



Hertford College News

Issue 15 Autumn/Winter 2006

Features: "Project Baranovo" and "Sleeping in the Woods;
Working at Sotheby's"

News: Rebinding of Swift's Books; Paul Coones is elected
University Assessor

This issue's column is largely taken up with welcoming new Fellows – in person or in prospect – but first I must mention someone whose services the College is about to lose, though fortunately only temporarily. As the early Spring brings Oxford its first swallows and tourists, it also brings a new set of faces to the Proctorial suite in Wellington Square, for our University runs on two distinct annual cycles. Alongside the academic year running from October to October, there is the Proctorial year which begins on Wednesday of 9th week of Hilary Term. The day featured prominently in this year's Hertford calendar since it was for the first time the College's turn to elect a University Assessor, in the person of our Geography Fellow, Dr Paul Coones, who will hold office for the Proctorial year 2007-8.

The Assessorship originated in the days when the Proctorial rota was confined to male undergraduate Colleges and a post of 'Representative of the Women's Colleges' was created to sit alongside the Proctors in the councils of the University. The current title was adopted when the scope of the post was widened to include the graduate colleges in the 1960s, and a decade later a single rota for both Proctors and Assessor was established embracing all of the Oxford Colleges.

For the last ten years the Assessorship has been a full-time office holding a portfolio of welfare-related responsibilities and the University's gain has been our loss since it necessitated Paul's relinquishing the post of SCR Steward which he has occupied for a lengthy and very distinguished tenure. Before stepping down he organised an excellent Assessor's lunch which was much appreciated by Fellows and guests from across the University following the admission ceremony. Paul's swansong, however, came two days later with a special dinner for Honorary Fellows and their guests. This went off extremely well – thanks to a lot of hard work from Paul and College staff – and we intend that it should become an annual event. Paul is being succeeded as SCR steward by our Fellow in History, Dr Christopher Tyerman, and we wish both of them every success in their new offices.

As we lose Paul to the University – fortunately for one year only – we are very pleased to welcome a number of new Fellows to the College. Dr Derek McCormack and Professor Piotr Chruściel are profiled in this issue. Derek joined us from Southampton University in the autumn, taking Bill Macmillan's place in Geography. Piotr arrived at Christmas as what the University calls a 'proleptic' successor to Dr Alan Day who will retire this autumn. Alan's retirement will be a poignant moment for me since he is the last of our current Fellows to have been in post when I was an undergraduate, but we hope that he will be a frequent visitor to Common Room and High Table in the future.



We will have the pleasure of Professor Robin Devenish's presence in Governing Body for several years to come, but his post too has been 'proleptically re-filled' with the election earlier this year of Dr Sam Henry, an experimental particle physicist. Sam, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Oxford Physics Department, will be joining us in October, as will the medieval historian Charles West whom we recently elected to the Drapers' Company Junior Research Fellowship. We are grateful to the Company's Master and Wardens for enabling us to support an outstanding young scholar at the critical 'take-off' point in his career.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John Landers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Dr John Landers
Principal

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Government Matching Scheme

As many of you will know, in February, Tony Blair announced a scheme to encourage alumni to give money to their old universities by matching a portion of private donations with £200m of public funds. During the three-year scheme, universities will get an extra £1 for every £2 they raise privately. The extra funding will be capped at £2m per institution, as the scheme is supposed to encourage universities with a poor record of fund-raising.

Matched funding has long been mooted as the solution to raising universities' endowments, which are low by comparison with the US. The combined endowment of all UK universities is £7.8bn, compared with Harvard's £13.4bn and Yale's £8bn.

Dr Jon Dellandrea, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs at Oxford said: 'Universities play an important role in the cultural and economic life of the UK, and I am pleased that the government has recognised the need to encourage a lasting culture of philanthropic giving to support their mission.'

'This scheme will be a real incentive for even more alumni to give something back to their institution. We look forward to examining the proposals in more detail to see how this can help Oxford's already dynamic fundraising tradition.'

Hertford's First Telephone Campaign

Hertford is planning to run its first ever telephone campaign this year to raise money for student support. The Development Office has recruited a new member of staff, Sarah Salter, to oversee the organisation of the campaign. We hope that these telephone calls will not only provide an opportunity for you to offer us your financial support, but it will also help us to give you feedback on activities and developments at Hertford. We would really appreciate your comments, whether or not you make a donation. If you do give something, you can be assured that it will make a real difference to the lives of current students. Our aim is to increase the numbers of people who give and so widen participation in the ongoing success of the College. A team of student callers will be contacting some of you during September and October and we are sure you will enjoy it. We will also be calling some of our current donors just to say THANK YOU for supporting Hertford.

If you don't receive a telephone call, you can still make a donation, as everyone will be receiving a copy of our new Annual Fund brochure. Projects for which we need your support include student hardship, sports activities, the chapel organ and the Library. We also hope to have an online donation facility set up by the end of the year. All donors will be recognised in the autumn 2007 edition of the Newsletter and invited to a special donor event in College next year.

Other Fundraising News

Following Roger Van Noorden's retirement last year, some of you will be aware that the College is aiming to raise £1.5 million to endow a fellowship in Economics. Hertford has a long and successful tradition in Economics, with more applicants for the subject (in its various combinations) this academic year than any other College. These posts are 'joint appointments', which are normally co-funded by College and the University's Economics Department, but the latter is currently unable to furnish its share of the funding, leaving Hertford the sudden and unenviable task of financing most of its Economics teaching from its own endowment.

We can only fully ensure the quality and continuity of our Economics teaching if we have the capacity to fund an Economics Fellowship ourselves out of our own resources, and we are now seeking support from our Old Members to furnish an Endowment Fund that will make this possible.

In addition, the College hopes to commemorate Roy Stuart's 30 years as Law Fellow and Dean by raising £1.5 million to endow a law fellowship in his name. David Pannick QC, an Honorary Fellow and Old Member (1974, Law), has agreed to lead the campaign.

New Website for Old Members

The Development Office is setting up a brand new website for Old Members. You will be able to update your details online, search for other Old Members (subject to permissions), and sign up and pay for events through a secure log-on section. We will be in touch with all of you when the site is ready to go live.

Apologies to Nancy O'Brien Stuart for the error in the last issue of the Newsletter. The article should have read Nancy O'Brien Stuart not Nancy Stuart O'Brien.

Project Baranovo

From the Steps of the Sheldonian to the Russian Steppe

When Fern Bunyan (2000, History & Modern Languages) first visited the Belskoye Ustye orphanage-internat for children, she had little idea that she would return to set up and run her own charity.



Fern Bunyan (left) with some of the children from the orphanage

As I skipped along the cobbles of Magpie Lane after my last Oxford exam, champagne corks popping all around me, I did not think of Russia as part of my long term plan. I had never really thought about Russia at all, in fact. In the midst of the champagne blurred merriment, surrounded by friends and family, I would never have imagined, that almost exactly two years on, I would find myself in a country which I had never visited, in a dilapidated orphanage in a village, which no-one knew about, asking the Director of said orphanage what he thought about us building a school together, in a language I did not yet know.

I would have quite liked to work in an art gallery.

And yet, after my first visit to Belskoye Ustye orphanage-internat for children with special needs in the Pskov region of Russia, the summer after my Finals, I found it difficult to walk away from the awkward gap-toothed smiles, wide eyes

and the unique spirit the children have. It seemed so terribly unjust that these children had been denied, that which we – certainly in our early years – entirely take for granted: education.

The children at Belskoye Ustye internat have been deemed “unteachable” by the powers that be; diagnosed with ‘oligophrenia’ – clinical stupidity – they have been denied any official educational or developmental input whatsoever. Children wind up at the internat for various reasons, many of which have absolutely no effect on their ability to learn. One bright girl, Nastia, is there because she has a cleft palate, for example, while another boy, Marat, as a result of occasional epilepsy. Kristina’s parents committed suicide. Sasha was just a naughty boy at his last children’s home.

My first summer spent with the children – taking part in an educational summer camp – served to illustrate just how willing and able to learn these children

were. I had such very little Russian and still I managed to make progress with the children, for example constructing a makeshift desk in a corridor with a renegade orphan, one of the older boys, Tolia and teaching him basic maths, a little day by day.

That summer, I was never shocked by how grubby or smelly the orphans were, how loud or aggressive they could be or how terrible some of the stories we heard were. What shocked me the most, was how very normal children they were, how they had so few problems and could easily be taught and how much they longed to be taught. It was so frustrating to stand among them in their ‘classrooms’ seeing all that potential and knowing that when we left, that was it for another year, that we would leave and so would the crayons, the paper, the games, the stories and once again the children would spend every day sitting, rocking on a mattress on the floor, watching TV, bickering and waiting for

the next meal to roll around.

Leaving Russia and those grubby little children then never quite worked out. When you close your eyes and see their eyes, wide and hungry for the things we took for granted in our childhood, it eats at one's conscience. Especially when you feel that maybe, just maybe, there's something you can do to help.

Ten months of living in Moscow, regular visits to ROOF (Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund), several trips to Belskoye Ustye and one more summer camp later, I found myself beginning something, which I suppose I had always known would be the only way to quiet my conscience. One crisp October morning, fellow Oxford-graduate, Rhea Stevens, and myself packed our lives, one old-school Soviet safe, several wheelchairs, huge amounts of paint, hundreds of books and developmental games, some furniture and our wellies into a shaky Soviet van and began our way across marshes, through forest towards Lithuania on an eleven hour drive that would end in a hamlet of three houses (only one inhabited) - Baranovo.

And thus Project Baranovo, under the auspices of ROOF, began: we set up home in a house owned by ROOF in the village next to the orphanage; we renovated three rooms of the house to create a classroom, a sensory room and an independent study area; we negotiated with the administration of the orphanage and arranged a timetable, which involved – finally – every child in the learning process.

The first months were pretty difficult. Simultaneous to our arrival was the onset of one of the harshest Russian winters for 90 years, with temperatures going down to minus 36. Such temperatures certainly don't make for plain sailing when you rely on the well outside for water, your electricity is sporadic and the only way you have to heat a large house is with one wood burning stove! Still the frosty weather was nothing compared to the frosty reception we received from the children's carers at the orphanage: "We don't need you here!"

We had anticipated such a response – it's only natural if some young, foreigners who know relatively little about your (pretty hard) lives arrive and insist on shaking things up, especially when they are sporting rather comical wellington boots. Our plan was never to criticize or dictate, rather to just get on with our work

and hope that eventually the carers would see that – just maybe – it was worth a try. We planned to work as much as possible with the carers, providing them with literature and resources, providing them with concrete examples. Training and supporting the existing carers in the orphanage is the only sustainable way to really affect the children's upbringing.

Despite a particularly trying winter – perishing temperatures, a quarantine at the orphanage, a near-mutiny among the staff at Belskoye Ustye, several cast changes at Baranovo HQ and some seriously exhausting stove stoking – little by little the magic in the air became more and more tangible.

Children who had never had a lesson in their lives before were suddenly singing, clapping, counting, adding, reading, drawing, acting, talking, listening, concentrating, jumping, laughing. They were learning. Every day they improved little by little. It was fun. And what's more, the staff began to enjoy it and join in more and more too.

In the Spring we began our learning garden and visited the neighbours' animals; for these children it is vital to learn how to work the land, if they are to have any chance of a future. One boy looked up, with mud on his cheek, from planting marrows seeds and said: "This is great fun. And it's really useful. When I grow up, I'm going to have a huuge garden!"

The saddest thing about the orphanage system at the moment is, that these children, denied any education in the orphanage, are then entirely unequipped for life after eighteen. As a result, they are committed to adult institutions where, unfortunately, alcoholism, strong seda-

tives, petty crime, abuse, exploitation and a low life expectancy are the order of the day. Without basic numeracy and literacy skills, without vocational and domestic training, children who are fully capable of independent life are denied not only any education, but also a future. Every child deserves a future, and for these children, hope lies in education.

Project Baranovo surprised us all. We could never have imagined such a positive response to our work. To involve so many children and staff in the learning process was more than we could have hoped for. And so once again, my conscience began to grumble. Once again, there was only really one path left to take – to take the idea behind Project Baranovo and go bigger and better. In January 2007, with the help of a dedicated little team, I began a new charity organisation – Begin It Now. We are taking our Hope In Education projects national - concentrating as much as possible on training programmes and resources for the carers - as well as building an Educational and Cultural Centre out in Belskoye Ustye. We are dedicated to improving the educational provision in orphanages for children with special needs in the Russian Federation and are looking forward to the exciting and formative months ahead.

Fern Bunyan
Chief Executive
Begin It Now

Educational Provision in Orphanages
for Children with Special Needs in the
Russian Federation
www.beginitnow.org.uk



Sleeping in the woods; working at Sotheby's

Hugh Sawyer (1996, Law) slept in the woods near Lewknor, Oxon, to raise money for charity.

Hugh started with three aims: to challenge himself to live the simple life; to show people how little of what they consume is necessary, and to raise money through sponsorship for the Woodland Trust, a charity dedicated to the protection of the UK's native woodlands. Here he explains what provoked this strenuous experiment, and how he now plans to go global.

My plan was to become an environmental lawyer and it was with that aim that I arrived at Hertford, wedged into the back of the parents' car, jammed between suitcases and the statutory roll of posters. I'm not sure at precisely which point my resolve started to waiver. I think it might well have been in noughth week when the library was shunned for the far more interesting sport of attempting to fire cheap champagne corks through the Junior Dean's window.

I got caught up with peripheries and completely forgot what had driven me to come to Oxford in the first place. Before I knew it, I was another grey-faced suit on the underground rushing to work. My job at Sotheby's had huge advantages though: long lunch breaks, months of inactivity, a constantly changing backdrop of fine art and the company of fascinating people. However, despite believing that art has an intrinsic value, this didn't salve my feeling that life needed to be about more than assisting someone to purchase it.

A desire to do something more meaningful began to grow, and with it came the memory of a childhood spent in the woods and my wish to become an environmental lawyer. A Gentleman's degree brought about by disinclination towards effort precluded a career at the bar, so there I was on May Day morning 2005, lying in the University Parks when the realisation finally came: I would live outside for a year, commute to work and raise money for The Woodland Trust. How hard could it be? It really was quite lovely: blue sky overhead, Pimms in hand, punt loads of pretty girls floating past, bumble bees buzzing and butterflies flapping.

For some foolish reason I then also decided that it would be more interest-

ing to live outside without a tent. "Tents are for girls," I said. When the temperature dipped to minus nine and I woke covered in snow, I was minded to rue that statement. Lazing about in the highly manicured university parks is one thing, sleeping in the woods is quite another. The ground undulates so much that any attempt to sleep resulted in my contorting into the shape of some of the more exciting letters of the alphabet like W, Z or on one occasion even M.

However, I eventually built up a bit of a resistance to all these lumps and even built up a tolerance to nettles stings so that rolling into them in my sleep no longer woke me. Why, by the time I was three months in, I had even stopped having to jab a pen into my hand to stay awake in meetings.

Winter, though, was cold, very very cold. Soon my life consisted almost entirely of eating, sleeping and working. I was burning off so much energy trying to stay warm at night that I was eating up to five meals a day. The curious thing though was that it was really enjoyable. I think this was partly due to having a sense of achievement every day. Sure, getting out of a wet sleeping bag at five thirty am and getting into cold, wet jeans in the dark isn't much fun and the humour of finding your toothpaste frozen begins to pale after a while.... but by 6 I would be on the bus to London having run a mile and survived another night in the woods. It's not often that one gets to have achieved something by 6am.

The other really good thing about life in the woods was that it is the perfect counterbalance to a hectic London life. As I walked into the woods and away from the sounds of the motorway, the pressures and of the day would drop away. And by the time I was kicking back with a cup of tea by the fire, whatever problems there had been in the day



would have been replaced by slightly more pressing problems like finding that I had left my sleeping bag hanging up to dry in the gym at work.

The months went by in a flash and suddenly, the time came to give up on the woods and get on with my career. But spending a significant amount of time on your own in nature provides an opportunity for reflection and after a year of it, my priorities have shifted significantly.

So my next plan is to raise money for Rainforest Concern, a charity established to protect threatened natural habitats, particularly rainforests. I'll be setting off in June to live in the jungle for a year and I hope to set up the world's first Jungle Based Solar Powered Online Travel Guide and use it to help cover costs by selling advertising space. What can possibly go wrong?

Check out the website at www.bethejam.com.

*Hugh Sawyer
1996, Law*

Hertford is Pleased to Welcome Three New Fellows

Professor Piotr Chruściel

Piotr studied physics at Warsaw University, during the enlightened real socialism of Mister Gierek, where life was generally unbearable but prisons were relatively empty. He graduated just in time for the martial law of Jaruzelski, who made life in Poland even more unbearable but quite interesting, though perhaps not for everyone. He wrote his PhD at the Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw in 1986. Having been exposed to many modern theories of theoretical physics, he decided that he had no sympathy for the "everything goes" philosophy which seems to pervade the subject, and branched off to the more mundane world of rigorous mathematics. His main research interests cover all mathematical aspects of general relativity: black holes, wormholes, time machines and the like. While these topics might sound like nut-case speculations, there is actually beautiful mathematics behind them.

One of his papers is about "Space-time engineering", and in spite of what one might think, it is a paper with respectable rigorous mathematics from cover to cover.

He is currently a University Lecturer in Mathematical Physics with the title of Professor, arriving at Oxford from Tours University, where he has been a Professor of Mathematics for the last thirteen years. After his PhD he did research at the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, but also at Yale, ANU Canberra, and UC Santa Barbara, his last pre-Tours posting having been a Humboldt

Fellowship in Garching near Munich. At some stage he realized, with some prodding from his wife, that it was time to settle down, and he did so in Tours. He will be traveling back and forth between Oxford and Tours during the next year and a half, until his younger son is done with his baccalauréat, after which he is planning to settle definitely in Oxford.

Dr Derek McCormack

Derek is a Fellow in Geography and a University Lecturer at the Oxford University Centre for the Environment. Originally from Leixlip, Ireland, Derek took his first degree at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, where he developed a particular interest in the human side of the discipline. He then moved to the United States, where he completed an MSc in Geography at Virginia Tech under the supervision of another former Maynooth student, Professor Gearóid Ó'Tuathail. This spell in the Appalachians was followed by doctoral research in the School of Geographical Sciences at Bristol University, from where he was awarded a PhD in 2002. Upon leaving Bristol, Derek took up a post as lecturer in human geography at the University of Southampton, where he taught courses in cultural, urban, and political geography.

Derek's research lies in the broad field of cultural geography and its overlap with a range of cognate disciplines. His doctoral work explored the status of the moving human body in theories and philosophies of spatiality, ideas he is developing further in a book project. Other current research focuses on the

role affect and emotion play in philosophical, political, and popular understandings of space and place. To this end he is completing a British Academy project on the affective dimensions of late 19th century Arctic exploration. Derek tutors in human geographical topics at Hertford. He is currently on the lookout for a regular yet relaxed game of 5-a-side football.

Dr Anthony Murphy

Anthony studied economics and econometrics at Trinity College Dublin, the London School of Economics and Nuffield College, Oxford. He was a senior lecturer at University College Dublin before moving back to Oxford and Hertford College. He is an applied econometrician, developing and applying quantitative or statistical methods to the study of economics.

His research interests are in housing, labour, consumer expenditure and savings behaviour as well as financial economics and econometrics. A lot of this research is very practical and policy orientated. It answers questions such as are house prices overvalued and what would happen to consumer expenditure if the stock market collapsed. Anthony's research suggests that house prices are not overvalued since recent house price trends are well explained by "fundamentals" i.e. changes in incomes, interest rates and population. Details of his research are available online at <http://economics.hertford.ox.ac.uk/Anthony/Anthony.htm>.

Below L to R: Piotr Chrusciel, Derek McCormack and Anthony Murphy



A Swift Response - Hertford Members to the Rescue

The Oxford and Cambridge Club in London's Pall Mall is open to all Oxbridge men and women and offers its members numerous facilities and functions. Several Hertford members have been active in its affairs in recent years, both Derek Conran (Modern History, 1944) and Jeffrey Preston (Literae Humaniores, 1959) having been Chairman.

One of the Club's best known features is its library and Jeffrey Preston and I sit on the Library Committee. The Librarian recently alerted us to the fact that the Library's set of the works of Dean Swift (Hart Hall, 1692), edited by Sir Walter Scott and published in 1824 (and so perhaps on the Club's shelves for over 175 years), was dissolving in clouds of leather dust and would have to be disposed of if it could not be rebound. Sadly the rebinding budget would not permit this and these wide-ranging volumes, containing religious and political tracts, letters and poetry, as well as famous satires such as *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Tale of a Tub*, might have perished.

Jonathan Swift is of course one of the College's most famous alumni and it was natural that I should mention the problem to Bob Smith (PPE, 1978) when I saw him in the Club. He immediately suggested that Hertford members of the Club should be invited to subscribe towards the cost of rebinding the books. With the approval of the Club authorities, an appropriate letter was sent to the 59 members of the Club who had been at Hertford. It was hoped that perhaps £800 might be forthcoming, which would have allowed for rebinding in cloth.

However, no fewer than 25 of those members generously responded, from Australia, Scotland, and the United States, as well as from all parts of England, a number of them extremely generously, and no less than £1,940 was subscribed. This allowed for rebinding in "half-leather" and the life of the books has been preserved for another 200 years. With artwork having kindly been supplied by the College's Members and Development Office, the College arms are displayed on the cover of each volume, the cloth part of which is in "Hertford red", and an appropriate inscription appears on the flyleaf.

At a ceremony in the Library on

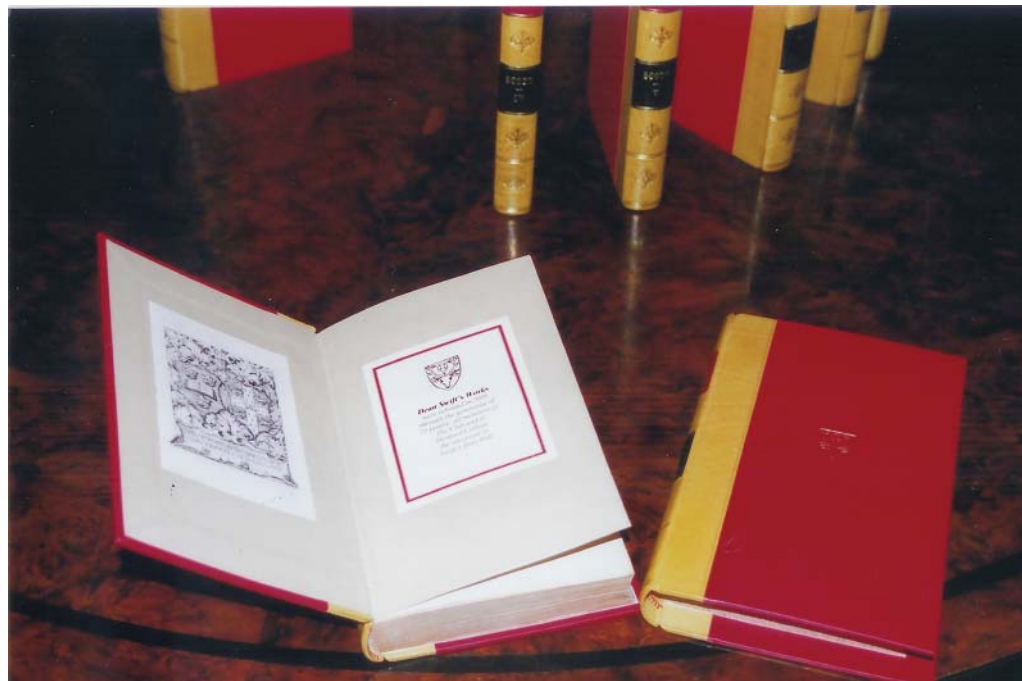


31st January the books were formally returned by Bob Smith, on behalf of the donors, of whom a good number were present, to Michael Hill (Lincoln College, 1949), the Chairman of the Library Committee. Stephen Kinsey (English, 1974), who had written one of his Schools papers entirely on Swift, gave a short talk on Swift's life and works.

It gave me considerable pleasure to

be involved in this unusual collaboration between the College and the Club. One day, no doubt, the Club's copies of Evelyn Waugh's novels will in their turn require rebinding: a precedent has been set, but perhaps before then the Club will have been assisted by members of other colleges in a similar way!

*Anthony Eady
(1959, Law)*



Biography of Jonathan Swift

"I had the honour to be for some years a student at Oxford." Jonathan Swift wrote these words in 1734, at the age of 68. In fact, his time as a matriculated member of the University was rather brief. He was entered at Hart Hall in Trinity Term 1692 and took his MA in July that year. But he had a cousin at another college at the time and may have been in the habit of visiting friends at Oxford for a longer period than this. At any rate, since he was proud to allude to his time at Hart Hall, and was one of the finest prose writers of his own or any age, I feel that we should be happy to claim him too.

Swift needed a master's degree in order to be ordained as a clergyman. This was not his first choice of career but one which he might fall back on if he did not advance in the political world and which in the meantime would provide some financial security. His grandfather had been an Anglican priest; his father had died before he was born, and so the family was not well off.

After his brief spell at Oxford he returned to the household of Sir William Temple at Moor Park near Farnham in Surrey where he had been a kind of domestic secretary since graduating from Trinity College, Dublin some years before. He wrote some rather bad poetry there, apparently inspired by admiration of his patron, but Sir William, a retired diplomat, was rather too much of a political has-been to be of use in promoting Swift's career. Although it meant the loss of his secretary and his niece's tutor, he nonetheless provided a testimonial for Swift's first appointment as an assistant priest in Kilroot, in the run-down (Anglican) Church of Ireland, perhaps suspecting that Swift would return to Moor Park after a year or two of boredom, which he did.

When Temple died in 1699, Swift, who had continued to write, began editing his former patron's memoirs for publication. Eventually, however, as his only opportunities for financial independence seemed to be ecclesiastical ones, he took a post as a parish priest in the diocese of Derry at the age of 32. He stayed in Ireland long enough to finish and then publish *A Tale of a Tub* and *The Battle of the Books* (1704),



displaying what Dr. Johnson later called his "vehemence and rapidity of mind" and mocking both religious fanaticism and the pretensions and ephemerality of modern literature.

In the following 10 years, he returned regularly to England and became friends with Alexander Pope, John Gay, John Arbuthnot, William Congreve (with whom he had been at school) and other literary figures. They formed a group of writers who called themselves the Scriblerus Club. After becoming Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin in 1713, he remained chiefly in Ireland. His politics were, for the times, a curious blend of Tory and Whig, and he could be fiercely anti-establishment. He was celebrated as an Irish patriot following the publication of the *Drapier Letters* in 1724. William Hazlitt was later to say that he could forgive Swift for having been a Tory because his political sentiments had died with him, leaving

much else "...of a solid and imperishable nature". He meant particularly *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) which enabled 19th century readers to treat Swift principally as a novelist rather than a poet or pamphleteer. Thus Swift's reputation survived the political changes and the shifts in literary tastes of the following centuries. When he died in 1745 after a sad decline, it was said that a hush fell over Dublin, so highly was he regarded.

How much actual studying Swift had to undertake for his MA 53 years earlier is not clear. He certainly read and learned a great deal in the library at Moor Park, both before and after. But his time at Hart Hall did at least provide a foundation for his subsequent career, as well as the basis for some harmless boasting in his old age.

*Stephen Kinsey
1974, English*

The Chapel - Trinity Term 2006 to Hilary Term 2007

The College Chapel continues to provide a warm welcome for a wide range of students, fellows, staff and visitors. This past year we have been fortunate to hear fifteen guest preachers, from a variety of ministries and backgrounds, give challenging and thought-provoking sermons at Choral Evensong on Sundays. During Hilary Term we participated in a joint Evensong at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, where our Choir joined the ranks of over 100 singers that had come together for the occasion. The event, at which the Bishop of Liverpool preached, was a great success. In addition to weekly Evensong, the College Eucharist takes place at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in term time, followed by supper in the Chaplain's rooms, and sung Compline at 10pm. On Tuesdays the Chapel is lit by hundreds of tiny candles, which proves a popular way to end the day. Morning and Evening Prayer provide the backbone of our daily worship, and are said by a small group every weekday.

The smooth-running of the Chapel is due in no small part to the excel-

Another new venture this year has been a Chapel Retreat, where students had the opportunity to live alongside a religious community for three days and enjoyed fellowship and some much-needed quiet time after the hectic pace of Hilary Term.

The Chapel Choir, under the direction of our committed and talented Organ Scholars, Christopher Bentley and Tom Hammond-Davies, continues to provide the Chapel with music of a remarkably high standard. The Choir led the choral worship at Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral again this year, most notably in their rendition of John Joubert's 'O Lorde, the maker of al thing' and Dyson's Canticles in D.

A highlight of the past year was the very successful Choir tour to Barcelona



lent work of our team of Chapel Wardens, Thea Crapper, Vicky Arnold and Hannah Dickson, and we are deeply appreciative of them and all that they do for the Chapel. Many other members of our College community also provide an invaluable contribution to the life of the Chapel by assisting during services, either by reading the lesson or serving at the altar. We are also grateful for the valuable contribution made by Mark Jones, an ordinand from Ripon College, Cuddesdon, who has been on placement at Hertford since Michaelmas 2006.

Outside Chapel services, over the past year we have had a variety of Chapel-organized events, including Bible Study, Theological Discussion, and social gatherings. Most recently, the 'Nooma' group meets each Tuesday; we watch a short DVD about a specific issue of faith and have lively discussions over sandwiches.



during the summer vacation, where concert venues included the Basilica at the Benedictine monastery in Montserrat, and the Church of the Sacred Heart on Tibidabo, above Barcelona. In addition to these, we felt privileged to be asked to sing the Byrd 4-part Mass setting for the feast of SS Peter and Paul at Barcelona Cathedral. Plans are afoot for another tour in Summer 2007 – this time to Manhattan.

Our weekly series of lunch-time recitals in aid of our Organ Fund continues to flourish and provides a platform for musicians within College and beyond. There are plans for a gathering of past organ scholars in the coming year, and more details will be found on the newly revamped Chapel website; although still something of a

work-in-progress, this is well worth looking at for details of forthcoming services and events.

We are very pleased that old members, fellows and staff feel the Chapel to be the appropriate place to get married and have their children baptized. Four couples were married during the summer vacation of 2006, with a further six due to be married this coming summer. We were delighted to baptize Angharad Downing last summer, not least because her parents, Edward Downing and Harriet Griffin – who met as undergraduates at Hertford – were married in Chapel in 2005. We also had a Service of Thanksgiving, during the first Evensong of Hilary Term, for the birth of Benedict, son of Dr Andreas Busch, our Fellow in Politics.

In terms of looking outwards, we have supported six charities – three international, three local – over the past year through Chapel collections: Target Tuberculosis, Care, Chacolinks, Home-Start Oxford, The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre Oxford and the Oxford Gatehouse. Suggestions for future charities are always welcome. The Chapel community is not confined to College: last Easter vacation two students



accompanied the Chaplain to the parish of St Philip with St Mark, Camberwell, an urban priority area within the Diocese of Southwark, to assist the parish priest and work within the community while the Chaplain preached during Holy Week and Easter. Their dedication and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated by members of the parish, and an excellent experience for our students.

In 2008 the Chapel celebrates its centenary year; a good opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the significant role it has played in the life of the College. There will be a number of events to mark this anniversary, to which all members, past and present, are extremely welcome.

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the life of the Chapel, or would like to receive our termly Chapel Card, please contact the Chaplain, the Reverend Leanne Roberts, on 01865 279411.

Tokyo Dinner

In September 2006, the Principal visited Japan to meet the Presidents of the Universities, which send their students to vacation courses in English as a Foreign Language at Hertford College.

On Friday 15 September, the Principal and his wife, Diana Parker, hosted a dinner for alumni living in Japan. Eight people attended and enjoyed reliving their Hertford experience over duck confit, coconut ice-cream and other delectable dishes.

Also in attendance were Julie Dearden, International Programmes, together with David Morris and Mayumi Azuma who constitute Oxford University's Japan Office. This Far East outpost exists to assist Oxford in its fundraising, its search for intellectual property partners, its licensing arm and, indeed, innumerable other matters.

Old Members in attendance included:
Mr Minoru Aihara (1999, Social Anthropology)

Ms Ryoko Matsuura (1998, Chemistry)

Ms Kei Kasahara (1980, English)

Mr John Ormston (1990, Modern History)

Mr Hiroshi Inomata (1979, Social Studies)

Mr Christopher Lewis (1973, Jurisprudence)

Mr Kentaro Noguchi (1987, Engineering Science)



London Drinks 13th November

On Monday 13th November we held our London Drinks party at The Gyngleboy, near Paddington Station. The evening was very successful having thirty or so Old Members attend. The champagne prize this year was won by Alexandra Hodge (1998, Oriental Studies) pictured below (top left) with the Principal, Dr John Landers.



Orientalists' Dinner

The annual Orientalists' dinner was held on 22nd February. Current students and Old Members enjoyed a wonderful evening with great wine, food and company.



Washington Reception

On 4 December 2006, Hertford held a reception for Old Members living in the Washington DC area. The event took place in the wonderful setting of the Metropolitan Club. We are very grateful to Mike Wyatt (1967, PPE) for organising and sponsoring this event.



JCR News

Life in the JCR has been as vibrant and varied as ever over the past few terms at Hertford. The freshers settled in with remarkable ease, and certainly seemed to make the most of the Freshers' Reception week and Matriculation celebrations which welcomed them. We've since seen them join the other years on sports teams, writing articles for the student newspapers, and organising events with a myriad of societies, so there's certainly been plenty to keep track of!

Music has been flowing through the corridors of the college this year, with the Choir returning from a very successful tour of Barcelona last summer and a range of lunchtime recitals taking place in Hall. The Hertford Orchestra has been delighting the people of Oxford once again with a few fantastic performances, which packed out the venue at the end of last term. The entertainment has continued with Hertford students taking to the stage in a number of dramatic productions, acting in and directing productions which have received outstanding reviews from all quarters.

There have been a number of new initiatives put in place for JCR members over the past few terms, which we hope will be well used in the years to come. Amongst the general improvements in and around college, such as new computers for the common computer rooms, we also saw the introduction of hot drinks to the JCR for the colder months and the arrival of ice-cream in the college Bar for the summer time! The welfare officers also secured the introduction of a Hertford Travel Fund for students wishing to do charitable work abroad, which was vastly oversubscribed as soon as it was brought in. The charitable spirit continued as JCR joined the MCR for the World Aids Day Concert in Hall, hosted by the Junior Deans: The mulled wine and cakes alongside the excellent musical performances was a welcome winter warmer.

Having handed the baton on to the next (unsuspecting) JCR Exec, and the new JCR President, Tom Lowe, we are now enjoying our retirement. With the new committee settling into their roles already, a Handover Party was introduced this year to mark the occasion. A Bollywood theme saw the Baring room transported eastwards, and the Principal and Ms. Parker joined us in some Bollywood dancing during the evening!

With that, I'm off back to the library, but I'd like to say a final thank you to all those who've worked with the JCR this past year, and of course a special mention to all those on the committee who worked so hard. We wish good luck and much success to the incoming committee and the JCR for the coming year.

Samina Bhatia
JCR President 2006



MCR News

My grandmother had a great saying: 'As the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen'. Such a short statement has come often to my mind as



Oxford gradually gets sunnier, but the cold, rainy weather continues to persist. Luckily, the Hertford graduates of the MCR fill their days with many pursuits to stave off the chill.

Of course when it comes to warming up, few activities suffice like a good sports session. For the first time in recent memory, the MCR fielded a boat for Torpids. Though forced to row on in the men's division even though the boat was half women, half men, the MCR crew succeeded in qualifying only to see the entire race cancelled due to the high water levels of the Isis. Even so, Emily Macmillan, a DPhil student in Educational Research, did an amazing job as captain at constructing a competitive crew for this event. In similar fashion, Simon D'Alton, a DPhil in Human Anatomy, has been keeping the MCR football team in usual form. Struggling against obstinate officials and waterlogged pitches, the football team has put in good effort and certainly displayed dogged tenacity playing as they do at 10:30 every Saturday morning. However, I am most proud to report the efforts of Cricket Fisher, an MPhil student in Social Work, who made the Women's Blues boat. Coming to Oxford as a novice rower, Cricket has come far in a year and a half, and all the wishes of Hertford go with her as she competes for Oxford.

Away from sports, the MCR's more musical side has warmed many throughout the College and Oxford. As integral parts of the Hertford College Choir, Melanie Sharp (DPhil Psychology), Paul Preston (DPhil Archaeology), Abby Loebenberg (MPhil Anthropology), Victoria Arnold (DPhil Geography), and Pete Mosley (DPhil Physics) all bring their warming voices to those who attend the Hertford Chapel. In similar fashion, Danny George (DPhil Anthropology) and Mark Williams (DPhil History) have been known to jam together at the Graduate Centre. These sessions have produced quite the set of admirers.

Socially, the MCR pulled inwards in Hilary Term with events such as Burns nights and a Masked Guest Dinner as the major high points of the term. Caroline Guest, a PGCE student, took over as the Social Secretary and, with the help of the MCR, has worked hard to keep the MCR a warm, welcoming place.

Work continues to occupy most of the minds of the people inside of the Common Room. People always see the respite that will be offered by vacation, and work hard to clear their academic plates to allow them to travel with a clear mind. Even so, Examination Schools has been sending out the timetables and members of the MCR are already starting to revise. Perhaps tucked away in labs and libraries, MCR members find their greatest sources of warmth: their academic work and the college life.

Stephen Forrest
MCR President 2006-2007

Sports News

It was a mixed term for the College with regard to sporting success.

The premier event of Michaelmas is always the Christ Church Regatta in 7th Week celebrating those rowing for their first time. The first day of racing saw defeats for two out of the six teams entered, but the Women's Novice Cs and Men's Novice Bs were both victorious on Thursday ensuring all Hertford teams tasted at least one victory. However, the river conditions were variable throughout the term, limiting water time for the teams, and our luck was out as Friday

and Saturday's racing was washed out. Despite this, the crews all worked hard and it led the way for many rowers to keep rowing into Hilary, eager to race again.

Back on land, the College football teams were in action, not hindered as greatly by the appalling conditions. The Men's First XI were looking to bounce straight back up into the First Division after last year's relegation, and an influx of new players saw an unbeaten league record at Christmas. The team lay in second place, hot on the heels of Balliol, and will expect to gain promotion, if this form continues. Unfortunately, a run in Cuppers was not so promising, the team beaten by Premiership table-toppers New College.

The Men's Second XI were, however, struggling to field a side each week, and so it was with great disappointment that the side was disbanded in order to allow the regulars to turn out for the Thirds, whose progress from last year is marked. Without a win in 05/06, the side are reformed and despite being slightly

inconsistent are also in the running for promotion. The combined efforts of the Second/Third teams resulted in a decent cup run, only ended by Queens in the 95th minute of the match with a very unfortunate goal line scramble.

The women's team have also been a revelation, unbeaten in the league and with an exceptional goal difference. The barrage of freshers joining the team added to the solid base of second and third years to create a team that could go very far if their dominance of every team they encounter continues.

On the hockey field there has been an expansion in the teams. The women's side are merged with Univ and have produced some exciting results, whilst the men's team are co joined with St Peter's. There is also a mixed team which participates socially. Hockey has been restricted somewhat by the availability of pitches, but the recent addition of permanent hockey goals to the Hertford Sports ground is with the aim of enabling all the teams to be able to play every week.

The Rugby team has suffered somewhat from the loss of its finalists, and took a heavy beating in the Old Boys' game, and in all the rest of the matches played this term. However, the young team are enthusiastic and the beatings have become less severe and there is hope of salvaging the season with a decent second term and a performance in the Cuppers Plate competition.

There has also been the advent of a mixed lacrosse team, which has proved both popular and successful. Only defeated by the reigning champions who boasted the Blues captain, the team are surging up the league, an impressive start for their first season.

This term, College sport has flourished, with sides successful and in promising positions for the coming term. Participation is continually increasing and the social side is also proving ever popular.

Gareth Lond
JCR Sports Officer 2006

Fellows' News

Mr Roger Van Noorden, who retired last year, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the College.

Dr Fionn Dunne has been elected to a Professorship in Engineering Science.

Dr Alison Woollard, Tutor in Biology, gave birth to her second daughter, Emily, on 1 February 2007.

We are sad to report the death of Richard Malpas, Emeritus Fellow, on 4 March 2007. Condolences go to his wife Margaret (Lecturer in Linguistics at Hertford). Richard was Gilbert Ryle Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at Hertford from

1959 - 1996.

Dr Toby Barnard, Tutor in Modern History, has been awarded a research fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust, and is currently on sabbatical.

Professor Robin Devenish will take over from Fionn Dunne as the new Dean in Michaelmas term.

Dr Emma Smith, Tutor in English, will succeed Dr Alan Day as Senior Tutor, after he retires at the end of Trinity term 2007.

Below: Dr Paul Coones (left) after his election as University Assessor.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** **IN 2007**

Eights Week Lunch Saturday 26th May
The College Boat House

Summer Reunion Lunch Sunday 10th June
(For matriculation year 1999)

Hertford Society Lunch Sunday 24th June

Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch Saturday 15th September
(please note that this has changed from the previously advertised date of 20th May)

College Gaudy Friday 28th September
(For matriculation years 1976-1979)

Organ Appeal Dinner Saturday 20th October

The Oxford Society Organises its First Alumni Weekend **14th - 16th September 2007**

'Meeting Minds' is the first University-wide Alumni Weekend to be based in Oxford. It will provide an opportunity for alumni to return and actively participate in three days of events in and around the University. The Oxford Alumni Weekend programme contains both college and University events, giving you the opportunity to become involved in discussions and debates with some of the University's top academics and prominent alumni. The programme will showcase Oxford's exceptional research, and emphasise the depth and diversity of our academic achievements. There will be lectures and panel discussions on everything from human rights to the future of broadcasting and the architecture of the Examination Schools (which I'm sure you remember with sweet affection), but also concerts, sporting events, tours of parts of the University and its colleges that you may not have seen as a student, and much more.

Lady Nancy Kenny
Secretary of the Oxford Society

The University of Oxford has launched a website about the Alumni Weekend <http://www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk>. It includes information about the programme of events, bookings and accommodation. Old Members are welcome to stay in College for this event. Please let us know as soon as possible as accommodation is limited. **Please note that Hertford is not participating in the awards ceremony this year.**



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the difference**

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Mrs Yvonne Rainey, Director of Development

Paul Crutchley (College Caretaker at 57-59 Banbury Road) was awarded the Best Garden in Bloom last summer. See below the wonderful garden at the north Oxford houses transformed by Paul. Well done!

