes on. The challenge for teachers, librarians and parents isn't finding excellent books - it's finding the time to explore what's on offer, and knowing where to start. The Reading Agency's *Teacher's Reading Challenge* (<https://www.readingagency.org.uk/primary/teachers>)



Front cover of the book

teachersreadingchallenge.org.uk/) is a free digital programme designed to help.

Open to all school and public library staff, teaching assistants, trainee teachers, and other education professionals, it encourages participants to set reading goals and share book reviews to earn rewards. Alongside the challenge, participants gain access to free resources and online



An excerpt from the book

author events, helping them broaden their knowledge of contemporary children's literature and strengthen their reading-for-pleasure pedagogy. Knowing just the book to put in the hands of a child can make an enormous difference, which is why I'm delighted to be one of their four author ambassadors this year. I'll be focusing on championing

children's non-fiction, and I'm utterly spoilt for choice. (If you're eligible and reading this before the closing date - 31st October 2026 - then why not sign up?).

Among the books I'll be recommending is, of course, my latest: *Forces of the Day*. It's the second in a series exploring

the extraordinary science behind children's everyday lives, using the familiar rhythm of a single day to reveal the physics hidden in ordinary experiences. Everyday encounters become springboards into concepts such as angular momentum and the electromagnetic spectrum, demonstrating how big scientific ideas are woven into the world around us.

I was fortunate enough to work with Dr Kirsty Duffy of The Queen's College as the book's physics consultant, whose expertise and enthusiasm enriched the book enormously. Complementing the science are Hao Hao's beautiful illustrations, which bring the ideas vividly to life (Hao Hao also illustrated *Elements of the Day*, the first book in the series, which explored chemistry).

At first glance, it doesn't look like the sort of book in which you'd expect to encounter the law of conservation of angular momentum - but that's precisely the point. By embedding complex ideas in familiar settings, it invites children to discover that remarkable science is happening all around them. After all, science isn't something that only happens in laboratories or out in space. My hope is that it won't just appeal to children who already think science is fascinating, but will also open physics up to those who don't automatically think gravity is cool. Perhaps it'll spark their

curiosity – and if it does, there are plenty more brilliant books on offer if they decide to 'Go All In' on physics.

On a personal note, to mark the National Year of Reading, I've asked my friends to each recommend one book they think everyone should read, and I've challenged myself to read as many of their suggestions as possible. My efforts have been slightly hampered by the very first pick being *Anna Karenina* (the translated edition of which I have in my possession weighs in at a rather sizeable 853 pages), but it's a reminder that reading for pleasure isn't a race. And part of the joy of reading is being taken to places you didn't expect to go. Collecting my friends' top picks solves the familiar problem of deciding what to read next, but it has also pushed me towards titles I might never have picked up on my own - exactly the kind of discovery that makes reading so rewarding.

So, why not try picking up a book that you never thought you'd want to read? Perhaps a genre you've never explored? Whatever you choose to read, now is certainly the time to 'Go All In'!

Samantha Lewis (1998) is a freelance science producer/development producer for TV and radio, and a children's nonfiction author. Her second book, *Forces of the Day*, was published by Red Shed in June 2026. Follow her on Instagram @samanthalewisauthor.

In Defence of Writing

DR APRIL ELISABETH PAWAR

Ten years ago three students at St Anne's hatched a plan to set up a society to connect Oxford writers with others around the world and to foster the craft of writing. The group, called Oxford Writers' House, has flourished, attracting renowned authors and poets to the city to give talks; running workshops and other events which are open to all, town and gown. On this anniversary, the group celebrates its achievements and also warns against the danger to writing from AI (Artificial Intelligence).

In the 1470s, not long after the rise of the printing press in Italy, Aldus Manutius's press created a circle of scholars, editors, and translators sometimes called the Accademia Aldina (Aldine Academy). These intellectuals were trained in Greek and Latin and saw themselves as custodians of culture, not just producers of printed text. Their concern was subtle but enduring: when words scale faster than the communities that shape them, collective imagination thins. In an age of rapid mechanical reproduction, how can we protect the authenticity and quality of the written word? It's a question we are facing again in 2026.

The historical question of preserving writing as a craft had not occurred to myself, Liv Constable-Maxwell, and Asiyla Radwan, when we founded the Oxford Writers' House as students of St. Anne's College. I began, a decade ago, with a simple plan: create an inter-collegiate home for writers and writing: not a club, not a taught course, but a home with an open door for anyone with a serious interest in writing. After serving as President of the Oxford University Poetry Society, I came up with the idea for Oxford Writers' House, inspired by seeing firsthand just how transformative writing could be in shared, inter-collegiate spaces.



Founders of Oxford Writers' House

Liv, who was finishing her undergraduate course in English Literature, and Asiyla, who was in her second year studying for a BA in Fine Art, supported my idea, and the three of us started discussing our vision with faculty and mentors at St. Anne's College, as well as brainstorming together while having lunches in the quad in front of the MCR. We obtained a Danson Foundation grant and early mentorship with support from the college. After participating in a summer development programme, meeting with dozens of writers across town and gown divides, genres, membership schemes, age groups, political and academic interest areas, we officially opened the Oxford Writers' House in 2016.

'Quietly astonished'

This project was the first of its kind in Oxford — a truly inclusive hub connecting Oxford writers of any background

to international authors, while giving voice to writing past and present. Having reached the 10th anniversary of the founding of Oxford Writers' House, I find myself quietly astonished by what has grown from those early conversations: not merely a programme or institution, but a vibrant community of writers, readers, and thinkers.

As we approach the apex of the 21st century, writing as a craft is in need of caretakers and custodians. Original writing may very well go the way of other classical arts, becoming a task undertaken by smaller and smaller groups of people. Thankfully, an algorithm can remix the past or replicate literary criticism, but it cannot meaningfully curate the present. As the masses move towards easy authorship options like ChatGPT, Oxford Writers' House is busy challenging this culture of automatised thinking with incisive, public-facing conversations featuring today's leading authors.

Since opening our doors, we have hosted Oxford's world-renowned writers alongside international contemporaries:



With St Anne's Honorary Fellow Elif Shafak

Sir Phillip Pullman gave a talk on how and why he writes, George R.R. Martin addressed a packed Sheldonian Theatre after a private tour of the Bodleian's Tolkien archives, Elif Shafak articulated the need for tolerance and imagination at The Oxford Union, actor and author Sir Stephen Fry spoke to students and members of the public alike about the political and mythological aspects of writing at Oxford Town Hall, while Oxford Professor of Poetry AE Stallings taught the craft of poetry through a special collaboration with the Faculty of English. The list goes on. Alongside larger events, we held dozens of workshops and community gatherings for writers of all ages, genres, and backgrounds. We continue to connect, inspire, and give voice to writers, gathering together and celebrating a rich tapestry of authorship.

'Automated authorship'

Following the example of figures like William Morris, an Oxford-educated thinker who famously resisted industrial mass production in his designs and artwork, the Oxford Writers' House champions the integrity of the process of writing — valuing the hand, the voice, and the individual imagination over commodified output. Morris warned that “without dignified, creative human occupation, people become disconnected from meaning,” a concern that now feels newly urgent in an era of automated authorship and algorithmic production.

We produce events, podcasts, a writing prize, and printed work with an eye towards quality and lasting resonance. Dr Mariah Whelan, our 2017-2019 Director, who went on to take up a Residency at the University of Cambridge and is now a celebrated, award-winning poet, said this about her experience working for Oxford Writers' House: “Directing OWH taught me a valuable lesson about writing. Supporting

In Defence of Writing

other writers and their writing practice is the keystone of craft. The myth of the genius poet in their attic might work for the rare few, but friendship, mutual assistance, shared reading and conversation are the foundation of my practice. I learned that at OWH supporting Oxford's writers to come together."

Griffin Gudaitis, our 2025-2026 Director, describes the vibrant and varied activities offered by the House at the end of last term alone: "Our Podcast Fellow, Nancy Gittus, interviewed the Lord Chancellor of the University, Lord William Hague, for our podcast series on the history of Oxford's writers, 'From Broad Street to Brideshead'.

"We also ran a series of workshops that we hope will connect Oxford's writers with the wider publishing industry. This included a craft conversation on writing novels with Lucy Atkins and Simon Mason, back-to-back



Writers in session

poetry workshops with T.S. Eliot Prize winner, George Szirtes, and Midnight in Oxford: A Magazine and Small Press Mixer. We always hope to inspire through the collective power of good storytelling."

'Stewardship'

What began 10 years ago as a conversation on a St. Anne's quad has become something closer to what Aldus and his circle might have recognised: not simply a site of production, but a community of care. Our House is a place where writing is not accelerated, but attended to; not automated, but argued over, refined, and shared in good faith between open minds. Having witnessed the rapid growth of our international audience over the last two years, the question to me now is not whether such a space is needed, but whether it can endure the present sea change towards generalised artificiality and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

If good writing is a practice shaped in conversation, sustained by community, and held to a standard beyond mere output, it requires more than passing consideration. In the 21st century, writing requires stewardship. Not a temporary arrangement or a shifting set of rooms, but a lasting presence within the intellectual life of Oxford: a place where writers can gather across disciplines and generations, and where the practice of writing is treated not as incidental, but as essential to our thought life.

Each generation inherits a literary culture it did not build, and holds some responsibility for what it passes on. The Aldine Academy understood this at the dawn of print. We are faced with a parallel moment now, as writing enters a period of profound technological change. The tools have altered; the underlying questions have not.



During an event at Magdalen College, Oxford

Dr April Elisabeth Pawar is a writer and scholar whose work explores the intersections of poetry, consciousness, philosophy, and memory. A graduate of St. Anne's College, Oxford; Boston College, and New York University, she has taught and lectured internationally and helped found literary initiatives including the Oxford Writers' House,

where she currently serves as Director. Her writing has appeared in literary and scholarly magazines, as well as in popular media, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and the BBC. Her first poetry collection, *Elegies for Rosalia*, is forthcoming.

St Anne's: the college leading the way to a more sustainable Oxford

MELISSA EDDON

Environmental sustainability is slowly becoming synonymous with the St Anne's brand, and no one knows more about it than John Banbrook. Through his work as the Domestic Bursar, Banbrook has helped to make St Anne's one of the leading colleges in environment-focused development and innovation.

It is clear that St Anne's environmental policy is student driven. Speaking to the Oxford Blue, Banbrook recalls how, shortly after he began his role, the environment representative of St Anne's Junior Common Room provided him with a list of demands on behalf of the student body. He describes this as "the turning point", that defined success as integrating environment and sustainability issues into the fabric of the college's governance structure. From this, an environment committee was established in college, and an action plan of seven core pillars was produced. This environmental policy has since been presented to the governing body every Trinity term, to measure progress and reassess schemes and goals.

One of these seven pillars, and arguably the most immediately visible to a St Anne's student, is catering. Head Chef Ben Gibbons is described by Banbrook as a "very forward thinking chef", passionate about locally sourced seasonal produce. Gibbons and Banbrook adapted the generally unpopular and ineffective "meat-free Monday" concept seen at other colleges, and chose to provide a more attractive, less carbon-intensive meat option in its stead. By serving local wild venison as part of the college's "low-carbon Monday" scheme, the college bought meat that was a product of population control schemes, ensuring that meat did not go to waste, and had a minimal carbon footprint. St Anne's is also one of 16 colleges to join the OXFarmToFork initiative, which allows catering teams to buy directly from local farmers with approved agroecological farming techniques to protect soil quality and biodiversity.

Climate-friendly alternatives like these have become associated with the St Anne's dining hall, with their termly low-carbon formals. Working with My Emissions, a data-driven Food Carbon

Accounting platform, St Anne's dining hall menus feature a traffic light system to measure and display the carbon footprint of menu choices. It seems that even by placing the vegan and vegetarian options first upon entering the servery, more and more students are unconsciously incentivised to choose a more sustainable meal option.

Not only is the ethos of St Anne's modern, but so is its physical landscape. The college's 1950s wood panelled dining hall differs drastically from the vaulted ceilings of 13th century colleges like Balliol. Banbrook sees this as providing St Anne's with a unique opportunity, with it being far easier to achieve sustainable solutions on new or more modern buildings than in centuries old architecture.

Yet St Anne's is still constrained by a smaller budget than the older colleges – as such, Banbrook is driven by a search for "the biggest impact per pound we spend". The recently completed Bevington Road project (which saw the restoration and renovation of 165-year-old Victorian properties) highlights the difficulties all colleges

face when balancing the need for quality student accommodation with the environmental consequences of construction. With this in mind, the row of 10 houses has been fitted with an energy centre and a Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery unit, reusing heat from the air to prewarm hot water for showers and taps. The sustainability of building materials also weighs heavily on Banbrook's mind, as seen in the investment in new kitchen tables made from the pre-renovation floorboards of the Bevington Road houses, which were repurposed by a company in Blackbird Leys that hires formerly incarcerated people and former addicts.

Banbrook sees the next step for St Anne's development as expanding these more environmentally friendly solutions to the existing building stock, and "how quickly we can do that, in as affordable a way as possible". The challenge comes with buildings such as Wolfson and Rayne, two concrete accommodation buildings from the 1960s which are reliant on gas for their energy supply. Significant (and therefore disruptive and expensive) fabric improvements would need to be made

to install the air source heat pumps used in the Bevington Road Houses. In compromise, St Anne's have invested in 130 iSense Smart sensors to collect data on, and reduce, energy consumption.

On reflection, Banbrook credits the college's environmentalist stance on its inherently progressive history as one of the radical, first female colleges. "We've always had to do things differently, since our formation all those years ago". He's conscious to remind me that environmental concerns were once "background noise" for both Oxford colleges and the general populace, but now they are inescapable: at St Anne's "everything is seen through that lens".

He's not wrong. In 2021, St Anne's organised an "In Bloom" ball, focused on sustainability (unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19). In Hilary Term 2025, the college held a "Carbon Cost of Fashion" exhibition. Cross-discipline subject family dinners have been held, highlighting the intersection of the humanities and STEM through discussions of human impact to nature and the climate. It is clear that considerations of the environment have

transgressed beyond just catering and energy during Banbrook's tenure.

He also attributes St Anne's progress to the creation of a space where environmentally conscious decisions can be made. To create real change, collaboration and coalition between key figures in college can make huge strides towards creating a climate for innovation. In his role as domestic bursar, Banbrook has used the huge scope of his position to support progressive student policies, and stands as an exemplar for his colleagues and the university as a whole.

St Anne's College's approach to the environment is defined by small acts that have worked to benefit both the local community and the environment, whilst keeping college life running smoothly. With people like John Banbrook open to the ideas and innovations of an activist and environmentalist student body, St Anne's leads the charge in helping to move Oxford in the right direction.

Melissa Eddon (History, 2024) is a current undergraduate.

Divine Intervention at Woodstock Road

GERALDINE CUTTING

When my twin sister, Madeleine, was awarded an Exhibition to St Anne's, it marked our first real separation since the moment of conception. For nineteen years we had moved through life as a matched set: two cradles, two desks, two bicycles, one timetable. Suddenly there was to be an Oxford letter addressed to one of us only.

We found it harder than we had anticipated. Twins cultivate independence, of course, but there is an ease in being one half of a well-practised duet. We had never had to explain ourselves fully; the other simply knew. Our solution to separation was characteristically impractical: we vastly increased the profits of the Royal Mail for three consecutive years. There was no WhatsApp, no FaceTime, not even economical evening calls. There were letters — long, cross-written, ink-smudged letters — detailing tutorials, friendships, triumphs, disasters, and the precise quality of puddings in Hall.

From the moment we entered what we used to call “the world of Other People”, we had taken a certain mischievous pleasure in switching identities. We did so mostly because we could and because we found it irresistible fun. Occasionally, it proved unexpectedly useful — a conveniently sat paper, a sports commitment discreetly honoured, a social engagement deftly avoided. We were, I hasten to add, essentially well-behaved; but the temptation to test the boundaries of twinhood was always there.

Madeleine read Classics to begin with, throwing herself into Mods with admirable energy. After that formidable rite of passage, she changed to Oriental Languages, which meant she remained up for four years. I, meanwhile, completed my degree in three and began my first post in Oxford. For a time,

we lived together out of College — reunited, if not under the same roof as before, at least within easy cycling distance.

By then Madeleine was engaged, her fiancé based in London. Weekends frequently drew her southwards. This left an awkward gap in her College presence — and opened an opportunity too delicious to ignore. The temptation to take her place in Hall and in the Library on those weekends proved overwhelming.

I am afraid we succumbed.

It was absurdly easy. We had always shared clothes. We knew almost every detail of one another's lives: tutors' mannerisms, friends' anecdotes, favourite seats in the Library, the safest conversational ground at High Table. We had, over the years, perfected the art of inhabiting each other's rhythms of speech. At St Anne's, where individuality was encouraged and surveillance was gentle, no one appeared to suspect that the “Madeleine” turning up for Sunday supper had cycled in from elsewhere.

We owe a debt of gratitude across the decades to the St Anne's girls who almost certainly twigged but, in a display of collegiate solidarity, chose not to blow our cover. There were raised eyebrows, I suspect, and perhaps the faintest glimmer of amusement. But no one denounced us to the authorities. St Anne's, even then, had a refreshingly humane atmosphere: serious about scholarship, certainly, but not inclined to melodrama.

The pretence lasted several months.

Life at St Anne's in those days had its own particular character. Without ancient cloisters to intimidate, the College possessed

a modern confidence. It felt open — intellectually and architecturally. Woodstock Road was busy with bicycles and ideas. Conversation in Hall ranged cheerfully from Plato to politics, Sanskrit verbs to student theatricals. The Library was a sanctuary of determined industry, occasionally pierced by the soft thud of a dropped book or the scrape of a chair as someone fled to coffee.

It was in that Library that our enterprise met its crisis.

One evening, as I was conscientiously being Madeleine among the shelves, Lady Ogilvie entered with a guest. Lady Ogilvie had a presence impossible to ignore — gracious, observant, and very much in command of her domain. She espied “me” and, with charming efficiency, effected an introduction.

“And this,” she said to her companion, “is Miss Revera — reading Oriental Languages.”

I felt a chill unrelated to the Oxford weather.

What followed were several searching questions about my course. They were entirely reasonable questions, the sort any engaged Principal might ask: how I was finding the transition, what texts I was working on, whether the demands of language study differed from those of Classics.

Thanks to long preparation — and many evenings listening to Madeleine rehearse her academic anxieties — I managed to field most of them. I spoke of grammar and texts, of the discipline required to shift intellectual frameworks. I even ventured a modest reflection on the comparative beauties of different scripts.

At that critical moment, Providence intervened in the unlikely form of a violent cold. I was seized by a fit of sneezing so dramatic that further interrogation became impossible. Lady

Ogilvie, all kindness, expressed sympathy and urged me not to overwork. The interview dissolved in a flurry of handkerchiefs.

My middle name is Anne. I have always preferred to believe that St Anne herself was on duty in the Library that evening.

Shortly thereafter, I lost my nerve. The thought of a more prolonged cross-examination — perhaps in Hall, perhaps at a less sneeze-friendly moment — persuaded us that our masquerade had run its course. We retired gracefully from our double life and confined our identity exchanges to safer terrain.

Looking back, I am struck not by our audacity but by the generosity of the College. St Anne’s gave Madeleine four rich years: intellectual challenge, lasting friendships, and the steady encouragement to change direction when Classics no longer felt quite right. It tolerated, with good humour, two over-imaginative twins testing the elastic limits of resemblance. It was a place where young women could take themselves seriously without taking themselves too solemnly — a balance that has served generations well.

So here, at last, are our belated apologies to the SCR for the minor confusion we may have caused in Hall and the Library. We intended no harm and, I hope, did none. If any record remains of a slightly erratic Oriental Languages student who occasionally seemed to know a suspicious amount about someone else’s timetable, the explanation is simple: there were two of us.

As for restitution, I have a plan. In due course, I hope to make amends for our youthful antics by leaving a substantial bequest to the College that so kindly — if unwittingly — indulged them.

After all, St Anne’s has always known how to recognise potential.

Even when it came in duplicate.

From the Librarian

CLARE WHITE



St Anne's Book of Hours with its early 19th century cathedral binding

St Anne's students are often surprised to learn that one of the oldest, most treasured items in the College Library is not a printed book but an illuminated manuscript, a late medieval (c.1480) Book of Hours. It was generously bequeathed to the College in 1999 by Audrey Macbeth (née Clark), a Home-Student in the 1920s, who thought of it as her prize possession. In order to preserve the vellum pages and the rich colours of the work, our Book of Hours does not often leave its cool, dark shelf, but occasionally we support requests from our students and researchers to view the text. One such request came last September from one of our new Junior Research Fellows, Cat Watts, and her expertise on medieval manuscripts has shed new light on our precious gift.

Books of Hours form the largest category of manuscripts remaining from the medieval period in Europe. At a time rife with wars and plague, the fear and possibility of sudden death was all too real, and guidance from the Church to the lay population was to be prepared for the inevitable, at the very least by going to Confession once a year. Books of Hours, which comprised of a series of prayers and devotional texts, were designed to be used to follow services in Church, or to be spoken aloud at specific times throughout the day at home, giving people greater access to religious ritual. The format of the manuscripts followed certain conventions, beginning with a perpetual calendar listing Saints' Days. The major feast days were usually shown in a different colour of ink, often red, giving rise to the expression "a red-letter day." Local saints were often included which gave an indication of where the manuscripts were produced. Unusually, the St Anne's Book of Hours includes days dedicated to bishops, suggesting that the

original owner was closely connected to the Church, and the contents of the calendar suggest that our copy originates from the area of Tournai in modern-day Belgium.

The calendar was frequently followed by four short readings from the Gospels leading into the Hours of the Virgin Mary which formed the core of a Book of Hours. This section was broken down into a cycle of prayers, mirroring Church services, to be recited at eight points through the day, starting with early morning Matins and ending with Compline at bed-time. Each Hour tended to include an illumination before the text depicting key Biblical events to prompt reflection. Our copy contains twelve large miniatures showing scenes such as the Nativity and the raising of Lazarus, along with six small miniatures illustrating Christ's death. The Books were richly illuminated throughout, with borders of flowers and foliage, sometimes including birds, animals and fruit, augmented with highlights of gold leaf. Whilst some of the prayers from the Hours of the Virgin Mary would be spoken every day, prayers from the later sections would be used less frequently, such as the prayers from the Office of the Dead which would be spoken only when someone had died. All of these sections were kept together as a single manuscript which could be large enough to place on a lectern, or small enough to fit into the palm of a hand. They were often bound with metal clasps or kept in a cloth covering for protection, although these early bindings rarely survive. The binding of the St Anne's copy is a much later addition from the early 1800s, but is interesting in its own right as one of the few examples we have of "cathedral" binding where arches are embossed onto the leather.

Early Books of Hours were principally owned by nobles, and used particularly by noble women. Since women were not allowed to preach or to hold religious office, owning a manuscript enabled them to connect more meaningfully with their faith through close contemplation of the text and images.



One of the full-page miniatures showing the repeated rock formation on the top right

On a less spiritual level, the Books were also used as primers which helped people learn to read, or as places to record

From the Library

family births and deaths on the blank flyleaves. In the later medieval period, Books of Hours were often the first or only book acquired by families in the growing merchant class where decorated copies could be symbols of wealth and status, whilst undecorated copies, produced more cheaply with plain black ink and low-quality parchment, made ownership more achievable. When hand-press printing took over from manuscript texts in the late 1400s, Books of Hours were some of the most widely-produced works.

Whereas most early manuscripts were crafted in monasteries, by the 15th century Books of Hours were more commonly produced by large workshops in major cities such as Paris, Bruges and Rouen. Prospective owners would order their copies through booksellers, choosing which texts they wanted added to the core passages of the Book, and agreeing the number, size and subject matter of any illustrations to be included. The illuminations give an indication of the social status of the client, with a more abundant use of gold leaf and the ultramarine colour produced from the precious stone lapis lazuli signifying a wealthier patron. With its eighteen miniatures, floral borders, and use of gold throughout, the St Anne's Book of Hours is likely to have been commissioned by a relatively wealthy owner. Happily, our copy appears to have had a succession of owners who have treasured and cared for the book, since it remains intact and none of the illuminations have been cut out to be sold separately.

Like the calendar, the illuminations in a Book of Hours can also link the text to the area where it was produced. When examining the St Anne's manuscript, Cat was intrigued to discover that a particular rock formation appears in several illustrations, and wondered whether it had been based on a landmark local to Tournai. Further investigation revealed that a manuscript in the University of Glasgow, known to have been produced in Bruges, features a strikingly similar formation.



The first page of text after the calendar, complete with decorative border of flowers, foliage and a bird

This situates our text in a more complex web of manuscript trade than we first thought, stretching from Tournai in Belgium to Bruges in the Netherlands, and illustrates a wide-reaching influence of particular models of illumination across different workshops.

Cat's research interest goes beyond the descriptive aspect of Books of Hours, and what this can reveal about the manuscript and the owner, to consider the interaction of the owner with the text. Whilst some medieval manuscripts served only as status symbols, remaining unread in royal libraries, it is clear that Books of Hours were frequently consulted with evidence of wear and tear from the turning of pages, dirt trapped between the pages, and sometimes smeared artwork where an owner has touched or even kissed a saint's face. Cat is fascinated by the role of Books of Hours in allowing wealthier medieval citizens to bring their devotion into the home, and the implications on the emotional response and actions of the believer when formerly communal devotion becomes available privately. She considers this in relation to another, very different, area of her expertise – modern pop culture. Through comparative research into the ways that people changed their media consumption when first the DVD and then streaming became available, Cat argues that Books of Hours provided a way for devotees to bring the object of their devotion home, to peruse it at their leisure, and to construct their own relationship with Jesus in their own space. Just as the predominant readers of Books of Hours were women, the most devoted media fans in the modern era are also women. In the case of pop culture, media scholars argue that repeated viewing of television shows allows viewers to process grief and trauma – both that provoked by tragic events within the show itself, and within their own lives. Cat proposes that it is possible that repeated contemplation of the images of Jesus' life and death similarly gave medieval

women a private space away from their household responsibilities in which to experience and manage their own grief and traumas.

Cat's ideas for future research bring the medieval Book of Hours closer to home. Given the use of the books as educational tools, both as a means of deepening women's faith and as a primer for literacy, she has noted with interest that most women's and former women's Oxbridge colleges own at least one Book of Hours in spite of having only small manuscript collections in comparison to the former men's colleges. The Books were largely donated by alumnae in the period following the official incorporation of the women's colleges into the University. Cat is keen to understand what motivated alumnae to make these donations, and poses the slightly provocative questions of whether the gifts granted inherited authority to the newer, women's colleges, and whether owning a Book of Hours puts the women's colleges on an equal footing with the men's colleges and their extensive manuscript collections? I look forward to learning what she continues to discover relating to our treasured manuscript.

Dr Cat Watts,

Kathleen Bourne Junior Research Fellow in French Studies

Clare White (1990), *College Librarian*

Additional source:

Christopher de Hamel, *A History of Illuminated Manuscripts*, 1994.

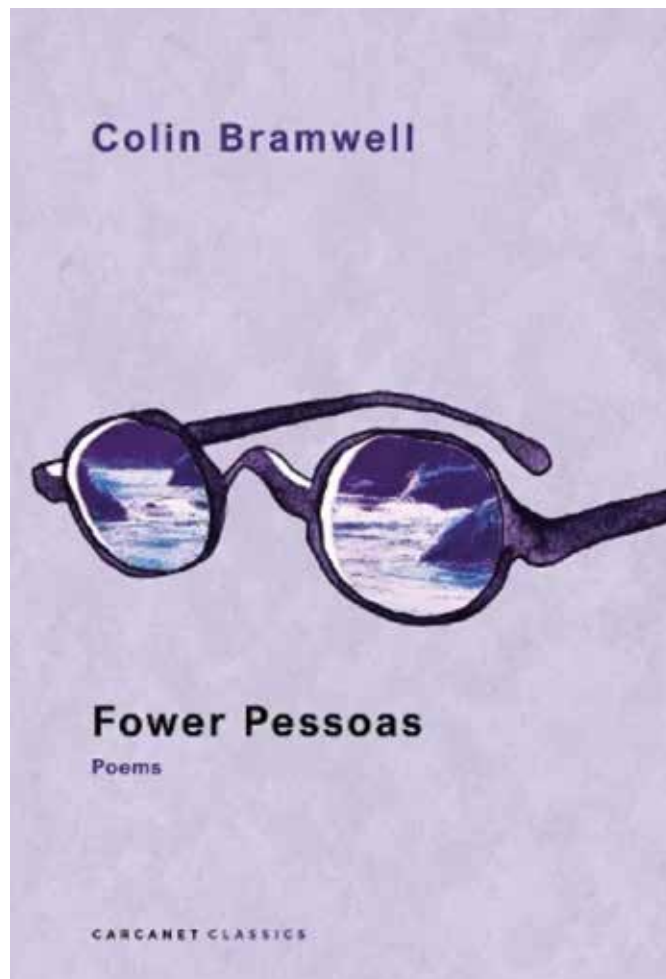
Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize 2026

MARY NEWMAN

The Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize for Book Translation continues to celebrate the finest literary translation into English, recognising translators whose work opens up world literature to new readers. Established in 1999 by Lord Weidenfeld, the Prize is awarded annually and has long been associated with St Anne's College, reflecting the College's commitment to languages, literature and international cultural exchange.

The 2026 judging panel comprised Dr Alexandra Pugh (The Queen's College), Dr Francesca Beretta (St Anne's College), Dr Thomas Murphy (New College), who served as Chair, and guest judge Margaret Jull Costa, the distinguished translator and two-time Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize winner for *All the Names* and *The Elephant's Journey*.

The 2026 shortlist showcased an exceptional range of literary voices and languages: *False War* by Carlos Manuel Álvarez, translated from the Spanish by Natasha Wimmer (Fitzcarraldo Editions); *Paradiso* by Dante Alighieri, translated from the Italian by D.M. Black (New York Review Books); *Fower Pessoas* by Fernando Pessoa, translated from the Portuguese by Colin Bramwell (Carcamet); *The Taste of Lightning* by Ivan V. Lalić, translated from the Serbian by Francis R. Jones (Bloodaxe Books); *On the Wrong Side: Stories of the Rejected* by J.M.G. Le Clézio, translated from the French by Teresa Lavendar Fagan (Seagull Books); *Back in the Day* by Oliver Lovrenski, translated from the Norwegian by Nichola Smalley (Hamish Hamilton); *Return* by Raharimanana, translated from the French by Allison M. Charette (Seagull Books); and *The Naked Eye* by Yoko Tawada, translated from the German by Susan Bernofsky (Granta).



The cover of the winning entry

The Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize 2026 was awarded to Colin Bramwell for his translation of Fernando Pessoa's *Fower Pessoas* (Carcanet). Translating Pessoa into Scots, Bramwell's remarkable work reimagines one of Portugal's greatest poets through a distinctive contemporary linguistic lens while remaining faithful to the multiplicity of voices that characterise Pessoa's poetry.

Reflecting on the winning translation, judge Dr Francesca Beretta commented: "Some works of translation are so original that they make you question everything you thought you knew about the very practice of translating. This is the case for Colin Bramwell's Scots-language version of Fernando Pessoa's poetry. The Portuguese poet's famous use of heteronyms made for a polyvocal, lively, and ever-renewing poetic voice. In

Bramwell's translation/adaptation/reinterpretation, Pessoa's voices become both hyper-localised and highly contemporary. This striking work of poetic art delights in its language, and Bramwell's powerful craft breathes new life into both Pessoa and the Scots vernacular."

The breadth and quality of this year's shortlist once again demonstrated the vitality of literary translation and the essential role translators play in bringing the world's literature to English-speaking readers. St Anne's is proud to continue its longstanding association with the Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize, celebrating the creativity, scholarship and cultural exchange that lie at the heart of the art of translation.

Mary Newman is the OCCT's Coordinator 2025-2026.

More Than a Scholarship

KIRI-ANN OLNEY

How generosity helps St Anne's students find opportunity, community and a place to belong.

When one St Anne's medical student reflected on the past academic year, they did not begin with exam results or academic achievements. Instead, they described something less tangible, but perhaps even more important.

Their scholarship had given them, in their own words, "a sense of deep stability." For the first time in months, they could worry less about finances and focus on becoming the doctor they hoped to be.

It is a simple phrase, but it captures something fundamental about scholarships at St Anne's.

They are not simply financial awards. They are investments in people.

Every year, talented students arrive at St Anne's from different countries, cultures, faiths and family circumstances. Some are the first in their families to attend university. Others balance demanding courses with caring responsibilities, community leadership or financial pressures that remain largely invisible to those around them.

What unites them is not their background, but their determination to make the most of an Oxford education—and, in turn, to make a difference beyond it.

Since its beginnings, St Anne's has believed that academic talent should never be limited by circumstance. Founded to widen access to Oxford, the College has long championed the idea that excellence is strengthened, not diminished, by

diversity. Scholarships play a vital role in making that vision a reality. They remove practical barriers, create opportunities and, perhaps most importantly, send a powerful message to students: you belong here.

Among the many scholarships made possible through the generosity of alumni, foundations and friends of the College, two programmes illustrate this philosophy particularly well.

The Tikvah Scholarships, established with the support of the Leg-Up Charity for Kids (LUCK), recognise Jewish students and Israeli students of any or no faith who combine academic excellence with a commitment to strengthening their communities. The COSARAF Sheikh Family Scholarships, funded by the COSARAF Charitable Foundation, support Muslim students facing financial hardship while encouraging leadership, service and personal development.

At first glance, the programmes appear quite different. In reality, they share the same purpose.

Both recognise students who see education not simply as a personal achievement, but as an opportunity to serve others. Both celebrate students who enrich College life beyond the classroom. And both reflect St Anne's conviction that an inclusive community is one in which students from every background are supported to flourish.

That spirit was evident throughout the inaugural Tikvah Scholarship selection process.

The panel—including Senior Tutor Dr Shannon McKellar, Professor Yaacov Yadgar and Dr Graham Nelson—met

exceptional candidates studying subjects ranging from Jewish Studies and Hebrew with Arabic to Modern Languages and Medicine. What impressed them most, however, was not simply academic distinction, but the generosity of spirit each applicant demonstrated.

One student had already spent years volunteering in Jewish educational initiatives across the United Kingdom, the United States and Israel. Their tutors praised an exceptional ability to combine intellectual curiosity with a genuine commitment to fostering understanding between different faiths and cultures. For them, the scholarship would provide greater freedom to strengthen educational links between Britain and Israel while expanding their community work.

Another applicant, studying in Israel as part of their degree, had become involved in food rescue organisations and local volunteering projects. They hoped to spend the following summer supporting communities facing severe workforce shortages while contributing to initiatives promoting coexistence and stronger community ties.

A third had devoted almost five years to teaching children within their local Jewish community, supporting youth groups and creating welcoming spaces for young people, even adapting activities during the pandemic so children could remain connected during a time of isolation. Looking ahead, they hoped to continue that work both in Britain and with smaller Jewish communities overseas.

Meanwhile, a medical student had already become a familiar face within Oxford's Jewish community. As Entertainment Representative for the Jewish Society, they had organised events, founded a mixed netball team and begun developing ideas to connect students with older members of the local Jewish community through shared Friday night dinners.

One recipient said:

"Receiving the Tikvah Scholarship has been a lifechanging educational opportunity for me. The scholarship money has allowed me to participate in an educational and leadership program which will allow me to give back to my community, paying this generosity forward by advancing interfaith aims and strengthening connection both within and outside of my religious and local communities. The St Anne's Scholarship Fund and the alumnae support have been an immense help to me in my education, helping me to achieve my educational and social goals this year. " Another added: "With Tikvah's incredibly generous donations, I have been able to continue volunteering on Sundays in my hometown, but also have been able to branch out and immerse myself in Jewish communities across Europe as I spend time abroad. It has been so empowering to feel that there is a welcomed space for Jewish students in St Anne's college. This scholarship has given me a newfound appreciation for my synagogue, and the joy that it has been watching the children in our Jewish playgroup grow from month-old babies to strong 5 year-olds, ready to start primary school. I will continue to help my Jewish community, because I - and everyone else - knows that it is only as a collective that we will be able to move forward and ensure that future generations experience the same joys as those which left imprints on our own childhoods."

Each application told a different story, but together they revealed something striking.

These were not students waiting for opportunity before deciding to give back. They were already doing it.

The scholarship represented an investment in work that had already begun—an expression of confidence that, with the right support, these students would continue to enrich their communities, their College and the wider world.

Scholarships and Awards

That same belief runs through the COSARAF Scholarships, where financial support provides something every bit as valuable as money: the freedom to flourish.

For one medical student, that meant being able to balance the demands of an intensive degree with the responsibilities of being a young carer.

Oxford is an extraordinary place to study, but it can also be an expensive one. Living costs continue to rise, specialist courses require increasingly sophisticated equipment, and for students with family responsibilities the pressures can be even greater. Receiving the scholarship meant being able to replace a laptop that had been damaged beyond repair, buy essential anatomy resources and invest in their wellbeing while recovering from a serious injury. Just as importantly, it meant being able to afford regular journeys home to support a disabled parent.

Reflecting on the year, they wrote that the scholarship had enabled them to “worry less about money and focus more on my education, family and faith”. That stability translated directly into academic success, including first-class marks in two modules and an outstanding dissertation exploring emerging cancer therapeutics. More than the grades, however, their reflection expressed gratitude for having been given the space to realise their potential.

Across College, another scholarship recipient was discovering that leadership sometimes develops quietly.

Having moved from pre-clinical studies into hospital placements, they found themselves immersed in the realities of modern medicine: examining patients, assisting on wards, observing complex surgery and gradually developing the confidence every future doctor needs. Alongside clinical

work, they pursued research in trauma and orthopaedics, explored leadership within the NHS and became involved in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives within the Medical School, helping to create a more supportive environment for future students.

Looking back over four years as a COSARAF Scholar, they described the Foundation’s support as “truly life-changing”. It had not simply enabled them to complete a degree. It had helped shape the doctor—and the person—they were becoming.

That commitment to service is equally evident in another COSARAF scholar, a first-year Geography student whose first months at Oxford quickly expanded beyond lectures and tutorials.

Scholarship support helped cover accommodation costs, fieldwork and study materials, easing the financial pressures that so often accompany the transition to university. Freed from some of those worries, they immersed themselves in College life.

They volunteered during Ramadan, helped organise an Iftar at St Anne’s and became involved in outreach work supporting prospective applicants as they prepared for Oxford interviews. More recently, they joined the University’s Islamic Society Access Team, hoping to encourage other students from underrepresented backgrounds to believe that Oxford could be a place for them too.

It is striking how often scholarship recipients become ambassadors—not because anyone asks them to, but because they recognise the importance of making the path a little easier for those who follow.

Whether mentoring younger pupils, volunteering in schools, organising cultural events or strengthening community

organisations, these students see education as something to be shared rather than simply achieved. Their ambitions differ, but they are rooted in the same conviction: that opportunity brings with it a responsibility to contribute.

Taken together, these stories reveal something important about St Anne's.

An inclusive college is not simply one that welcomes students from different backgrounds. It is one where those students feel confident enough to bring their whole selves to College life—their identities, traditions, ambitions and commitment to serving others. That diversity is one of the reasons St Anne's continues to be such a vibrant, thoughtful and outward-looking community.

It would be easy to think of scholarships simply as financial awards. They certainly remove barriers, ease pressure and open doors. But their impact reaches much further. Again and again, the same pattern emerges. Support creates confidence. Confidence creates opportunity. Opportunity inspires service.

It is there in the future doctor who, relieved of constant financial anxiety, can devote themselves fully to patients, research and improving healthcare. It is there in the Geography student helping prospective applicants navigate the admissions process. It is there in the Jewish Studies student strengthening educational links between Britain and Israel, the Modern Languages student who has dedicated years to teaching younger members of their community, and the medical student whose instinct is to bring people together around a Friday night dinner.

Each story is different, yet each reflects the same quiet belief: education is not simply something we receive. It is something we share.

Neither the Tikvah nor the COSARAF Scholarships ask only whether a student has achieved academic success. They ask another question too: *What will you do with the opportunities you have been given?*

For the students featured here, the answers are remarkably generous. They speak about mentoring younger pupils, supporting charities, strengthening community organisations, welcoming new students and creating spaces where people feel they belong.

None of these activities appear on a degree certificate, but they are among the experiences that define a university education.

Oxford is often celebrated for its tutorials, libraries and centuries of scholarship. At St Anne's, however, education has always meant something broader. It is about intellectual curiosity, certainly, but it is also about kindness, responsibility and community.

The Tikvah and COSARAF Scholarships embody those values in different but complementary ways. One supports Jewish students and Israeli students of any or no faith. The other supports Muslim students facing financial hardship.

Together, they send a powerful message about the kind of College St Anne's strives to be: a place where students are not expected to leave their identities at the gate; where different cultures, traditions and experiences enrich the life of the whole community; and where talented people are supported not despite their differences, but because those differences make Oxford a richer place to learn.

In an increasingly complex world, that message feels more important than ever.

Kiri-Ann Olney is Deputy Development Director at St Anne's.

From the Development Office

EDWIN DRUMMOND

As we look back on another busy year at St Anne's, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our alumnae, students, staff, donors, and friends for the many ways in which you continue to support the College. Whether through your time, expertise, philanthropy, or ongoing engagement with our community, your contribution helps ensure that St Anne's remains a vibrant and welcoming place in which students and academics can thrive.

The following pages highlight several different ways in which that support is helping to shape the life of the College. We have just celebrated the completion and official reopening of the Bevington Road houses, a landmark project that demonstrates our commitment to providing exceptional spaces for future generations of students. Fittingly, we therefore profile alumna and donor Mary Pickersgill Draper, whose generosity has made a lasting contribution to the project and to the future of St Anne's. We explore the success of our student calling programme, which is fostering meaningful conversations between current students and alumnae, and we introduce the St Anne's Golf Club, one of our newest student initiatives, which is bringing students and alumnae together through shared interests and friendly competition.

Together, these stories reflect the strength of the St Anne's community and the many ways in which alumnae and

friends continue to support the College. As we look ahead to our 150th anniversary in 2029, we are also thinking carefully about how we can strengthen connections within our global alumnae community. In the years leading up to this important milestone, we will be exploring new opportunities to support and connect alumnae across the UK and internationally, building on the success of existing groups such as those in the South of England, Hong Kong and Shanghai, which have done so much to bring alumnae together and strengthen connections within the global St Anne's community.

We would be delighted to hear from alumnae who would like to help create, strengthen, or support a regional group in the UK or an international network elsewhere in the world. These connections play a vital role in sustaining lifelong friendships, fostering professional and personal networks, and ensuring that the spirit of St Anne's continues to flourish wherever our alumnae are based.

As we look ahead to our 150th anniversary, we remain enormously grateful for your continued engagement, generosity, and friendship.

Edwin Drummond
Director of Development

Spotlight on a Donor: Mary Pickersgill Draper

Spotlight on our donors: Mary Pickersgill Draper

Mary Pickersgill Draper (1952, PPP) is an alumna of St Anne's whose generosity has helped shape the future of the College. Her support made possible the new Mary Pickersgill Draper Quad as part of the Bevington Road Regeneration Project, and she has also chosen to leave a legacy gift to St Anne's in her will.

Here, Mary reflects in her own words on her journey to Oxford, her memories of College life, and why supporting St Anne's has remained so important to her.

"I quickly felt at home"

"I left London with my family during the Blitz when my father was sent to work in North Wales. I passed the 11+ to the local County Grammar School a year early, dreaming of one day going to Oxford or Cambridge, and St Anne's was the first college to offer me a place. I was delighted to accept and I quickly felt at home.

"My time at St Anne's was enjoyable and profitable. There were lots of opportunities, many new experiences, and enduring friendships. In my day, the College was unusual in having separate residences looked after by a 'hostess,' so we lived in small groups rather than on a central campus. I was at 64 Woodstock Road, under the care of Miss Esther Goody, before later moving to 8 Norham Gardens. We saw a great deal of the people in our house, creating close bonds across years and subjects."

Originally arriving to read English, Mary changed to Philosophy, Psychology and Physiology (PPP) during her first year — a

decision supported by the then Principal, the Honorable Eleanor Plumer, "against her better judgement," as Mary fondly recalls.

An academic career spanning Oxford, Harvard and beyond

Mary went on to build a distinguished academic career in psychology and psychiatry.

"After Oxford, I trained at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in London, completing an intensive clinical postgraduate psychology qualification. I then became an Assistant Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Leeds University, while also registering for a PhD under the supervision of Dr Malcolm Jeeves.

"Having completed my doctorate, I was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Radcliffe College, Harvard University, together with a Fulbright Travel Award, working under Professor Jerome Bruner."

Returning to the UK, Mary held a number of academic posts involving teaching, research and administration, supervising postgraduate students in mainly clinical subjects, including the effects of brain lesions. She retired from Royal Holloway, University of London, in 2000.

Outside academia, she has served as an Independent Custody Visitor to police stations in Camden, was elected as a Patient Governor at University College Hospital London in 2021 and again in 2025, and continues her long association with the Fulbright programme by assessing applications for Fulbright Awards.

Later in life, Mary married her longtime friend, Dr Peter Henry George Draper, a retired academic chemist and scholar of the history and prehistory of Kent, who sadly

The Development Office

predeceased her. The Mary Pickersgill Draper Quad commemorates both their names.

Why support the Bevington Road Regeneration Project?

"I have always wanted St Anne's to flourish and to grow. I felt the regeneration would enhance the College by integrating the Bevington Road houses more fully into the main site, creating a greater sense of community.

"The Quad, in which I have a particular interest, is a fine sweep of space matching the scale and dignity of the houses themselves and this development will be beneficial for the College both academically and communally."

Advice for students living in Bevington Road today

"Enthusiastically explore the social, cultural and sporting opportunities offered by the University and be academically adventurous also. Get to know everyone in your house. This is a splendid chance to meet people outside your subject and outside your year.

"In our day, we often gathered after dinner in someone's room — rooms with washbasins being particularly sought after — to listen, in silence, to records. I recall my introduction to the music of John Dowland sung by countertenor Alfred Deller. Major changes in taste and facilities notwithstanding, friendships from shared living stand the test of time."

Memories that endure

Mary's recollections of St Anne's remain vivid.

"I remember meeting my friend Margaret Lewis (then Ross), who was reading Mathematics, on the first day of my first term

— a friendship that has endured.

"I also remember my philosophy tutor, Iris Murdoch, who was both my academic and moral tutor. She employed her remarkable talents to work for my philosophical enlightenment. Aiming, I imagine, to encourage me, she once offered: 'Let's try to make this dreadfully simple, Miss Pickersgill'. On a late tutorial, a sherry bottle and glasses might emerge from the bottom drawer of her filing cabinet."

She also recalls a memorable encounter with Lady Mary Ogilvie, then Principal of St Anne's:

"In 1955, collecting my 21st birthday cards from the pigeonholes in Hartland House opposite the JCR, I had sat down on the adjacent stairs to look at them when Lady Mary Ogilvie arrived on the way to her upstairs office. She sat beside me and asked to share them with me. All these gestures have remained vivid in my memory."

And then there was the butter incident.

"When I came up, it was the postwar period. Almost all the male undergraduates had completed two years of National Service and wore duffle coats. Food rationing was still in force.

"Disaster loomed on my first day at No.64. There was to be a communal tea and, as newly arrived, I was seated next to our hostess, Miss Goody. Toast was provided and on the table were many saucers, each bearing an inviting pat of butter. I reached for one, only to be challenged instantly by Miss Goody: 'That's my butter, Miss Pickersgill'. The saucers were individually allocated, and each held a week's butter ration. My faux pas was mercifully forgiven, and I think rationing was probably ended in that year."

St Anne's in one word?

"Enabling."

Enabling the future of St Anne's

Mary's legacy gift to St Anne's College reflects a strong belief in the value of education, research, and opportunity. Through her future support, generations of students and scholars will be able to continue exploring important questions around the human mind, behaviour, and wellbeing.

Her planned endowment will help secure the future of Psychology at St Anne's. At a time when understanding mental health, cognition, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence is increasingly important, Mary's support will help sustain excellent teaching, research, and academic development in this field.

Mary's gift has the potential to support Psychology Fellowships, provide opportunities for early-career researchers, encourage interdisciplinary scholarship, and assist students through travel, research, and hardship grants. Most importantly, it will

help ensure that talented students are able to thrive within a supportive and intellectually ambitious community.

Legacy gifts play an important role in the long-term future of the College. They support not only academic subjects and programmes, but also the students and researchers who will shape future discoveries and ideas. Mary's commitment demonstrates how a future gift can create opportunities that extend well beyond a single generation.

St Anne's College is deeply grateful for Mary's longstanding support and generosity. Her legacy will contribute to the continued strength of Psychology at the College and to the opportunities available for students and academics in the years ahead.

For those considering leaving a future gift to St Anne's, Mary's example highlights the lasting impact that legacy giving can have in supporting teaching, research, and student opportunity for generations to come. If you are interested in discussing a future gift to St Anne's please contact Stacey Kennedy, Development Manager, on 01865 284 622.

Connecting Generations Through Conversation

Connecting with our Alumnae: St Anne's Launches a New Telephone Calling Project

This year we introduced a new telephone calling project to bring current students into conversation with alumnae from across our community. Launched during St Anne's Community and Giving Week 2026, the initiative has been developed to strengthen connections between current students and alumnae, while also creating opportunities

to reflect on shared experiences of life at St Anne's across different generations.

The project is an important way for us to thank donors personally for their support of St Anne's. Contributions from our alumnae and other supporters play such an important role in sustaining the student experience, and we wanted to recognise this through direct and meaningful conversations with current students. From the outset, both our students and alumnae have enjoyed stimulating and engaging discussions, and the feedback on both sides has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Development Office

Our student callers have spoken with alumnae representing a wide range of subjects, professions and graduation years. Conversations have centred on memories of Oxford, changes within the University over time, careers, academic interests and contemporary issues. Although every conversation has been different, our students consistently remark upon the strong sense of connection many alumnae continue to feel towards St Anne's. In some cases, students speak with alumnae who have been unwell or isolated, and several

comment that hearing from a current student at St Anne's means a great deal to them.

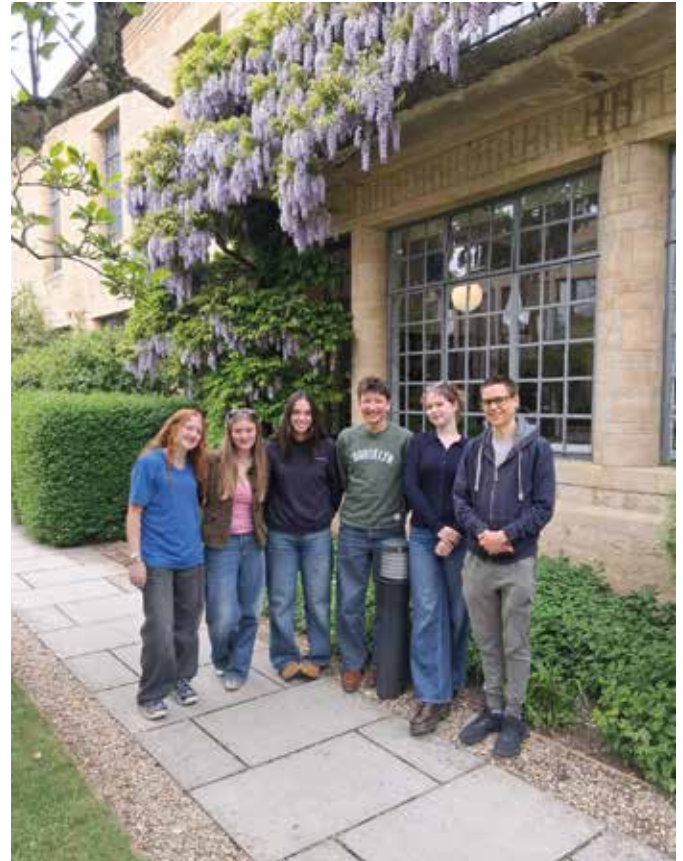
For our student callers, the project provides an opportunity not only to learn more about St Anne's and our alumnae community, but also to develop valuable professional and communication skills. All six student callers have undertaken extensive training, including learning more about the history of St Anne's and how College life has evolved since our



foundation. The calling project is giving our students a broader understanding of the many different careers and experiences pursued by alumnae after leaving Oxford. Discussions include reflections on professional life, further study, public service, travel and family life, alongside memories of tutorials, societies and friendships formed during time at St Anne's. The student callers note that the project has developed their confidence, while reinforcing the sense that membership of the St Anne's community extends well beyond graduation.

Our student callers have gathered interesting anecdotes and insights. Sam reflects that the role creates "moments of genuine connection" through conversations about academic interests, friendships, careers and student life. Sam is reading Geography and recently had a particularly memorable conversation with an alumna who studied Geography during the early years of the subject at St Anne's. During their discussion the alumna referred to a tutor from the 1960s, a name which Sam recognised, having heard about her reputation for leading pioneering undergraduate field trips involving caving expeditions. The alumna shared her personal recollections of those field trips, describing how challenging and exciting those experiences had been, and reflecting on the significance of having a woman tutor leading fieldwork in physical geography at that time. Through such encounters Sam feels that his conversations have created an unusually direct connection between his own studies and the experiences of former students.

Alistair describes the intellectual breadth of the discussions that have emerged for him. He notes that his conversations have ranged from discussions around Stoicism and the potential impact of artificial intelligence on employment, to recollections of student accommodation and everyday life in Oxford several decades ago. For him, the experience serves as "a constant reminder of how impressive and interesting all the members of St Anne's are". He also notes that one theme



Our callers in front of Hartland House

recurs consistently throughout many of the calls, which is the strength of alumnae attachment to St Anne's. Regardless of profession, subject or graduation year, alumnae continue to speak of their time here with considerable affection and remain keenly interested in hearing about the experiences of current students. Tully reflects on the ways in which conversations highlight both continuity and change across

The Development Office

generations of students and states that speaking with recent graduates has offered her insight into post-university life.

Accommodation has proven to be a particularly popular topic of conversation, with many alumnae vividly recalling life in the Bevington Road houses and sharing stories connected to them. Our student callers quickly realised how frequently those houses feature in alumnae memories and how closely many of our alumnae have remained associated with the St Anne's experience. At the recent launch event with Lord Hague many of the student callers who currently live or are about to live in Bevington Road were able to meet alumnae in person and share a special celebration. Conversations have also touched on College traditions and social events, including comparisons between previous College balls and the recent ball held in May this year. At the same time, some aspects of academic life appear remarkably unchanged, with certain tutors and teaching experiences continuing to connect generations of St Anne's students across decades.

A final and crucial aspect of the project is reconnecting with alumnae with whom we may have lost contact over time, as graduates move, change careers and relocate. Maintaining accurate contact information is essential in ensuring that alumnae continue to hear news from St Anne's, receive invitations to relevant events, and learn about opportunities to engage with our community. If you think your contact details may need updating, please do visit our website here: <https://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/st-annes/login?bm=1570733853> You can also update your communication preferences there.

The calling project will break at the end of Trinity Term and recommence in Michaelmas term. You can find out more about the calling project and meet our student callers on our website: <https://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/meet-our-student-callers/> If you would like to request a call from one of our student team, please contact Stacey Kennedy at St Anne's College on stacey.kennedy@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

St Anne's College Golf Club

St Anne's College Golf Club: A new initiative and an invitation to come and play in our Alumnae vs Students Golf Tournament 2027

We founded St Anne's College Golf Club in Trinity Term last year, with the aim of giving students the opportunity to try golf for the first time or continue playing during their time at Oxford. Places in the University Golf Club are highly competitive, and with no intermediate team or amateur training programme, it can be difficult for golfers to develop to a university-level standard. Moreover, golf can be an expensive and sometimes intimidating sport, creating barriers for beginners who may not own clubs or know anyone else who plays.

Every week, we run a golf session at a local driving range, and over half of the students who attended this year had never played golf before. We now have around 10 regular members, as well as more than 25 students who join us occasionally. For many, the club has been the start of a new hobby and, hopefully, something they will continue throughout their time at St Anne's and beyond. For those who already play, it has been a great opportunity to improve their game and meet new people.

The highlight of our year has undoubtedly been the Students vs Alumnae Golf Tournament 2026 — a Ryder Cup-style match between current students and alumnae. The inaugural event took place at the Oxford Golf Club during Hilary Term and ended in a thrilling 5–5 draw, with the students ultimately claiming the trophy. The day featured nine holes of better-ball

foursomes followed by nine holes of singles match play, before concluding with drinks and dinner in the clubhouse.

We are now planning next year's tournament and would like to invite alumnae to join us. The event will take place on Friday 30th April 2027, at Studley Wood Golf Club. We begin at midday with coffee, tea and bacon rolls, followed by 18 holes of friendly and competitive golf. There will also be prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive, as well as an opportunity to get to know everyone over dinner in the clubhouse. All alumnae are warmly welcome, and we will be keen to defend the trophy!

More details will follow in the coming weeks. If you would like to take part, or have any questions, please do get in touch: development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

Charlie Payne and **Matthew Farnfield**, Captains and Founders of St Anne's Golf Club

Looking Ahead

If you would like to visit St Anne's over the coming year, there will be many opportunities to do so. We are always delighted to welcome alumnae and friends back to College, whether for reunions, lectures, networking events, sporting fixtures, or special celebrations.

As we continue our journey towards the College's 150th anniversary in 2029, we look forward to sharing a growing programme of events and opportunities to reconnect with fellow alumnae, students, and staff.

Please keep an eye on the College website, our alumnae communications, and social media channels for the latest information and event announcements. We hope to welcome many of you back to St Anne's in the months ahead.

EVENTS COMING UP

2026

- Gaudy: 19th September 2026
- Domus Seminar with Principal Helen King QPM: 15th October 2026
- Jo Delahunty KC Book Launch: 19th November 2026
- Young Stanners' Winter Drinks: 26th November 2026
- Festive Concert: 5th December 2026

2027

- 2010s Decade Reunion: 10th April 2027
- Gaudy: 18th September 2027

SAS Branch Reports 2026

Cambridge Branch Report 2026

We continue as a small group of members who are keen to continue our branch activities. The programme of events this year has fallen into the same pattern as previous years: the AGM in November, lunch at a Cambridge restaurant in early January, autumn and spring visits to places 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.

Our autumn event was a return to the lovely old market town of Saffron Waldron in Essex. We were keen to visit the Fry Gallery, which houses a collection of paintings, prints, illustrations and

decorative designs by artists of the 20th Century. The emphasis is on work by local artists, particularly those that settled in the nearby village of Great Barfield from the early 1930s until the death of John Aldridge RA in 1983. We saw the exhibition 'Finding a Home at the Fry' which focused on domestic spaces. We then took a pleasant stroll back through Bridge End Gardens, past many fine old timber framed houses, the church, and the market square to an Italian restaurant for a delicious lunch.

Fewer members than usual were able to enjoy the New Year's lunch at Browns restaurant in Cambridge this year. Several of us kept away, having fallen to the nasty chest infection that was prevalent in East Anglia at this time.



Outside the Fry Gallery, Saffron Waldron



'Finding a Home at the Fry'

We were back to almost full strength for our visit to Audley End House and Gardens in Essex on a lovely spring day in April. The house and grounds have a long history dating back to 1538 when Walden Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII and granted to St Thomas Audley. The fine Jacobean house was built by Audley's grandson, the first Earl of Suffolk, and has been much altered over the years. It is set in a beautiful mature park designed by Capability Brown and has flower beds near the house that are now gardenised organically and to 'modern' tastes. The beds of tulips were looking particularly lovely on our visit. We wandered through the house and gardens and then met for a convivial lunch at the restaurant. Those of us who hadn't visited this special place before wondered why we hadn't and vowed to do so again.

Our garden party in June was once again a very pleasant event. The garden was looking good, despite the dry weather and growing heat, and the strawberries were particularly delicious, having been bought from a farm in Norfolk, rather than the usual supermarket. We welcomed guests from Girton College and chatted happily all afternoon.

By Sarah Beeson-Jones

London Branch Report 2026

Since our report last year we have enjoyed a number of small group outings as well as our major event, the AGM and dinner held in January at the Army and Navy Club. 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 Sally Samson, GENIM Study Coordinator, DPhil Student, Health Economics Research Centre and Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Personalised Medicine.

She gave a fascinating and personal story of her journey to research in the use of genomics to treat rare diseases. She

kindly provided a link to her talk on the CPM website: <https://cpm.ox.ac.uk/when-genetics-becomes-personal-rare-disease-family-and-genomic-medicine-reflections-from-a-centre-for-personalised-medicine-research-fellow/>.

Last summer we took a tour of Highgate Cemetery, and later in the year a guided tour in the National Portrait Gallery by a group called 'Rebel London', where, using portraits as a springboard, an enthusiastic young New Zealander talked about influential personalities in British history, full of fascinating insights, and followed by lunch nearby.

This spring saw a theatre trip to the Jermyn Street Theatre to see an adaptation of Virginia Woolf's 'The Waves'.

We are currently planning a trip to Leighton House and a concert in October

Numbers for the trips continue to be small they but are a great chance to get together and keep in touch.

Our online book club is thriving and a list of books is available on our Facebook page. For one meeting we decided to read a play by Tom Stoppard, which led a group of us to see 'Arcadia' at the Old Vic Theatre. New members are always welcome.

Our annual Freshers event last October was a great success as ever with 24 Freshers and 2nd years meeting up in a restaurant in the Barbican.

By Lynn Biggs

Midlands Branch Report June 2026

Our small but friendly book club continues to meet two to three times a year, discussing publications by St Anne's

SAS Branch Reports

alumnae or fellows. In a brief departure from our usual St Anne's connection, we have selected two fabulous novels by Pip Williams, based around the OUP in North Oxford, 'The Dictionary of Lost Words' and 'The Bookbinder of Jericho'. The latter broaches the subject of women's education and suffrage in the 1940's, very apt for our College. We are set to meet next in September to discuss, the novel, 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 is planned to take place in the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside, with a Saturday set for mid-August. If you are interested in joining us, please do get in touch. We welcome any St Anne's alumnae, family and friends to join any of our events.

By Michele Gawthorpe

South of England Branch Report 2026

Those of us linked by our connection to St Anne's, and Oxford University more widely, have continued to enjoy fun and fellowship in a variety of ways this year. We have grown our membership despite the sad passing of a number of old friends, and with them memories of St Anne's in the 1940s. Our aim now is to recruit people who experienced the transition of St Anne's to a mixed-sex College and all the social and other changes that brought with it, enriching and transforming the lives and experiences of students.

Here is a summary of what we have been up to since I wrote our last report for the Ship in June 2025.

Events

We have a set-piece programme of events which helps us sustain activity around an annual outing, three book discussions, a

theatre trip and a lecture or talk. Our outing in May was a private guided 'House History' tour of **Chawton House, near Alton**. It was well known to Jane Austen as it was owned by her brother Edward, and she was a regular visitor. It also houses a 13,000-book collection of early women's writing. Numbers were swelled to 20 by fellow members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight OUS, and cream tea in the Billards Room turned into a lovely group-sharing of memories of life at Oxford.

Also in May, our Chichester Festival theatre group went to an afternoon performance of *Magic*, a new play starring and written by David Haig. Brilliantly staged as ever, it explores the friendship and different perspectives on spiritualism of Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle. The storyline was based on extraordinary historical events, and the play challenged what we are prepared to believe and why, so naturally discussion continued afterwards over tea at the elegant Chichester home of Maureen Gruffydd Jones (1959 PPE).



*David Haig and Hadley Fraser in 'Magic':
Photo courtesy of Chichester Festival Theatre*

This year's **2025-26 book discussions** have been Ronald H Balson's 'Once We Were Brothers' in July 25, Barbara Pym's 'Excellent Women' in November 25 and 'The Land in Winter' by Andrew Miller in March 26. Once again, contrasting opinions ensured great debates and the exploration of ideas that extended beyond the book selected – and sometimes continued afterwards via e-mail! We are doing our best to ensure that those who attend on Zoom get as good an experience as those in the room at the time, although it is not always easy. Ensuring we can accommodate Zoomers ensures that 10-12 people join each book group event, and in future we are going to restrict locations to those where we can ensure good IT functionality. Many thanks to our fantastic convenor and facilitator, Tessa Cunningham (1977 English), for organising these sessions. Her degree is certainly being put to good use. We always include time for socialising over tea, but sadly cannot extend this offer to those attending remotely!

For our Autumn lecture, we teamed up with OUS West Sussex to put on a talk in November by **Tristan Gooley**, called by BBC Radio the "Sherlock Holmes of Nature". Tristan specialises in interpreting nature for use in our everyday lives and his illustrated talk was captivating. It followed the publication of his new book and Sunday Times bestseller "The Hidden Seasons: A Calendar of Nature's Clues and Signs" which now sits on our coffee tables for reading month by month!

Working with our friends in the OUS branches enables us to offer a wider range of talks by popular speakers, and having an overlapping committee member in the form of Susan Ellery (1973 Modern History) is a great advantage.

Finances and contributions to St Anne's

2025 was a less successful year financially because we lost a little money on two events, and also our bank has begun to

levy charges. Since the branch was founded over 20 years ago the annual subscription fee remained at £10, but to cover the additional banking costs we have reluctantly decided to increase our annual subscription charges to £15 and we no longer accept cheques. Last year we donated £300 to the St Anne's Annual Fund, although we continue to recommend direct individual giving to members as the best way to assist the College financially.

Membership news

Tragically, in April founder member **Gillian Hooker** (1974 Jurisprudence) passed away. Jill served on the Committee from 2008 to 2019, and was a good friend of many of us and several branch members attended her funeral in Chichester on 30th April. Jill was a perceptive member of our Book Group, and organised a successful visit to a Sussex vineyard (Nutbourne) in 2016. The photo below shows Jill on that occasion with husband Jonathan, who sadly passed away in 2019. They both welcomed us frequently to their lovely home in Chichester for meetings and post-theatre teas.

A second founder member who passed away this year was **Pat Grayburn** (1949 French), who lived in Guildford. She came regularly to our theatre trips in Chichester and attended many outings supported by her shooting stick. She also joined us at Nutbourne in 2016.



SAS Branch Reports

Committee

Our branch remains well represented at College level as Roshan Bailey (1974 PPE) is an ordinary member of the Main Committee, and treasurer Ruth Le Mesurier (1965 Physics) is serving a second term as Main Committee treasurer. In addition to Susan and Maureen already mentioned, we are also exceptionally well-served by Rachel Knowles (1982

Classics & Modern Languages) as our branch secretary, whose PR and communications skills honed in the arts and corporate world ensure our events always sound enticing. We look forward to the remainder of the year and many more to follow, thanks to St Anne's.

by Stella Charman

The formation of St Anne's Boat Club: An early history of rowing and boating at the Oxford Home Students 1911-36

ELLIOT WOODS

We can trace the history of St Anne's Boat Club (SABC) from the beginning of the 20th Century, largely using old volumes of *The Ship* and other photographs and records kept in the St Anne's archives. What follows is a short history of those formative early years, either side of catastrophic global conflict. The records make it abundantly clear that throughout the turmoil of WWI and societal changes brought by the interwar years, the Boat Club (formerly of the Oxford Home Students, and later St Anne's College) grew and was subsequently strengthened by the emerging presence of women in wider university society. In fact, in the Boat Club we have an excellent window into the lives of female students in Oxford during these crucial years. The material also suggests a massive change to inclusion in wider university societies and sports – in keeping with the University culture of the 1920s.

However, the Boat Club was initially no more than boats. We have a rather cryptic reference to the foundation of the club in 1908, and this date does seem plausible, as the early editions of *The Ship* suggest a very new society. Boating was almost entirely recreational. The boat club in 1911 (when the first volume of the ship was published) had an inventory of 4 boats: a punt, canoe, an outrig and an inrig sculler. All were stored at Cherwell Boathouse, significantly separated from the Isis where the men's colleges raced. This recreational element of the club explains why other forms of women's sport dominated – such as joint victory in the 1911 Hockey cuppers with St Hilda's College. That said, boating was certainly growing. In 1913, the club had the largest Committee



OHS at a raft belonging to LMH before the club was founded – c. 1906. © St Anne's Archives

of 4 members and regular use of the fleet required further purchases of 3 canoes 1913-18. The club needed 2 berths in Cherwell Boathouse by 1918.

The Club was also largely unaffected by the afflictions of WWI on university societies. In fact, it continued to grow. *The Ship* in 1918 mentioned in passing how the club was flourishing in comparison with other sports and games, and the club was different to other university societies in two separate ways that allowed it to rapidly grow. Firstly, its entirely female membership meant that it was largely unaffected

From the Boat Club

by the thinning of undergraduate students that had struck so many male societies. The call to duty on the Western Front or further afield was often unavoidable for many male undergraduates. Oxford Home Students (OHS) certainly took part in the war effort. A document held by the St Anne's College archive, the 'Register of War Work 1914-19', proves this emphatically, with a huge amount of voluntary work done aiming to support troops on the Western Front – largely in clothing. However, this war work did not require students to leave Oxford, and they could continue growing societies and sports teams. Secondly, the recreational emphasis of the boat club likely provided a small means of escape from the strains of war. The ability to go punting on the Cherwell free of charge must have been enticing to women stressed by studies, but also by the strain of having husbands, fathers, brothers and sweethearts fighting across the world. This form of escape still exists for current undergraduates, in the JCR punt scheme, in collaboration with Cherwell Boathouse. The survival of the modern boat club owes much to this recreational era – and our emphasis on rowing, whilst

appropriate, does not quite give the full picture of the history and origins of boating at St Anne's.

However, after the war, something began to change. The modern sense of a rowing club quickly appeared. The club was still massively dependent on benefaction in their purchases of rowing craft, as it remains today. The Ship gives mention to a generous gift in 1924 by Mrs Symington, used to buy a four. Not only was the club growing, but it was gaining prestige and consequently money to fund even more extensive activities. Further purchase of an outrig sculler named Tutankhamen allowed the club to start coaching more extensively. Towpath coaching on the Isis is also first mentioned in this era, suggesting that the barriers of exclusion from men's rowing were starting to break down. This breakdown of barriers was seen across the university. Men's societies, due to the thinning of the undergraduate body and the recent developments in women's suffrage, had started to allow women to join. One of the first (of many) was the Oxford University Christian Union (OUCU), alongside many other political and religious societies.



1936 Women's crew. 7 OHS students. © St Anne's Archives

In its unique position as an institute for women's education, OHS was able to encourage this change through the work of its undergraduate body, including the boat club. The movement to rowing also reflects this change. The boat club took on dual responsibilities of recreational boating and introducing women to what had been a primarily male dominated activity – rowing.

OHS went on to dominate the women's rowing scene in Oxford for the next two decades. This was through the Oxford United team – as official racing for the University was not yet permitted. The first record of OHS racing for this team was in Michaelmas 1926 when a four raced against Reading. J.A. Brown and M. Cartwright rowed stroke and 3 respectively. 100 years on from this event we can certainly reflect on the change that has taken place in women's rowing across the city, and OHS, alongside the Boat Club, was instrumental in this change, encouraging women to take up the sport. By 1927 women were representing Oxford in the first Women's Boat Race, whilst the Boat Club was performing successfully in women's cuppers (an alternative to summer 8s) in 1931. By 1935, 5 members of the women's blue boat were OHS, and took part in the first boat race where both crews were on the water

simultaneously. They raced a timed event, with the first side-by-side race occurring in 1936. The 1936 crew (pictured below) had seven OHS. In just over 20 years, the boat club and women's rowing in Oxford had transformed.

The records largely create a sense of a Boat Club that was vibrant from the start. The Ship constantly refers to the club as vigorous and energetic. The club developed as the needs and desires of the students changed, and as the wider culture of Oxford University towards women evolved. Whilst women's 8s did not occur until 1976, and the women's boat race struggled with funding throughout the 1950s, OHS was fundamental in getting women's rowing on the map. The St Anne's Boat Club can truly claim to be instrumental in women's rowing, of which it should be incredibly proud.

I would like to express my thanks to Benjamin O'Donnell for tasking me with this project and Matthew Chipping for his help with the St Anne's archives.

Elliot Woods, TT 2026

Elliot Woods is a first year historian at St Anne's College. His recent interests include British Culture during the interwar period.

A Year In Review

NEVE MILLARD

Looking back over the year, I don't think the question is what have we done as a JCR, but more so what haven't we done? The year began with a successful Freshers' week which welcomed in a brand new cohort of Stanners – the week was vibrant and friendly and included a meticulous blend of student led events, from arts and crafts and Q and As to dance battles and club nights. This year we really prioritised making Anne's accessible and welcoming to all, in line with the college's values and defining qualities.

Michaelmas then saw the fabulous revamp and rehabilitation of the Bevs, with students back living in the newly refurbished Victorian buildings for the first time in three years. Quickly followed by seeing them transformed into the most popular accommodation in college! There was also the Murray Edwards formal exchange with our Cambridge sister college, and a coach full of St Anne's students made their way down to Cambridge to explore, dine, and be fiercely yet politely competitive with our equally brutalist architecture loving counterparts. St Anne's newly formed cheese and wine society saw continued success and has hosted termly events this year, each more popular than the last. Weekly fresh fruit was made available in the JCR, providing that weekend pick-me-up in between study sessions. With St Anne's championing Gymnastics cuppers, a runners up performance in ski cuppers, and a sell out Christmas megabop featuring techno carols, we saw the term and year out in true St Anne's style.

Hilary brought with it cold weather and serious conversations, and we worked with college to reform the housing ballot to make it fairer and more beneficial for all students. Students got through the winter blues with fortnightly yoga sessions from the welfare



The President and Vice President present Halfway Hall awards

team and bops from the Entz team, who impressively gained the bar the most profit and traction that it has seen since the early 2000s! We collaborated with the college Treasurer to give people a presentation on the college's investment and endowment. As Hilary drew to a close, the JCR organised and ran a student art exhibition as part of Community and Giving week, showcasing the range of talent at our college outside of academic success. There was also an inaugural alumnae vs student golf match, with the students of St Anne's golf club claiming victory, and the college's mixed Hockey team with Brasenose gained a division 1 promotion. To end the term, St Anne's Boat Club enjoyed a trip to Gloucester for an intense training camp filled with lots of rowing, team building, and pasta.

Trinity was the whirlwind that summed up a crazy, fun, and very Anne's year -- from hosting JCR PresCom (the JCR Presidents of Oxford), to a collaborative BBQ on the quad with the MCR,



The St Anne's Rounders Team

and the yearly love affair between procrastinating students and college rounders. Not forgetting the biggest night of the year, the St Anne's Ball, themed "Celestial Bodies", which was a hit for all. The ball was an amazing student planned night which featured great music, delicious street food, acrobats, mini golf,

and so much more! Although Trinity saw very limited hours of sunshine, it made up for it with the warmth of the college community. Arts week saw a range of creative events from life drawing to drag night! Week 5 brought in the yearly rowing craze and summer Vllls welcomed blades for the M1 for the first time in 15 years, as well as excellence from across a record number 7 boats which Anne's managed to train up this year.

As the summer vacation and the end of my presidency looms, I find it easy to reminisce on all the amazing things we were able to achieve over this jam-packed year. And I want to thank the college, and the family I have here for creating the most beautiful space to live in, a place which always radiates friendliness and welcoming faces - never feeling like anywhere but home. A place where we can all be unapologetically Anne's! And as I sit here in STACS surrounded by stressed freshers studying for prelims, I wish every Stanner a lovely end to the term and a relaxing and fun filled summer before we meet again in October.

Neve Millard,
JCR President 2025/6



M1 get blades



The St Anne's Ball

New Traditions: A Year in the St Anne's MCR

JOSH LEMBKE



The St Anne's MCR has enjoyed a lively and full year, with a renewed focus on what it means to be a Middle Common Room and, more broadly, what it means to be part of St Anne's. From Michaelmas through to Trinity, the year has largely been one of reinvention and rejuvenation. We have overhauled our committee structure, refreshed our physical spaces, and taken on a more active role both within College and across the wider Oxford community.

Given the increasingly diverse nature of the graduate experience in Oxford, which is not always closely tied to college life, we have spent much of the year asking what is distinctive about being part of St Anne's and how we might make that experience more meaningful. Central to this has been a renewed effort to strengthen our shared identity as Stanners





and to establish new traditions that future generations of graduate St Anne's members will, we hope, continue. The year saw the installation of a new photo wall in EPH displaying past MCR photographs, as well as the introduction of a graduating ledger, which all departing members are invited to sign. It has been especially gratifying to create a physical record of those who have passed through EPH.

The year began in fine style with Freshers Week, and it was a pleasure to welcome our new members through a packed programme of social events and activities. Standout moments included a dinner in EPH and on the EPH Lawn on a fine autumn evening, as well as a highly successful bop with Green Templeton and Corpus Christi, from which some of us may still be recovering.



From the MCR



Engagement across both committee and community has remained strong throughout the year, especially around our social events. Formal exchanges with Somerville, Queen's, Merton, St Cross, and private halls such as Campion Hall continue to be extremely popular. The MCR has also opened its doors beyond College this year, hosting a great number of societies as well as several Student Union events. Music has also become a defining feature of MCR life, with live bands performing at several of our events and more music lounge-style evenings in the MCR itself, supported by our resident DJ and Treasurer, Cornelius Lee, and now anchored by the MCR's very own Steinway piano. The St Anne's MCR is fast developing a reputation as one of the most enjoyable graduate communities in Oxford.

Our Welfare team has likewise had an active year, continuing their painting sessions, board game nights, and other initiatives, always accompanied by tea and biscuits. Particular attention has been paid to engaging our part-time members, affectionately known as our "ghost members." Meanwhile, the Academic team has continued to run its popular Shut Up and Write sessions, punctuated by well-attended pizza nights, and has introduced





Tipsy Show and Tells, which give members the chance to practise presenting their research in a far less stressful environment.

Trinity brought the year to a fitting close. Our annual garden party returned, and we were delighted to welcome our Cambridge sister college, Murray Edwards, for this year's



exchange. May Day was marked in proper Oxford fashion with a Morning Bop, and the college Ball was a particular highlight, co-organised this year by JCR and MCR members together. The term also saw the publication of our new 'mini' edition of STAAR, our annual publication, relaunched with a renewed focus and showcasing many aspects of MCR life, including art, poetry, short-form writing, and articles. The year ended as we hope it will for many years to come, with our departing members signing the graduating ledger, before we celebrated the end of term with a wonderful party alongside St John's at Hogacre Common Eco Park.

As for me, it has been a genuine privilege to call St Anne's home for the past two years, and to serve as President this year. The warmth of the welcome I received here has stayed with me throughout, and it is what makes this College such a special place within the wider Oxford ecosystem. I leave with great affection for this community and every confidence in those who will carry it forward. Thank you.

Joshua Lembke MCR President '25-'26
MPhil Modern British History



Fellows' News and Publications

St Anne's Fellow and Tutor in History, Professor Venus Bivar published the article "*It's the Economy, Stupid*" in *Environmental History* (DOI: 10.1086/738833) and the essay "*Plastic Planet: Stalled Negotiations and Accelerating Accumulation in the Global Petrochemicals Industry*" in *The Polycrisis*, extending her work on environmental history, economic growth, and the political ecology of petrochemicals.

Professor Sebastian Bonilla, Tutorial Fellow in Materials Science, is among ten Oxford academics who have been recognised with awards for outstanding research supervision.

Ten supervisors from across the MPLS Division have been recognised with awards for their exceptional commitment to mentoring and supporting colleagues in the 2025/2026 academic year. Each recipient has demonstrated outstanding dedication to inspiring others and fostering an environment in which researchers can thrive and progress in their careers.

Dr Francesca Dakin, Junior Research Fellow at the CPM, was awarded the Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award 2026 by the Society for Academic Primary Care and Royal College of General Practitioners.

Professor Charlotte Deane MBE, Professor Structural Bioinformatics, Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, Fellow of St Anne's College and Executive Chair, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Deane has also co-founded OpenBind, a non-profit initiative that is transforming drug discovery through open, AI-ready biological data. Under her leadership, OpenBind recently released its first open dataset and predictive AI model, a major milestone

that helps address a critical shortage of high-quality experimental data needed to train next-generation drug discovery tools.

Professor Jakob Foerster, Fellow of St Anne's College and Associate Professor in Oxford's Department of Engineering Science, will lead the new British Open-ended Learning and Discovery Lab (BOLD). Hosted by the University of Oxford and funded by UK Research and Innovation's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), BOLD will receive support over the next six years to develop a new generation of open, human-centred and resource-efficient AI systems.

Emeritus Fellow Peter Ghosh writes: students over several decades and at various points in the history syllabus have charitably tolerated my interest in Max Weber. This year marks a kind of fruition in publication. At the beginning of July my book *Between Freedom and Hierarchy: Max Weber's Social Politics* was published by OUP. This is, so to speak, Max Weber's other "political" side to match the religious half of his biography that appeared in my *Max Weber and the Protestant Ethic* (2014). While waiting for this to appear I almost finished writing what one might call a more *alumnae*-friendly *Very Short Introduction to Weber*. With luck – who knows that the publishers' readers will say? – this should come out in the winter.

St Anne's Fellow and Tutor in Physics, Professor Patrick Irwin, has been awarded the David Bates Medal by the European Geosciences Union for 2026. The medal was established by the Planetary & Solar System Sciences Division in recognition of the scientific and editorial achievements of Sir David Robert Bates, FRS and is awarded to scientists for their exceptional contributions to planetary and solar system sciences.

'I am humbled to be joining such a list of laureates – including Professor Fred Taylor who was head of sub-department here

at Oxford for many years,' comments Professor Irwin. 'I am absolutely thrilled and very thankful to my colleagues and to the EGU awards committee.'

Professor Saiful Islam, Professor of Materials Science and Professorial Fellow presented a prize lecture at the University of Edinburgh (April 2026) for his recent Royal Society of Chemistry Environment & Energy Award.

Saiful was named in this year's 'Highly Cited Researchers' list (compiled by Clarivate/Web of Science), which recognises academics whose work ranks among the top 1% by citations worldwide.

He is co-Investigator of a new £3 million Faraday Institution project (2025-2028) on next-generation lithium battery cathode materials (called 3D-CAT).

His recent publications include a review on perovskite solar cell materials in *Nature Reviews Chemistry*, and a study on lithium battery electrode materials in *Nature Communications*.

To celebrate UCL's 200th anniversary, Saiful gave an invited talk as part of a special science event at the Bloomsbury



Theatre (May 2026), in which he squeezed in a mention of his Guinness World Record high voltage lemon battery.

St Anne's Fellow and Tutor in French, Professor Patrick McGuinness, has been made Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques by the French government and the French minister for Education, Elisabeth Borne. The honour was awarded for services to French culture 'as professor of French and Comparative Literature, as poet, translator and writer'.

He has also published a book of essays called *Ghost Stations* from CB Editions (<https://www.cbditions.com/mcguinness.html>)

Patrick will also be one of the judges of the International Booker 2027

<https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/prize-years/international/2027>

St Anne's College Fellow and Professor of Human Geography, Jennie Middleton, has been awarded a highly competitive British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship to support an innovative research project exploring the experiences of neurodivergent people navigating urban environments on foot.

The fellowship, worth £143,094.89, will fund Professor Middleton's project, *Masked Mobilities: Urban Walking in the Neurodivergent City*, which examines the often-hidden challenges faced by neurodivergent adults—including people with autism, ADHD and related conditions—when walking through cities.

The British Academy's Mid-Career Fellowships are designed to support outstanding researchers in the humanities and social sciences by providing dedicated time to pursue major research projects while promoting public engagement with their work. The awards recognise scholars who have made significant

College news: Fellows

contributions to their field and demonstrated excellence in communicating research beyond academia.

St Anne's Fellow and volcanologist Professor David Pyle has teamed up with fellow Oxford volcanologist Tamsin Mather, illustrator Daniel Long and publishers Nosy Crow to produce a new book *Think Big: The Power of Volcanoes*, aimed at 7- to 11-year-olds.

David said: "Working with a professional illustrator, we have combined words and pictures to tell the scientific story of how volcanoes work. Daniel's illustrations are wonderfully vibrant and fun to look at, but are also technically accurate and based on real volcanoes and current ideas."

St Anne's Honorary Fellow, Elif Shafak, has been elected President of the Royal Society of Literature.

Prof Samuel Sheppard, scientific lead for digital microbiology and bioinformatics at the Ineos Oxford Institute for antimicrobial research (IOI) and Fellow of St Anne's College, has been elected to the American Academy of Microbiology, Class of 2026.

The Academy is an honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology that recognises excellence, originality, service and leadership in the microbial sciences. Each year, nominees are elected through a stringent peer-review process, based on their scientific achievements and contributions to the field of microbiology.

Emeritus Fellow Professor Sally Shuttleworth has published *In Quest of a Cure: Literary and Medical Cultures of the Health Resort* with OUP.

Emeritus Fellow Michael Sibly translated, with his late father, *The Chronicle of William of Puylaurens*. Originally published in 2003, it was reprinted in paperback in 2025.

Professor Sarah Waters, St Anne's Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, is among twelve Oxford academics who have been appointed to the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences' inaugural cohort of Fellows, which will bring together the UK's strongest mathematicians across academia, education, business, industry, and government to help solve some of the UK's biggest challenges.

The Academy for the Mathematical Sciences (AcadMathSci), founded in September 2023, brings together academia, education, business, industry, and government from across the UK to provide an authoritative, persuasive, and influential voice for the whole of the mathematical sciences. The Academy's new Fellowship will bring together the UK's 'hidden problem solvers', whose breadth of experience and depth of expertise will make the Fellowship much greater than the sum of its parts.

St Anne's Fellow and Tutor in Psychology, Professor Kate Watkins, has been named one of this year's Suffrage Science Award recipients.

The Suffrage Science Awards, conceived to honour pioneering women in science, celebrated achievement in the Life Sciences in March 2026. The awards took place on the evening of Monday 9 March 2026, when 11 recipients received their awards at a dual-venue ceremony in the heart of Oxford's University Science Area. The evening kicked off with a welcome reception and the awards were hosted in the Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin Building. A panel discussion on global challenges and opportunities facing women scientists and a talk followed at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology.

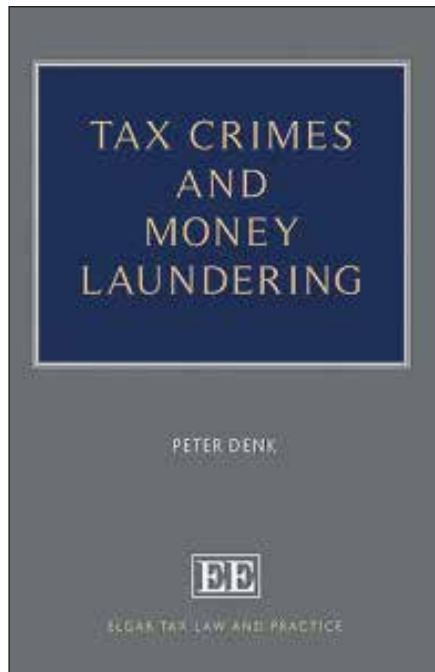
Professor Watkins has also been awarded an ERC Advanced Grant to continue my research into stuttering. The grant is called "Brain Mechanisms of Stuttering: Why it starts, stops and sometimes stays".

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.

Peter Denk (MSc Taxation, 2019) has published *Tax Crimes and Money Laundering*, part of the Elgar Tax Law and Practice series.

This comprehensive book addresses tax-related money laundering and

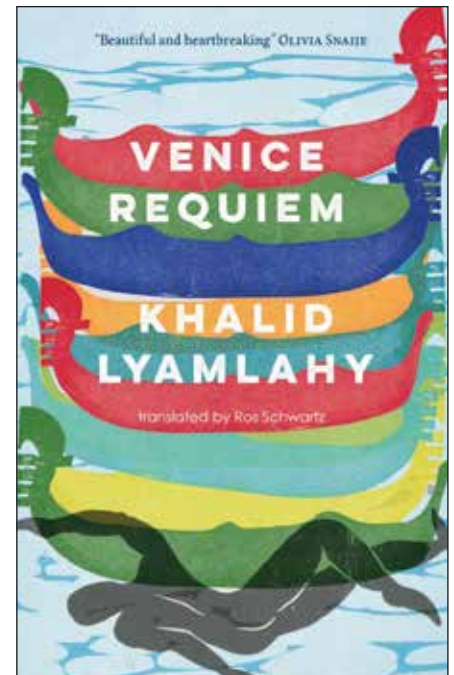


the various ways in which countries have implemented their international, European and domestic obligations in this area. It identifies, categorizes and systematizes common problems and solutions related to tax and money laundering and presents case studies from countries around the globe, assessing the function and efficacy of their responses to these emerging issues.

Khalid Lyamlahy (DPhil French, 2015-2018) is currently Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Chicago where he teaches North African literature.

His novel *Venice Requiem*, translated by Ros Schwartz, was published last February by HopeRoad in the UK. This is his second novel but the first to be available in English. The French original came out in 2023 and won several prizes including a special mention of the prestigious Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie.

His first monograph, *Nostalgic Rebels: Politics, Aesthetics, and Selfhood in*



Postcolonial Morocco, was published last summer by Liverpool University Press. The book is based on the PhD thesis he completed at St Anne's. This PhD was funded by the Ertegun Scholarship Programme in the Humanities.

Alumnae News

Jenny Grove (1959) is still revising a draft of a book about boys who tried to defy the occupying forces during the German Occupation of Jersey. Also, her limericks are still appearing in the Daily Mail - a fairly recent example:

PUTIN'S SPY PIGEONS

By Jenny Grove

Putin's been quick to accrue
Pigeons with cameras, it's true –
So for NATO armed forces
It's likely what's thought is:
'Beware if you hear of a coo.'

On 1 December 2025, **Jancis Robinson (1968)** celebrated 50 years as a wine writer and the subscription-only website she founded, JancisRobinson.com, celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Deirdre Shields (1982) is enjoying a new late(!) life career, working with theatre producers, Hamblets. She has written shows for Anton Lesser, Harriet Walter, Juliet Stevenson, Sally Phillips, Hermione Norris, SuRie, and Rachel Parris. Her work has been performed around the UK, including at the RSC Royal Shakespeare Theatre,

Chichester Festival Theatre, Oxford Playhouse, Wilton's, ATG Theatres, Yvonne Arnaud, London Southbank Centre - and Stonehenge! Do take a look at hamblets.com if you might be interested - we'd love to see you.

In Memoriam

Aston Smith (Johnson), **Julia**: 1970
Bacon (Mason), **Ann**: 1957
Barrett (Richards), **Katy**: 1990
Barron (Taylor), **Enid**: 1964
Beeby, **Valerie**: 1952
Berg (Ashley), **Coralie**: 1956
Beveridge, **Lindy**: 1954
Briggs (Banwell), **Susan**: 1951
Brunton, **Alice**: 2008
Dunkley (Eastman), **Shirley**: 1953
Farris, **Dianne**: 1951
Ferrar (Marshall), **Sheila**: 1950
Freeman (Davies), **Gillian**: 1962

Grayburn (Brewster), **Patricia**: 1949
Heron (Barran), **Mary**: 1952
Honoré (Duncan), **Deborah**: 1948
Hooker (Dussek), **Gillian**: 1974
Jenkinson (Osborne), **Gillian**: 1959
Jones, **Dorothy**: 1960
Joy (Jacomb), **Ann**: 1945
Khursandi (Strange), **Di**: 1960
Kirk-Wilson (Matthews), **Ruth**: 1963
Lewis, **Keri**: 1947
Marchbank (Silberstein), **Joan**: 1958
McCubbin, **Norman**: 1966
Meek (Schulz), **Dorothea**: 1945

Milton (Ward), **Irene**: 1948
Moore (Cohen), **Avril**: 1944
Newlands (Raworth), **Liz**: 1960
Norton (Gordon), **Claire**: 1973
Nuttall, **Mary**: 1956
Partridge (Hughes), **Joan**: 1957
Powell, **Helen**: 1956
Raven (Hugh-Smith), **Faith**: 1949
Spicer (Whittaker), **Sarah**: 1973
Stevenson, **Patricia**: 1955
Thompson, **Jean**: 1942
Vidal-Hall (Bunting), **Judith**: 1957
Williamson (Hodson), **Valerie**: 1960

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IN MEMORIAM
ANDREW ARNOLL
(MODERN LANGUAGES, 1985)
(1967-2026)



Andrew Arnoll, known pretty much universally as Andy, was born in Middlesbrough in May 1967. His mother was a native of nearby Stockton-on-Tees, and had met Andy's father, who had a long career in petrochemicals, working for Shell and ICI, when he was seconded to the North-East by his employer.

Nonetheless, it was in the North-West where Andy and his younger brother, Adam, grew up; the family settled in

Timperley, near Altrincham. Andy was a keen and proficient sports player, excelling at football and golf. He attended Manchester Grammar School, where he played for the football First XI, and demonstrated a flair for modern languages.

After sitting his A-levels at just barely 17, Andy won a scholarship to read French and German at St.Anne's. Andy's sporting prowess was quickly on display for the college, which he represented in football and in rowing. He also coached the women's football team.

During his third year, Andy went to pursue his studies as a teaching assistant in France's Var region, and it was there that he met his future wife, Murielle.

Andy graduated in 1989, and joined KPMG in Birmingham as a trainee accountant. He and Murielle married in 1991. They have two sons, Christopher and Daniel, born in 1994 and 1996, of whom Andy was incredibly proud.

At the end of 1996 Andy left KPMG, and the family relocated to France, where Andy embarked on a 20-year career with both Nestlé and L'Oréal, initially as a finance officer, then latterly as Chief Finance Officer for a division of one of the above-mentioned multinationals. Andy and Murielle separated after 25 years together and in the last years of

Andy's life he lived by himself in Milly-la-Forêt in the Forêt de Fontainebleau, south-east of Paris. He enjoyed walking in the forest, which he was fond of calling 'my forest', on a daily basis. He died during the fierce heatwave that settled over France in late-June, and the exceptional heat is thought to have been a factor in his untimely death; he was 59.

Simon Arthur-Smith (1985)

IN MEMORIAM
VALERIE BEEBY (ENGLISH, 1955)
19 AUGUST 1933 – 15 JANUARY 2026



Valerie was born in Shipley, Yorkshire to Harry and Helen Beeby. Her father was on the board of ICI and also Chairman of British Titan Products. Her mother was a pioneering student of fashion at Leicester College of Art in the 1920s. Valerie led a peripatetic childhood as a result of her father's work and attended a number of different schools, spending time in Liverpool, Tyneside, a period

of evacuation during the war and numerous stays at her aunt's hotel by the seaside in Worthing, West Sussex.

She initially planned to follow in her father's footsteps and study science at University, but Iris Murdoch, who interviewed her for a place at St. Anne's, advised her to study English Literature, which is exactly what she did. She had very fond memories of her time at Oxford and during those years developed her love of literature and her considerable skills as an artist and cartoonist.

Her creative flair landed her her first job in advertising in London after she showed her interviewer an illustrated children's story that she had written. From here, she went to New York and was part of the 'Mad Men' era of the early 1960s. On returning to London, she spent the longest period of her working life writing travel articles for BOAC and travelling to many glamorous locations. In the 1970s, she stopped working, moved to a cottage in Wimbledon Village and spent much time pursuing her passion for art and cartoons. Her work was skilled, humorous and idiosyncratic - her passion for technology meant that in later years, she worked a lot on her iPad and connected with artists and artistic communities all around the world.

Although she never had children, Valerie had a large and loving extended family

to whom she was close and was always a popular guest at family gatherings. She maintained her connection with St. Anne's throughout her life, attending reunion events regularly and was a valued member of the St. Anne's book group. She was still painting into her late eighties but sadly was unable to continue with her passion for the last couple of years of her life. Instead, she made do with reading, Wordle, crosswords, humorous animal videos on Instagram and visits from family and friends.

Simon Lacey

IN MEMORIAM
ROSALIND "LINDY" BEVERIDGE
(ENGLISH, 1954)
7 NOVEMBER 1935 – 8 NOVEMBER 2025



Lindy Beveridge was born in Singapore to a service family of Irish origin. Her early memories included a wartime summer "evacuated" to an uncle's house on Lough Corrib in County Galway, Ireland, and contracting polio in Dublin with her younger brother.

Lindy's love of English literature and ability to write won her a place at St Anne's, where she met her lifelong friend Gillian Beer in 1954. Gill recalls "her bubbling presence, her bright blue eyes and her sense of fun. We became firm friends quite fast!" Lindy served as President of the JCR. After graduating, she and Gill had an adventurous trip to Italy and Austria, enjoying life with very little cash.

In 1958, she met her future husband, John Bertin on a skiing society trip. She said that she accepted John's proposal because it was made when she had her hair up in curlers! She began work in publishing, initially for Ian Parsons and Cecil Day-Lewis at Chatto and Windus, and then with literary agent Murray Pollinger at Pollinger & Pollinger.

In 1966, Lindy moved to Cambridge, where she worked for the probation service, followed by work with the Advisory Centre for Education and lecturing at Cambridge Tech. In the mid 1970s, she became public relations

Obituaries

officer for the Cambridge Science Park and subsequently set up her own PR business serving the growing Cambridge science and technology sector. She was also elected a local Labour councillor, and served on the governing bodies of her children's schools.

In 1981 she was appointed Chair of the Cambridge International Poetry Festival. She continued to be interested in social services, becoming Chair of Cambridge Community Healthcare NHS Trust in the mid 1980s.

In 1992, her PR business was wound up, although she continued to work as a consultant. Her book profiling Cambridge technology entrepreneurs was published in 2001. Never deterred, she began a new adventure, experiencing "La France profonde" in the town of Condom in 2006, until she returned to Cambridge in 2015, moving into care in 2024 due to Parkinson's Disease. Lindy's life was full of friendships, some of them, such as that with Gina Pollinger, dating all the way back to her happy undergraduate years at St Anne's.

Jerome Bertin (son)

IN MEMORIAM
ALICE DICKINSON BRUNTON
(FRENCH AND SPANISH, 2008)
26 MARCH 1989 -11 AUGUST 2025



Alice was born in 1989. Until her last few years she was full of energy and had a wonderful passion for life and for her many friends. I hope this outline of her too-short life gives a taste of the zest with which she faced the world.

Whilst at Headington School she played hockey in the school team and gained Bronze and Silver D of E. She

also played French horn in the County Youth Orchestra and took ballet classes to a high level. On her gap year she combined working at her French with improving her surfing in the South of France, and took Spanish lessons in Granada whilst learning Flamenco, which later became another passion.

She loved her time at St Anne's, and made many friends. Her tutor group called themselves the 'four musketeers'. During her first year she was in the University Dance Sport team. After the first-year exams she was awarded the Kolkhorst exhibition and a scholarship from the college. During her second year she organised a week-long arts festival at the college, and was the producer for a production of Genet's *The Maids*.

Her year abroad was spent at the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon, during which time, as well as studying Spanish and French literature, she performed in a five hour version of Flaubert's *Le Château des cœurs* (The Castle of Hearts), a 'féerie' (fairy play). During this period, she also visited Argentina, which included a trip to the Iguassu Falls, and also worked for a Law firm in Barcelona.

After graduating with a first-class degree 2012, she studied law for two years at University College London, taking the post graduate legal practice

course (GDL) and then the qualifying solicitor's course.

She joined the law firm Addleshaw Goddard, specialising in competition law. After several busy years in this practice, she left Addleshaws, and began a master's course in environmental law. However, her studies here were overshadowed by illness.

During her last four years she suffered from a complex multi-system illness not yet recognised by most doctors. This was very draining both mentally and physically, and became more painful by the day. Eventually she could not deal with the pain and the inevitable cycle of relapses. For Alice, the main issue was lack of treatment with the mainstream system's denial of complex chronic environmental illness.

She wished to be remembered by her friends as the happy, curious, clever and silly person she was before her illness.

I leave you with part of one of the poems she wrote, whilst trying to heal.

*In Nature, nothing is broken;
The smallest cell,
The power of recreating
That which was lost.
Anew,
Better, more perfect.
A new version*

*More attuned
To the pendulating
Harmony of Life.
After seasons of
slow decay,
Slow Repair.
I am amazed.
My body can play the music
of the Stars
From which I came.*

Anna Brunton, mother

IN MEMORIAM

MARY CONGDON
(HAMMOND, FRENCH, 1950)
25 SEPTEMBER 1931 - 21 NOVEMBER 2022



Rowena Mary Hammond, who sadly passed away on 21st November 2022, was born on 25th September

1931 in the village of Chalford in Gloucestershire. Her mother, Beryl, was a piano teacher; her father, Fred, ran an engineering business.

She was educated at Stroud High School, which she loved and where she thrived. She did well in her studies and was an all-rounder, eventually opting to focus on languages. Although not so gifted at sport, she was in school teams for netball and hockey. However, music was her big love: her mother had taught her the piano since she was 6 and by age 11 she craved to play the violin and duly went for lessons with a teacher in Stroud. She sang in the school choir, played violin in the school orchestra and while still at school was successful in auditioning for the National Youth Orchestra. She was a member for three years, playing under some illustrious conductors including Sir Adrian Boult. She played at the Edinburgh Festival, the Albert Hall during the Festival of Britain and they also went to Paris for two concerts. She always said that playing in the National Youth Orchestra was a privilege and gave her the most thrilling moments of her musical life.

She had always wanted to go to Oxford and in 1950 she got a state scholarship to St Anne's College to study French. While there she led a very active life, playing in numerous orchestras, singing

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in choirs and even playing tennis, as well as eventually getting a first. While there she met John Congdon, who was studying theology at St Edmund Hall, and they married shortly after her graduation.

After John's ordination she accompanied him to a succession of parishes – initially in Nottingham, later in London and finally in Reading. She viewed being a vicar's wife as a job, albeit an unpaid one, and she was always active in church organisations, in the music of the church and in church worship.

In addition to the role of vicar's wife she had a career as a teacher. This was a bit on-off and always part-time, but she taught at three schools in Nottingham in her early years and later had two periods at the Green School in Isleworth as well as Hemdean House in Caversham. She taught mostly French, but initially also taught music and geography.

She had three children, Philip, Peter and David, and her family were always of the utmost importance to her. Peter suffered brain damage at birth and provided her with a series of challenges. He lived at home in the early years but quickly it became clear that this was not sustainable and he lived the rest of his life in special hospitals and then latterly in a home in the community.

She and John spent their latter years in Bedford, Middlesex, and John sadly passed away in 2021. It was fitting that literally an hour before Mary passed away she was playing the piano in her care home for a group of friends who were practising carols for Christmas, enjoying music and bringing enjoyment to others to the last.

Philip Congdon, son

IN MEMORIAM
ALISON MARY DODD
(NEÉ PEEL, ENGLISH LITERATURE, 1955)
12 JANUARY 1937 - 12 JUNE 2025



Alison Mary Peel was born in Tynemouth to Neville and Barbera Peel, research

engineer and teacher; younger sister to Alwyn. Bright and diligent, she excelled at school, winning a state scholarship, becoming head prefect and editor of the school magazine. For her, acquisition of knowledge was key; above all, Alison loved to read. That love took her to St Anne's, Oxford, to study English, where she formed lifelong friendships.

After Oxford, Alison attained her Education diploma in Durham and began teaching at the Girls' High School in Darlington, eventually becoming Head of English. Later, she taught at Clifton College, Bristol, examined for the Oxford and Cambridge Board and worked for the Open University, where her varied role encompassed counselling at the summer schools; administration at the Regional Office; tutoring and invigilating the Enlightenment and Art History courses; and organising annual tours of the London art galleries. Alison helped coordinate The Asian Project, ensuring vital information was available in translation for Bristol's diverse communities. She was president of Athene, arranging and hosting events for women graduates.

Alison met Nigel Dodd at a Critical Quarterly conference in Bristol. Sixteen whirlwind weeks later, they married at Balliol College Chapel, on 15th August 1964. She had three children, Tim,

Nick and Penny, making their home a generous, lively place: gatherings of family and friends were run with warmth, efficiency and fun, accompanied by wonderful food and her eager curiosity. She loved conversation, listened closely, and had a gift for friendship.

In later years, Alison and Nigel pursued their rich and varied cultural passions, attending literary and musical events—Coleridge weekends, Stratford, Edinburgh. An impressive linguist, Alison translated Anglo-Saxon poetry for Nigel to set to music. They travelled widely, fulfilling long-held wishes to see Venice, Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. Despite Nigel's Parkinson's, their life remained varied until his death in 2016; Alison's steadfast care spoke to the love at the heart of their marriage.

Blaen-y-cwm – a Welsh hill-farmer's cottage restored by her brother-in-law, that sits in splendid isolation beneath Y Garn, facing Cader Idris - was especially dear to her. She loved walking there; sitting on Barmouth beach while children and later grandchildren played; reading by the fire late into the night.

After Nigel's passing, Alison continued a spirited life at home, attending Redland Quaker meeting. Music remained central: she sang alto in choirs, took up the clarinet, and, above all, played the

piano, making music with friends and family until the end. A devoted member of the Bristol Music Club for over forty years, Alison served as Secretary, Trustee and Chair, and was secretly proud to become an honorary Vice President. She also kept fit in her "green gym", cultivating the quiet beauty of her cherished garden. Intrepid to the last, she travelled to Iceland in October 2022 to see the Northern Lights and stand inside a glacier.

We miss her deeply and remain grateful for the years we had with her.

Tim, Penny and Nick, Alison's children

IN MEMORIAM
SHIRLEY DUNKLEY
(nee EASTMAN, ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE, 1953)
1935-2025



Shirley Eastman was born in 1935 in North London. After being evacuated during World War Two she returned to London and attended Enfield Grammar

School for Girls, where she sat and passed her A Levels. In 1953 she came up to St Anne's where she read English. Soon after she arrived Shirley met my father, Peter Dunkley (Exeter 1953-1956) who was auditioning actresses for a college production of Othello, and also reading English. Over the course of the rest of her undergraduate days they acted in several plays together and spent plenty of time going to plays, operas and college balls. They also toured Europe with undergraduate theatre groups in a production of *King Lear*. They must also have spent some time in the library, as they both graduated in 1956.

The following year Shirley stayed on in Oxford to study for her Post-Graduate Teaching Certificate. Her first job was teaching English at the Godolphin and Latymer School in Hammersmith in 1957. Shirley and Peter got married in 1958. The year after I was born, in 1959, the family moved to Staines in Middlesex. My brother was born in 1961, and my sister in 1964. During this time my parents also fostered Jean, who was then a teenager.

Shirley always had an affinity with, and a sympathetic understanding of adolescents. Later on, she also became guardian to a teenage daughter of friends who were working abroad. When she returned to work in the mid 1960's

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it was as a school counsellor at Mayfield School in Wandsworth. After leaving Mayfield she worked as a supervisor at the then newly formed charity Childline. During this time she maintained her interest in drama, acting and directing plays for the local drama group. She also volunteered with the Marriage Guidance Council and was a Justice of the Peace.

After retirement to Dorset, Shirley maintained a keen interest in community affairs, serving as Chairman of Governors at the local village school, chairing the village Women's Institute and representing them on the Dorset Federation of WI's. Shirley and Peter spent twenty-two happy years in Dorset before finally moving to Nottingham for the last seven years of Shirley's life. Peter predeceased her in 2021.

All through her life Shirley was always outward looking, keenly interested in people and current affairs. She remained an avid reader and was always sharing her enthusiasm with family and friends. Wherever she was she always seemed to end up running a book club! Shirley had very fond memories of her time at St Anne's and was a benefactor, regarding that time as her formative years. Right up until her death she was still reading and enjoying poetry and prose and keen to discuss her reading.

Shirley is survived by me, my brother Matthew, sister Charlotte and foster sister Jean, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Anna Foster (daughter)

IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET DIANNE FARRIS
(HISTORY, 1951)

13 MARCH 1929 – 26 NOVEMBER 2025



Dianne Farris was born in Chertsey and lived locally until the Second World War when her father sent her, her sister and mother to New Orleans for safety. They all came back after five years at the end of the war but her mother and sister

later returned to live in New Orleans, whilst Dianne remained in England.

Unfortunately, at the age of 16, she lost her leg to Tuberculosis, which she had in both lungs and her leg.

She got into St. Anne's College and studied for an Honours Degree in History. She enjoyed telling friends about her time at St Anne's and especially the tale of how, when she first arrived, the Principal called her into her office and, as most of her lectures were around Oxford, gave her the money for a taxi to get to them. Dianne then saw someone riding a scooter, bought one and was regularly seen scooting around Oxford. She remained close to her group of friends from Oxford until she passed.

After Oxford, she did three years research at The London School of Economics in Social Administration.

Following this, she had twenty years' experience in television, directing, producing, researching and writing. She worked on current affairs, documentaries and educational programmes both at the BBC and ITV. The programmes included World in Action, Man Alive and Thames at Six.

When she left television, she ran a restaurant for a year.

She had a strong Catholic faith and could be very direct with strong opinions, which made for lively conversations.

In 1973, she bought a house in Chiswick where she lived happily with many neighbours as friends. Family and friends visited her for many years and she could often be found sitting on the bench in her front garden chatting to everyone passing by. Her annual boat parties, which included popping down to the river to watch the Oxford and Cambridge boats pass, were always great fun.

She remained active and independent until about a year ago when she lost a lot of weight. She passed away at the age of 96 in Charing Cross Hospital surrounded by family and friends.

Nicki Whitelaw, cousin

IN MEMORIAM
GILLIAN FREEMAN (NÉE DAVIES,
MODERN LANGUAGES, 1962)
JUNE 1943 - JUNE 2025

We gave her the nickname “Gillyflower”, which seems singularly appropriate. We arrived together at St Anne’s in 1962 — forming a friendship that was to last almost 60 years. We met at a time filled with joie de vivre, when the Beatles’ songs were all the rage. Gill danced and sang; she leapt into life, full of enthusiasm and energy.

In her early years at Oxford, she joined OICCU, and throughout her life, she never lost the conviction that the way to be was by caring about and loving people, and the world we live in. She enthusiastically joined the St Anne’s-Jesus musical society, taking part in the production of “Outpatients” — a parody of the comic opera “Patience”. She also joined Merton’s Kodály choir. She had a light, clear voice, warm and musical.

I introduced her to Tom Freeman (reading Physics at Corpus). He and Gill soon became an item; they formed a splendidly balanced pair. They were a stunning couple —the young Tom resembled the war poet Rupert Brooke, and the young Gill looked like the actress Rita Tushingham possessing a unique charm and grace.

She gained a First Class Honours degree in French. She decided not to become an academic, but a teacher. Meanwhile Tom studied at LSE; they married in 1966, went to live and work in Leeds, and remained together throughout their lives.

There is too much to tell (how to squash fifty-five years into a few paragraphs...?)

It soon appeared that Gill had a debilitating form of arthritis, which gradually limited the use of her hands and legs. Despite frequent operations throughout her life, she fought on. Unable to have children themselves, the couple

adopted Andrew and Lisa, who brought into their lives the inevitable problems of parenting, along with immeasurable joy: they both married and gave Gill & Tom grandchildren, albeit Lisa lives in Australia — not as near as Gill would wish. Another source of joy was the house Gill and Tom bought in Mouliherne, Maine-et-Loire, France, together with Gill’s younger sister, Monica (they were very close) and Nick, Monica’s husband. Many golden days sipping Loire wine.

In 2023 Tom died and it was as if Gill’s flame of life began to flicker. When I last spoke to her (by phone) she did not know me: she told me of an imminent journey and was concerned about the necessary packing. Already in another world.

At her cremation, friends and all the family gathered to pay tribute: there were tears, but above all, a sense of triumph: Gill’s life is a flame of hope, thrown into a dark world. Her beloved Tom had spent his last years fighting Parkinson’s, while she, crippled by arthritis and having to move in a wheelchair, was entirely dependent on carers. But what do we remember? Her uncomplaining, warm generous smile.

Her memory is a blessing.

Written by her contemporary at St Anne’s, and lifelong friend, Wendie Shaffer; Amsterdam

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IN MEMORIAM

GILLIAN JENKINSON
(NÉE OSBORNE, ZOOLOGY, 1959)
13 MAY 1940 – 25 JUNE 2025



A teacher, mother of 4 and grandmother of 13.

Gill taught Biology to A Level, first at Sutton High School (GPSD), then at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and Lancaster Girls Grammar School and finally from 2001-2009 at St John Bosco Secondary School in Kamuli, Uganda, as Rotary Foundation Volunteer.

Gill was a committed Christian, worshipping at the Priory and Parish

Church of St Mary, Lancaster. For many years she was a member of the Advowson (the body to recommend the appointing of the Vicar) and on the Ripley Education Trust. She had a great love for young children and was a leader of 'junior church' for many years. This led to her working at a play group for the weekly Refugee 'drop-in' lunch, a part of the Lancaster City of Sanctuary forum.

She was educated at The Mary Datchelor School, a renowned London Grammar School, and came up to Oxford with three other alumni in that year of 1959. The school being unprepared to become a Comprehensive or a private school unfortunately closed in 1987. Gill remained a loyal supporter of the Old Girls Society (MDOGS) all her life.

Gill was grateful to be at Oxford and at St Anne's. There she was hostelled with the Sisters of the Community of St Mary, who were very supportive, and Gill enjoyed the care that she had from them.

She died aged 85 from Carcinomatosis due to Pancreatic Cancer after a short, but unpleasant, illness on 25th June 2025, and is missed by so many.

Timothy Jenkinson, husband

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN LEACH (IVENS, HISTORY, 1945-1948)
2 SEPTEMBER 1927 - 7 AUGUST 2024

Helen Leach was born in Somerset to Harold Ivens, a retired Indian Army colonel, and Eva (née Gray), one of four sisters and a brother. She was educated at Queen Ethelburga's School, Yorkshire and then read History at St Anne's. After Oxford, Helen taught in Canada for one year and then more than three decades in Africa married to James Leach, then a colonial officer in Eastern Nigeria and subsequently a public administrator in Kenya, Botswana and Northern Nigeria (1968 - 1987). During these years, she brought up four children combined with a variety of teaching positions. Helen and James retired to Norfolk and after his death in 2005, she moved to Oxfordshire.

Helen's time at St Anne's was marked most memorably by her encounter with Marjorie Reeves, with whom she retained lifelong personal contact. Helen often recalled her deep appreciation of her tutor's unique combination of kindness and intellect, an influence which strongly attracted Helen to teaching. Her first role as a class teacher for 8-year olds in a private boarding school in Quebec Province equipped her with teaching

skills which she applied initially to home schooling her own children. Later, she worked in secondary and primary schools. A notable project was the instruction in basic skills of a group of street children in Gaborone, Botswana in the 1970s. Aged 53, Helen acquired a formal teaching qualification with Keswick Hall College of Education in Norwich, Norfolk.

Helen's post-war travels took her to places of tremendous turbulence and transition. In Nigeria, she witnessed colonial handover and latterly the violent struggle for control culminating in the 1966 coup and ensuing civil war in Biafra. In Kenya, she experienced life in the newly independent state less than a decade after the violence of the Mau Mau struggles. In Botswana, the discovery of diamonds in the early 1970s provided great prosperity and optimism in contrast to the privations created by apartheid.

The final decades of the 20th century brought great wealth to some but economic, social and moral turbulence to millions, creating an environment to which Helen responded by turning to her own deep moral sensibilities. Motivated and inspired by her deep Christian faith, she observed the impact of these events on ordinary people in rural areas and burgeoning urban

environments, and the challenges they faced, especially in the slums of Nairobi where she and others helped to establish a hostel for young people in Pumwani. She responded, too, with customary practicality, using her instincts and skills for analysing, documenting and editing to support her husband's work.

Growing up in a close-knit family, Helen held a deep attachment to childhood memories of England. Always committed to caring for her own family and many others throughout her years abroad, she coped with longings for the much-loved English countryside of Somerset and Buckinghamshire of her early years.

Helen made the most of life with steadfast love and admiration for her husband, determination to learn, to make the most of diverse and unfamiliar places and to help others. She was an enthusiast with a great sense of humour and a willingness to join in and "have a go". With a keen intellect, a deep interest in history and love of literature, Helen had an appetite for understanding and learning about the world around her. Whilst she never realised her dream of becoming a regular teacher in North Norfolk she pursued many intellectual and artistic interests and was an active

participant in faith groups and the Women's Institute.

Helen had great strength and an enormous capacity to respond to people. She was an acute observer with a genuine enthusiasm for understanding others, their ideas, beliefs and needs. Not given to excessive displays of emotion, she nevertheless conveyed a deep empathy for those that suffered and she hated violence and abuse. She welcomed strangers, those in need as well as a continuous stream of family, friends and other visitors into her home and constantly looked for ways to help others.

To those who knew her well, Helen was at once warm and open but also complex and reflective: truly 'one of a kind', a wonderful woman from a better age. Helen leaves a legacy of kindness, a loving family with 13 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, and many people touched by her love.

Helen lived her life as an active expression of love. Throughout her life, Helen drew her inspiration from an assurance of the love of God for her and she travelled towards God with profound faith and trust.

Adam Leach (Son)

Obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

KERI LEWIS, (ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE, 1947)

28 MARCH 1929 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2025



My cousin, Keri Lewis, was born on the 28th March 1929 and died on the 24th September 2025.

Keri grew up in Abertillery in Monmouthshire where her parents were both teachers at Abertillery County School, her father the headmaster. She was an only and perhaps lonely child but developed a life-long friendship with Sheila, a girl from a London grammar school evacuated to the town who stayed with her family. She recalled

staying with Sheila after the war and going to see the last performance of John Gielgud's *Hamlet* in 1945.

Keri had intended reading French but swiftly changed her mind to English and said she never regretted this, having developed a passionate enthusiasm for the theatre and poetry as a teenager. On her death she left behind a formidable collection of London theatre programmes, going back many many years. She was at St Anne's between 1947 and 1950 and was described as a hardworking and painstaking student, who although shy and reserved, had natural good sense and judgment. After graduation in a world of limited career opportunities for women, she was successful in becoming a secretary in the Drama Department at BBC Radio, eventually becoming secretary to the Senior Drama Producer, the famous Reggie Smith, husband of novelist Olivia Manning, and the model for Guy Pringle in the latter's *Fortunes of War* series. Keri also produced several plays herself, including being for a time an assistant on the ever popular *Mrs Dale's Diary*, and wrote several radio-scripts of her own. Reggie Smith later wrote of her intelligence, tact, sense of humour and enthusiasm.

In the early 60s due to her mother's declining health Keri was anxious

to be nearer to South Wales, and so undertook a teacher's training course at London University, and taught briefly at a girls' school in Bristol. However following her mother's death she was keen to return to London and former colleagues at the BBC seemed equally keen to have her back. Then a third career beckoned when she was encouraged by friends to move to a senior administrative position with the General Synod of the Church of England, remaining there till her retirement in 1990. She was a great admirer of Archbishop Robert Runcie, who on her retirement paid fulsome tribute to her "massive and distinguished work" and said the Church was deeply in her debt for her loyal and faithful service.

Keri was a person of great integrity who won the respect of everybody with whom she came in contact. She was also a devout Christian, particularly influenced by the 17th century theologian George Herbert; a pillar of her local parish church in Notting Hill; and a passionate supporter of the ordination of women. Sadly she was to die just a few months before the announcement of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, an event she would have so much welcomed and applauded.

John Hutchings (cousin)

IN MEMORIAM
PAULINE LEWIS
 (née HUGHES, HISTORY, 1956)
 18 APRIL 1937 – 7 JUNE 2024



Pauline won a scholarship to Sutton High School, GPDST, and after outstanding A Level results in History, English and Latin, she won a State Scholarship. As her History teacher was an alumna of St Anne's, she applied and won a place to read History for the following year, 1956. Her main tutor was Marjorie Reeves.

At Oxford she specialised in Medieval History, with all the documents needing to be translated from their original Latin or French. After graduation she

taught History for five years at Selhurst Grammar School and then in the newly established comprehensive system at George Abbott School in Guildford. This lasted only a year, as she married and moved to Nottingham, and later to Chandler's Ford in Hampshire.

History remained a life-long passion, and Pauline was a voracious reader of academic history books, biographies, and religious books. She always proudly declared herself an Historian, and a Medievalist.

She was an accomplished pianist, and as a Junior Exhibitioner in piano at the Royal College of Music, she became a pupil of Joan Chissell, a leading music critic of the period. Her outstanding singing ability developed via school and church. At Oxford it is no exaggeration to say that she was the outstanding contralto of her generation. Blessed with perfect pitch, she sang many major roles with the Oxford Opera Club, which then performed complete operas weekly. She was heard by Professor Westrup and immediately invited to sing the contralto solos in a performance of his own edition of Handel's 'Messiah'. This was a big event in Oxford and resulted in many concerts and oratorios. She sang with the Oxford and London Bach Societies.

It was singing that led to her marriage. She and David Lewis (Jesus: English) had

sung together in an Oxford concert, but did not get to know each other until both had graduated. They both had singing lessons at Oxford and then London from Norman Lilly, Director of the London Opera Group, a professional group but with some soloists drawn from his pupils. It was a production of the 'Magic Flute' that both sang in that brought them together. It was a love match, and after a whirlwind courtship they were married in Cheam Parish Church two days before Christmas Day, 1966. Both enjoyed extensive singing careers from then on.

Pauline was immensely proud of her three children and seven grandchildren, and delighted that both her daughters won places at St Anne's: Katharine (1990: History) and Anne (1993: English).

Pauline enjoyed touring by car, extensively in the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Portugal. Her main passions were visiting castles, stately homes, cathedrals and churches, historic buildings of all kinds, museums and art galleries, sites of industrial archaeology, and above all everything Roman.

Pauline's Christian faith was central to who she was as a person, and soon after it became possible for women, she became a Lay Reader in 1980, and later a Licensed Lay Minister, continuing for 40 years.

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She was an outstanding preacher. Her sermons were meticulously researched and planned, and full of historical insights. She always claimed that the only message that was important for a sermon was that God is Love, and that God loves you.

David Lewis (Husband)

IN MEMORIAM

JOAN ELIZABETH MARCHBANK
(NÉE SILBERSTEIN, MODERN
LANGUAGES, 1958)
1 JULY 1939 – 11 MARCH 2025



Joan and her husband, Peter, moved to Ringstead in July 1996, having had a holiday home there since 1989. Although born in Cambridge, she studied French and Russian at St Anne's College, Oxford, and thereafter spent thirty-five years teaching in girls' Grammar Schools in Blackheath, Basingstoke, Manchester

and Altrincham. There were even two years spent teaching in the all- male Manchester Grammar School in the early 1980s, the first woman ever to do so. The happiest time of her life, though, was in Norfolk, where she played her cello in orchestras in King's Lynn and Ely and chamber music with like-minded ladies. Often the playing would be punctuated by frequent gales of laughter.

For many years, she was a member of Hunstanton Golf Club, where she was also a keen bridge player. She was especially proud of a teaspoon that she once won in a golf competition. She was, though, essentially a serious and caring person who spent several years as an adviser for the Citizens' Advice Bureau in King's Lynn and she also helped at the Food Bank in Hunstanton when it was first established.

Her greatest gifts for many were her friendship, her cheerfulness and her generosity and the messages of condolence that the family received after her death testify to that. And many of those friends travelled from all over the country to attend two concerts given in her memory in King's Lynn in October 2025 by musicians she knew and admired, playing music that she loved.

Peter Marchbank, husband

IN MEMORIAM

NORMAN McCUBBIN
1948 - 2026

Norman was initially part of the teaching faculty at St. Anne's between 1993-1998, then, after a stint as Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol, he returned to St. Anne's following his official retirement in 2011 and was teaching until the present time. He was a firm favourite with the students, always going beyond the call of duty. They describe his ability to clearly and simply explain complex problems, which set him apart as a brilliant teacher and a true champion of the world of Physics. He is remembered fondly for his enthusiasm and patience. Many former students had the chance to reconnect with him in recent years at the "50 yrs of St. Anne's Physics" in 2019 and other celebrations in 2022, which he eagerly helped organise.

In addition to his teaching, Norman was an exceptional and distinguished particle physicist working on a number of experiments including ATLAS at the Large Hadron Collider. Throughout most of his career Norman was an academic staff member at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, where he was the Particle Physics Director from 2007 until his retirement.

For his colleagues at St. Anne's he was a joy to tutor with, reliable and dependable,

and always entertaining. He was generous with his wisdom and advice, ensuring that younger colleagues were able to teach with the best of their ability.

His company will be greatly missed by all of us at college.

IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET AVRIL MOORE
(NÉE COHEN, FRENCH, 1944)
3 APRIL 1926 – 14 MAY 2025



Margaret Avril Cohen arrived at St Anne's College in 1944 to study French Language and Literature, as war ravaged the European continent and Britain was blighted by Nazi bombing raids.

Avril, as she was known, remembered Oxford University as an exciting place of study, but the city itself was rather bleak during the final two years of the war. Her enjoyment centred on her love of sport and she represented the university in Lacrosse. Students were expected to balance academic work with helping the war effort in whatever way they could.

In 1946, Avril's final year, there was a huge shift in the mood and morale of the university as young men flooded back from the front and the city began to vibrate with life and activity. In her own words, she was now taught by "enthusiastic young lecturers – so thrilling".

After Oxford, Avril moved to London and became a researcher for the 1951 Festival of Britain working with the Chief Display Designer. The purpose of the Festival was to boost morale after the war and showcase British achievements in science, technology, arts and industrial design. After the Festival closed, she worked in public relations for the British Institute of Management and the Air Ministry in London.

Unusually for a woman in that era, she pursued her love of sports and the outdoors through sailing her boat on the Thames estuary, golf, and skiing with friends in the Alps. While skiing she met her future husband, a dashing British

army officer, John Moore, and they also spent their honeymoon on the ski slopes. They had three children who would follow Avril's academic talents earning their own places at Oxford and Cambridge.

As a married army couple, one of their early postings was to the British embassy in Prague in Soviet-era Czechoslovakia behind the Iron Curtain, with John as a military attaché. The diplomatic role was to report on the military activity of an enemy state and involved avoiding the attention of the Czech secret service who followed the young family everywhere. The hidden microphones in the house necessitated spousal communication by writing with soap on the bathroom mirror.

Avril dedicated herself as the wife of a senior British Officer to bringing up her family across Canada and Germany and many postings across England. Through the 1960s to the 1980s, she took an active role in networking and entertaining for the army and providing support to army families.

After army life John and Avril lived in Penzance in Cornwall, before enjoying an active retirement in Surrey. John died in 2017. Avril continued to have an energetic and curious mind to the end of her life, being a voracious reader and player of scrabble, bridge and puzzles,

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often teasing her adult children for being too slow at their turn at scrabble.

Avril passed away on 14 May 2025 at the age of 99 in the family home and garden she loved, supported by her three children, nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a group of wonderful carers that she called friends.

IN MEMORIAM

LADY JOAN PARTRIDGE

(NÉE HUGHES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE, 1957)

27 MAY 1938 - 28 OCTOBER 2025



Joan Hughes came up to St Anne's in Michaelmas Term 1957 to read English. In the days when St Anne's undergraduates lived in the college's string of formerly private houses, her chance was to be housed in 50 Woodstock Road. There were four of us there reading English – Evelyn Abrams, Susan Kremer (later Foreman), Joan, and myself. We soon formed a pretty close-knit group. We were tutored by the laser-minded Dorothy Bednarowska (who plied us with gin at a sophisticatedly early hour) and the sweet-mannered Kirstie Morrison. Old English was taught by Elaine Griffiths and Patricia Ingham, both almost equally terrifying.

What we remembered were the punting in summer, the excitement of learning, and the endless conversations over instant coffee. "Why are we talking about boys again instead of about literature?" Joan was the most adventurous: the one who climbed in at night (while I flushed the toilet to drown the noise of her progress across the dustbins), the one who stayed out all night in a punt on the Cherwell before May Morning. Joan got a First (though she was not predicted to), surviving the stress of a star medievalist being viva'd right before her in the alphabetical order.

After we went down, Joan and I shared a basement flat in Notting Hill Gate for

two years (it wasn't trendy then). Joan was employed as editor of a magazine called *Hair and Beauty* – not quite her cup of tea perhaps, but she and the photographer would come in late after a styling contest to have a drink and to satirise.

I shared several excellent holidays with Joan: to Spain in an ancient convertible she owned with a top speed which was likely to collect a string of loudly frustrated drivers behind us; to Greece; and most memorably, the grand tour round the USA with two other friends while I was working in New York. We had adventures, yet Joan always had time for "just savouring the peace."

Joan met Michael Partridge (now Sir Michael) in Greece; they were married in the chapel of his Oxford college, St John's. Greece continued to be important to them: with Michael's ancient and Joan's modern Greek, they acquired deep knowledge of the country. Their children, Toby, Hugh, and Hilary, holidayed in Greece from an early age. On one occasion they reached the departure gate and Michael found his passport was out of date. He began to calculate how soon he could get a renewal, but Joan wasn't listening. She grabbed all three children and scurried to the plane.

She then booked them into a seashore hotel handy for the airport to await her husband's arrival.

But Joan's most daring journey came later: round Iran incognito, with her son Hugh (by then a seasoned traveller in unexpected places). A photo exists which shows Joan (if "shows" is the right word) in her hijab.

Joan did not lose touch with St Anne's. She not only belonged to but worked with the Association of Senior Members. I still have a St Anne's sweatshirt featuring our owl of learning, bought during a fund-raising campaign organized by Joan.

She died in October 2025 after several years of sad decline. She leaves her husband, three children, and three grandchildren.

Isobel Grundy (1957), friend

IN MEMORIAM
PATRICIA ANN STEVENSON (ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1955)
1936 – 2026



Patricia was born in Tadworth, Surrey on February 7, 1936. She matriculated at St. Anne's College in 1955 and studied English Language and Literature. She attended lectures by literary giants of the time including J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

After graduating in 1958, Patricia obtained a certificate in teaching deaf students from the University of Manchester. In 1959, at age 23,

she made the adventurous decision to accept a teaching position at the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton, Canada. There were no overnight flights in those days; Patricia made a week-long, sea sickening voyage aboard the Empress of England, arriving in Montreal, followed by a long train ride across Canada. Patricia had an aunt in Toronto, but had little idea where Edmonton was, and she often talked about her growing concern with her decision as she travelled through the vast prairies.

Not long after arriving in Edmonton, and in part due to their surnames, Patricia was introduced to a young lawyer named Bill Stevenson. They married two years later, in July 1961, forever causing bureaucrats to accuse Patricia of incorrectly entering both her maiden name and married name as Stevenson on various forms. They were married for 60 years, until Bill's death in 2021.

Patricia continued her education in Canada, obtaining a Master of Arts from the University of Alberta. She took time away from teaching to raise her four children, returning once her children were in school themselves.

Patricia juggled work and raising children—including many little

four-legged dog-children whom she doted on despite their various idiosyncrasies. She volunteered with the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta and was always quick to support a cause that would improve life for the less privileged or for any type of animal. Patricia retired from teaching when Bill, by then a Justice of the Court of Appeal of Alberta, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Patricia was devoted to her husband and children, and then her grandchildren, her immense love and pride clearly conveyed through her radiant and adoring smile whenever she saw them.

Patricia's interest in literature and learning continued throughout her life. A voracious reader since she was a young girl, she tackled books of every genre. She was curious about everything and anything. She sprinkled her conversations with snippets of Shakespeare, Keats, Wordsworth and Milne among others. Although Patricia lived in Canada most of her life, she was steadfastly British and a proud Oxonian. She watched BBC News, found a way to view the Oxford Cambridge boat race every year, and never refused a cup of tea. She attended her Golden Gaudy in 2008.

Patricia died on June 2, 2026, her family and her faithful terrier Rufus by her side.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

If anyone has photos or memories of Patricia at Oxford to share, please send them to her family at honouringmom@gmail.com. We miss you, mum and grandma.

IN MEMORIAM
VALERIE KAY WILLIAMSON
(MODERN HISTORY, 1963)
1942 - 2025

Valerie Kay Williamson (Modern History, 1963) died peacefully at home in Brighton on September 10th, 2025. "The best years of my life", was how she once described her three years studying under Dr Marjorie Reeves and Dr Jennifer Hart at St Anne's. She went up to Oxford in 1960 having won the Rhead Prize, and the History Prize at Solihull High School, and took to university life with gusto, sharing rooms and adventures with fellow fresher and lifelong friend, Cath Jones (later Prof. Cath Finer). It was at Oxford that Val's interest in archaeology was nurtured in the Archaeological Society and where she discovered a passion for community action after volunteering for a Christian children's

mission to Crawley during the first summer vacation.

This concern for society's less fortunate proved to be abiding and guided her subsequent career. A post-graduate diploma in Social Administration at the London School of Economics was followed by work as a research assistant with Prof. Bledwyn Davies investigating the economic and social effects of alcoholism, poverty and old age in London. Like many women of the era, Val put her own career on hold to support her husband's nascent academic career and to bring up three children but characteristically also found the energy and generosity of spirit to volunteer as a community visitor and a foster mum. She responded to her own challenge of becoming a single mother with fortitude and resilience, obtaining a lectureship at the University of Manchester (Social Administration), and utilizing her own experience as a resource for an MA thesis entitled, 'Mothers at work: A study of the opportunity restrictions encountered by working mothers with infant school children', which achieved distinction and won Val the Dehn Prize for Commerce and Industry.

From 1980 until retirement in 2002, Val taught Social Policy at Brighton Polytechnic (University of Brighton

from 1992) becoming Director of the Health and Social Policy Research Centre, and Deputy Head of the School of Applied Social Science. She became a sought after expert and true to form volunteered whenever she felt she could be useful serving as Vice Chair of the Brighton Community Health Council, Chair of the Consumer Panel of the Brighton Health Authority, Chair of the Patients Liaison Group of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and

Vice Chair of the East Sussex Family Health Services Authority; and after retirement, as a school governor, a school visitor, and a trustee for the charity Age Concern.

Perhaps she was happiest, though, surrounded by her family over a delicious meal, pottering in her beloved garden, or intrepidly traveling the globe on a succession of solo voyages from Peru to Antarctica,

China to the Galapagos. Whatever she did, she did it with passion and integrity making her an inspirational teacher, a loyal and formidable ally, and a loving mum and grandmother who is deeply missed by her surviving three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Kate Williamson



The Ship: We want your feedback

Please let us know what you think of this issue of *The Ship*. We would be delighted to hear what you have enjoyed or where you think we could improve the publication. Is there a feature you would like us to include, or is there a way in which you think we could develop the content? We would welcome your comments to ensure that *The Ship* continues to reflect the interests of our alumnae. You are welcome to include your name and matriculation year below or remain anonymous. If you prefer to email your comments, please do so to development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

[illegible]

Personal news for *The Ship* 2025/26

Fill in your news in the sections below, so that we can update your friends in next year's edition of *The Ship*, or alternatively email: development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Personal news, honours, appointments, and/or publications

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'Class Notes'
for *The Ship* 2025/26

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Johnson Honorary Fellows:

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John Duffield
Lady Rosemary Bischoff
Sir Winfried Bischoff
Michelle Clayman, 1972
Maria Willetts (Ferrerias), 1974
David Willetts
Kathleen Chew
Yeoh Seok Hong
Joy Flint (Parker), 1946
Helen Danson
Mike Danson, 1982
Anna Biegun (Warburg), 1950
Patrick Huen
Elizabeth Ovey, 1974
Bernard Man, 1995
Jane Aitken (Paterson), 1978
Irene Dorner, 1973
Paul Donovan, 1990
Dr Shirley Sherwood OBE (Briggs), 1952
Richard Girling, 1984
Karen Roydon, 1995
Edmund Williams, 1981
Dr Mary Joyce Pickersgill Draper, 1952
Sarah Friar, 1992

Hartland Benefactors:

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The Rayne Foundation
Catherine Fulford
Kathleen Bourne
Joanna Randall MacIver

Eleanor Plumer
Matilda Nettleship
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Kate Durr Elmore, 1951
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Gwynneth Matthews
Marjorie Reeves
Pamela Sturman (Roberts), 1945
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The Atkin Foundation
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Mervyn Trenaman
Margaret Hubbard
Madeline Barber, 1943
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Bernard Man, 1995, and Patricia Huen Man
Dr Mary Kearsley

(Elizabeth) June Knowles (Watkins), 1946
Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development
Foundation
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The Kresge Foundation
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Dr Rosemary Pountney, 1969
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Mark Redman, 1986
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Elisabeth Orsten, 1953
Rosemary Radcliffe CBE, 1963
Simon Palley
Anne Paton, 1955
Rosemary Taylor, 1951
Judith Hazlewood, 1978
Helen Weir CBE, 1980
Crispin Robinson, 1979
Philippa Drew CB, 1965
Jane Hood, 1989
Madeleine & Geraldine Rivera
Stephanie Kenna, 1968

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Plumer Society:

Alphey, Nina: 2005	Dowdall, Deb: 1974	Johnstone, Harry: 1957
Austin, Michel	Driver (Perfect), Margaret: 1951	Jones (Smith), Elizabeth: 1962
Baker (Gibbon), Ruth: 1955	Dryhurst, Clare: 1979	Julian (Whitworth), Celia: 1964
Barnes (Gould), Amanda: 1979	Dyne (Heath), Sonia: 1953	Keegan, Rachel: 1967
Barringer, Terry: 1974	Faulkner, Stuart: 1991	Kenna (Hamilton), Stephanie: 1968
Belden, Hilary: 1966	Ferro, Stephanie: 1987	Kielich, Christina: 1970
Bennett, Eric	Fisher (Hibbard), Sophia: 1966	King (Wheeler), Rosemary: 1951
Bennett (Thomason), Phyllis: 1974	Fleming (Newman), Joan: 1957	King, Fiona: 1980
Biggs (Perrin), Lynn: 1972	Foster, Tony: 1980	Kingdon, Janet: 1976
Bone (Lawrence), Jennifer: 1959	Fox, Clemency: 1956	Lacey (Akyroyd), Juliet: 1962
Boyde, Susan: 1957	Gardam, Tim	Lawless (Freeston), Sally: 1971
Breward, Christopher: 1991	Gent, Lizzie: 1976	le Page (Inge), Sue: 1973
Brooking-Bryant (Walton), Audrey: 1953	Grange (Cross), Natasha: 1982	Leckie (O'Donnell), Elizabeth: 1981
Broomhead (Lemon), Christine: 1960	Greenway (Denerley), Ann: 1959	Lintott (Stone), Dinah: 1955
Bryson (McGregor), Barrie: 1991	Grocock, Anne: 1965	Loughlin-Chow (Loughlin), Clare: 1991
Burton (Heveningham-Pughe), Frances: 1960	Halcrow, Elizabeth: 1943	Lygo, Martin: 1979
Burton, Lauren: 2016	Hamilton (Pacey-Day), Susan: 1965	Lynch, Fionnuala: 1989
Burt (Waite), Audrey: 1942	Hampton, Kate: 1977	Mann, Paul: 1988
Bush (Hainton), Julia: 1967	Harrison (Greggain), Vicky: 1961	Martin (Pearce), Mary: 1971
Bynoe (Robinson), Geraldine: 1969	Hatfield (Bratton), Penny: 1971	Mason (Childe), Rosemary: 1958
Carasso, Helen: 1976	Hensman (Hawley), Barbara: 1956	Massey (Glaser), Lili: 1967
Chadd, Linda: 1967	High (Martin), Lucy: 2004	McCracken (Chavasse), Gabrielle: 1954
Chesterfield, Jane: 1977	Hill (Davies), Valerie: 1971	McDonnell (Phillips), Marie-Louise: 1971
Chleboun (Wyvill), Carol: 1974	Hilton, Catherine: 1965	Minford (Tomlinson), Louise: 1981
Chow, Martin: 1994	Home, Anna: 1956	Moore (Slocombe), Anne: 1955
Collard (Dunk), Jane: 1977	Hudson, Julie: 1975	Mottershead (Roberts), Ann: 1977
Colling, Mike: 1979	Hunt (Siddell), Ann: 1963	Moughton (Parr), Elizabeth: 1951
Coo (Spink), Kathryn: 1972	Huzzey, Clem: 1963	Munro, Rob: 1982
Cox (Ware), Frances: 1968	Huzzey, Christine	Murdin (Milburn), Lesley: 1960
Crane (Begley), Meg: 1965	Hyde, Caroline: 1988	Nasmyth (Mieszkis), Lalik: 1971
Crichton (Hunter), Ele: 1996	Ingram, Jackie: 1976	Nelson, Graham: 1990
Cutting (Rivera), Geraldine	Jack, Susan: 1970	Newman, Sarah: 1952
Darnton (Baker), Jane: 1962	James (Lucas), Cherry: 1977	Newton (Little), Clare: 1970
Davies (Baxendale), Jane: 1970	Jarman, Richard: 1989	Nixon, Gill
Deech (Fraenkel), Ruth: 1962	Jay (Aldis), Elisabeth: 1966	O'Brien, Sue: 1977
	Jessiman (Smith), Maureen: 1953	O'Sullivan, Helen: 1969

Packer (Sellick), Sally: 1964
Palmer (Allum), Marilyn: 1962
Paul, Helen: 1994
Peacock (Forrester), Margaret: 1952
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
Thorpe, Patty: 1973
Tindall-Shepherd (Dunn), Gwen: 1963

Tjoa (nee Chinn) (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

Donations to College, 2024 – 2025

In the year 2024/25, we raised around £3m from 1,017 donors.

Student support, including bursaries, hardship, scholarship, travel grants and other areas of College life		£440,481
Scholarships and prizes	£610,385	Capital (including Bevington Road) £693,062
Teaching and research	£282,317	Endowment £902,615
Outreach	£74,738	

Alumnae

Aaron, Jane: 1978
Adebisi, John: 1986
Ahmed (Huda), Zareen: 1974
Alderman, Colin: 1979
Alexander, Alexis: 2004
Alexander, Danny: 1990
Alexander (Holland), Marguerite: 1965
Alexopoulou, Zoi: 2006
Allen, Jenni: 2003
Allen-Pennebaker (Pennebaker), Betsy: 1995
Alvares, Fleur: 1988
Anastasiou, Angelos: 1982
Andrew (Cunningham), Sheila: 1956
Archer (Weeden), Mary: 1962
Artingstall, David: 1982
Ashford (Seymour), Anne-Marie: 1972
Ashford (Leadbeater), Jean: 1976
Ashley (Staples), Frances: 1966
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
Baker, Simon: 1994
Ball (Flanagan), Justine: 1985
Barnard (Langford), Caroline: 1979
Barrett, Jane: 1973
Barrett (Hudson), Philippa: 1977
Barringer, Terry: 1974
Barton, Christopher: 1990
Barzycki (Polti), Sarah: 1976
Bates, Jon: 1991
Baxandall (Dwyer), Cathy: 1977
Baxter (Lewis), Diana: 2000
Beer (Thomas), Gillian: 1954
Beer (Cross), Tanya: 2002
Belden, Hilary: 1966
Bell (Watt), Christine: 1957
Bell, Edward: 2009
Bellingham (Johnson), Naomi: 1998
Benson, Chris: 1983
Bernstein (Bernie), Judith: 1975
Bevis, Jane: 1977
Bibby, Jonathan: 1979
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
Bonn (Leece), Dorothy: 1956
Booth, Heather: 1992
Booth, Simon: 2002
Borkowski-Clark (Clark), Joshua: 2012
Bourne, Jon: 1996
Bowley, John: 1993
Bowman (Ward), Christine: 1976
Boyde, Susan: 1957
Bray, Heather: 1985
Breeze (Horse), Fiona: 1965
Brendon (Davis), Vyvyan: 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, Camilla: 1993
Brown, Elaine: 1968
Brown (Lichfield Butler), Jane: 1965
Brown (Triance), Jane: 1969
Brown (Page), Sarah: 1994
Broyden, Chris: 1981
Brunt (Coates), Ivy: 1961

Buckrell (Mason), Jo: 1990
 Burge (Adams), Sue: 1972
 Burling (Hudson), Hilary: 1962
 Burns, Julian: 1981
 Burrows, Peter: 1987
 Burton, Ann: 1956
 Butler, Jenny: 1985
 Butler (Dawnay), Gillian: 1962
 Bynoe (Robinson), Geraldine: 1969
 Cadwallader, (Eckworth) Debby: 1968
 Campbell-Colquhoun, Toby: 1996
 Canning, Ian: 1983
 Carasso, Helen: 1976
 Carlin, Norah: 1960
 Carney, Bernadette: 1978
 Carpenter (Barker), Nancy: 1993
 Carroll, Oliver: 2012
 Carter, Diana: 2006
 Carter (Gracie), Isobel: 1967
 Cassidy (Rhind), Kate: 1975
 Castlo, Paul: 2000
 Chapman, Annie: 1977
 Charman (Rees), Stella: 1975
 Chea, Henry: 1992
 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
 Cockerill, Sara: 1986
 Cockey (Ward), Katherine: 1970
 Colling, Mike: 1979
 Collins, Susanna: 1989
 Colville, Johnny: 1993
 Constable, Jeanne: 1969
 Constantine, Anne: 1977
 Conway (Nicholson), Sheila: 1969
 Coe (Spink), Kathryn: 1972
 Cook (Gisborne), Janet: 1962
 Cook (Clark), Cornelia: 1966
 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
 Crocker (Sutton), Rosalind: 1978
 Crosby (Stephens), Sarah: 1989
 Cubbon, Alan: 1980
 Cunliffe, David: 1985
 Curry (Roulet), Anne: 1965
 Cutler (McColl), Veronica: 1960
 Dalton (Fletcher), Caroline: 1958
 Damerell (Bell), Peter: 1998
 Darby, Stephen: 2019
 Darnton (Baker), Jane: 1962
 Dave, Saraansh: 2005
 Davey (Macdonald), Elizabeth: 1960
 Davidson (Mussell), Jenny: 1962
 Davies (Baxendale), Jane: 1970
 Davies (Mornement), Margaret: 1956
 Davies, Mike: 1996
 Davis (Tabberer), Jenny: 2005
 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
 Dörner, Irene: 1973
 Dornhorst, Anne: 1971
 Draper (Fox), Heather: 1957
 Drew, Philippa: 1965
 Dryhurst, Clare: 1979
 Dumbill (Weiss), Charlotte: 1984
 Dumbill, Simon: 1981
 Dunkley (Eastman), Shirley: 1953
 Durant, James: 2022
 Eade, Deborah: 1975
 Eades, Cynda: 1985
 Eastmond, Tony: 1984
 Eger, Helen: 1992
 Ellis (Eton), Rachel: 1975
 Elmendoff, Justine: 1986
 Ely (Masters), Hilary: 1969
 Endean, James: 1992
 England, Richard: 1982
 English, Kirsten: 1979
 Ettinger (Instone-Gallop), Susan: 1953
 Evans (Moss), Isabel: 1964
 Evans, Martyn: 2006
 Ewart, Isobel: 1998
 Eysenbach, Mary: 1954
 Fairweather (Everard), Pat: 1965
 Farmer, Sinead: 2005
 Farris, Dianne: 1951
 Faulkner, Freddie: 2012
 Faure Walker (Farrell), Vicky: 1971
 Featherby, Jack: 2010
 Fedyna, Bill: 2002
 Feldman (Wallace), Teresa: 1968
 Feltham, David: 1983
 Fenton (Campling), Heather: 1961
 Ferguson (Marston), Catherine: 1970
 Fernando, Elizabeth: 1989
 Filer (Bernstein), Wendy: 1982
 Findlay (Boast), Judith: 1959
 Fisher, Elizabeth: 1978
 Fisher (Hibbard), Sophia: 1966
 Fitzsimons, Mark: 1989
 Flick, Derek: 2018
 Foggo, Andrew: 1984
 Forbes, Eda: 1961
 Forrest, Benjamin: 2006
 Foster, Tony: 1980
 Foster, Shirley: 1969
 Fowler, Brigid: 1988
 Fox, Sebastian: 2002
 Franas, Kasia: 2008
 Franklin, Hywel: 1997
 Freeman, Jonathan: 1987
 Fresko (Marcus), Adrienne: 1975
 Fuecks (Ford-Smith), Rachel: 1957
 Fulton, Guy: 1989
 Gallant, Julian: 1984
 Galley, Katie: 1974
 Garbett, Briony: 2004
 Gaul, Pat: 1980
 Gerry (Gibbon), Marilyn: 1964
 Giaever-Enger, Thomas: 1994
 Gillingwater (Davies), Helen: 1974
 Ginwalla, Aisha: 1982
 Girling, Richard: 1984
 Glasgow, Faith: 1980
 Goldsmith, Ruth: 1998
 Golodetz, Patricia: 1970

Thank you

Gornall, Gill: 1976
Gough (Cobham), Catherine: 1984
Graham, Mark: 1982
Graham (Portal), Mary: 1957
Graves, Lucia: 1962
Green, Alistair: 2012
Greenhalgh (Stott), Rosie: 1971
Gregorian, Razmic: 1986
Greig, Victoria: 1992
Griffiths, Robert: 2003
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
Hall (Wills), Caroline: 1966
Hall, Jane: 1975
Halliday (Douglas Crook), Jane: 1970
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
Hart, Rachel: 1987
Hartley, Liane: 1996
Hartman, Joan:
Harvey, Judith: 1965
Hasler, (Abbott), Judith: 1974
Hatfield (Bratton), Penny: 1971
Hawker, Daniel: 1991
Hazlewood (Hazelwood), Judith: 1978
Heavey, Anne: 2006
Helm (Wales), Sue: 1965
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
Holden-Peters (Holden), Margaret: 1962
Holland (Tracy), Philippa: 1968
Holland, Richard: 2008
Holme (Simon), Philippa: 1984
Home, Anna: 1956
Honoré (Duncan), Deborah: 1948
Horsley, Alexander: 1995
Houlding, Mark: 1996
Howard, Andrew: 1987
Howe (Shumway), Sandra: 1960
Hudson, Julie: 1975
Huelin, Toby: 2011
Huggard, Patrick: 1994
Hughes (Goldsmith), Katy: 1980
Hughes, Rosaleen: 1975
Hughes, (Marshall) Susan: 1970
Hughes-Stanton, Penelope: 1973
Hunt (Siddell), Ann: 1963
Hurry (Williams), Olwen: 1977
Hurst, Kathy: 1996
Hutchison (Keegan), Ruth: 1972
Hutton (Haw), Suzannah: 1988
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, Ann: 1967
Jenkins (Bannister), Catherine: 1981
Jensen, Kristin: 1997
Jessiman (Smith), Maureen: 1953
Job (Williamson), Ruth: 1961
Johnson (Davies), Rhiannon: 1987
Jones, Gareth: 2001
Jones, Scott: 2010
Jones (Farror), Shelagh: 1966
Julian (Whitworth), Celia: 1964
Kaier, Anne: 1967
Karow, Julia: 1993
Kavanagh (Harries), Shirley: 1968
Keegan, Rachel: 1967
Kenna (Hamilton), Stephanie: 1968
Kent, Simon: 1996
Kenwrick, Patricia: 1958
Key, Adam: 1984
Khaliq, Alishba: 2010
Khawaja, Nasir: 1991
Killeen (Fenton), Louise: 1992
Killick (Mason), Rachel: 1961
King, Emma: 2008
King, Fiona: 1980
King, Rosanna: 1970
King (Wheeler), Rosemary: 1951
King QPM, Helen: 1983
Kingston, Charles: 1993
Kisanga (Taylor), Carly: 2002
Kitson, Clare: 1965
Klouda (Iyengar), Lekha: 1968
Knox, Bernadette: 1973
Kuenssberg (Robertson), Sally: 1961
Kuetterer-Lang, Hannah: 2006
Kurz, Eva: 1983
Lally, Jagjeet: 2004
Lam, Patrick: 2021
Lambert, Anne: 1974
Lambley (Booth), Janet: 1966
Landor, Gina: 1975
Lanning (Creek), Rosemary: 1968
Large (Moore), Pip: 1979
Larke (Wall), Janet: 1975
Latto, Andrew: 1980
Laughton, Stephen: 1989
Lawless (Freeston), Sally: 1971
Lawrence, Mark: 1986
Leah (Plumbe), Leah: 1961
Lear, Brooke: 2016
Leckie (O'Donnell), Elizabeth: 1981
Lee, Edward: 2001
Lee, Judy: 1966
Lee (Kok), Swee: 1978
Leighton, Monica: 1970
Lessing, Paul: 2008
Levi, Nathan: 1997
Lewis (Glazebrook), Jane: 1973
Lewis (Morton), Gillian: 1954
Lewis (Hughes), Pauline: 1956
Liang, Lihao: 2010
Lindblom (Jackson), Fiona: 1985
Lipscomb, Nick: 1991
Little, Tamasin: 1978
Littler Manners (Littler), Judy: 1972
Littlewood, Barbara: 1960
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
 Mackay (Fletcher), Priscilla: 1961
 MacLennan (Cutter), Helen: 1957
 Madden (Strawson), Nicky: 1974
 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, Angela: 1983
 Martin (Pearce), Mary: 1971
 Martin (Sandle), Patricia: 1948
 Martindale (Berry), Rebekah: 2004
 Mather, Christopher: 1998
 Maude, Gilly: 1972
 Mayer, Christina: 2007
 McBain, Niall: 1986
 McCrory (Jeffries), Norma: 1976
 McDowall, Alex: 1992
 McGuinness, Catherine: 1978
 McInnes, Liz: 1977
 McIntyre, Elizabeth: 1972
 McKinnon, Christine: 1976
 McMaster, Jonathan: 1988
 Micklem, Ros: 1975
 Mill, Cherry: 1981
 Miller, Ian: 1983
 Milton (Ward), Irene: 1948
 Minikin (Kennedy), Gillian: 1971
 Miyazaki (Taida), Naoko: 1992
 Mody, Sanjay: 1993
 Mole (Atkinson), Nuala: 1964
 Monaghan, Craig: 2006
 Montefiore (Griffiths), Anne: 1972
 Moore (Slocombe), Anne: 1955
 Moore, Matthew: 1992
 Moore, Susan: 1964
 Moran, Susan: 1974
 Morgan (Egan), Clare: 1973
 Morris (Cope), Susan: 1973

Morrison (Hammond), Penny: 1966
 Morrow (Southon), Dan: 1997
 Moss (Flowerdew), Barbara: 1963
 Moss, Celia: 1969
 Moss, Imogen: 1982
 Moss, Simon: 2013
 Moughton (Parr), Elizabeth: 1951
 Mueller, Kai: 2008
 Mumford (Hickerton), Linda: 1973
 Munro, Rob: 1982
 Murdin (Milburn), Lesley: 1960
 Murray, Paul: 1987
 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
 Newlands (Raworth), Liz: 1960
 Newton (Little), Clare: 1970
 Ng, Say Liang: 1997
 Niblett (Hoskins), Patricia: 1972
 Nicholson, Paul: 1992
 Nisbet, Isabel: 1972
 Nosworthy, Tim: 1988
 O'Brien, Sue: 1977
 Ocampo Herrera, Ernesto: 2015
 O'Grady, Claire-Marie: 1986
 O'Mahony, Andrew: 1992
 Onslow (Owen), Jane: 1972
 Opatowsky, Stuart: 2001
 Ormerod (Tudor Hart), Penny: 1972
 Orr, Frank: 1984
 Osborne (Neal), Joelle: 1971
 Osborne, Marian: 1949
 Osborne (Billen), Stephanie: 1981
 O'Toole, Thomas: 2005
 Ough (Payne), Alison: 1979
 Overend (Old), Sarah: 1978
 Ovey, Elizabeth: 1974
 Owen, Catherine: 1975
 Owen (Lytton), Stephanie: 1969
 Ozanne, Claire: 1982
 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 (Parfitt), Sara: 1960
 Patterson (Wilson), Hazel: 1966
 Paul (Driver), Anne: 1971
 Paul, Helen: 1994
 Paule, Steve: 2008
 Payne, Martin: 1989
 Peagram (Jackson), Christine: 1962
 Pendry (Gard), Pat: 1966
 Pennington (Durham), Jane: 1974
 Perrett (Parsons), Isabelle: 1984
 Perrin, Julie: 1986
 Perry (Hudson), Penny: 1965
 Perthen, Joanna: 1994
 Peter, Kai: 1994
 Philips (Palmer), Wendy: 1977
 Phillips (Gray), Emma: 1981
 Phillips, Paul: 1984
 Phillips, Susie: 1978
 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, Matthew: 2007
 Pratelli, Tim: 1985
 Price (Meredith), Lucy: 2005
 Price (Fox), Meg: 1967
 Pritchard (Breaks), Amanda: 1994
 Probert, Rebecca: 1991
 Quillfeldt (Raw), Carolyn: 1967
 Rabheru (Pathak), Sarika: 2003
 Radcliffe, Rosemary: 1963
 Rae-Smith (Perkins), Melanie: 1974
 Ramsden, Isobel: 2005
 Rawle, Frances: 1976
 Reid (Massey), Su: 1961
 Revill (Radford), Ann: 1955
 Reynolds, Sian: 1958
 Richards (Machin), Gillian: 1976
 Richards (Wardle), Alison: 1973
 Riley (Vince), Pippa: 1977
 Robbins (Cast), Stephanie: 1964
 Roberts, David: 1983
 Roberts, James: 1987

Thank you

Roberts (Stiff), Nicholas: 1980
Robertson, Valerie: 1955
Robin, Sophie: 2009
Robinson (Sutton), Jill: 1967
Robinson (Neal), Patricia: 1958
Rogers (Edmonds), Gillian: 1947
Rose, Keith: 1981
Rowlands, Helen: 1971
Rowswell, Ann: 1974
Royal, David: 2007
Roydon, Karen: 1995
Rudolph, Dana: 1988
Ruff, Alexander: 2013
Rumford (Margrim), Kay: 1983
Russell (Gear), Moya: 1979
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
Scott (Gregory), Rita: 1949
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, Priya: 2004
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
Sherrington, Richard: 2002
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, Chris: 1998
Stone, Edward: 1983
Stone, Joshua: 2007
Stratford, Owen: 1998
Street, Michael: 1986
Stringer, Judith: 1953
Sumner (Palmer), Gill: 1958
Suterwalla, Azeem: 1996
Swann, Simon: 1989
Sword (Boyle), Beatrice: 1949
Tao, Bernard: 2008
Taplin (Canning), Angela: 1974
Tapon, James: 1998
Tate (Hardy), Valerie: 1960
Taub, Andrew: 2010
Taylor, Chris: 1982
Taylor, Eleanor: 2008
Taylor (Moses), Karin: 1968
Taylor (Nelsey), Pamela: 1968
Taylor-Terlecka, Nina: 1961
Thomas (Covington), Anne: 1974
Thomas, Carla: 2008
Thomas (Parry), Kathleen: 1971
Thorpe, Patty: 1973
Timpson (Still), Julia: 1993
Tinsley, Mark: 1988
Titcomb, Lesley: 1980
Tjoa (nee Chinn) (Chinn), Carole: 1965
Tone, Keiko: 2000
Tonkyn (McNeice), Shelagh: 1970
Tordoff, Benjamin: 1998
Tovey (Williams), Maureen: 1973
Trew, Patrick: 1988
Tsang, Heman: 1988
Tuck (Pye), Dinah: 1964
Tucker, Sam: 2007
Turner (Griffiths), Clare: 1986

Turner (Chang), Mei Lin: 1963
Tytarenko, Margaryta: 2022
Uttley, Mark: 2010
Valentine, Amanda: 1983
Van Heyningen, Joanna: 1964
Varley (Stephenson), Gwendolen: 1956
Vassiliou, Evelthon: 1991
Vedpathak, Omkar: 2007
Vere (Spalding), Jennifer: 1961
Vernon (McArdle), Sarah: 1979
Verrall (Silvester), Peggy: 1959
Viala (Lewis), Katharine: 1990
Viswanath, Raghavi: 2018
Vodden, Debbie: 1974
von Nolcken, Christina: 1968
Waddington (Rosser), Lindsey: 1968
Wagner, Rosemary: 1964
Waites, Daniel: 1998
Wan, Sheila: 1989
Warren, Clare: 1996
Webster, Ian: 2000
Welch, Martin: 1985
Weller (Williams), Isobel: 1977
West, Colin: 1994
Wharton (McCloskey), Barbara: 1954
Wheater (Jones), Isabella: 1974
Whitby (Field), Joy: 1949
Whitby (Lodge), Mary: 1970
White (Pippin), Ailsa: 1962
White, Clare: 1990
Wight, Greg: 2000
Wightwick (Lombard), Helen: 1979
Wilcox (Williams), Joanne: 1981
Wiles, Michael: 1996
Wilkinson (Spatchurst), Susan: 1970
Williams, Anne: 1980
Williams, Charlotte: 1997
Williams, Edmund: 1981
Williams (Ferguson), Fiona: 1962
Williams (Parry), Kate: 1986
Williams, Mark: 1997
Williams, Mary: 1972
Williams, Paul: 1987
Williamson, Simon: 1991
Williamson (Hodson), Valerie: 1960
Wilson (Szczezanik), Barbara: 1965
Wilson (Hay), Lindsay: 1969
Wilson (Latham), Kate: 1984
Witter, Mark: 2000
Wood (Gunning), Maureen: 1952
Wood (Chatt), Sara: 1958

Woodhouse, Sally: 2012
Woolfson, Deborah: 2005
Wordsworth Yates, Alan: 2008
Wright, Ellen: 1977
Wright, Nicholas: 1994
Wyatt, Nicholas: 2003
Wyatt, Paul: 1995
Wylie, Fiona: 1967
Yates (Crawshaw), Sue: 1967
Yu, Jacob: 2016
Zhang, James: 2024

Non-Alumnae Friends

Aoki, Sunao
Austin, Michel
Barnett (Weidenfeld), Laura
Cadwallader, Jim
Drummond, Edwin
Ellis, Cliff
Foard, Christine
Ford, John
Fukaya, Ryo
Gardam, Tim
Gomez, Basil

Harper, Tom
Hasler, Stephen
Henderson (Mitchell), Jane
Keymer, Tom
Lawlor, John
Leong, Sin-Hong
McCall, Marsh
McCall, Susan
Pyle, David
Quek, Christel
Richards, Paul
Shelley, Sue
Smith, Suzanne
Sun, Fuqiang
Trousset, Jacqueline
Walton, Ivan
Weidenfeld, Annabelle
Wood, John

Organisations and Charities

Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
COSARAF Charitable Foundation
Danson Foundation
Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development Foundation

Merze Tate Explorers
SAS Cambridge Branch
SAS Midlands Branch
SAS South of England Branch
T W Roberts Trust
The Drapers' Company

Given in memory of

John Symons, in memory of Judy Symons
(nee Davidson) 1964

Legacy Gifts

Hallaway, Mary: 1950
Finnemore, Judith: 1959
Frank (Hoar), Tessa: 1951
Gerry, Philippa: 1950
Hall, Kathleen: 1941
Matthews (Greenshields), Daphne: 1948
Mercer, Patricia: 1959
Robinson, Crispin: 1979
Sillers, Margaret: 1945
Turner-Shaw, Mary





COMMUNICATIONS

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. You can update your details at any time, or opt out of communications, via our alumnae area online at: www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/st-annes or you can get in touch with us at: development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk View our privacy notice at: www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/st-annes/privacy-notice

PERSONAL NEWS

Please send personal news for next year's edition of The Ship by email to development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk or by post to: Development Office, St Anne's College, Oxford OX2 6HS

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CONTACTS:

Kiri-Ann Olney
Deputy Development Director
+44 (0)1865 284943
kiri-ann.olney@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Stacey Kennedy
Development Manager
+44 (0)1865 284622
stacey.kennedy@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Jason Fiddaman
Alumnae Relations Manager
+44 (0)1865 284517
jason.fiddaman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Jay Gilbert
Senior Communications Manager
+44 (0)1865 284834
jay.gilbert@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Lauren Mohammed
Development and Stewardship Officer
+44 (0)1865 284536
lauren.mohammed@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Kay Campbell
Development and Communications Assistant
+44 (0) 1865 284536
kay.campbell@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

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 so that the Events Team can notify Catering of additional numbers at lunch.

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in articles featured in The Ship are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of St Anne's College. All alumnae are welcome to contribute to The Ship. If you would like to write an article get in touch with us at development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

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St Anne's College
Woodstock Road • Oxford • OX2 6HS
+44 (0) 1865 274800
development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk
www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk
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