



THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 11 | SPRING 2020

OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH

Univ's transformational expansion

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

HEY MR PRODUCER

British television comedy legend
Jon Plowman OBE (1971, English)

ICEBREAKER

An expedition to revolutionise Arctic Science

SERVING THE CROCODILE

Ritual practices and their economy in
an Ancient Egyptian Temple

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 11 of *The Martlet*, the magazine for all members and friends of University College Oxford. I would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue. In particular, my colleague Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, College Archivist, for compiling the *In Memoriam* section, Ariane Laurent-Smith for copy-editing the lion's share of the articles, and Ariane and Justin Bowyer for their proofreading panache.

This issue contains a section dedicated to University College, North Oxford or "Univ North" – the largest expansion of the College in over three centuries. If you would like to know more about the project, please do not hesitate to contact my colleagues Gordon Cox or Martha Cass via development@univ.ox.ac.uk.

I hope that you will enjoy everything that this issue has to offer. If you have any comments or news, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk.

Kind regards,
Sara Dewsbery
 Communications Officer

N.B. Most of the content for this issue was compiled before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Front cover: Rendered view of Water Court, looking south towards the Covered Seating Area (detail)
 Niall McLoughlin Architects Ltd

Printed on Edixion Offset: ECF Pulp, FSC Certified and EU Eco Label. Green Star Rating - 4.

University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH

facebook.com/universitycollegeoxford

twitter.com/univoxford

instagram.com/univcollegeoxford

Registered charity no. 1141259

©University College, Oxford, 2020

Produced by B&M Design & Advertising
bm-group.co.uk

The opinions expressed in The Martlet are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of University College. All content correct at the time of going to print.

If you would like to share your view, please email: communications@univ.ox.ac.uk or write to us at the above address.

A large print version of this magazine is available on request.

Contents

College

From the Master	05	What's Online	10
Sir Ivor Crewe on solidarity, resourcefulness and resilience		Student travel diaries, Instagram influence and a digital portrait of the artist	
Fellows' News	06	Event news	12
College appointments		Salons, suppers and seminars	
Icebreaker	08	Development news	13
Sam Cornish (2012, Earth Sciences) aboard a drifting Arctic laboratory		The Robin J C Mallinson Bursary	

Features



Serving the Crocodile 14
 Ritual practices and their economy in an Ancient Egyptian Temple

Chaletites reunited 32
 Dr Jack Matthews (2011, Geology)

Return to Vatnajökull 35
 Oliver Vince (2012, Engineering)



Hey Mr Producer 18
 An interview with British television comedy legend Jon Plowman, OBE (1971, English)

“
My career is a classic example of the idea that you never manage to shake off the people you meet at university.”

Jon Plowman, OBE (1971, English)

“

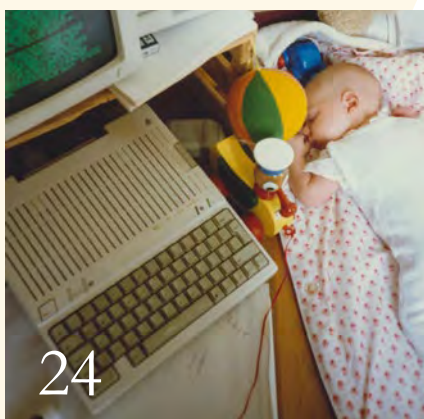
I had an amazing experience at Univ. I think it's the cornerstone of my life.”

Caroline Marriage (1991, English)

Features Special - Univ North



Univ Goes North 22
The early story of Stavertonia



Memories of Stavs 24
Stories from former residents



A New Univ Community in North Oxford 30



Grand Designs 26
Níall McLaughlin, Architect



A Sense of Place 28
Kim Wilkie, Landscape Architect

“

Breathing life into a community is about much more than providing buildings, facilities or services. It is about creating a sense of belonging; knowing that you are surrounded by a collective purpose that nurtures us and reaches beyond us into the future”

Angela Unsworth, MBE, Domestic Bursar and Fellow

Endnotes

2019 Women's Formal 38
Photographs by Michael-Akolade Ayodeji (2018, PPE)

Tools of my trade 40
Bruce Taylor, Head Gardener

Leading Questions 42
Caroline Marriage (1991, English)

Music at Univ 43

Sports and Societies 44

Announcements 46

In memoriam 50

A walk around the orchard 54
Dr Barrie Juniper

A Recipe for Medlar Jelly 55



From the Master

Solidarity, resourcefulness and resilience at Univ in a time of crisis



I had intended to write about “Univ North”, the College’s ambitious plans for the expansion of our site at Stavs into a second community for 250 students, and the main feature of this *Martlet*. But it was in the never to be forgotten week of the national shutdown in the face of the Coronavirus, when within a few days we sent almost all of our students, Fellows and staff home. I am writing this in self-isolation with Jill in the Lodgings, privileged compared with so many others to be incarcerated in such a lovely house with the Master’s Garden as my exercise yard.

The College has almost closed. Only a small number of students who are unable to go home have stayed on, and a skeleton staff comes in for maintenance and security.

The vitality of Univ is its close-knit community of students and teachers, and loyal staff, studying and learning, eating and talking, rowing and singing all together. Having to stay away for all of Trinity Term is a huge disappointment for our students, especially for the Finalists and Masters students in their last year. The University has guaranteed the award of classified degrees, based on online examinations, but this will not feel the same as taking Finals in the Examination Schools, which, for all its frisson of stress, is a shared and bonding experience, the culmination of years of close friendship.

“

The College will emerge even stronger from the crisis. In that mid-March week when the Univ community had to separate from each other, it came together in the spirit of solidarity, resourcefulness and determination that Old Members would expect. We shall weather the storm and go on to build Univ North.”

To outward appearance, we are a ghost college this term. But Univ continues as a serious scholarly enterprise, albeit in a new dimension for a time. Digital communications are enabling tutorials and supervision to continue throughout the term, and although all libraries have closed, online access to digitised journals and books is sufficient for most purposes. Governing Body and College committees meet remotely but on schedule. The Choir Master has arranged virtual choir rehearsals every Wednesday with sheet music and recordings sent out online in advance so that all can listen and learn at the same time.

Inevitably, Univ’s finances will be hit by the loss of conference and rental

income. But our defensive financial strategy has paid off: the ample liquid reserves earmarked for a once in a lifetime emergency will not only sustain the College for the duration – including payments on the bond – but help to support students who find themselves in financial hardship as a result of the crisis. We are financially resilient.

The College will emerge even stronger from the crisis. In that mid-March week when the Univ community had to separate from each other, it came together in the spirit of solidarity, resourcefulness and determination that Old Members would expect. We shall weather the storm and go on to build Univ North. *Floreat Collegio Magnae Aulae Universitatis!*

Sir Ivor Crewe

“

The vitality of Univ is its close-knit community of students and teachers, and loyal staff.”

Fellows' news

New appointments



Tutorial Fellows

Dr James Bryson has been elected as Univ's new Sollas Fellow in Geology. Dr Bryson is currently Associate Professor of Mineralogy at Oxford. He was previously a Junior Research Fellow at St John's College, Cambridge. He also spent 18 months as a postdoctoral researcher at MIT working on the paleomagnetism of meteorites. He achieved his PhD from Selwyn College, Cambridge. His research focuses on the magnetism of extra-terrestrial material and is concerned with the early evolution of planetary bodies and the solar system.



Dr Marina Filip has been elected as Tutorial Fellow in Condensed Matter Physics and appointed as Associate Professor in the Physics Department. Dr Filip was previously a postdoctoral researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California Berkeley, and at Oxford University. She completed her DPhil in Materials Science at St Cross College, Oxford and her Bachelor of Engineering in Physics at the University of Bucharest. Her research focuses on the computational materials modeling and design of novel functional materials for optoelectronic and energy applications.



Stipendiary Lecturers

Professor Guido Ascari has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics. Professor Ascari is currently Professor of Economics at Oxford. He was previously a Research Fellow of the Bank of Finland and Professor of Economics at the University of Pavia. He holds a PhD from Warwick University and a Research Doctorate from the University of Pavia. His main research interests are monetary economics, DSGE models of business cycle fluctuations, monetary and fiscal policy interaction, inflation dynamics, and expectations driven fluctuations. [See website](#) 



Dr Laura Wright has been appointed as a Stipendiary Lecturer in English Literature. She previously taught at Brasenose College. While completing her DPhil in early modern drama she worked as an associate lecturer at Oxford Brookes University and a Stipendiary Lecturer at St Hilda's College. Her research concentrates on sound effects in early modern drama; hearing and the body; sensory studies; theatre history and performance; Shakespeare; Jonson; and the voice.



Visiting Fellows

Professor Patrick O'Sullivan joins Univ as a Visiting Fellow in Ancient Greek Intellectual and Cultural History. He is Associate Professor at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, where he has won awards for his teaching on subjects ranging from Greek myth, art and philosophy to Latin and Greek at all levels. His research chiefly focuses on the Archaic and Classical Greece, and he has published on Greek epic and lyric poetry, tragedy and satyr play, the First Sophistic, ancient aesthetics, and the role of Greek and Roman art in antiquity and beyond.

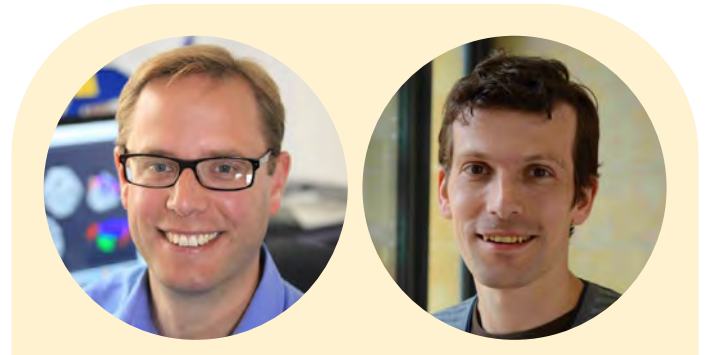


Dr KongFatt Wong-Lin joins us as a Visiting Fellow in Computational Neuroscience. He is currently Senior Lecturer at the School of Computing, Engineering and Intelligent Systems at Ulster University. Previously, he was a post-doctoral research associate at Princeton University, affiliated to The Program in Applied and Computational Mathematics, and Princeton Neuroscience Institute. His research interests focus on computational modelling and mathematical analysis of systems and cognitive neuroscience, brain disorders and neural computation.



Non-Stipendiary Lecturers

Mr Tomi Francis joins Univ as a Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy. Tomi is a DPhil candidate in philosophy at St John's College, Oxford. His current research interests are in normative ethics, especially population ethics, and decision theory. Before starting his DPhil, he read mathematics and philosophy at the University of Warwick, and then completed the BPhil in philosophy at Oxford with a thesis on population ethics.



Recognition of Distinction

Professor Justin Benesch, Tutorial Fellow in Physical Chemistry, and **Professor Jacob Rowbottom**, Stowell Tutorial Fellow in Law, were awarded the title of Professor in the University's Recognition of Distinction exercise for 2019.

You can read more Fellows' news in the *University College Record*.

Icebreaker

A polar climate expedition aboard a drifting laboratory



“The prize is big: to deliver a dataset that could help revolutionise Arctic science.”

The German icebreaker Polarstern is currently frozen into pack ice north of 85N in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. The ship’s lights were visible from space during the long darkness of polar night. Now, with the return of the sun, the icy landscape beyond these pools of light is again visible. On the starboard side of the ship is a 3km wide ice floe on which small cities, populated by scientific instruments, are connected by skidoo tracks and electrical cables to the ship. Scientists in red snowsuits attend to their instruments and deploy remote controlled vehicles under the ice. Polar bear guards keep a constant watch.

This ice floe is the central observatory of the MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) expedition. It will be home for the Polarstern for a whole year, during which time ship and ice floe will drift across the North Pole towards Fram Strait, between Greenland and Svalbard, following the Transpolar Drift.

A 40km wide network of smaller observing sites surrounds the central observatory. This network was deployed by a team onboard the Russian icebreaker Akademik Fedorov. I was lucky enough to be part of that team, one of 20 postgraduates selected to join the MOSAiC School. It was a privilege to work on the ice and make a personal connection to an

environment that I usually engage with remotely through computer simulations and satellite data.

Compared to the rest of the world, the Arctic is experiencing the most dramatic change, but is also the most dramatically under-observed.

Why, and how, is the Arctic warming twice as fast as the rest of the world? And what are the implications of Arctic changes for the midlatitudes? To answer these questions, we need a better understanding of the interrelationships between atmosphere, ice, ocean, biology and biogeochemistry in the Arctic. MOSAiC, the biggest expedition of its kind, aims to plug this gap, with scientists and



instrumentation from across the disciplines working together over a whole annual cycle.

One night on the Fedorov we were kept up by the sound of ice squeezing against the hull. Sea ice is dynamic; instruments can be buried where ice floes converge, cables can be snapped as floes shear or leads (cracks) open. The central floe, chosen for its thickness and stability, has already sheared, separating one part 500m from the other. The MOSAiC team will have to dig in and be resourceful in harsh conditions. But the prize is big: to deliver a dataset that could help revolutionise Arctic science.

Sam Cornish (2012, Earth Sciences) is a DPhil student studying the physical oceanography of the Arctic Ocean. He joined the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) as part of the MOSAiC School, supported by IASC, APECS, MOSAiC, AWI and ARICE.



You can follow the progress of the expedition via the MOSAiC webapp: follow.mosaic-expedition.org. Sam is posting photos and mini-podcasts for his MOSAiC School outreach project online: follow [@sbcornish](https://twitter.com/sbcornish) and [@sambcornish](https://www.instagram.com/sambcornish) for updates.

What's online

Student travel diaries, Instagram influence and a digital portrait of the artist

Univ in numbers

🌐 575,500

The number of pages viewed on the Univ website during 2019

2,500+

The number of times the Univ Christmas film was viewed online
– watch it again – See website [🔗](#)



Univ's digital elves have been busy as usual; in 2019 we published over 260 features and news items on the College website. Totalling a little over 130,000 words, that equates (or so the internet tells us) to the combined length of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*.

Hemingway, fortunately for this segue, once said "Travel with no regrets"* and our online Travel Reports, often poignant, breath-taking and inspirational by turn, have been amongst our most read features.

College offers a wide range of annual travel grants, including those made possible through the Old Members' Trust, The David and Lois Sykes Scholarships for travel to China, and the Roger Short Memorial Fund, which finances a travel scholarship programme to Turkey and its neighbouring countries.

Last year we published more than 40 of these reports. They ranged from Alan Yang's *A Religious Tour of Britain* – supported by the Brewster Scholarship – to Raymond Ho and Tiger Shen's historical

and cultural *US East Coast Roadtrip*, the truly epic Roger Short Memorial Fund Travel report by Piers Armitage and Isobel Jobling, *Retracing Erliya Celebi's Travels in The Black Sea*. Each and every one is well worth a read. [See website](#) [🔗](#)

You can find out more about the full range of travel grants available to Univ students - [See website](#) [🔗](#)

Over on Univ's social media channels we have now substantially passed the 8,000 followers mark on Instagram, making us the fastest growing account of any Oxford college. We continue to share a coruscating mix of imagery from life at Univ; scenes from our Election Night Special, architectural details, images from the grounds and gardens reflecting the changing seasons, sporting and social events. Since the start of Michaelmas Term we've also had the pleasure of sharing photos of the work of Melissa Pierce Murray, Univ's Visitor in the Creative Arts. Take a look at the wonderful playfulness of her

"Hopscotch Tango" installation or discover the mischievous *tomtes* that began to appear around College just before Christmas.

Facebook and Twitter continue to grow too; keep an eye on either for the latest news from College along with regular posts about our history, events, Chapel, sporting and choir activities. We'll be adding a number of regular new posts throughout the year too – all helping to paint a rich portrait of life at Oxford's oldest college.

Justin Bonnyer, Digital Communications Manager

*Source: The Internet (so it may have been Herodotus, Anaïs Nin or John Wayne who actually said it...)

Follow Digital Univ:

[🐦 @UnivOxford](#)
[📘 universitycollegeoxford](#)
[📷 @univcollegeoxford](#)
[📺 bit.ly/univ0250](#)
[🌐 univ.ox.ac.uk](#)



My view of Univ

"I came to Oxford last year, leaving an established career in New York, and found a welcoming new home, an ideal environment for research and intellectual stimulation. Through the big wooden door to the Main Quad, I enter the College each day to find fascinating new conversations with historians, classicists, geologists, political scientists, medical scientists, mathematicians, philosophers, artists and even Egyptologists. What a life! I take on Oxford like a fine wool coat, enveloping me, suiting me perfectly."

Professor Joel David Hamkins, Sir Peter Strawson Fellow in Philosophy at Univ and Professor of Logic at Oxford

Event news

Salons, suppers and seminars

Univ in numbers


 7,100+

Twitter Followers

 23,600+

Facebook page likes

Master's Farewell in San Francisco

Old Members joined the Master for a reception on 22 November at the home of Kevin Hartz (1992, History) and Julia Hartz in San Francisco. [See website](#) 
 “Sir Ivor was in fine form, as always. The new plans for Staverton are exciting and we look forward to seeing it in person.” Ruth Shannon (1985, Computation and Statistics)




Brexit over breakfast

Old Members and friends of Univ joined Sir Ivor Crewe and Ambassador Thomas A Shannon, Jr (1980, Politics), Senior International Advisor at Arnold & Porter, for a Brexit discussion on 20 November in Washington, DC.



London Dinner

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond (1974, PPE) was special guest speaker at the 16th Annual Univ Society London Dinner on 6 February at the House of Lords. [See website](#) 

Annual Seminar – Feminism: Where are we now?

The 15th Univ Annual Seminar took place on 28 November at The Royal Society, London. The Seminar focused on gender equality: opportunities, challenges and cultural change.

East Asia Reunions

Old Members joined Sir Ivor Crewe, Master of Univ, for a reception hosted by Chris Buttery (1968, History) in Hong Kong on 11 December. The College also hosted its first official reunions in Bangkok, Thailand on 4 December and Taipei, Taiwan on 7 December.


Election night

The Univ Election Night Special took place on Thursday, 12 December. Commentary was provided by Univ lecturers Dr Jack Matthews and Luigi Marini. The Master provided expert commentary from Hong Kong.

Univ in the Arts Salon

Old Members enjoyed an evening at the Groucho Club in London on 23 January, with speakers Chris Birkett (1979, PPE), Daniel Gilbert (2004, History) and Fred Spring (2006, Philosophy and Russian).

Chalet des Anglais Dinner

A dinner to celebrate Univ's long association with the Chalet des Anglais took place in College on 1 February. Dr Stephen Golding, Emeritus Fellow, gave a pre-dinner talk. [See website](#) 

Univ in the City

Old Members attended a drinks reception and talk at Skinners' Hall in London on 18 February, kindly hosted by Tim Sanderson (1976, Modern History), Chairman and CIO at Sanderson Asset Management.

Forthcoming Events

In light of the COVID-19 situation the following events have been postponed, cancelled or modified:

Saturday 18 April

2020 Alumni Weekend in North America

Saturday 25 April

Reception and Dinner in honour of the late Dr Roy Park

Tuesday 28 April

USPGA Spring Meeting

Saturday 2 May

Brian Loughman Memorial Service

Saturday 23 May

William of Durham Luncheon – join us online, details to follow

Saturday 30 May

Summer Eights Reception – cancelled

We are sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment that this will cause.

Updates on events due to take place after May 2020 will be issued at regular intervals via email or visit

[See website](#) 

Development news

The Robin J C Mallinson Bursary

£1.1 million+

The amount raised for the Annual Fund this year

This year, three Univ students will benefit from the Robin J C Mallinson bursary, funded by the Mallinson Family. The gift supports students who are high-performing athletes, and have earned – or have the potential to earn – a Blue or Half Blue in their chosen sport during their time at Univ. The College is enormously grateful to the Mallinsons for this generous donation.

We are pleased to announce that the recipients of the award this year are Harry Fitzpatrick (2016, Chemistry), Rebecca te Water Naudé (2015, Medicine) and Prasad Umavannan (2017, Engineering).



Harry Fitzpatrick was Captain and President of the Oxford University Golf Club in 2017-18. He says:



“In the coming season, I will undertake further training, in order to reach a handicap of zero by the end of next summer. This would allow me to qualify for the British Amateur Championship, one of the most prestigious events in golf. In order to reach this level, I hope to compete in more nationwide events whilst also representing Oxford.”

He intends to use the bursary for travel and accommodation, gym and club memberships, and equipment.

Rebecca te Water Naudé is a fifth year medic who has been described as “an inspired athlete.” She has achieved two and a half blues during her time at Univ so far, in both rowing and cycling, and finds high level sport to be the perfect counterbalance to her studies. She says:



“When I started, I didn’t really know where it would take me, as I wasn’t really sporty or driven. But I got hooked and wanted to see how far I could go.”

She intends to use the funding for cycling equipment and travel costs.

Prasad Umavannan hopes to make the first team in Korfbal, the Dutch cousin of Basketball and Netball. He won two second team colours last year and was social secretary for the team. He plans to use the bursary for travel and accommodation expenses, so that he can attend tournaments around the UK and in the Netherlands. He says:



“Playing sport as a leisure activity and competitively has helped me cope with the large workload at university.

The bursary has allowed me to continue enjoying not only sport but also studying my degree.”

He has also taken up boxing, and hopes to represent the University this year. The bursary will cover club membership and equipment.

SERVING THE CROCODILE

Ritual practices and their economy in an Ancient Egyptian temple



Due to the population explosion, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find solitude in Egypt, especially near famous ancient monuments where tourists throng. But they still exist, the places away from the hustle and bustle. One of them is Dimê, and an international team, comprised of various sub-projects, is investigating life in that town. The Univ alumnus Martin Stadler (1997, *Oriental Studies*), Professor of Egyptology at the University of Würzburg, deciphers papyri from Dimê, while a Franco-German research project has just started working on temple bookkeeping. These projects allow us to better understand the ritual and economic dimensions of the cult. Dr Maren Schentuleit has worked on the Dimê project, and in Michaelmas 2019 joined Univ as the new Lady Wallis Budge Fellow in Egyptology.



Fig. 1 The ruins of the Temple of Soknopaios at Dimê with the excavation tent of the *Missione Archeologica dell'Università del Salento Lecce* (Photo: M. Stadler)

Dimê is an ancient settlement in the desert north of the Fayum lake. A large temple once dominated this place, which the Greeks called Soknopaiou Nesos – the “Island of Soknopaios”. Soknopaios, itself the Graecised form of the Egyptian Sobek neb Pai, was “Sobek, the Lord of Pai” – a local form of the crocodile-headed god. From the temple of this Sobek impressive ruins are still preserved, which serve as the remains of a building probably erected between 100 BCE and about 50 CE (Fig. 1). The sanctuary is famous in Egyptology for its incredibly rich papyrus finds. These papyri are a treasure trove because they provide us with a wealth of information not only on everyday life but also on religion and cult at Dimê.

The architectural dominance of the temple of Soknopaios at Dimê corresponds to the institution’s ritual-religious and economic influence on the region. As in every Egyptian temple, rituals included the daily offerings and another daily ritual during which a priest dressed the cult image in fresh clothes. The texts that celebrants recited whilst performing the Daily Ritual have been preserved from the Soknopaios Temple in several demotic manuscripts from the 1st and 2nd centuries CE (Fig. 3). Demotic, used from the middle of the 7th century BCE, is considered to be “the most evil of all evil Egyptian scripts”, as the Egyptologist Hermann Grapow once put it. The fact that these texts were written in a peculiar way, namely “unetymologically”, compounded with the often poor state of preservation of the scrolls, only multiplies the difficulty in deciphering them. On the one hand, a scribe who wrote “unetymologically” wanted to encode additional levels of meaning by awakening additional associations in the reader through graphic realization, on the other hand he wanted to capture the ritually effective sound of the text.

However, these unetymological writings pose enormous

“These papyri are a treasure trove because they provide us with a wealth of information not only on everyday life but also on religion and cult at Dimê.”

challenges because the decipherer cannot be sure whether the words must be taken literally or understood as syllables forming another word. Only parallels in other Egyptian texts and ritual scenes on the walls of other Egyptian temples can help to overcome those difficulties. The effort is worth it: the Dimê version of the Daily Ritual is of general interest beyond the small circle of Demotic specialists because it is the last testimony of these ceremonies. It sheds light on questions of how the Ancient Egyptians themselves edited, composed, and transmitted the ritual corpus across centuries. The manuscripts also contain texts of the Daily Ritual that have not been preserved anywhere else in all of Egypt.

However, what the Daily Ritual from Dimê is silent about are statements about the god for whom it was celebrated. Soknopaios’ iconography plays no role, nor do his specific qualities and responsibilities or his connection to Isis. As for his physical strength, aggressiveness, and sexual potency – not a single word about them. This should be of no surprise,

however, because the text is at least 1,400 years older than the preserved papyri themselves and was also used in other temples, meaning that it had to be general enough to fit there too. In addition, Sobek has a distinctly universal nature. He is a form of the sun god, who came out of the primordial water and created the world. His iconography indicates this, as can be seen on a stela excavated in Dimê (Fig. 2), which shows Soknopaios with three heads – man, falcon, and crocodile.

The religious and economic spheres are closely linked, not only because it was already the case in Ancient Egypt that “money makes the world go round”, but also because they touch each other materially, as in Papyrus Berlin P. 8043: on the front there are lists of temple accounts, on the back, another scribe wrote down the Daily Ritual. Today this is the longest surviving witness of that composition. The distribution on the papyrus is itself also remarkable: the mundane account book was written on the smooth front, the prestigious, sacred religious text, however, was later written on the back.



Fig. 2 The representation of Soknopaios on a stela dating to the Roman Period, excavated in Dimê in 2010 (ST10/731/3533; © M. Capasso, P. Davoli - Missione Archeologica dell’Università del Salento Lecce)

“These unetymological writings pose enormous challenges because the decipherer cannot be sure whether the words must be taken literally or understood as syllables forming another word.”

Egyptian temples were, therefore, not only places where religion crystallized, but also economic centres, and Dimê offers a unique rich material basis for the study of the temple economy in the Hellenistic and Roman periods of Egypt’s history.

The Soknopaios temple played an important role in the local and regional economic system as a proprietor of businesses, branch shrines, and professional licenses, not to mention as an intermediary institution between craftsmen and tradesmen on the one hand, and the state administration on the other. The documents also provide an insight into the real cult activity by recording the resources needed for its maintenance. This is in addition to the payment of the temple staff in money and food for their normal temple service, and their bonuses on special occasions!

The largest group on the sanctuary’s payroll in terms of numbers were members of the cult staff, especially the *wab*-priests who were organized into five teams (*phylai*). Each phyle consisted of about 30 men who served in the temple alternately for one lunar month each and were responsible for a large part of the cult and cult organizational tasks. In addition to monetary payments, these priests received beer, wine and oil, and on special feast days they were also given wheat.

The cult could only be carried out because the sanctuary had a variety of technical personnel. These included the breeders who took care of the rearing of the living crocodiles, the so-called holy animals, which were closely associated with the god Soknopaios.



Very often sword-bearers are mentioned in the lists, who acted as bodyguards of official functionaries such as for the royal scribe. He, of course, was not stationed in Dimê, but passed by there during inspection tours, and we know that his bodyguard received, among other things, bread and olives from the temple as food and travel provisions.

More regular issue, myrrh resin and kyphi are also listed. Similar to incense, myrrh was a component of fragrance balm used by a priest to anoint the cult statue during the Daily Ritual. However, lumps of resin could also be burned and used for incense in front of the statues of gods. Myrrh was also a main ingredient in kyphi, another incense mixture that provided a good scent and was necessary for ritual purity.

Although the lists do not reveal anything about the recipient of the incenses, Greek financial reports explain that kyphi and other aromata benefited the statue of Soknopaios as well as other deities and cost the temple almost 600 drachmas a year. By way of comparison, a six-person household’s cost of food, clothing and housing is estimated at about 1,100 drachmas per year!

The temple district of Soknopaios was once a busy place: every day the rituals took place before the statues of the gods within the hidden holy of holies and with the participation of only a few initiates. On the not uncommon feast days, these cult images were carried out from the interior of the temple in the presence of crowds of believers, while a large staff of employees was busy every day maintaining the administrative and economic basis for the cult and its sanctuary. Apt, then, is to say that the priests were on “cult business” in two respects!

Dr Maren Schentuleit has been researching Greek and Demotic sources from Dimê for almost two decades. She joined Univ in Michaelmas Term 2019 as a Supernumerary Fellow in Egyptology and the new Lady Wallis Budge Fellow. She is also Associate Professor for Egyptology and Coptic Studies at the University of Oxford.

Professor Martin Stadler (1997, Oriental Studies) is Professor of Egyptology at the University of Würzburg. He is the excavation philologist of the Missione archeologica dell’Università del Salento Lecce in the Fayum, and is working on the edition of the Daily Ritual of Dimê.

“The mundane account book was written on the smooth front, the prestigious, sacred religious text, however, was later written on the back.”



Hey Mr Producer

An interview with British television comedy legend Jon Plowman OBE (1971, English)

Jon Plowman OBE is a television and film producer. He has been a producer at the BBC since 1980, when he produced Russell Harty's chat show *Harty*. He moved on to executive producing at the BBC in 1986, working on sketch show *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, and became Head of Comedy Entertainment in 1994. He produced the first four series of the BBC comedy show *Absolutely Fabulous* between 1992 and 2001, plus the big screen version in 2016. He brought into prominence household names such as Ricky Gervais, Stephen Merchant, Matt Lucas, David Walliams, French and Saunders, Fry and Laurie, and many more, winning along the way four BAFTAs, three Royal Television Society (RTS) awards and several international accolades including a Golden Globe for *The Office*.

Matilda Warner (2016, English) interviewed him for *The Martlet* in October 2019.

Was your time with the Univ Players an influence on your producing career?

I directed a show for Cuppers that narrowly missed out to Mel Smith. I think he cheated by doing a 35-people production of *Marat/Sade*. Me doing a play with three people about blindness didn't stand a chance. I think the judges at the Playhouse were the *Observer* critic and Anthony Hopkins, though I may have misremembered that. At the end of our time at Univ, I remember standing in the lodge with two of my friends (including Andrew Motion, who went on to become Poet Laureate), also English students, wondering what we were going to do now.

In that group, we were going to go into writing, theatre and television, but at the time it didn't matter that much. I feel sorry for your generation for whom it's harder, with more pressure. I was lucky to be part of a company that went to Edinburgh every year, and because there was a slot on offer I wrote a play, about J M Barrie. When in doubt, write yourself something. This was before there were books or programmes made about him, and I luckily got a very nice review in *The Sunday Times* which helped me get a job at the Royal Court. I remember at the time thinking something will happen, and, curiously, it did.

What was the transition from theatre to TV like?

A few years after leaving Univ and while working at the Royal Court [under film director Lindsay Anderson], I rather thought I was going to be a theatre director, but it turned out that nobody else thought that! I was still going back to Oxford a few years after leaving Univ, and was asked to help direct two productions for the Oxford and Cambridge Shakespeare Company, which was started by Jonathan Miller. We toured in America, and began to include members from other universities, including the late Rik Mayall. I then worked for the

“The late and sadly missed Dr Roy Park was my tutor while here and a big inspiration. He was such an enthusiast, especially about William Hazlitt. It was as though he was lit up by him, and I think being lit up by anything is important to getting you through.”

Arts Council, as I thought working away from London would be a good change. I got into TV because I saw an advert by Granada Television for theatre directors who might want to train as television directors. I was told I was too young to be a TV director, but ended up working as a researcher and in the newsroom. There was a day where those in charge realised I was not going to be the next Trevor McDonald. I once tried quite hard for a report in Liverpool to get a good shot with both cathedrals in the background, which turned out not to be the done thing. I eventually moved to entertainment, and the rest is history. The first programme I did was about a clairaudient called Doris Stokes. She would tell great numbers of people things like “it’s ok, he likes the new wallpaper”, “your great auntie loves you”, and so on. In the end, “If God was going to come back, he wouldn’t do it on a chat show” was printed in a newspaper, meaning the programme got banned by the IBA. A little while later, a man called Richard Curtis, with whom I’d worked because of Oxford, asked me to produce his next programme, giving me a foot into the world of comedy. So my career is a classic example of the idea that you never manage to shake off the people you meet at university.

You’ve produced such successes as *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, *French & Saunders* and *The Vicar of Dibley*, been BBC Head of Comedy, and more recently produced *WIA* and *Inside No. 9*. How do you think our national comedy scene has changed?

Comedy always has to be new, and has to keep changing. I was lucky to coincide at the beginning of my comedy career with a group known as the alternative comedy circuit. That wave produced

a lot of programmes. After that, there was a shift towards stand-up. Each new era of comedians react to the last. More recently, I think comedy has gone out of fashion. Senses of humour aren’t the same worldwide, and what makes a British audience laugh may not be for everyone. If you’re trying to make things that sell round the world, it’s more likely to be drama and not comedy, and that’s a shame. The appeal of comedy needs to be wider if it is to succeed at all. Comedy is also very risky. But, sometimes the risks pay off: when Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant came into my office [with a proposal for a programme about another office], they were very confident. The audience, though, were unsure about whether *The Office* was a docu-soap at first, and curiously it did much better in its second series for the fact that people had realised it was supposed to be a comedy. So, you have to do a bit more work on the audience with comedy.

What was your experience writing your recent book *How to Produce Comedy Bronze*?

My main thought was “Good Lord, I didn’t think I could remember all this.” It’s amazed me how memories have come back to me in the way they have. I must thank Univ for teaching me something about telling good writing from bad writing. Really, I only wrote it so people didn’t have to listen to me talk so much.

What project have you enjoyed working on the most during your career?

Am I allowed two? The first was *Absolutely Fabulous*. We had a lot of fun doing it, and it was a big hit, so it led to other projects. The other is *Beautiful People*, which was written by Jonathan Harvey (who also wrote *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*), and was based on

the memoirs of the same name, by Simon Doonan [now Barneys Creative Director]. It stars Olivia Colman and Layton Williams. It had music and dancing, felt very lively, and it’s my favourite. We did two series of it and I’m proud of it.

Do you have any tips for budding television makers?

Just keep doing it. The passion is the thing people notice. If you can appear to exude confidence in the idea, there’s a reasonable chance somebody will get on board and help you with it. Luck helps, but to a certain extent, you make your own luck, and so make the most of what you’re best at.

What does Univ mean to you? Did anyone particularly inspire you during your degree?

I was interviewed for a place at Univ at a time when there were a lot of power cuts because of electricity workers strikes. When I was interviewed in the late afternoon it was getting dark and all the candles were with the dons at the other end of the table from me. They couldn’t really see me and I think that must have helped. I had a great time; it was all new to me. I met hundreds of people, and I like the extraordinary idea that you arrive and within a week you’re supposed to write essays on Gerard Manley Hopkins, whose poetry you’ve never read before, and get to grips with something apparently called “sprung rhythm”. I learned a lot, I did quite a few plays, and I met my partner, [theatre and opera director and TV producer] Francis Matthews (1972, English). The late and sadly missed Dr Roy Park was my tutor while here and a big inspiration. He was such an enthusiast, especially about William Hazlitt. It was as though he was lit up by him, and I think being lit up by anything is important to getting you through.

Finally, could you please describe Univ in just three words?

First Left (On) High.

How to Produce Comedy Bronze is available in Hardback, Kindle and Audiobook (narrated by Hugh Dennis).

Series 6 of *Inside No. 9* has been commissioned.



UNIV'S NEW VIRTUAL REALITY APP

ENJOY A NARRATED 360
DEGREE TOUR OF THE
COLLEGE

To celebrate the College's most ambitious project for over 300 years, we would like to give you the opportunity to experience Univ today, as well as our future plans, through our brand new VR app. Tour Univ and walk down memory lane as we bring you the College from the comfort of your living room.

Explore the historic quads, and visit College landmarks on this narrated 360 degree tour:

Then take a look ahead at our vision for a second Univ community in North Oxford, with exclusive architectural plans, viewed alongside our current Staverton Road site.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store via the Univ Website [🔗](#)

We have a limited number of Univ VR Goggles which we can send on request. Please email development@univ.ox.ac.uk for further details.



An architectural rendering of a modern brick building, University College North Oxford. The building features a prominent brick chimney on the left and a large, multi-story structure with a gabled roof and large windows. In the foreground, a group of people is sitting on a picnic blanket on a grassy lawn. The scene is framed by large, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue and yellow. A white rectangular box in the center contains the text.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NORTH OXFORD

Univ's new collegiate community

Univ Goes North: The Early Story of Stavertonia

This issue of *The Martlet* in part celebrates “Univ North”, our great project to develop our property in North Oxford. But how did we acquire that property in North Oxford in the first place?

After the completion of the Goodhart Building in 1962, Univ’s central site could accommodate two years’ worth of undergraduates, but our finalists and postgraduates had to live in digs, and there was no accommodation for married students. Early in 1965, therefore, a Committee was formed to discuss what to do.

Two options presented themselves, based around Univ’s existing housing stock. First of all, there was the so-called “Banbury Road Triangle”. This covered 14–36 Woodstock Road, the Old Parsonage Hotel, and 7-19 Banbury Road. This proposal had the advantage that it was near the College; that we owned a great contiguous piece of land; and we had a whole lot of existing properties which could be adapted.

The alternative proposal lay northwards. Back in 1953, we bought 104 Woodstock Road for £8,500, to be converted into flats to be leased out commercially (we bought several Oxford houses around now for this purpose). Two early tenants of such a flat were our former Master, William Beveridge and his wife – but they were not easy tenants: recently-discovered papers show them regularly complaining to the Bursar about noisy tenants, or undone repairs.

Then, in October 1958, we spent £6,950 on purchasing 25 Staverton Road, next door to 104 Woodstock Road. Once again, though, we just leased it out commercially.

That might have been that, but in the mid-1960s the College, and in particular our then Estates Bursar, the late Maurice Shock, seems to have looked at our North Oxford properties in a new light. They were further away from Univ than the Banbury Road Triangle, but the College might buy adjoining properties, and new buildings could be erected in the large North Oxford gardens. Furthermore,

converting the Banbury Road houses to student use might prove difficult.

In February 1966, Shock wrote a memorandum about College accommodation, and recommended the Staverton Road site for our new annexe. He had just had a stroke of luck, in that in November 1965 the College had agreed to buy 102 Woodstock Road for £18,500 (the purchase was completed in May 1966).

Shock went one better in the summer of 1966, when he bought 100a Woodstock Road for £35,000. This was an expensive purchase, to be sure, but Shock now had a nicely expanded but contiguous site in north Oxford.

In early 1967 the Fellows agreed to erect their new annexe in Staverton Road, and the architect (and Univ Old Member) Sir Philip Dowson was appointed to the project. Meanwhile, later that year, the College sold 7–19 Banbury Road and 14–36 Woodstock Road to the University, in part exchange for 12 Merton Street and a cash payment of £84,365.

We show here what appear to be Dowson’s first thoughts for Stavertonia from May 1968. Even if the precise footprint of the buildings changed, their basic disposition is recognisable, with four new buildings, later to become Greenwood, Bennet, Skirlaw and Percy. 100a and 104 Woodstock Road and 25 Staverton Road are also visible, but 102 Woodstock Road is not. In a planning application from July 1968, the College portrayed 102 Woodstock Road as riddled with dry rot, and only capable of longer life if large sums of money were spent on it. Thus, 102 Woodstock Road was demolished. And in case readers were wondering, 100a Woodstock Road will be familiar to them as Redcliffe-Maud House.

During all this planning time, our four properties were not empty: they had all been split into flats, mainly for student use, and I’d like to hear from Old Members who lived in any of these houses in the late 1960s, especially 102 Woodstock Road.

This project was a daring one. Today we are used to Colleges having separate “annexes” in other parts of Oxford. But in the later 1960s this was very novel. Balliol had begun to develop the area around Holywell Manor, and in 1971 Queen’s completed the Florey Building, just off St. Clements, but these were pretty much the only comparable developments. Stavertonia was a pioneering project.

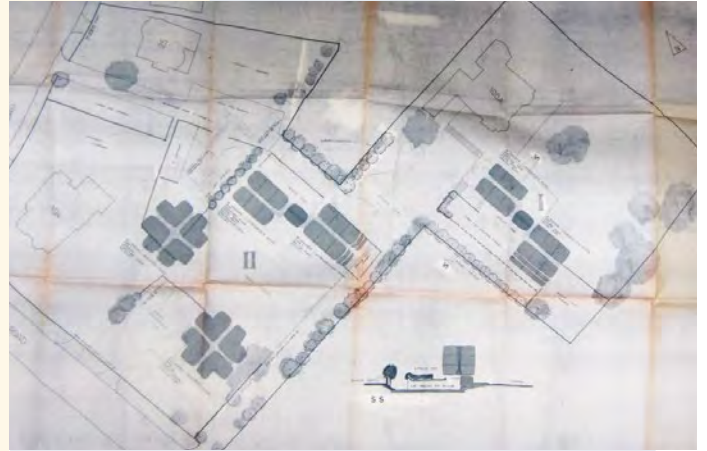
Significantly, though, our ambitions for North Oxford were not quite complete. In 1968 we purchased the freehold of 119 Banbury Road and land at the rear of 117 Banbury Road for £52,500 - all just to the east of Stavertonia. However, rather curiously, we sold it almost at once, subject only to our keeping an alleyway linking the Stavertonia site with the Banbury Road. Instead, we sold the property to developers and it is now the apartment block known as Thackley End.

So much for our plans. Turning them into reality was not without controversy. Local residents expressed unhappiness about the threat of noisy students, ugly new buildings, and the demolition of 102 Woodstock Road. Eventually the planning application went right up to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, where an enquiry was held in 1968. Fortunately, the enquiry recommended approval of the project.

Not everything was settled: the height of the new buildings proved controversial, and in March 1970 our original designs for Bennet and Greenwood were rejected. Nevertheless in November 1970, work at last began.

The difficult story of the erection of Stavertonia, when a set of buildings which it had been estimated would cost £400,000 in fact cost £1,000,000, is for another day. But for now, I hope that this short piece has offered some explanation for how we ended up with our annexe in North Oxford – now so greatly expanded.

*Dr Robin Darnall-Smith (1982, Classics),
College Archivist*



“This project was a daring one. Today we are used to colleges having separate ‘annexes’ in other parts of Oxford. But in the later 1960s this was very novel.”

Images (clockwise from top left): early version of the Stavertonia plan by Sir Philip Dowson, CBE; PPRA (1943, Maths), May, 1968; 25 Staverton Road, November 1976; sundial in the rose garden; The Grant of Great University Hall to Univ, 1332; photographs of Stavs in the 1970s kindly supplied by David Vaughan (1974, Physics), Redcliffe-Mand House

MEMORIES OF “STAVS”



“

These photos were taken in the garden of 25 Staverton Rd in 1973. The eight of us who were living there had a summer garden party and invited Lady Redcliffe-Maud. She came dressed perfectly. When I complimented her, she said her hat would look even better on me and put it firmly on my head (photo 1). She then insisted on a formal pose (photo 2). Like everyone who knew her, I admired Lady Maud greatly and became very fond of her informal sense of mischief on this and other occasions.

”

Professor Julian Disney AO (1970, Law) has been Director of the Centre for International and Public Law at the Australian National University and the Social Justice Project at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. He was awarded an Order of Australia for service to development of economic and social policy and to the law.

“

Three postgrad students shared the comfort, peace and tranquillity of the attic flat in the old House. I lived in the large front room with a bay window looking out on to leafy and quiet Woodstock Road.

After long days pursuing my clinical studies at the John Radcliffe Hospital, I could relax and concentrate on typing my DPhil thesis long into the night, though I usually met my housemate late at night for a therapeutic brandy and Café Crème cigarillo.

Happy memories.

”

Dr Rick Worth, FRCS FRCOG (1966, BA, DPhil, BM Medicine), is a retired Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. His final position before retirement in 2008 was Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Ashted Hospital, Surrey.

“

If things had gone according to plan, we wouldn't be talking about Stavertonia at all. Sometime around 1972-73, the College announced a competition for a name. I have no idea who submitted entries, though I do recall that the Dean (Leslie Mitchell) said that he was taken by the suggestion of 'Mitchelldene'. In the end, however, the College announced that there was no winner and that Stavertonia would continue as the name, a decision that, as I recall, was met with general surprise and disappointment.

”

Dr John Dunn (1968, BA & DPhil Modern Languages), is an Honorary Research Fellow (School of Modern Languages & Cultures) at the University of Glasgow, where he was formerly a Lecturer in Russian and Polish.



“

I lived at Stavertonia for a year from 1976 to 1977. I was fortunate in having a ground floor room looking out on to the gardens so there was always a sense of space and of the changing seasons.

One of my strongest memories is of learning, by trial and error, how to produce a three-course meal for six in the very small kitchen area. These meals were often followed by long discussions. I also remember long sessions at my desk grappling with the increasingly complex mathematics required for my Physics course and more relaxing interludes as I practised playing my guitar.

”

David Vaughan (1974, Physics) retired from Shell in 2016. He was on the committee of the Physics Society and a “Nightline” team leader.

“

When my wife and myself moved into the married flats in Staverton Road in early spring 1986, we started to knock at the neighbours’ doors. An impatient ‘Come in’ came in response from behind one door. In front of us stood a huge Sikh gentleman, wrapped in probably half a dozen blankets, equipped with a hot water bottle and a huge cup of hot tea, grumbling furiously about British climate conditions. We soon became friends with him, a journalist who had received a Reuters Scholarship for covering violence against Sikh communities in India.

”

Dr Andreas Poensgen (1983, Politics), a former Rhodes Scholar, is co-owner and managing partner of Turgot Ventures. He spent 20 years at Boston Consulting Group, at the end as Senior Partner and CEO in Switzerland.

“

Staverton Road holds many happy memories of my time as a second year undergrad. Not only did it give me an opportunity to discover the delights of North Oxford, it was a perfect space to socialise and relax away from the buzz of the city centre. Nothing quite compares to idyllic weekend garden parties in the haze of Trinity term.

”

Isobel Rose (2014, Music) is Assistant Director of Music and Chorister Tutor at New College School, Oxford. In 2016 she was a recipient of the Univ Mendl Schrama Music Prize. In 2018 she founded the Korrigan consort, an Oxford-based female vocal consort.

This is a picture taken in a study in one of the married flats in Staverton Road. It shows my eldest son (Alan) who was born in the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in June 1986, who had his place next to one of the earliest portable computers, an Apple IIc. It took a very large bag to transport it (the computer that is).

GRAND DESIGNS



Níall McLaughlin Architects won the architectural competition to design the Univ North site and have been working on the architectural designs for the past two years. In an interview with Níall McLaughlin on-site in October 2019, he describes what it has been like to work on the project and some of the ideas and inspiration behind the plans:

“The brief of the competition was to take a site in the north of Oxford that was part of a kind of Victorian, Neogothic area with very nice gardens and villas, and put new student accommodation into it. The accommodation is mainly student rooms but also includes teaching spaces, a café, a gymnasium, nursery, and other facilities. The site was quite interesting in that there is a residential care home already on the site, so we had to integrate the buildings with the residential care home, and the existing gardens and Victorian buildings.

“We had to give quite a bit of consideration to the outdoor space because there’s a rather beautiful garden suburb and there’s a good deal of mature planting, some cedar trees, walnut trees, and the remnants of something that had been typical of North Oxford, which is an orchard environment that people used to have in the arts and crafts tradition at the back of their houses, these little productive gardens. To some extent, we’re putting a lot of new student accommodation into it, but there’s a desire also for the area to retain its character, which is that sense of domesticity and these lovely, productive back gardens. One of the things we’ve really been enjoying doing is choosing mulberry trees and walnut trees and new

fruit trees to repopulate this garden area.

“It has been an exciting project to work on because you have the opportunity to make a new part of the city and also make a new social world for the students that’s not just their rooms: it’s the places where they meet and interact, the passageways, kitchens and common rooms that open out into garden spaces. Not just that but because we have young children on the site with the nursery and older people with the residential care home there is the possibility of thinking about how these people will interact together and gain from their proximity to each other. It’s about trying to make a social world, which is an extraordinarily enjoyable task for an architect, to think about how people will be living in five or ten years’ time.

“Every college has to have its own protected premises to some extent but one likes to feel that, as much as possible, you’re open to the local community and that the site feels part of a broader neighbourhood and community, rather than being an enclosed enclave. Having the opportunity to engage with local residents and to talk to people about who else would be around the site and using the site has, of course, been a very interesting part of the project.

“As an architect, when I looked at the project first of all I thought, ‘We’ll be putting lots of buildings on this site, but it will be primarily about landscape, it will be primarily about gardens and what the buildings have to do is to make a simple frame for those gardens.’ My favourite parts of the project are probably the orchard and the pavilion, which overlooks a pond. Small things like that which are about the way in which people come out of their rooms and

into the gardens, and feel that they are open to meeting other people. There’s a sense of sociability. And taking advantage of these really mature plantings. The idea of sitting under one of those grand specimen trees that we already have on the site, finding oneself surrounded by nice new buildings and other people that you know, being part of a community, that is what I think is positive about this scheme.”

Níall McLaughlin Architects

make high quality modern buildings with a special emphasis on materials and detail. Níall received the RIBA Charles Jencks Award for Simultaneous Contribution to Theory and Practice in 2016. He was elected an Aosdána Member for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts in Ireland and as a Royal Academician in the Category of Architecture in 2019. Níall exhibited in the Venice Biennale in 2016 and 2018 and has been shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2013, 2015 and 2018. He is Professor of Architectural Practice at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London.



Images (top to bottom): Rendered view of Walnut Lawn, looking north towards the student café (detail), Rendered view of Walnut Lawn, looking west towards Water Court Villa East (detail), Rendered view of the entrance to the nursery, looking north east (detail). All images courtesy of Niall McLaughlin Architects Ltd

A SENSE OF PLACE



As Oxford has stretched northwards, the fields have gradually changed from farmland to market gardens and orchards, and then to verdant suburban gardens. The old field boundaries and market garden walls can still be traced in the patterns between the houses. These memories give the land its character and guide the evolution into Univ North.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the architect Níall McLaughlin and the Univ team to create a series of spaces that will enliven the development, encourage wildlife and fit with the existing gardens and villas. The new buildings have been designed around the spaces that they will create. 70 new trees and hundreds of metres of new native hedges will be planted to refresh the green structure of the place for the next hundred years.

Redcliffe-Maud and Fairfield Houses remain as the historic villas of the site with their old gardens and terraces reinstated

and replanted. The old orchards in the north will be brought back into health with new local apple and pear trees in meadows of spring bulbs and wildflowers. An area of sunny, south-facing allotments will be opened for students, nursery children and residents of the care home to share and enjoy. A shallow reflecting pool, flanked by iris and agapanthus, will form a contemplative centre to the site. Beyond the buildings to either side, there will be open lawns for exercise and for students to come together, chat and stretch out in the sun. The magnificent Cedars of Lebanon at the Banbury Road entrance will be given space to mature and a third cedar will be planted for the next generation. Throughout, big trees of oak, lime, beech and pine will supplement existing groupings and new focal trees such as Zelkova will provide future garden specimens.

The master plan aims to bring out the best in the buildings and trees that have accumulated on the site and shed the accretions and muddles that have cluttered the place. The buildings respect their neighbours, reinterpreting the form and materials in a fresh, elegant way. The gardens follow the scale, simplicity and personality of the North Oxford suburbs, with great trees, relaxed orchards, generous lawns and fruit climbing up walls. All is connected by logical, instinctive pathways with the cars kept safely to the edges. Most of all, the design has created buildings and spaces that will encourage young and old to come together, gently mixing nursery school children with care home residents and students and families.

Kim Wilkie, Landscape Architect

“The gardens follow the scale, simplicity and personality of the north Oxford suburbs, with great trees, relaxed orchards, generous lawns and fruit climbing up walls.”

After 25 years of running his own practice, **Kim Wilkie** now works as a strategic and conceptual landscape consultant. He collaborates with architects and landscape architects around the world and combines designing with the muddy practicalities of running a small farm in Hampshire, where he is now based. Kim studied history at Oxford and landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, before setting up his landscape studio in London in 1989. He continues to teach and lecture in America, writes optimistically about land and place from Hampshire, and participates in various national committees on landscape and environmental policy in the UK.

“A shallow reflecting pool, flanked by iris and agapanthus, will form a contemplative centre to the site.”

Landscape sketch by Kim Wilkie



Proposed tree species:

- A. *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon)
- B. *Malus spp* (local Oxford apples)
- C. *Tilia cordata* (Small-leaved lime)
- D. *Malus bramley* (Bramley Apple)
- E. *Juglans regia* (English Walnut)
- F. *Magnolia soulangeana*
- G. *Pyrus* (Pear)
- H. *Luma apiculata* (Chilean Myrtle)
- I. *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine)
- J. *Fagus s. asplenifolia* (Cut-leaf Beech)
- K. *Morus nigra* (Black Mulberry)
- L. *Zelkova serrata* (Zelkova)
- M. *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech)
- N. *Pyrus* (Pear)
- O. Bitter orange
- P. *Malus hupehensis* (Crab apple)
- Q. *Quercus robur* (Oak)
- R. *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair tree)



A new Univ community in North Oxford

University College, North Oxford, represents the largest expansion of the College in over three centuries. This second Univ community will help to secure the future of the College for decades to come. The unique location of the site brings with it an additional set of advantages, providing a truly multi-generational community, with space for positive interaction with people of all ages and backgrounds. A residential home neighbours the site, while a nursery will offer places for pre-school children. The new development will provide much needed teaching and social space, along with accommodation for around 150 students, academics and visitors. The extra space will allow the College to accommodate the additional undergraduate numbers created by its pioneering Opportunity Programme, which enables academically gifted students from disadvantaged backgrounds to study at Univ. The accommodation will be accessible to all, with specially equipped rooms for disabled people. The development is also an exceptional example of environmentally responsible construction and planning, with a net gain in biodiversity.

We invited members of the College to present their views on the new plans.



Sir Ivor Crewe, Master:

“The most exciting part of Univ North is that the College can plan a real community for the 21st century almost from scratch. It will be much more than a mere residential annexe. It will provide an experience that is uniquely Univ,

but distinctively different from what our students have been used to on the main site.”



The Right Honourable The Lord Butler of Brockwell, KG, GCB, CVO, PC, Master of Univ 1998-2008:

“I am glad to lend my support to this project. The University’s centre of gravity is moving towards North

Oxford and it is right and necessary that Univ should have a strong presence there.”



Baroness Valerie Amos, CH, PC, Univ’s Master Elect:

“This project speaks to three of Univ’s core strengths – continuity,

community and change. It looks forward in a way which builds on Univ’s history whilst seeking to transform its future. I am delighted to support it and hope that you will too.”



Professor Peter Jezzard, Vice Master:

“The University has a responsibility and, indeed, an obligation to try and house as many of its students as it can, and this development is going partway to

meeting that obligation. There is also a desire and need on the part of the University to increase the graduate population, and we would like to be making a contribution to housing more graduate students. It is going to make Univ a more attractive destination for applicants.”



Dr Andrew Grant (1977, Chemistry), Finance Bursar:

“The potential here is to move from a dormitory to a genuine satellite, with all the College amenities there, whilst not detracting from our main High Street site. We won’t seek to duplicate formal hall or the Chapel, but we will try to create a space that allows people to operate in a collegiate way.”



Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar:

“Breathing life into a community is about much more than providing buildings, facilities or services. It is about creating a sense of place, of belonging; knowing that you are surrounded by a collective purpose that nurtures us holistically and reaches beyond us into the future. In North Oxford we are privileged to be doing this with the best minds of successive generations and with the heart and soul of everyone who is a part of this special College.”



Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History),
Senior Tutor:

“We have a wonderful opportunity, not only to bring more of our students out of the public housing market and into our own accommodation, but also to create a peaceful and engaged community in what is a wonderful garden setting. We want to make sure that the site has a permeability to it so that people can move around and feel they are in a shared space, a community, and not just a dormitory.”



Professor Caroline Terquem, Tutorial Fellow in Physics and Dean of Graduates:

“The new development reinforces the idea that

College has to offer something more than just tutorials and teaching people – it needs to bring people together. There is no other place in the world where you can get this type of experience. We have to cherish that and reinforce it and then we will be able to attract the best minds and help give them something special so that they can go forth into the world and make a difference.”



Gareth Capner,

advisor to the College regarding the development:

“This is a great example of the University and its colleges stepping up to the plate and accommodating its students in a very positive way, in an existing developed site. One which will have benefits not only for the University but also the surrounding community.”



Caroline Marriage (1991, English), member of Univ’s North Oxford Working Party:

“As soon as I heard about the nursery I was very much in support of it, because it gives people choice and flexibility. It is very much in the College’s best interest because it allows people to go back to work. It is also not just about the academic community, it is about the entire College community. Nursery spaces will be available for every family that needs them, no matter what job they do or what role they play.”



Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics), Archivist:

“One thing that strikes me about the plans is the sense of context – that the buildings very near old Stavertonia are paying homage to Philip Dowson’s 1970s style but the buildings on the east side are looking more Victorian and paying homage to the buildings there. I am rather struck by that sense of architectural good manners.”



Lucy Walsh (2018, History and Politics), current Staverton resident:

“Not having to deal with private landlords has been a weight off our shoulders. We can focus on our studies safe in the knowledge that we’ll be looked after. I’m really grateful for that.”



Connie Bostock (2018, PPE), current Staverton resident:

“Not having to worry about accommodation not only made my life a lot easier, but it made my parents feel more comfortable with sending me off to university. Knowing that I’d be in College-owned accommodation for the duration of my degree made the transition for both myself and them a lot less stressful.”



Will Prescott (2016, DPhil History), former WCR VP, current Staverton resident, originally from Australia:

“What I find really impressive, particularly as an overseas graduate student, is the idea of having somewhere to live throughout the years of your study. That is something that would set Univ apart from most of the other colleges within Oxford and would make a huge difference to graduate students.”



Tom Fisher (2015, DPhil PPE, MPhil Economics), WCR President:

“Having this new development as a resource for the whole of College is incredibly important.”

Chaletites Reunited





2019 was a special one for the Chalet des Anglais. While students from Univ have been visiting this idyllic mountain retreat for more than half a century, this was the first year that Old Members had returned for their own, proper, Chalet trip. We were fortunate to find enough time in the calendar, alongside our New and Balliol College colleagues, to run two four day trips, while still providing our usual student groups. So emails were sent out by the Development Office, and we were overwhelmed by the show of interest!

There was some trepidation as Old Members began to arrive – the Chalet has always been a melting pot of all those within the College community, from JCR, WCR, SCR and indeed the Master himself, but would putting generations of Chaletites 50 years apart stretch this to the limit? Happily, all was well, and attendees quickly found themselves back in the norms of Chalet life.

Not a great deal has changed in our little outpost, nestled among the larch-covered slopes of the French Alps. Breakfast is simple, though often enriched by the delivery of fresh pastries, lovingly elevated some 900 metres from the nearest bakery by an early-rising Chaletite. It is pleasing

to see our Old Members preserving this tradition as strongly as our first-time students embrace it. The days are dominated by long hikes and reading, and the evenings by communal cooking, dining, and good conversation. The hiking routes remain largely the same, and many Old Members still choose to grab a bracing shower in the icy torrent of the garden's waterfall.

Some change has happened on the hillside, however. Much to the disappointment of some, wine no longer arrives by the barrel, but by the more familiar bottle, and the kitchen has been upgraded with modern ovens, such that a cake can now be baked in well under three hours. The whiff of phone signal now allows for the looking up of a good clafoutis recipe online, and the electric strimmer makes the cutting of the lawn a much easier endeavour.

There is something special about this simple wooden building in the thin, pure, air of the Haute-Savoie – something that is hard to explain to those who haven't experienced it themselves. The Chalet is more than just a structure: much like the important buildings in College like Hall, and perhaps Univ North in the future, it brings us together in ways that stimulate discussion, broaden horizons, and forge new friendships. More than ever, that's reason enough to preserve these institutions, and we very much hope to be welcoming back former Chaletites for years to come.

Dr Jack Matthews (2011, *DPhil Geology*), *Trustee of The Chalet Trust*
 With thanks to fellow trustees Dr Keith Dorrington, *Mary Dunhill Tutorial Fellow in Medicine*, and Dr Stephen Golding, *Emeritus Fellow (Chair of The Chalet Trust)*



Bottom right: photograph by James King (2016, Earth Sciences)

RETURN TO VATTNAJÖKKULL
THE




You would be forgiven for thinking that nothing lives at the polar extremes of our planet. Vast, frozen wastes span for hundreds of miles in every direction, with the white of the snow blending seamlessly into the white of the sky. By and large, you're unlikely to come across any animal life in these parts of the world.

But, invisible to the naked eye, this icy landscape is teeming with microbial life. As our climate continues to change, we are beginning to understand the impact that these microbes have on polar environments. For instance, microalgae can darken the surface of the ice to such an extent that it is visible from space. This increases the temperature of the ice surface and accelerates glacier melting.

In April 2019, a team of Univ alumni, Oliver Vince (2012, Engineering Science), Glen Gowers (2012, Biochemistry), and John-Henry Charles (2012, Earth Sciences), supported in-country by Sam Cornish (current Univ DPhil student) set out to see whether these microbes could be identified and studied in real time as part of an ongoing icecap expedition.


The icecap chosen for this test was the Vatnajökull, Europe's largest. At nearly 8000km², the Vatnajökull is an immense icy plateau spanning between the two highest points in Iceland. Receiving the harshest weather blowing in from the Atlantic Ocean, the icecap is renowned for its high winds and heavy snowfall.

The team spent a month living unsupported and unguided on the icecap. This meant that all of the equipment necessary for the scientific work and for their polar survival had to be pulled behind on sledges for over 200km. Whilst on the northern edge of the icecap, the team were able to become the first to conduct fully off-grid DNA sequencing in a polar environment. Microbes were sequenced using solar power alone, with no guides or vehicles for support.

This required miniaturising an entire laboratory (into an 18 litre volume) and transporting delicate equipment (some of which couldn't freeze!). Interestingly, over 50% of the microbes that were sequenced had never been seen before! These findings were published in November 2019 - [See website](#) 

This work opens the door to investigating the nature and function of microbial communities in ever more remote locations. As it is estimated that over 99.9% of microbial species remain undiscovered (especially in locations far from civilisation), this is a particularly exciting prospect.

The route, chosen to follow the footsteps of the 1932 Cambridge expedition, also yielded some interesting historical findings. Using the descriptions in the 1932 team's diary, the 2019 team were able to find the 1932 basecamp, from which they conducted biological, glaciological and geological surveys. Amongst other discoveries, a handwritten note that had lain buried for 87 years was found.

The team is incredibly grateful to Univ for its role in supporting and publicising our scientific objectives. Permission for all scientific research and drone flights was obtained from the Vatnajökull National Park prior to expedition departure. [See website](#)  to find out more about the expedition and to see details of our upcoming feature film.

Oliver Vince (2012, Engineering)



2



3

Image Key

1. An aerial view of our icecap “laboratory”.
2. The expedition team on the Northern edge of the Vatnajökull icecap. The cairn in the picture was built in 1932 by a Cambridge expedition, and contained artefacts from their visit, including a handwritten note.
3. The darkest that it got on the final night of the expedition.
4. Final sunset of the expedition.
5. Day 1: The team of three heads out onto the Vatnajökull Icecap.
6. Mountaineering in the Kverkfjöll mountain range.
7. All equipment necessary to sequence microbial DNA in the field was packed into an 18L volume. This laboratory was dragged 200km across the icecap by Glen, the Expedition’s Scientific Lead, along with all food and equipment necessary for a month of unsupported polar travel.
8. The final night on the icecap and first clear sky of the expedition – showers well overdue!





2019 Women's Formal

In 2019, Univ celebrated 40 years of achievement by women students, academics and staff, and the history of women in the College from 1249 to the present day. As part of the celebrations, the Women's Formal Hall on 7 November was preceded by a trio of talks on "Women in Pioneering Roles" by Dr Helena McKeown, current Chair of the British Medical Association representative body, Squadron Leader Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar and Fellow, reflecting on her career in the RAF, and Dr Roxana Willis, Junior Research Fellow in Law and co-founder of a Human Rights Law Chambers in Cameroon. Guest speaker at the Women's Formal Hall was Professor Karen O'Brien (1983, English), Professorial Fellow and Head of Oxford's Humanities Division. Michael-Akolade Ayodeji (2018, PPE) documented the event, and a selection of his photographs appear here.





Tools of my trade

Bruce Taylor is Head Gardener at Univ, where he has worked for over 19 years. He is currently overseeing the gardens at the College's Staverton Road annexe, and is part of the team who will realise landscape architect Kim Wilkie's vision for the University College, North Oxford development. Bruce shares some of his "tools of the trade" – and a few hidden gems from the gardens at Staverton – for *The Martlet*.

- 1: Seeds of *Iris foetidissima* (Stinking Iris) – superb winter colour.
- 2: Fruit of *Mespilus germanica* (Medlar), an ancient fruit that makes excellent jellies.
- 3: Folding pruning saw. Suitable for small pruning tasks, ideal for carrying in the pocket.
- 4: Dutch Hoe. Used for weeding, having two blades it can be used in a push and pull action.
- 5: Bulb planter. Easier on the wrist than using a trowel.
- 6: Traditional Dutch Hoe. As it is only single bladed it can only be used in a push action.
- 7: Cultivator. Excellent for preparing a good seed bed in borders.
- 8: Draw Hoe. Used for drawing soil up around plants or creating ridges when planting potatoes etc.
- 9: Fruit of *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry tree), an edible if slightly unpalatable fruit, but an excellent shrub for year-round display.
- 10: Plant labels. All plants should be labelled for information and to allow correct recording.
- 11: Holster containing secateurs and pruning knife. Wouldn't be without this item. Kept on your belt they are always to hand.
- 12: Fruit harvester. Extremely useful for harvesting high fruit, regularly used in the Stavertonia orchard.
- 13: Rooted cutting of *Lonicera fragrantissima* (Winter Honeysuckle).
- 14: Sieves of various sizes, used for obtaining finer compost in the greenhouse when seed sowing.
- 15: *Malus domestica* (Apples) from Stavertonia's orchard.
- 16: Rooted cutting of *Euonymus fortunei* "Silver Queen."
- 17: Rooted cutting of *Euonymus fortunei* "Emerald n Gold."
- 18: Leaf showing autumn colour of *Acer* species.
- 19: Stem of *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly).





Leading questions

Caroline Marriage (1991, English) worked in publishing for several years at both OUP and Hodder Headline. She left publishing in 2001 to raise her children. Caroline lives in Suffolk with her husband, Paul Marriage (1991, History), and their children, Thomas, William and Eleanor. She is a member of the Univ North Working Party and the College Nursery subcommittee.

What brought you to Univ?

I had a wonderful English teacher called Nicholas Jardine. Without his belief in me I wouldn't have had the courage to apply to Oxford. He suggested Univ and arranged for me to meet Professor Helen Cooper. It took away some of the fear and made applying seem like something I should do.

Was there anyone you met at Univ who particularly inspired you?

My fellow English undergrads were simply the brightest, kindest, most supportive group of people. We supported each other, we shared ideas, we even shared essays.

Of the academic staff, Helen Cooper, of course. We were mostly women in my English cohort, taught by a woman – quite unusual at the time. The other tutor I got on with especially well was Mishtooni Bose. Her attention to detail and academic rigour were inspiring.

Were there any memorable occasions?

Being part of Univ's women's hockey team that went on to win Cuppers. I was also a member of a rather spurious women's rowing team. We all just wanted to go to the Boat Club dinner. It was worth it!

What did you learn at Univ that has resonated for you in your life since?

The value of kindness and the importance of keeping an open and inquiring mind.



Are you still in contact with people from Univ?

Err, my husband?! Univ, translated as the people I met there, is a cornerstone of my life. Most of my close friends are from those very special three years. One of the nicest things about growing older is the deepening and strengthening of those bonds. We have been through so much together.

Which aspects of the Univ North development most excite you?

The starting point for the whole project was the urgent need to provide accommodation for students, particularly postgraduates. Otherwise College is in danger of losing the best scholars to universities which can guarantee accommodation.

Univ North presents a unique opportunity to get this right in new and exciting ways. The idea of it being a "multi-generational community", which has

evolved as the project has been developed, is unique. I have always been strongly in favour of providing a nursery to support Univ families. It is about enabling choice; good nursery provision gives people options and that is to the College's benefit.

I also love the landscape plans. The College has engaged a leading architect, Níall McLaughlin, and the internationally renowned landscaper, Kim Wilkie. As if that's not enough to excite me, there is an orchard which has miraculously survived for hundreds of years, completely hidden away, amongst the intensely urban city-centre North Oxford. It is a truly special place. There is even a medlar.

Why should Old Members and Friends of the College support Univ North?

I think a better question would be "why would you not support Univ North?!" It is only the second time in Univ's history that this kind of opportunity has presented itself; in terms of scale, vision, ambition – and legacy. It's up to us to make it happen.

Why did you become a Univ donor?

Two reasons. The first is personal to us in that my husband, PJ, and I experienced a loss and we wanted something positive to come out of it. The second is that Univ has transformed our lives and given us so much that we wanted to give something back.

We have a sense of deep satisfaction that we are making a positive difference to people's lives and we have met some wonderful people.

Describe Univ in three words.

Friends and family.



Photograph: Suki Dhandra
Background: Rendered view of the nursery, looking west towards Woodstock Road (detail) Níall McLaughlin Architects Ltd

Music at Univ

Women composers, carols in the Quad and the Univ Orchestra reborn



Michaelmas 2019 has been a busy term for UCMS, as we continued our efforts to accommodate the wide range of musical interests within the College community. Our Master's Lodgings and Open Mic concerts continue to showcase many different talents, from classical pianists to rappers and poets. This term has also seen a greater inclusion of the WCR and the SCR in Univ's music scene, including a concert by WCR students Sofia Vaz Pinto and Sofia Sousa. Going forward, we hope to increase SCR and WCR involvement in Univ music, so be on the lookout for any future concerts and recitals!

One of our most daring ventures this term was restarting the Univ orchestra, which has previously been inactive for over a decade. In the words of Stuart, our treasurer and orchestra manager: "It has been an interesting and rewarding experience – there's quite a bit more behind the scenes than I expected but the whole experience has been helped by excellent conductors and by members who are keen to play and enjoy it (I hope!)" This term, our orchestra have been rehearsing pieces by Beethoven, Marquez, and Dvorak, all of which were conducted by committee members Harry Stuart, Sarah Chapman, and Conor McGlone. The revival

of Univ orchestra stands as one of our proudest achievements, and we'd like to thank everyone who came to rehearsals and/or contributed to its day-to-day organisation.

Besides activities organised by UCMS, Univ's music scene has also been enlivened by concerts from the Martlet Ensemble. In celebration of 2019 being 40 years of women at Univ, the College chapel choir has performed more repertoire by female composers, from Elizabeth Poston to Anna Thorvaldsdottir. You may have heard some of their pieces performed in past evensongs, or in the Advent and Christmas services.

We closed off the term with a round

of carols in the Quad in 8th week. Despite the cold weather, many gathered around the piano for renditions of *O Come all ye faithful*, *Joy to the World*, and more. Thanks to the efforts of Sarah Chapman (publicity officer) UCMS now has its own stash line. Our collection includes T-shirts, hoodies, leggings and sweatshirts.

With all these ventures, Michaelmas 2019 has been an exciting term for UCMS, and we look forward to offering more in the coming terms.

Cleo Kwan (2018, Music) and Conor McGlone (2018, Music), UCMS Presidents



Sports & societies



UCBC

Michaelmas term has ironically been a remarkably dry term for the Univ rowers, owing to some very wet weather. The Isis was at a red flag for the majority of the term and so most of the training undertaken by the crews was land training. Despite this, some huge progress has been made by both the seniors and the novice crop.



The usual milestone event of Michaelmas is Christ Church Regatta, a chance for the novices to show off and compete in their first taste of college racing. Unfortunately, the regatta was cancelled and so, instead, UCBC took the novices to Dorney Lake for a morning of rowing on the 2012 Olympic course. We left early from Logic Lane with 22 Univites. All was going well and we arrived at Dorney in good time to rig up the boats for our 8am start on the lake but it was deemed too foggy. This persisted until around 10am, when, finally, four crews of our keen novices could get on the water. The sessions were, by all accounts, a bit shaky to begin with. This was certainly to be expected with so little water time under their belts, but by the end of each

session all the boats were moving nicely and, more importantly, the novice rowers got to have some fun on the Olympic lake after all of their hard work on the ergs.

The seniors have also been having a busy term, with many participating in the novice training, while also making huge strides with their own training. This has been in no small part due to the updated facilities, with a weights room now open in the basement of the Master's Lodgings. The Master generously donated some money towards some new and improved strength and conditioning equipment, which has proved invaluable in training. Another new addition to the Boat Club has been the reintroduction of the Sunday morning circuits. These sessions are far from at full capacity, however, so we welcome anyone who is interested to come down and get involved.

This term also marked the return of the 24 hour charity ergathon, aiming to raise money and awareness for Oxfordshire Mind (visit oxfordshiremind.org.uk for more info). The event was held in College from 11am on the 17 November to 11am the following day. During the day, two ergs were placed in Radcliffe Quad with the doors open to the public. The fundraiser was a massive success with more than 50



members of the Boat Club participating. Ultimately, UCBC raised a massive £1,105 from online donations, and more than £200 from public donations off the street! Special thanks to Hannah Farley for spearheading the organisation and College for all their support.

This term did not end up going quite as we thought it would, but some amazing things came out of it. If you are hungry for a daily look at the Boat Club follow us on Instagram @univbc.

Andy Bridger (2016, Chemistry), Men's Captain 2019-2020

Top: One of the men's eights at Dorney
Right: The novice women crew that entered the erg competition and made it through to the quarter finals



Women's Rugby

The team has carried through the momentum of the 2018-19 season by recruiting many novice players to join the women's rugby club.

In 2018-19, which was only the second year of the club, it went from strength to strength. The stand-out event was reaching the semi-finals of coppers, and being the only team formed of members from a single college to enter. Weekly training sessions were well-attended by both freshers and older students alike.

Despite our club being centred around novices, we are fortunate to have a mixture of Blues and Panthers on our team. We would like to extend our congratulations to Clodagh Holmes and Anna Bidgood for playing regularly for the Blues team, and to former captain Sarah Haynes in playing regularly for the Panthers. Clodagh only



began playing rugby in Michaelmas Term 2018, and, since then, has been on tour with the Blues, scored several tries and even won "Player of the Match" for them this term. We look forward to having them as assets on our team for our season this year.

In Michaelmas of 2018, the team made history by competing in the first ever inter-collegiate women's rugby match outside of coppers. We were victorious in the match against Worcester College. We look forward to putting the hard work from training into practice before our coppers season begins in Hilary. After coming so close last year, we have our eyes on the final this year. It would be a fantastic achievement to reach the final, and win coppers this academic year, particularly as our team is such a novice-centred club.

Emilie Olufsen (2018, Mathematics), Women's Rugby Captain

Men's Rugby

Univ RFC has seen progress over the Michaelmas term with the arrival of some talented new freshers, and 31 new rugby balls.

A new expansive style of play has been coupled with some outstanding individual performances. The team has, however, met with some disappointing results that are a poor representation of the standard that the team has been playing at.

Univ RFC's season start was unconventional with the annual friendly away at Christ Church, when a lack of a referee left Univ's own Ethan Hardman to give an innovative take on the game. Unfortunately, Univ lost 7-31, but the highlight was Stonor's 60 metre run to



score under the sticks. The league started with successive defeats to Balliol and St Peter's, 0-19 and 7-17 respectively. The boys cannot be faulted for their efforts, but, ultimately, we were beaten by two sides with more quality than us. Univ RFC's first win came in the form of 36-19 victory against Worcester. With some notable absences, Univ were then beaten 0-40 by a strong Keble side.

That said, we remain on an upward trajectory and going into the last week of Michaelmas, we still have a chance of staying in what is a competitive division. With another competitive season and a Coppers run, Hilary will be a large, and hopefully successful, season for Univ RFC.

Elijah Lee (2018, Russian and Philosophy), Men's Rugby Captain

Hockey

Last year, Univ's hockey team formed an alliance with Balliol College in order to enter more competitions and play a greater number of matches. This led to a fourth place finish in Men's League 1 last Michaelmas and reaching the quarterfinals in both Men's Cuppers (Hilary) and Mixed Cuppers (Trinity). The aim for this year was to further develop the team's success and improve on last year's achievements. This term, the team received a new intake from both colleges and has worked on integrating these players to put forward a strong team. We benefitted from the impressive commitment of our players, which meant we regularly had 16 players, giving us a full team with substitutes. We have participated once again in Men's League 1, in which colleges play matches every week of Michaelmas term, typically putting forward mixed teams. Under the captaincy of Katie Lofthouse (Univ), Charles Pottinger (Univ), and Lauren MacKenzie (Balliol), the team has had a strong start to the year, with hard-fought victories in four out of five games, leaving us top of the league as Michaelmas drew to a close. It is certain that our place in League 1 is safe for next year, but a final battle against New College (currently 2nd in the league) will determine our end of season placement. Next term, we will also be participating in Men's Cuppers, and hope to carry our success forward to this.

Katie Lofthouse (2018, Experimental Psychology), Univ/Balliol Hockey Captain



Results:

Worcester 0 - 3 Univ/Balliol
Univ/Balliol 3 - 4 St Peter's/
Hertford (under review)
Oriell/John's 0 - 3 Univ/Balliol
Teddy Hall 3 - 7 Univ/Balliol
Univ/Balliol 4 - 0 Merton/
Mansfield

Announcements

Thank you to everyone who sent us their news. If you have news you would like to submit for consideration for the next issue of *The Martlet*, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk by Friday 22 May 2020.

1960s

The College was mentioned in a BBC news article about the relationship between **President Bill Clinton** (1968, Politics), Honorary Fellow, and Sir John Major. After Bill Clinton was elected, the prime minister gave him a tie in Univ's colours.

1970s

Professor Philip Prewett, CPhys, FInstP, FIoN, FRSA (Matriculated 1970, 1975 DPhil Engineering Science) was elected a Fellow of The Learned Society of Wales in May 2019. Professor Prewett is Emeritus Professor of Nanotechnology at Birmingham University.

Andrew Robinson (1975, Chemistry), delivered a talk at the History of Science Museum, Oxford on 12 December: "Einstein on the Run: Oxford, Britain and Nazi Germany."

In September 2019, **Mark Daniell** (1977, Law) was granted a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Tbilisi State University in the Republic of Georgia, "In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of the investment climate in Georgia and for his efforts in promoting Georgia worldwide."

Dr Andrew Hobbs's (1979, PPP) first academic book, *A Fleet Street in Every Town: The Provincial Press in England, 1855-1900*, won the 2019 Robert and Vineta Colby Scholarly Book Prize, awarded by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals.

Bill Johnston (1979, Modern Languages) won the 2019 National Translation Award in Poetry awarded by the American Literary Translators Association for his translation of *Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania*.

1980s

Professor George Crowder (1982, Politics), Emeritus Professor at Flinders University, Australia, has been elected to a Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

In autumn 2019 **Peter Harnisch** (1983, History), completed a bicycle tour from Munich, Germany to Tehran, Iran. He cycled more than 5,200 km, reaching Tehran after seven weeks.

The Sunday Times has appointed **Emma Tucker** (1986, PPE) as its first female editor in more than a century. She was previously Deputy Editor of *The Times*.

1990s

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has appointed **Professor Charlotte Deane** (1993, Chemistry) as Deputy Executive Chair. Professor Deane was previously Professor of Structural Bioinformatics and Head of the Department of Statistics.

Maurizio Giuliano (1993, PPE) has been reassigned from his functions as Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Brazil, to the post of Senior Programme Officer at UN Headquarters in New York.

Chris Philp MP (1994, Physics) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary for Home Affairs in February 2020. He was previously elected Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice in September 2019.

Craig Hassall (1995, Jurisprudence) has been appointed as a Recorder of the Crown Court and as a Judge of the First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health Tribunal).

Mohamad Khodr Al-Dah (1998, Engineering), Survey Director at the Dubai Land Department, has been elected a Vice President of the Institution of Structural Engineers.

2000s

Amelia Martyn-Hemphill (2007, English) recently presented and produced *Women of the Future: My Avatar and Me*, a BBC documentary on the rise of avatars.

Leading think tank The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has appointed **Carys Roberts** (2008, PPE) as its new Director.

Dr Daniel Blank (2009, English), Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, recently got married in Philadelphia with a number of Univ alumni in attendance: **Timothy Macholz**, **Christopher Kowol** and **Nicholas Hardy** – who all matriculated with Daniel in 2009 – and **William Mills Todd III** (1966).

2010s

Frederick Waxman (2014, Experimental Psychology) was Musical Director and Producer of *War is my Condition*, a recent production at the Brunel Museum.

Recent graduate **Niclas Böhmer** (2018, Computer Science) was awarded The Hoare Prize for best project in the MSc in Computer Science and best overall performance in the MSc in Computer Science.



Images (clockwise from top left): Mark Daniell, Emma Tucker, Chris Philip MP, Carys Roberts

Books



Hasan Askari (1972, PPE) has published, *The Flowering Desert: Textiles from Sindh*, a lavishly illustrated volume of Pakistani textiles.

Good Girls by **Amanda Brookfield** (1979, English) has reached the final shortlist in the fiction category of this year's People's Book Prize.

Professor George Crowder (1982, Politics) published *The Problem of Value Pluralism: Isaiah Berlin and Beyond*.

Robert C G Gamble's (1976, Maths) new book, *Mrs Gaskell's Personal Pantheon: Illuminating Mrs. Gaskell's Inner Circle*, presents previously undiscovered biographical information.

In *Eighties New York: A Portrait in Black and White*, photographer and author **Michael George** (1962, English) provides a stunning portrayal of New Yorkers against a backdrop of the built environment. Each of the images selected for this book may be found in the Univ Archives, under *Photographs and Papers of Michael George (b. 1943)*. See [website](#)

Maurizio Giuliano (1993, PPE) has written the chapter "O Brasil nas missões de paz depois da MINUSTAH: reflexões" in *13 anos do Brasil na MINUSTAH: lições aprendidas e novas perspectivas*. He also directed the publication of the book *UNIC Rio 70 Anos: a Voz da ONU no Brasil*.

Luke Harding (1987, English) journalist, writer and award-winning correspondent with *The Guardian*, has a new book, *Shadow State: Murder, Mayhem, and Russia's Remaking of the West*.

Bill Johnston's (1979, Modern Languages) translation of *Pan Tadeusz* allows English-language readers to experience the beauty of this seminal Polish text.

Our Bodies, Their Battlefield: What War Means for Women by award-winning war reporter **Christina Lamb OBE** (1983, PPE), is the first major account to address the scale of rape and sexual violence in modern conflict.

Dr Bryony Mathew (1996, Psychology) has published *Qubits and Quiver Trees: Awesome Careers of the Future*.

Dr George E Van Mellaert, PhD, MBA, MLaw (2000, Law) published his fourth novel, *Un Avocat Très Dangereux – A most Dangerous Lawyer*.

His Secret Family is the latest novel by **Ali Mercer** (1991, English), the follow-up to *Lost Daughter*.

Dr Chelsea Mezvinsky (née Clinton, 2001, International Relations) is co-author of *The Book of Gutsy Women: Favourite Stories of Courage and Resilience* with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former US First Lady, Senator and Secretary of State.

Sometimes In Bath is the latest book by **Charles Nevin** (1970, Law), the award-winning journalist, national newspaper columnist, author and humorist.

Einstein on the Run: How Britain Saved the World's Greatest Scientist by **Andrew Robinson** (1975, Chemistry) is the first account of the role Britain played in Einstein's life.

John Sills (1977, PPE) has published *The Decision*, set in 2027 in a post-Brexit, post-UK England.

Dishoom: From Bombay with Love is the first cookbook from the much-loved Indian restaurant Dishoom, of which **Shamil Thakrar** (1990, PPE) is co-founder.

Alison Wright (1986, PPE) is the owner of Fitzbillies bakery. *Fitzbillies: Stories and recipes from a 100-year-old Cambridge bakery* celebrates the bakery's 100th anniversary.



New Year Honours

Keith Morgan (1982, PPE) has been awarded a CBE for "services to Small Business Finance", in his capacity as Chief Executive of the British Business Bank in the Queen's New Year Honours list 2020.



Your Legacy

Why Leave A Legacy To Univ?

Legacies are an enormously important source of funds for the College, one that is increasingly popular among Old Members.

The William Of Durham Club

The William of Durham Club recognises the generosity of those Old Members and friends who have made a future provision for Univ in their will. The Club is named after William of Durham who in 1249 bequeathed a portion of his estate to support scholars in Oxford, resulting in the foundation of University College.

Members Of The William Of Durham Club Receive:

- Special recognition in the annual Roll of Donors and the *College Record*
- An invitation to an annual special recognition day
- A commemorative William of Durham Club pin
- Inheritance Tax benefits

For further information on remembering Univ in your will, please contact: Martha Cass on +44 (0) 1865 276958, email: Martha.Cass@univ.ox.ac.uk or see website 

“Univ is an extraordinary college. The range of characters and interests found there, and the interdisciplinary exchange, creates a wonderful atmosphere. It is this diverse and exciting community that I hope to support by remembering Univ in my will.”

Jessica Lazar (2009, English)

Dr Brian Loughman

Brian Crayford Loughman, Emeritus Fellow, died on 9 October 2019 aged 94.



Brian was Hammerson Fellow in Plant Science from 1970-92 and thereafter an Emeritus Fellow. He was a very successful and popular Dean of Graduates from 1973 to 1988, and also Dean of Degrees from 1999 until 2011. He was Garden Master in 1974 and 1980-1, Senior Treasurer in 1990-1, Admissions Officer for 1990-2, and Dean of Old Members for 1995-8. Dr David Bell, who served as Dean for much of the time when Brian was Dean of Graduates, has kindly written this tribute:

I came to know Brian Loughman some years before either of us had much to do with Univ. Starting in 1965, I began tutoring some of the College's geologists. Brian was doing the same for any botanists. I only drew level with Brian when I too became University Lecturer in Petrology in 1967.

There was an absurd rumour circulating at one time that Brian was not Welsh and actually hailed from Herefordshire. Given his service in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and his passion for rugby, the claim was clearly spurious. He was born near Newport and played rugby for its team and for Cardiff. When his playing days were over, he could always be found on the touchline when the College played and at Twickenham. With a Cambridge doctorate and an Oxford fellowship he reasoned that whichever side won at Twickenham it was his team.

Brian was Dean of Graduates longer than anyone else in recent times and for much of his tenure I was the Dean. His shrewdness always showed through in emergencies. One quirky example: the kestrel. A scout came to me one day

about that Schubert quartet, he would give you the key and the Deutsch number too. If you asked him about Venice, he would recommend a hotel and also the way of discovering the best restaurant if you liked fish.

Brian's last official role in service of the College – for there were many other less formal ways in which he served – was as Dean of Degrees and I followed him in this. I thought it wise to watch him perform so as to see how things were done. Total quiet reigned in the Sheldonian because he spoke so softly as to be virtually inaudible. Some other Deans should have done likewise because their Latin pronunciation was, unlike his, execrable.

He continued to live in the house in Stanton St John that he and Jean had built

“If you asked his opinion of a claret, you would receive wisdom as to choice. If you asked him about that Schubert quartet, he would give you the key and the Deutsch number too.”

Thereby hangs a tale. I think that Brian had something of Odysseus about him. The protocol for election of a Fellow of the College involves the candidate attending a Governing Body meeting and waiting outside the door of the Alington Room until summoned to enter. In our case, when the door opened Brian pushed me in. I was thus the first of us to be elected and, though he was about ten years older than me, I became his senior in the Fellowship list. This meant that whenever the two of us were present for dinner at High Table I had to hear and respond to the Grace and take charge of placing guests. The wily Loughman knew this would happen: I did not.

complaining that on entering the room of Mr X she had been attacked by a ferocious bird. Mr X was one of Brian's first-year pupils who had brought his kestrel to Oxford. There were rules against keeping dogs in the College but none against birds. After consultation with Brian I convinced the scout that the bird had only been trying to escape. I then put the case to the student that his kestrel's natural environment was the Parks and not a fusty old room in Univ. He took the point.

As well as an attractive grin, Brian had a palate, an ear and an eye. If you asked his opinion of a claret, you would receive wisdom as to choice. If you asked him

when they came to Oxford in 1961. At the rear of the house is a long expanse of lawn and a hedge at the far end separating it from fields. In the distance you can see the rise where Brill stands. Brian used to say he must cut back the hedge a little because its branches were beginning to obstruct his view: still the practical plant scientist.

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas.

Dr David Bell, Emeritus Fellow of Geology

Vanni Treves OBE

Vanni Emanuele Marco Treves (St Paul's) died on 10 November 2019 aged 79. He read Law at Univ.



Terry Harris (1958) has kindly written this memoir of Vanni's time at Univ:

“Vanni Treves and I became friends in our first term at Univ, despite our reading different subjects and despite the age difference. We remained friends throughout his life, although we did not see as much of each other in later life, but I did manage to visit him in the London Clinic the month before he died.

Vanni was born in Italy. His father was killed fighting as a partisan against the Germans when Vanni was little more than a baby. After the war his mother came to London and married an Englishman. Vanni did not take his stepfather's surname, Traub, and kept his Italian nationality. During his time at Univ he decided to

House he shared, he found them trashed. He had also fallen out of favour with Doug Millin, the Head Porter, and so he did not get much sympathy from that quarter.

In our third year he joined Tony Rickwood and me in a rented house just off the Cowley Road. I then stayed on in Oxford for a further three years, during which on my visits to London I would often stay with Vanni at his parents' house near Swiss Cottage. When I got married in late 1967 (in Univ Chapel) Vanni was my best man. I was living at the time in Worcestershire, and Vanni came to visit us on a number of occasions. My wife and I enjoyed his company.

I think all of his Univ friends knew he was destined to excel. We expected him to get a First, which I believe he narrowly

the company had crashed, and it was his responsibility to salvage what he could of its finances, and the pension schemes of its policyholders.

Charitable work, and especially fundraising, also became an increasingly significant aspect of Vanni's life. For example, he was Chairman of the Development Committee of the National Portrait Gallery from 1991-9. However, charities connected with young people and education were especially important to him. He took an especial interest in the NSPCC, where he was Chairman of the NSPCC Justice for Children Appeal from 1997-2000 and then of the NSPCC Organised Abuse Appeal from 2004-8. He was made a Fellow of the NSPCC in 2009. He was Vice-President of the

“Vanni was serious minded and had a ready wit and was high spirited; at the same time, he was generous, not only with money but with his time.”

become naturalised, which required him to take an English language test, greatly amusing him and us. That was the first test he passed while at Oxford!

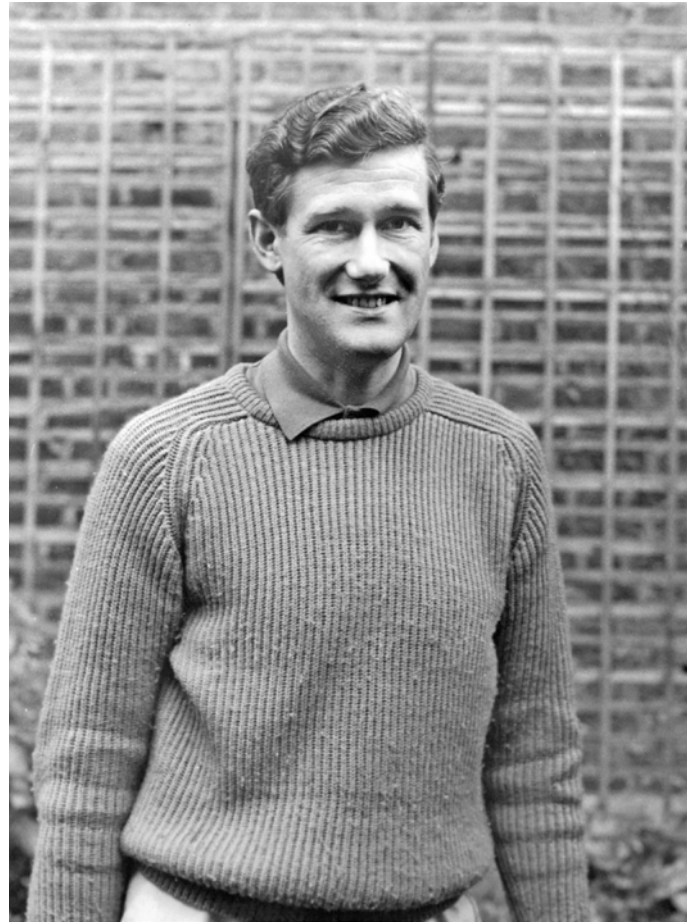
Vanni was serious minded and had a ready wit and was high spirited; at the same time, he was generous, not only with money but with his time. He had strong views on many subjects and did not suffer fools gladly. This made him express himself strongly without fear and he often rubbed older undergraduates up the wrong way, particularly during discussions at dinner in Hall. On one occasion Vanni told some older members in the Library to be quiet. When he returned to the room in Kybald

missed. On going down he joined the City firm of solicitors, Macfarlanes, where he impressed as an early high-flyer and eventually became Senior Partner, which confirmed our belief in his high ability and will to succeed.”

Vanni's later life was indeed varied and successful. He served as a director of several organisations, including the Oceonics Group and Saatchi & Saatchi. He was Chairman of Channel 4 Television from 1998-2004, of the Intertek Group from 2001-11, and of Korn Ferry International from 2004. From 2001-9 he was Chairman of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. He took over just when

London Federation of Clubs for Young People (formerly the London Federation of Boys' Clubs) from 1991. He also served as a Trustee from 1985 for the J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust, from 2010 for the Prisoners Education Trust, and, above all, from 1970 for the 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust. Through Vanni this last trust funded undergraduate bursaries at Univ, and indeed he was a regular friend and benefactor to his old College.

Both Vanni's homelands honoured him in later life: he was appointed a CBE in the 2012 New Year Honours for services to education, and in 2014 he was appointed a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy.



Images (clockwise from top left): Professor John Lauchlan Carter Chipman, David E. A. Morris, Carolyn Briggs, Peter Sissons - photograph by Rory Lewis



1940s

Kenneth Charles Ellison (1941, English) died on 31 August 2019 aged 97.

Harold Garner Reading (1948, Forestry, then Geology) died on 13 October 2019 aged 95.

Roy Selby (1948, Mathematics) died in late 2019 aged 91.

1950s

Professor Alan Harding (1952, History) died on 23 August 2019 aged 87.

Professor Harold Romano “Rom” Harré (1954, Philosophy) died on 17 October 2019 aged 91.

William David Jones (1956, Modern Languages) died on 16 January 2019 aged 85.

David Edward Alban Morris (1956, PPE) died on 16 August 2019 aged 83.

The Very Rev Father Leo Chamberlain OSB (formerly George Ford Chamberlain) (1958, History) died on 23 November 2019 aged 79.

John Roark Lindsay-Smith (1958, Chemistry) died on 3 August 2019 aged 80.

Vanni Emanuele Treves (1958, Law) died on 10 November 2019 aged 79.

1960s

Daniel Arthur Pollack (1960, PPE) died on 25 October 2019 aged 80.

Muhammed Sani Daura (1961, Overseas Services Course) died on 19 October 2014 aged 81.

Peter George Sissons (1961, PPE) died on 1 October 2019 aged 77.

Sean Timothy McCarthy (1963, Physiology) died on 8 August 2016 aged 72.

John Lauchlan Carter Chipman (1965, Philosophy) died on 13 April 2019 aged 78.

Raymond Keith Hinkley (1965, Chemistry) died on 2 October 2019 aged 72.

Maurice Anthony Rimes (1965, Engineering and Economics) died on 24 October 2019 aged 72.

1970s

Carolyn Margaret Briggs (1979, Experimental Psychology) died on 25 September 2018 aged 58.

1980s

Christopher Daniel Suits (1981, Modern Languages) died on 2 August 2019 aged 59.

1990s

Edward James Evans (1994, Biochemistry) died on 19 July 2019 aged 43.

A walk around the orchard

In the hope that we might uncover a rare or endangered variety, we asked Dr Barrie Juniper, Reader Emeritus in Plant Sciences and Fellow Emeritus of St Catherine's College, Oxford, to identify some of the fallen fruits from Univ's ancient orchard on the Staverton Road site. He sent us the following notes:



Blenheim Orange. Another nomenclatural disgrace! Found c. 1740s as a seedling in the grounds of the Palace at Blenheim by the local stone mason one Kempster. At first called Kempster's Seedling. The Kempster family still live in Woodstock. It was a spectacular, highly coloured, fine flavour newcomer. Then shown to the then DUKE. Big mistake. He thought it would be a good idea to rename it Blenheim Orange. Good as a selling point. Probably right. Never looked back. Registered c. early 1800s.

Moral of that story – never tell the boss anything about a really good idea. But I expect it didn't do his Christmas bonus any harm!



Small, green, hard. Almost certainly not a dessert apple, but the “stock” onto which a dessert or cooker had been grafted, but has broken at the graft at some time in the past and the stock apple (not really edible) has grown out.



Small russet brown fruit with long calyx lobes. Not an apple (but also Rosaceae family) *Mespilus germanica* – the medlar, very pretty in flower. Makes a very nice sauce or jelly to add with meat – if you can get somebody else to make it! [See recipe opposite].



Dr Barrie Juniper is co-author of *The Tradescants' Orchard* (Bodleian Library, 2013) and *The Story of the Apple* (Timber Press, 2006). His research has included explorations of plant surfaces, including the specialised ones of insect-eating carnivorous plants, and the interactions between people, their animals and the evolution of crop plants.

Medlar Jelly Challenge

We challenged members of the College to send us their recipes for Medlar Jelly/Jam. Angela Unsworth, Domestic Bursar, Dr Jack Matthews (2011, DPhil Geology) and Jonathan Bowers (1989, Modern History and French) took up the gauntlet. Jonathan Bowers' recipe is published opposite. Our thanks to all three for their interest and efforts!

A Recipe for Medlar Jelly

Jonathan Bowers (1989, Modern History and French)

On a recent visit, I was intrigued to learn of the ancient orchards in the north of the Staverton site which were originally planted outside the City walls. A discussion ensued on how best to make use of the medlar fruit. When we moved house in North London seven years ago, we inherited a decent medlar tree and have been endeavouring to turn the annual crop into jam.

Medlars have been grown since Roman times for their winter fruit (known in French as “cul de chien”). The fruit’s form and fact that it is only ripe when nearly rotten meant it appeared widely in Chaucer, Shakespeare and Middleton, often as a source of innuendo.

The fruit is best picked from the tree while still hard in late autumn. They are ripened by “bletting” which involves laying them out for up to a month on a tray until they are soft and brown inside.

The following is a recipe for making medlar jelly which is a superb accompaniment to cold meats and cheese.

1.4kg medlars
2-3 green apples
1/2 lemon
600g sugar with added pectin


The ripe medlars are rinsed, quartered and brought to the boil with the lemon in a large pot with about 2 litres of water. Simmer for 45 minutes until the fruit turns to pulp – then transfer and leave

the cooked medlars and liquid to strain slowly overnight through a muslin bag and colander/tripod being careful not to squeeze to avoid clouding.

Next day add the sugar to the liquid (approximately 1 litre) and cook until it reaches 104°C ideally using a jam thermometer. The acid and pectin reacts with the sugar which will make jelly when

it cools. This can be tested on a plate in the fridge.

Skim off any surface deposit and pour into sterilised warm jars and seal. The jelly will keep for at least a year and is an attractive deep red/brown in colour. It can also be sweetened slightly with vanilla seeds to taste.



Jonathan Bowers is a former Partner and Founder of CVC Credit Partners (formerly CVC Cordatus). He founded CVC Cordatus in 2006 and joined from the European Leveraged Finance group at Deutsche Bank (Bankers Trust) where he was a senior director originating and structured numerous financings for leveraged buyouts.

An architectural rendering of a modern brick building at dusk. The building features a central entrance with a large glass door, flanked by two tall, narrow brick towers with rectangular openings at the top. The facade is composed of light-colored bricks. A person is walking on a paved path in the foreground, and a small pool of water reflects the building. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is framed by a dark, textured border.

“I am incredibly excited about the Univ North development and am eager to see future generations flourish in this vibrant new environment.”

Saoirse Genoni (2018, English)