

# EXON

THE EXETER COLLEGE MAGAZINE ISSUE 19 AUTUMN 2016  
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**John Kufuor** calls for commitment to climate change and sustainable development

**Frances Cairncross** explores an uncertain future in the aftermath of Brexit

**Joseph Nye** gauges the future of global power 70 years after the 'American century' began

**Nick Hurd** applauds Britain's contributions to the world's poorest countries



## CHANGING WORLD

Controversial leaders, political disillusionment, broken alliances and climate change; the global village in flux

# Editorial



When I considered possible themes for this year's *Exon*, in the spring, Britain was fixated with a single question: leave or remain?

How tired we would be, I thought, by the time *Exon* goes to press, of looking inward and debating what Brexit might mean for Britain. How old and wearisome that question would seem, two months after the country had voted to keep the status quo, as was generally predicted. Let *Exon* offer something different. Let it be outward looking. Let it be on the theme of global affairs.

And so it is. John Kufuor, the former president of Ghana, writes about the UN's recent climate change and sustainable development resolutions; political scientist Professor Joseph Nye discusses American foreign policy; and Nick Hurd, Minister for Climate Change and Industry and formerly Minister for International Development, welcomes Britain's 'soft power' and its sense of global responsibility. There is news of Dr Stephen Leonard's mission to Svalbard, where Exeter's Fellow in Anthropology will follow in the ski tracks of a 1923 expedition and analyse evidence of global warming. We have an update on the legacy of Cecil the lion, whose untimely death at the hands of hunters sparked international outcry and an avalanche of support for conservation work in Africa. We congratulate alumnus Pedro Pablo Kuczynski on his election as president of Peru, and look at the challenges he faces during his term of office. And we hear from alumna Grace Jackson about the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone and steps to reduce the impact of future outbreaks.

But the people of Britain have spoken. The answer is leave. And the question, more pertinent than ever, is what does that mean for Britain, Europe, and the world? Theresa May, our new PM, says Brexit *means* Brexit. I'm grateful to Dame Frances Cairncross, respected economist and Exeter's Rector Emerita, for stepping in to explore the question a little further.

Matthew Baldwin, Communications Officer

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Produced by Matter&Co

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# Rector leads strategic review

As Cohen Quad nears completion, Rector Sir **Rick Trainor** is preparing for Exeter's future.



In any role the second year is much more predictable than the first. This contrast is especially true when the position is the headship of an Oxford college where there is an annual cycle of events. So Marguerite and I have been better prepared for the events of academic year 2015-16 than we were (despite all the help we received with the transition) for their counterparts during our first academic year at Exeter. But this is not to say that this year has been without innovations or surprises. Also, there is much still to learn about the College and its far-flung but helpfully cohesive community. Likewise, recalling *Exon's* theme this year of global affairs, there is the need constantly to take account of events beyond the College, both in the UK and abroad – of which more later.

My process of learning about the College has been accelerated this year by two major reviews which I have led – one of College governance, the other of Exeter's strategy for the years ahead. In each case I've been assisted by a number of hard-working colleagues – especially by the Bursar and the Development Director respectively – and by the more general enthusiasm of the Fellows for the subjects in question.

The review of governance, which began before I became Rector, has aimed to streamline our committees and their meetings while retaining the fundamental Oxford principle of basic decisions being made, and the general conduct of the College being monitored, by the Fellowship as a whole. Chaired by the Rector, the Fellows constitute the Governing Body, the board of trustees of the College as a charity operating under a Royal Charter. Approved by Governing Body on 20 June, the new governance regime (which takes effect from the start of academic year 2016-17) clusters most of the reduced number of committees into two groups, led respectively by a Finance and General Purposes Committee and an Education, Research and Welfare Committee. Also, the Governing

Body and its committees will now meet six rather than ten times per year, freeing time not only for teaching and research but also for implementing decisions made through the new governance structure. In addition, there will be greater delegation of authority by Governing Body to its committees and to individual college officers – in both cases still under the scrutiny and ultimate sovereignty of the Governing Body itself. The new structure will be monitored carefully during its first year of operation, with the hope of refining and improving the system for its second academic year of operation, 2017-18.

The same schedule applies to the new post of Welfare Dean, a Fellow who will coordinate part-time the non-academic services that Exeter provides to its undergraduate and postgraduate students. These include the provision of medical and counselling services. There is a rising demand for the latter at Exeter, as throughout Oxford and across universities more generally. The creation of a Welfare Deanship will relieve the burden on the Sub-Rectorship, which at Exeter – in contrast to the large majority of other Oxford colleges – has heretofore combined discipline and welfare responsibilities (plus the duties of serving as deputy to the Rector). Meanwhile, the large number of others in the College who contribute to welfare and discipline services – the Chaplain, the junior deans, peer supporters, tutor advisers and the broad range of fellows, lecturers and administrators – will collaborate with the new Welfare Deanship and the reshaped Sub-Rectorship.

After becoming Rector I persuaded the Governing Body to authorise a strategic review. The College's existing strategic plan, its first, is now eight years old. In the interim



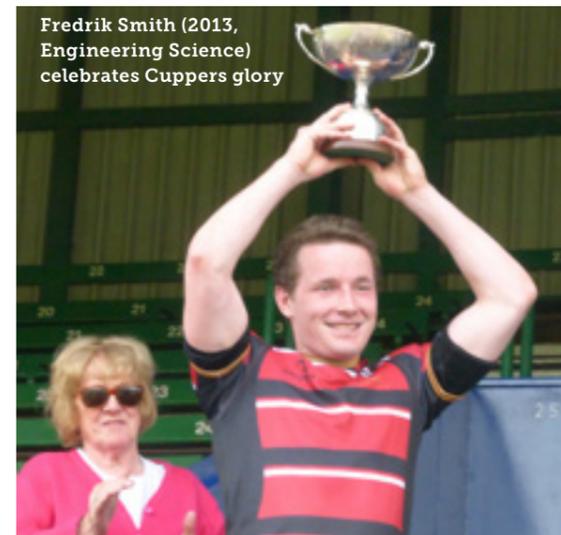
Emeritus Fellow Dr John Maddicott discusses the portraits in Hall at a gaudy in June

much has changed outside and inside the College, not least the Cohen Quad project, the result of one of the previous plan's major recommendations. So a new plan is urgently required, especially because the imminent completion of Cohen Quad opens up so many opportunities for the College which need to be guided by an up-to-date strategic perspective. To this end, a drafting group including academics, administrators and undergraduate and postgraduate students has produced an interim summary which Governing Body approved, with various suggestions, on 20 June. The intention is to produce a final draft for Governing Body's consideration before the end of Hilary Term 2017, to be followed (as with the first such plan) by a draft implementation plan (by the end of academic year 2016-17). The emerging theme is one of aspiration – to work toward an even more excellent and cohesive college community making the most of the opportunities offered by early 21st century higher education. An important sub-theme is identifying the amount and source of the resources required to achieve this vision.

Exonians near and far will play a key role in realising that vision. My learning process in relation to our alumni continued at a rapid pace during the 2015-16 academic year. They were pursued abroad through trips to Switzerland, Singapore (including a meeting with Nobel Prize winner Professor Sydney Brenner [1952, Biochemistry]), Hong Kong, Australia and the USA (Boston, New York and Washington). Audiences in Zurich and Melbourne heard my rapidly changing lecture on the historical roots and future prospects of the drive for Scottish independence. Meanwhile, there were events within the UK in Exeter, York, Edinburgh and – once each term – in London, plus gaudies at Exeter in September and June.

Another form of 'continuing education' for me has concerned the broader University. This year membership of its governing body, the Council, has accelerated my 'studies', especially as it brought an opportunity to observe at first hand, since January, our new (and first ever female) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson. She made a forceful start by strongly advocating freedom of speech within the law at her inauguration ceremony, and she and her immediate circle of advisors have been steadfast though flexible in subsequent University-wide debates about the implementation of the Government's 'Prevent' policy (aimed at 'radicalisation') and the internal review of the employer-justified retirement age. In June I became one of several Pro-Vice-Chancellors – a mainly ceremonial role involving deputising at graduations and in the chairing of professorial appointment panels. During 2016-17 I'll also be chairing the Development Panel (as did my immediate predecessor), which seeks to coordinate college-based and university-based fundraising: this is a major Oxford success story but one that requires constant care by all concerned.

Students are the heart of any college, and Exeter's students have as usual had a vigorous year. Apart from the many academic achievements of undergraduates and postgraduates (celebrated at the College part of graduations in March and in July), our students have played major roles in a series of important enterprises – notably our charity ExVac, the annual Turl Street Arts Festival (with Jesus and Lincoln), our splendid choir and a large number of sporting ventures (notably the stroke in the women's boat which defeated Cambridge on the Thames, the various crews which advanced the Exeter 'rowing renaissance' on the Isis, the football side which won promotion to the top division and the rugby side



Fredrik Smith (2013, Engineering Science) celebrates Cuppers glory

which won the Cuppers Bowl). Our 25 students from Williams College – as ever key participants in Exeter's extracurricular as well as academic activities – featured prominently in most of these endeavours.

Ours is a diverse student body with an increasing interest in diversity itself. Appropriately, students participated enthusiastically not only in the 'well-established Exeter festivals of Diwali, Thanksgiving and Burns Night but also in two new celebrations, Chinese New Year and Passover. Meanwhile, the College's LGBTQ community held its annual dinner and played a part in a June chapel service which commemorated the victims of Orlando and of hate crimes more generally.

Many extracurricular activities – not least rowing – involve both undergraduates and graduates. So too do the annual subject family dinners organised around the four great subdivisions of the academic spectrum: language and literature; social sciences (including history and philosophy); medical and life sciences; and mathematical, physical and engineering sciences. On each occasion a number of 'postdocs', graduate students and undergraduates give presentations on their research. Then, after dinner in Hall, an established academic (this year: Exeter Fellow in Spanish Dr Alice Brooke, strategist Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Exeter alumnus the biomedical scientist Professor Dominic Kwiatkowski and his fellow Exonian the chemist Professor Dominic Tildesley) gives a talk designed to cut across disciplinary boundaries. In 2015-16, as in previous years, these dinners were attended by large numbers of Fellows, lecturers, and graduate and undergraduate students alike.

The current issue of *Exon's* theme of global affairs had many echoes at Exeter during academic year 2015-16. Such issues loomed particularly large at the annual colloquium, in November, organised by Katrina Hancock, this time on the theme of war and peace. Those participating included several Exonians with highly relevant career

experience: Lt Col Charles Messenger (1962, Modern History), General Sir Richard Shirreff (1974, Modern History), Sir Ronald Cohen (1964, PPE), Governor Dick Celeste (1960, History), postgraduate Stephen Beaton (Holiday Scholar and US Air Force Lieutenant, 2015, Inorganic Chemistry). Two current Exeter Fellows also contributed: Jane Hiddleston (Professor of Literatures in French) on post-colonial literature and Andrew Allen (Chaplain and Bishop Radford Fellow) on commemorations, especially of the First World War. The Chaplain also played a major role in the ceremony, held in the Chapel during the same month, which dedicated a memorial stone to those Exonians – neither Fellows nor students – who fell in the Great War but do not appear on the College's prominent brass monument in the antechapel.

In addition to a number of talks to student-led subject societies there was a vigorous programme of Rector's seminars during the past academic year. Four seminars had literary topics (including two on Tolkien) and there were three science-based talks. Business featured in three seminars, including two on social enterprise. Yet, as in this edition of *Exon*, public affairs loomed even larger, with six seminars, of which three dealt with foreign policy. Princeton's Professor David Cannadine provided the annual Leadership Lecture (focusing on Churchill and his lessons for today), and Lord (Stephen) Green (1966, PPE) gave a magisterial review of the importance of Europe, past and present, to the United Kingdom. Moreover, there were two events focused on June's EU referendum: a debate (jointly staged with the Santander Macroeconomics Seminars) on 'Brexit' between visiting economists Jagjit Chadha ('Remain') and Patrick Minford ('Leave'), and a seminar (presented by Exeter Politics Fellow Dr Michael Hart) which focused on the likely political fallout of the result, whichever way it went. Writing in mid-summer, amidst the political and economic tumult in the UK which has followed the 'Brexit' outcome, I believe that we were right to devote so many seminars to leadership, Europe and the referendum!

Governments come and go – as we saw in late June and early July! – but the buildings of Oxford colleges endure. Hence the forthcoming completion of Exeter's Cohen Quad deserves final mention in this review. Progress has been rapid since the 'topping out' ceremony in October, as evidenced by the time-lapse photo sequence available on the College website. Ninety current Exeter undergraduates will live in Cohen Quad from Michaelmas Term, when a number of College Fellows will move their offices there. So the usual scramble to complete a major building project takes on special importance in this case. During the course of the academic year a number of opening events will be held, highlighting the many purposes – teaching, conferences, catering and research, among others – that the new building will serve in addition to providing much-needed sleeping and office space.



Architect render of Cohen Quad

# Cohen Quad nears completion

The stunning addition to Exeter incorporates elements of the past and is nearly ready for its first intake, writes **Hannah Constantine**, Associate at Alison Brooks Architects and Project Architect.



Since Christmas the Cohen Quad at Walton Street has progressed at an extraordinary rate and has hit a number of major milestones. With each one we move closer to completion and welcoming the Quad's first students, Fellows and staff.

One of the most important milestones was making Cohen Quad watertight. The building is now sealed against the weather, with the roof and wall water-proofing completed, and the windows and the curtain walling (large external sheets of glazing) having been installed. All of the internal spaces have now been released for the internal fit-out to commence, from wiring to cherry wood joinery to soft furnishings.

Over the last five months the stonework has been laid from the basement to the top floor. This work included rebuilding the original 1913 south gable wall – a facsimile of the original façade – which was a condition of our planning permission. Seen from Walton Street as you approach from Worcester College, the south gable wall is constructed from new imperial-sized bricks (Ruskin College was, of course, built before the metric system), the colour and finish of which have been carefully selected to match the retained Grade II listed façade. To replicate the colour variance of Edwardian brickwork, some of the new bricks have been dyed. Any stonework that could be salvaged during the early demolition work has been cleaned, repaired, and reinstalled on this wall, further ensuring its consistency with the retained façade.



Clockwise from top left: the Rimex tile roof, the timber glulam arches, the fourth-floor glass dormer, the glass-walled auditorium

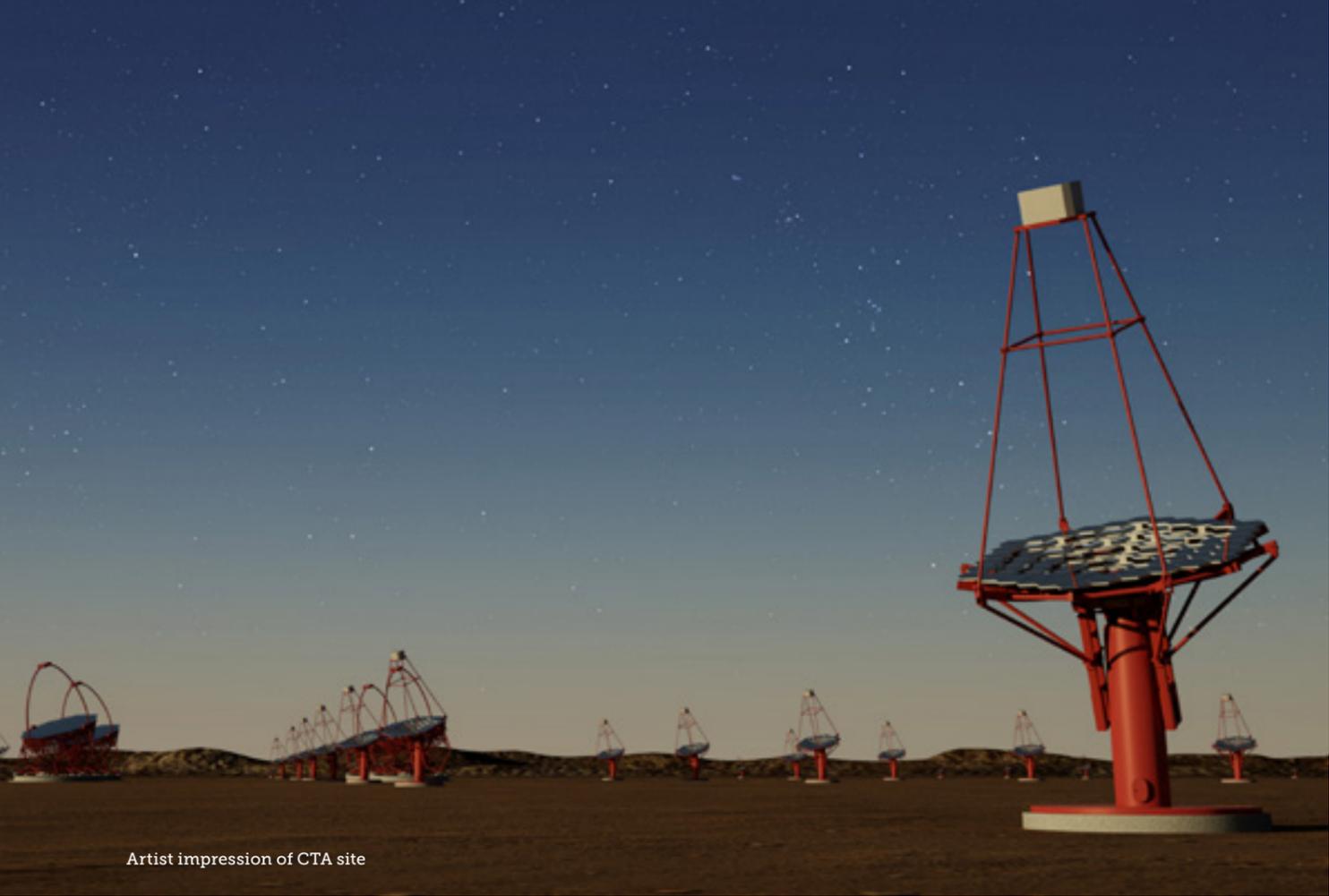
In May, contractors began installing the Rimex stainless steel tiles that form the outer layer of the roof and some of the walls. Already we can see how striking these tiles will look, as the distinctive chequer design is realised. The tiles alternate between a wonderful muted bronze and champagne colour, with an unusual texture that catches, but doesn't reflect, the sunlight. The design is a tribute to the leaded spire of Exeter College's chapel, and the chequerboard pattern found in the brickwork of the local houses in Jericho, the heart of the arts and crafts movement in Oxford that was instigated by William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, and John Ruskin over 100 years ago.

Key among Cohen Quad's qualities will be a sense of space enhanced by the use of natural light. Soaring four-metre-high ceilings, and tall windows to match, allow light to filter through all the Quad's ground floor teaching spaces. The distinctive glass dormer has been installed at fourth-floor level, providing dramatic views over north Oxford towards the Blavatnik School of Government and the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. This was conceived at competition stage as a pinnacle

of light for the new Quad. The auditorium benefits from roof lights and an east-facing glass wall, which now bathe this performance space with daylight. And the extensive floor-to-ceiling glazing of the Learning Commons is now in place, unifying this study and social space over its four levels.

Internally the building is also taking shape, with each room looking increasingly like the architects' renders. The internal partitioning has commenced on all floors and so it is now possible to circulate around the building and walk into the teaching rooms, offices, student rooms, and Fellows' sets. Desks, shelves and wardrobe units are now being installed in the students' rooms and the en-suite shower pods have been in situ for almost a year. The south cloister's timber glulam arches have been lowered into place, enabling the removal of the crane, which signals the end of major construction work.

Naturally by the time you read this further progress will have been made as we work to ensure students can move in at the start of Michaelmas Term 2016. For the latest progress reports visit [exetercohenquad.com](http://exetercohenquad.com).



Artist impression of CTA site

# Milestone in high-energy astrophysics research

Exeter College scientists are helping to develop a telescope that could change our understanding of cosmic rays, black holes, and the ultimate nature of matter, reports **Matthew Baldwin**, Communications Officer.



Scientists developing the world's next-generation high-energy gamma-ray observatory, including Exeter's Fellow in Physics Dr Garret Cotter and Exeter DPhil student Andrea De Franco (2013, Astrophysics), achieved a major milestone recently when a prototype telescope recorded its first observations of light from high-energy cosmic rays

during testing at l'Observatoire de Paris in Meudon, France. The Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) is a global initiative to build the world's largest and most sensitive high-energy gamma-ray observatory. CTA uses technologies from both astronomy and particle physics to detect the intense, but extremely short, bursts of light released when extremely high energy cosmic rays and gamma-rays from space collide

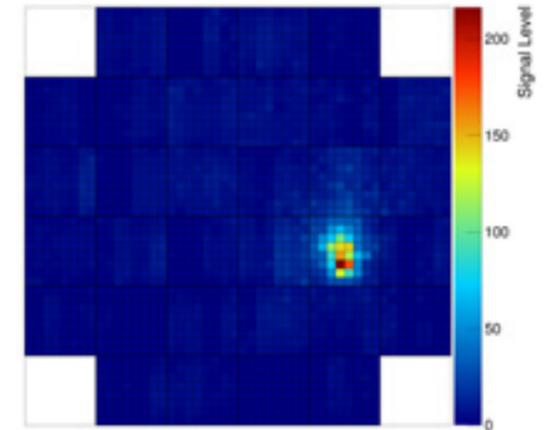
with the top of the Earth's atmosphere. These air-showers consist of what is known as Cherenkov light: bursts of very intense blue light lasting only a few billionths of a second. CTA will serve as an open observatory to a wide astrophysics community and will provide a deep insight into the non-thermal high-energy universe. The aims of the project include improving our understanding of the origin of cosmic



telescope prototypes, the Gamma-ray Cherenkov Telescope (GCT). During a period of two weeks in November 2015 the GCT team battled poor weather to install and begin

rays and their role in the universe; helping us to comprehend the nature and variety of particle acceleration around black holes; and searching for the ultimate nature of matter and physics beyond the Standard Model. CTA includes the creation of at least three types of telescope – small-, medium-, and large-size telescopes – distributed over two observatories. These will enable the CTA observatory to detect high-energy radiation with unprecedented accuracy and approximately 10 times the sensitivity of current instruments, providing novel insights into some of the most extreme and violent events in the universe. Plans are underway to begin construction in late 2017, on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands for the northern array, and in the Atacama Desert in Chile, near the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope, for the southern array. It is an ambitious, multi-million pound project involving scientists and engineers from 32 countries and over 170 research institutes. The Oxford group is led by Dr Cotter, whose team has been working on the software and electronics for the camera for one of the small-size

testing the prototype GCT camera on the prototype telescope structure in Paris (picture below). On the evening of 26 November they turned the telescope away from a nearly full moon and the bright lights of Paris towards a clear patch of sky. After 20 seconds, a single event triggered the camera, then another. In just over 300 seconds 12 events were captured. It was instantly clear that they were what the team was looking for – images of air showers created in the atmosphere by cosmic rays. The image above is one of the events captured by the team. It shows the peak brightness during one Cherenkov light flash, over the camera's field of view of about 8 degrees. The Cherenkov flash is about twice the diameter of the full moon on the sky, but only lasts for about five billionths of a second. CTA astronomers will



camera has to be about a million times faster than a DSLR camera. To do this, it uses high-speed digitisation and triggering technology capable of recording images at a rate of one billion frames per second and sensitive enough to resolve single photons. These first images are just the beginning for the GCT. The prototype telescope and camera will undergo rigorous testing over the next year, then the team intends to build 35 cameras and telescopes for the CTA Observatory based on the results of the testing process. Dr Cotter said: 'We are delighted that the hard work put in over the past several years by all the members of the team has resulted in such a clear detection straight away when the telescope and camera were integrated. There's a huge amount of cutting-edge engineering here – electronic, optical and mechanical. And much of it is already proving to have applications outside pure physics research, for example in high-precision imaging and data analysis systems for medical PET scan instruments. The next few years will continue to be a challenge as we perfect the systems for mass-production and then head to South America to commission 35 telescopes on site. But at that point, we will reap the ultimate reward: a whole new window on high-energy physics and astrophysics.'

use images like this to determine the incoming direction and energy of the particle that created the air shower. In order to detect the short flashes of light, the telescope's

# We will remember them

What do First World War memorials, cemeteries and battlefields tell us about history, culture and identity? **Hanna Smyth** (2015, History) investigates.

Canadian National Vimy Memorial, France



My research examines the material culture of British imperial First World War remembrance on the Western Front, analysing how different aspects of identity were represented and reinforced at memorials and cemeteries of Australia, Canada, South Africa and

India in France and Belgium. With case study sites including Villers-Bretonneux, Vimy, Delville Wood, Neuve Chapelle, Menin Gate, and Thiepval, I am arguing that these monuments were sites of hybridity rather than unified expressions of singular cohesive 'national' or 'imperial' identities. They are significant sites at which identity was performed during the new era of war remembrance and national identity which followed the war. Yet despite this prevailing thread of nationalism, they were representations of multiple identities; and those were not 'set in stone', unlike the material culture that embodied them.

The First World War was a critical point in the history of the British Empire, which left the British dominions and undivided India navigating new aspects of their relationships to the metropole. A manifestation of this new phase was the negotiation and representation of identities during the vast task of materially commemorating the dead, undertaken by the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) in the 1920s and 1930s. This involved erecting stone commemorations that would acknowledge the dead both individually and collectively. At this time the British dominions and India were in a complicated position, falling somewhere between colony status and independence. These distinct and very different countries were subsumed under the umbrella of the IWGC in creating their material culture of remembrance on the battlefields, yet almost all had a national memorial constructed on the Western Front with which they were heavily involved too.

A non-repatriation policy had been enacted, meaning that fallen First World War soldiers of the British Empire could not be sent home for burial; the distance between the dominions and India and the Western Front exacerbated the high degree of institutional involvement in commemoration on the battlefields, and also affected forms of personal mourning. The representations of identity chosen for these sites, and the circumstances of these choices, are thus a rich primary source revealing the complex continuums of personal-collective, and national-imperial, identities that these countries navigated during the interwar period.

A prevailing historiographical conception of post-war dominion identity in relation to the war has been through the lens of nationalism. The war was a formative event, and their IWGC sites at the Front were seen as locations of national identity embodying unified experiences of conflict and loss. By demonstrating instead that these were hybrid sites representing and reinforcing multiple aspects of identity, my project aims not to deny, but to challenge and produce an alternative to nationalist narratives. This allows

consideration of the more complex array of identities which composed these societies in the post-war period, including factional identities based on internal divisions and unifying identities that transcended national borders.

Although material culture studies are becoming more common in historiography, almost none have been conducted on 'the material culture of remembrance', and foregrounding memorials and cemeteries as primary sources are fairly rare. My research lies at the intersection of multiple fields which have not been combined before: the social history of First World War remembrance; more generally, war memory in 20th-century societies; histories of Britain and its dominions and the changing relationships between them; the institutional history of the IWGC and its important figures; history of warfare involving colonial troops; dominion and British experiences of loss and distance from the fighting fronts; memorial and cemetery studies; collective memory; battlefield and 'dark' or 'thana' tourism; relationships between specific battles and national identities; the relationship between 'place' and identity and concepts of 'sacred spaces'; and architecture and landscape design.

The relationship between memorial, cemetery, and landscape is one which features heavily in my research. Almost all of my case-study memorial sites are associated with cemeteries, and many of them also feature surrounding battlefield landscapes which have been preserved to varying extents. These three aspects are so interconnected by the dead and by their relationship to memory that to examine only one would be like researching with blinkers on. The identities and locations of the dead and their commemoration were not stable; exhumations, name changes, differential religious burial practices, and being shifted in and out of the 'missing' designation, for example, all contributed to the blurring of many lines in categorising the dead and fixing individual points of remembrance for them.

Thus far my archival research has been mainly conducted in the incredibly rich Commonwealth War Graves Commission archive in Maidenhead. However, I have received a travel grant to conduct archival research in Ottawa, Canberra, and Pretoria next year, and this will considerably increase my scope for analysis. Despite the geographic disparity of my four case study countries, their sites of memory that I am studying are all in France and Belgium, and I will also be conducting research at these sites themselves in autumn 2016. I have already been to most of these Western Front locations through my work with the Vimy Foundation, a nonprofit organisation which brings Canadian high school students to the battlefields in intensive educational programmes to learn more about First World War history and memory. With at least two years remaining in my DPhil studies, I am looking forward to continuing to learn about this topic in greater depth and sharing my knowledge in accessible ways.



ORPIASIANTSFA, 2016, Jessica Evans, databent scan

# Bending data... and the mind

**Jessica Evans** (2015, Fine Art) manipulates once familiar images to force us to look (and think) again.



*Glitches in Public Ownership* (2016) is a series of databent portraits from Exeter College that explores the rediscovery of the

College's history via the disruption of visual language. By juxtaposing the old with new processes, the work intends to refresh these histories by frustrating the image to such an ambiguous degree that the viewer is compelled to investigate the original information.

My current artistic practice revolves around 'databending', a digital process in which the manipulation of information, in this case computer code, is used to distort media files. This 'glitching' process is essential in defining my work's motifs: the tethering of dichotomies in the virtual and physical, time structures, class subversion and the attempt to re-humanise society.

With regard to the historic portraits that proudly line the walls

in Exeter College's hall, the glitches seek to reject the misconceived authority between the master (portrait) and student, art and spectator. Instead of being mounted high on private walls, the series is published as a replica of the original public catalogue in order to generate more intimate interactions. It is this non-hierarchical connection that evokes the viewers to rediscover the histories of Exeter College in a revived light.



Clockwise from top left: *Walter de Stapeldon*, 1780, Matthew William Peters, oil on canvas; *Walter de Stapeldon*, 2016, Jessica Evans, databent scan; *dAL7eRWa7SOP3NeLD*, 2016, Jessica Evans, databent scan; *dAL7eRWa7SOP3NeLD*, 2016, Jessica Evans, databent scan

# Welcome to the show

An extensive tour of American theatres left **Charanpreet Khaira** (2013, English) craving more diversity and experimentation.



Exeter gave me the incredible opportunity to spend 45 days travelling North America, stopping off at nine cities across the USA and Canada to explore their alternative theatre scenes.

Starting in New York, I learnt my first lesson in how theatre differs across the pond: fringe in North America is not good! Failing to be innovative or cutting-edge, as good fringe productions should be, the shows I saw were simply *experimental*. Picture an 'avant-garde ballet' where all that is experimental is universal nudity.

Gender politics was a central theme in many fringe plays, and in particular transgender issues. Happily, I stumbled upon the winner of the New York International Fringe Festival's 'best overall play', Braden Chapman's *Divine/Intervention*, a fictionalised dialogue between the cult drag queen Divine and her alter-ego Glenn Milstead (pictured below).

It was great to see gender politics in the spotlight, but I was disappointed to see how racial issues fared in their representation. While plays about race were common, they tended to be under-funded and under-attended, seeming only to attract the communities affected by the issues the plays raised. It seemed that racial prejudice, bias and discrimination remain too uncomfortable to be in fashion. An exception to the rule was *27 Voices*, at the Vancouver Fringe, a spoken word performance which poignantly and beautifully explored sexual violence towards indigenous Canadian women.

Meeting the Factory Theatre's dramaturge, Matt MacGeachy, in Toronto provided a great insight into

Canada's niche position in terms of theatre and art more generally. He explained Canada's difficulty in creating a national canon of work distinct from the American and British theatrical movements, something that can be aligned with the difficulty of post-colonial writers to delineate their identities independently of the powers that have attempted to consume their cultures.

In Boston I met with Evelyn Francis from The Theater Offensive, and was fascinated by the work that the Theatre does in an attempt to prove the power of theatre to be politically efficacious. The Theatre aims to present the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lives in art in order to challenge the bias of communities, and it provides free drama workshops for LGBT teens who may have difficulty confronting their sexuality, or acknowledging it in the face of potential prejudice.

As much as I tried to avoid it, I inevitably encountered some bigger Broadway-style shows, and was satisfied that the clichés hold true: Americans are much cheesier than Brits. A trip to the Berkeley Rep yielded an onstage musical version of *Amelie*, which murdered one of my favourite films, translating it into saccharine American which the audience lapped up without a hint of irony. The San Francisco Opera put on a production of *Sweeney Todd* which, while good, did not match the hysterical reaction of the crowd. The sad truth was that these – the sugar-coated, feel-good theatrical productions – attracted the big crowds and the expensive ticket prices, whilst the gritty and game-changing political plays had a significantly smaller following.



Stephen Beaton speaks at the Oxford Union

## Chemical bonds

Chemists work together at Oxford to cement relationships between nations, not divide them, writes Holaday Scholar **Stephen Beaton** (2015, Inorganic Chemistry).



As a chemist in the United States Air Force, I am frequently asked questions (sometimes bordering on accusations) at Oxford about the possible lethality of my future work.

Examples of lethal scientific advances are easy to recall and the immense destructive potential of today's nuclear arsenals entrenches the perspective held by some that military innovations in science exclusively serve to make the world a more dangerous, violent place.

I often respond by pointing out other more peaceful advances that military scientists and engineers have made, such as the microwave oven or the Internet. This line of conversation consistently provokes the same question: after graduating will I work on microwaves or nuclear weapons? I am not sure what my future holds, but conversations like these have challenged me as a scientist during my time at Oxford.

While militaries have produced impressive inventions, Oxford's department of chemistry has also contributed significantly to scientific advancements. The glucose sensor that almost all diabetics use and the lithium-ion battery found in virtually every mobile device both have their scientific origins here. I study the production of biohydrogen, and it is incredible to work with some of the world's experts on the enzymes that catalyse the production of hydrogen.

More broadly than this field though, working with these experts has sharpened my analytical skills and honed my research abilities.

Just as importantly, I am surrounded by endless opportunities to challenge my own paradigms. Although the daily news cycle often reinforces the enmity that exists between certain countries, in my lab group I collaborate with researchers from Russia, China, and Iran – an experience that would be difficult to replicate in a government laboratory. Moreover, events at the Oxford Union and Exeter College, as well as countless conversations with other students, provide me with the ability to understand the implications of my current and future work. This understanding serves as both a motivation to explore certain areas and as a word of caution in the exploration of others.

At a time when society is becoming increasingly segmented and insular, I enjoy the unique convergence of environments that Oxford fosters. I relish the days when I can fill the mornings working on genetic manipulations and the evenings at the Oxford Union, attending debates that focus on the ethical questions that arise from my work. From energy to explosives, scientific advances shape the world around us, and I appreciate the opportunity Oxford gives me to explore not just how advances are made but also my own ability to judge whether the world is better off because of them.

# Exeter student elected president of the Oxford Union

For the first time in 36 years an Exonian will sit in the top chair of Oxford's famous debating chamber, writes **Sam Slater** (2014, PPE).



An Exeter student has been elected president of the Oxford Union for the first time in 36 years. Nikolay Koshikov (2014, PPE) received 610 votes as he stood unopposed for the presidency, in what was the culmination of his extremely successful electoral career in the Union. Alexander Urwin (2015, PPE) was also elected on to Secretary's Committee with 56 votes.

Nikolay served as treasurer of the Union in Trinity Term 2016 and previously served as secretary in Trinity Term 2015, despite then being in only his first year at Oxford. As is customary, he will now defer his studies in order to spend Michaelmas Term planning for his presidency, before serving in Hilary Term 2017. Over the last two years guests at the Union have included Stephen Fry, Morgan Freeman, and the former Prime Minister Sir John Major. Nikolay faces a daunting task to attract speakers of similar calibre.

Nikolay's election marks the first time an Exonian has held the presidency of the Oxford Union since Hilary Term 1980, when Warwick Lightfoot (1977, Jurisprudence) sat in the top chair in the famous debating chamber.

Mr Lightfoot went on to become a Conservative councillor and mayor of Kensington and Chelsea. His contemporaries included Sir Alan Duncan MP (St John's College), Philip May (Lincoln College), an investment manager and the husband of Prime Minister Theresa May, and broadcaster and journalist Michael Crick (New College), who served as president of the Union in Hilary, Trinity and Michaelmas of 1979 respectively.

Mr Lightfoot's presidency followed a period of Exeter dominance of the Oxford Union in the early 1970s which became known as the 'Exeter Machine'. Between Hilary 1971 and Michaelmas 1973 the Machine provided four presidents, one treasurer and two members of Standing Committee to the Union. Among the presidents were Sir David Warren (1971, English), the former ambassador to Japan, and award-winning film critic Christopher Tookey (1969, Modern History).

Whether Nikolay's success is the beginning of a new Exeter Machine is yet to be seen, but Hilary Term 2017 is going to be an exciting time for all Exonian members of the Union as we enjoy the term-card that Nikolay and his committee will deliver.



## Something old, something new, something borrowed, something Blue

For first year **Tim Leach** (2015, Mathematics) singing a cappella is an opportunity to explore America's music and its shores.



In July 2014, a video was posted onto the popular video-sharing site YouTube, which featured a dozen well-dressed Oxonian gentlemen dancing sassily and seductively to an a cappella version of Shakira's pop hit *Hips Don't Lie*. Two years, three iterations,

and six million YouTube views later, the Oxford a cappella group Out of the Blue is gearing up for its next Edinburgh Fringe Festival. I joined the group last Michaelmas, a baby-faced fresher – and what a year it has been.

Three rounds of auditions whittled a keen 72 down to an elite eight newcomers, a high turnover for a group comprising only 12 people, yet we still had to put together enough songs to fill an entire one-hour set for our end-of-year concert. Among these new songs was our charity single, a cover of Eartha Kitt's *Santa Baby*, the music video for which was filmed over the course of a single day

in Oxford and features shots taken from Balliol library, Hertford's 'Bridge of Sighs', Christ Church quad, and, of course, the mound at the end of Exeter's Fellows' Garden. All profits from sales of the single went straight to the charity we support, Helen and Douglas House, where we also sing every term.

The biggest event to date, however, would have to be our month-long US tour. We spent two weeks on each coast, putting on workshops with high schools and elementary schools, and performing with college a cappella groups. The opportunities were huge; from individually coaching budding beatboxers to performing in front of thousands of people alongside some of the world's greatest a cappella groups.

Representing Exeter in this wonderful University group has been incredible. So many opportunities have been placed in front of me, and all in my first year in a completely new situation. Here's to next year!



New Oxford Union president Nikolay Koshikov

# Number one for Christmas?

As well as touring Malta and Sicily this year, Exeter's Choir is aiming for the Christmas number one, writes **Bartosz Thiede** (2015, Music), Organ Scholar.



Having had a particularly large cohort of leavers in 2014-15, Exeter College Chapel Choir welcomed almost a dozen new singers this year. We had an extremely exciting year developing as a musical and social group with so many new faces and voices.

From the beginning, we tackled a wide and challenging repertoire. The highlights of Michaelmas term included the sold out concert of John Rutter's *Requiem*, performed with orchestra, and also a carol workshop for the children of alumni, Fellows and staff. Now in its second year, the workshop has established itself as a favourite amongst Choir members.

The idea of a new Christmas CD has been brewing since the end of the last academic year. In October, a crowdfunding appeal was launched on online platform Hubbub and by the end of the term we had raised £4,300

to cover the costs of producing the CD. We would like to express our most heartfelt gratitude to all of the donors – students, alumni and friends of the College – who made this possible. Over the Christmas vacation we recorded the music for the CD, a collection of festive pieces by 20th and 21st century composers. It is currently in its second stage of editing and will be launched across several platforms in October 2016.

The Easter vacation was equally busy, with the Choir appearing on BBC Radio 4's *Daily Service* programme for three days before singing at a full day of services at Westminster Abbey.

Over the long vacation the Choir will tour Malta and Sicily and sing two services at St Paul's Cathedral.

Follow us on Facebook at **ExeterChoirOxford** and on Twitter **@Exeterchoir**.



# Rugby team savours Cuppers triumph

After a slow start, Exeter's rugby team found form and glory in the shape of a trophy win, writes **Tim Huelsmann-Diamond** (2014, Modern Languages).



Despite initially tricky circumstances, the Exeter College Rugby team has had a successful year. A lot of rebuilding was needed after the end of last year, with several key players having graduated. Luckily, we have a fantastic cohort of new students who have performed excellently since joining the club.

It took a while for us to gel as a team; we started with a long winless run, resulting in relegation in Michaelmas term. As soon as Hilary term began we started to win games, and bounced straight back up a division. The biggest achievement of the year, however, has to be winning the

Cuppers Bowl, beating University College and Queen's on the way, and winning 32-5 against St Hilda's in the final.

This season, a special mention must go to our captain, Freddy Smith (pictured above holding the trophy), who led by example to produce some brilliant performances, and whose efforts are a big reason for our success. First-year Will Slatton was also a key player who ended the season as leading try scorer for the College in the Bowl.

As the year ends we must say goodbye to finalists Andrew Heard and Sam Hillman, who have both been faithful servants of the club for four years, and who helped form a back line that any college outfit would envy.



# An embarrassment of riches

Some of Exeter's footballers are so good, they've never known a league defeat, writes **George Bustin** (2013, Literae Humaniores).



This year Exeter's first and reserve undergraduate sides both gained promotion and will play next season in the top tier

of their respective leagues.

The JCR's first team finished second in the Second Division, securing promotion back to the JCR First Division at the first opportunity. Meanwhile the reserve team topped the Second Division of the reserves' league, unbeaten on 22 points out of a possible 24, winning their second league title in successive years.

So long ago was the reserve team's last loss in league football – all the way back in February 2014 – that many of the team have never known defeat. In a little over two years they

have progressed from the bottom division to the top, scoring 85 goals in 23 games and becoming one of the most feared and respected opponents in collegiate football.

Unfortunately the teams' league form could not be matched in Cuppers. The reserve team lost to St Catherine's, 5-0. And while the first team avenged that defeat with a 3-0 victory over St Catherine's first team a week later, they fell in the quarter finals to Brasenose in a seesaw game that ended 4-3 after extra time.

The club has benefitted hugely from the talents of visiting students: Williams College's Cameron Jenkins and Paul Baird-Smith excelled on both wings, whilst Rodéric Kermarec frequently brought to the Marston

itches an attacking vision and flair that most of us had only ever imagined.

First years Alex Urwin and Sean Gleeson seem destined for great things at the top level of University football, whilst MCR members Will Ghosh and Blane Scott provided quality in the spine of the team and much-needed maturity in the half-time team talks.

Best of all, winning his 50th and final cap for the club, Rory Sullivan overcame an injury and an onrushing goalkeeper to sign off his career with a classy lofted finish, whilst, at the other end, Alex Dale held the defence firm for his final clean sheet.

It has been a great year, and continues to be great fun playing for Exeter College AFC.



# Rowers reap rewards

New kit, new coach and victories under our belt. It was quite a year, writes **Imogen Knibbs** (2014, Biomedical Sciences).



After a big recruitment drive in early Michaelmas, and with many of last year's rowers returning, Exeter College Boat Club looked set to turn around its recent fortunes and claim some well-deserved victories in 2016. Torpids did not disappoint, with the

Club securing their first bumps in three years. Two very strong men's crews and one women's crew hit the water, between them bumping seven times and rowing over three times. Only the women's second crew was left frustrated. Plagued by river restrictions throughout Hilary and unable to enter Torpids, they were all the keener to prove themselves in Summer Eights.

Summer Eights is the highlight of the rowing calendar, and having finally had some decent water time the crews were ready to make a name for themselves; we went on to have our most successful Summer Eights in recent years. The Club claimed a staggering 13 row-overs and put five crews out on the water, meaning that every Exeter rower – from experienced Blue to novice – got a chance to represent the College.

As well as enjoying better fortune on the water, the Boat Club had a particularly successful year of fundraising, teaming up with the College's student-run charity ExVac to hold an 'ergathon': a relay of students rowing the distance from Exeter, Devon, to Exeter College, Oxford, on two rowing machines. The 220 kilometre trek was completed in an impressive 8 hours and 45 minutes. The event raised money for disadvantaged children in Oxford and for some much needed new equipment for the Boat Club. Thanks to the ergathon and some very generous donations from Emeritus Fellow Professor Raymond Dwek, parents, friends of the College, and alumni, the Boat Club was able to purchase two state-of-the-art boats made by Filippi, a leading boat manufacturer. Finally the Boat Club's equipment is equal to the ambition and commitment of the Club's rowers.

The Boat Club has come a long way this year and I feel proud to be a part of that, but every rower knows that the next race is right around the corner. With each small victory we are pushed to work harder, be fitter, and row faster. Next year the women will welcome a new coach and look to reap the benefits of fresh ideas, as the men's crews did this year. There is an excitement in the squad for its future prospects, and we eagerly await the next cohort of freshers to join the growing family of rowers at Exeter in the ongoing bid for blades.





# Oxford welcomes new Vice-Chancellor

Among the challenges for Professor Louise Richardson, Oxford's first female Vice-Chancellor, will be protecting the University's interests following Brexit. By **Alexander Doody** (2013, Modern Languages).



Oxford has officially welcomed Professor Louise Richardson as its new Vice-Chancellor following the departure of Professor Andrew Hamilton at the end of 2015. Professor Richardson becomes the first woman to occupy the role in the history of the University.

After graduating with a BA in History from Trinity College, Dublin, Professor Richardson completed further studies at UCLA, where she received an MA in Political Science, and Harvard, where she earned an MA and a PhD in Government. She spent a further 12 years at Harvard, as assistant professor and then associate professor at the Government Department, serving as head tutor for several of those years. Her commitment to teaching won Professor Richardson both the Levenson Prize and the Abramson Prize during her time there. She also served as Executive Dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard from 2001 to 2008, where she was instrumental in its transformation into an interdisciplinary centre promoting scholarship across academic fields and the creative arts.

In 2009 she became the first female Principal and Vice-Chancellor at the University of St Andrews, Scotland's oldest university. It is understood that Professor Richardson was considering a return to Boston when approached by representatives from the University of Oxford looking for a successor to Professor Hamilton. She was happy to accept the offer, saying 'If there's any one institution that can keep me in the UK, it's Oxford.'

A highly regarded political scientist, Professor Richardson's academic focus is on international security and particularly terrorist movements. Her publications include *Democracy and Counterterrorism: Lessons from the Past* (2007), *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat* (2006), *The Roots of Terrorism* (2006), and *When Allies Differ* (1996). At Harvard she was awarded the Sumner Prize for her work towards the prevention of war and the establishment of universal peace. She received the Trinity College Dublin Alumni Award in 2009 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh the following year. Harvard awarded her a Centennial Medal in 2013 for her contributions to society

and the Royal Irish Academy made her an honorary member in 2015. She has received honorary doctorates from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, the University of Aberdeen, and Queen's University Belfast.

Since taking up the role of Vice-Chancellor at the beginning of 2016, Professor Richardson has spoken out on a range of subjects, including the need for Oxford to continue to modernise and innovate without losing respect for the past. She stated in her inauguration speech that the University must 'keep its eyes firmly on the future, without forgetting the traditions... and the values and interests that unite us to one another.' Describing the University as a place to provide leaders who have been 'educated to think critically' and 'always question,' Professor Richardson emphasised that 'an Oxford education is not meant to be a comfortable experience.' Additionally, Professor Richardson has used her new position to raise other concerns about the problems faced by selective universities such as Oxford, particularly the lack of students coming from lower-income backgrounds. Talking to *The Guardian*, Professor Richardson stated that: 'For British society generally it is a problem that so few children from deprived backgrounds emerge with the qualifications necessary for entry into our most selective institutions... This is a major social problem, that children from deprived backgrounds leave school with less ambition and less attainment than children from wealthy backgrounds. If I were in government I would be investing heavily in early education to try and

redress that imbalance.' She argues that universities alone cannot solve the problem, but that there is a solution: 'Part of it is what happens at school, part of it is what happens at home. But it can be done. I mean, I went to a rural school in Ireland; it was not a wealthy place.'

Describing the challenges and joys of her role, Professor Richardson told *The Guardian* that it comes down to the idea of critical thinking: 'If you say "march!" people ask "why?"' – a concept which, according to her, makes universities 'wonderful places to be, full of dynamic, critical people.'

One of the greatest challenges for Professor Richardson will be to steer the University through the uncertain times ahead following the UK's referendum on membership of the EU. After the result she wrote to members of the University: 'While this was not the result that many of us wished for, the result is clear, and my colleagues and I see our responsibility now to do all we can to protect and advance the interests of the University and all who work and study here, as well as those with whom we engage in collaborative research projects internationally.' She remained positive, concluding: 'It is perhaps worth noting that our university has survived greater disruptions than this over the centuries. I am confident that our wonderful cosmopolitan community of scholars and students united in our commitment to education and research will continue to thrive and will emerge even stronger from these extraordinary times.' All at Exeter College wish her every success.



The EU referendum result leaves universities facing an uncertain future



# Oxford mathematician proves 300-year-old theory

When Sir Andrew Wiles proved Fermat's Last Theorem he fulfilled a childhood dream, writes **Philip Matthews** (2014, History).



Oxford Mathematician Sir Andrew Wiles has been awarded the Abel Prize, the most prestigious award in the mathematics world, 'for his stunning proof of Fermat's Last Theorem'.

Sir Andrew, Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Oxford, received the award from Prince Haakon of Norway at a ceremony in Oslo last May (pictured above).

Named after the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802-29), who in fact pioneered work on the properties of elliptical functions which later proved pivotal in Sir Andrew's proof of Fermat's theorem, the prize carries a cash award of six million Norwegian krone (approximately £500,000). Previous winners of the Abel Prize include British mathematician Sir Michael Atiyah and the late American economist and game theory specialist John Nash.

Fermat's Last Theorem had been regarded by most mathematicians as intractable and had perplexed thinkers for over 300 years. Formulated by the French mathematician Pierre de Fermat in 1637, it states:

*There are no whole number solutions to the equation  $x^n + y^n = z^n$  when  $n$  is greater than 2, unless  $xyz = 0$ .*

Sir Andrew claims that he has been fascinated by Fermat's Last Theorem since his childhood, when he came across a book about it at his local library. Captivated by the existence of a theorem that was so simple to state that he, a 10-year-old, could understand it, but that nobody had proven, he resolved to be the first person to do so. However, he soon realised that his knowledge was too limited, so he abandoned his childhood dream, until it was brought back to his attention at the age of 33.

After seven years intensely studying the theorem at Princeton University, he announced that he had found a proof in 1993, combining three distinct mathematical fields: modular forms, elliptic curves and Galois representations.

Not only did Sir Andrew solve this long-standing mathematical puzzle, but in doing so he opened up entirely new directions for the study of mathematics, which have proved invaluable in a wide range of scientific fields since his discovery. Indeed, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, which awards the Abel Prize, claimed that 'few results have as rich a mathematical history and as dramatic a proof as Fermat's Last Theorem'.

Sir Andrew is still an active member of the research community at Oxford, where his longer term focus is on the Birch/Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture.

# Breakthrough Prize for Oxford scientists

Particle physicists have made a breakthrough discovery and won the world's most lucrative academic prize, reports **Sanjay Prabhakar** (2014, Physics).



University of Oxford physicists have had their contributions to the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) and the T2K (Tokai to Kamioka) experiments recognised with a share in the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, the most lucrative academic prize in the world.

The SNO experiment, based in Canada, discovered the phenomenon of neutrino oscillation, for which the director of the experiment, Art McDonald, was co-awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2015. Neutrinos are among the most fundamental and enigmatic particles in nature. They are produced in nuclear reactions such as those that occur in the Sun, and come in three 'flavours', named after the leptons that are produced in the reactions involving them: electron, muon, and tau neutrinos. The SNO experiment found that neutrinos have no well-defined state, and may oscillate between flavours, which proves that they must be massive particles. Oxford was the only UK institution involved in the SNO experiment.

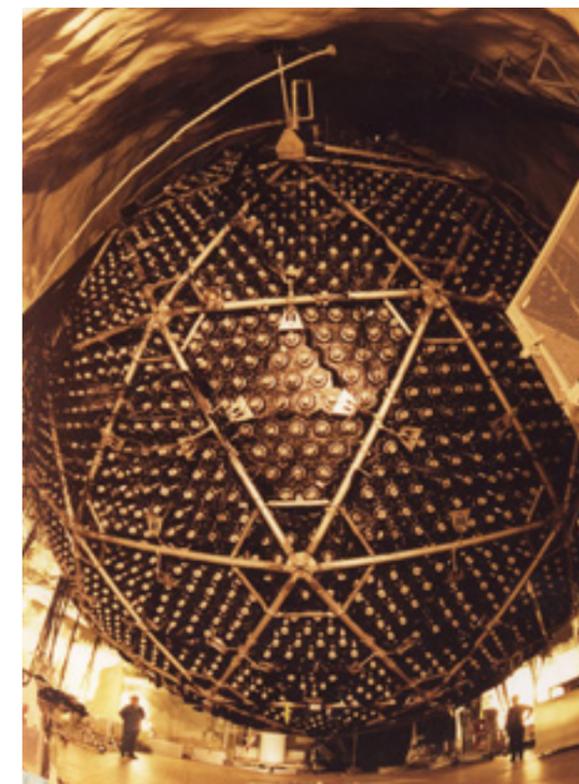
Following on from this breakthrough, several institutions, including Oxford, worked together to create the T2K experiment in Japan. Designed to study neutrino oscillations further, the experiment is crucial in moving beyond the 'standard model' of particle physics, which does not account for this phenomenon.

Neutrinos interact with matter extremely weakly, which means they easily pass through the Earth, making them very difficult to detect and study, despite their abundance (there are around a hundred billion of them passing through the area of a thumbnail every second). Professor Steve Biller, Professor of Experimental Particle Physics at the University of Oxford and UK Co-Spokesperson for SNO, said: 'The experiment wasn't easy, and sometimes the line between a complete disaster and winning both a Nobel and Breakthrough Prize can be pretty thin – it took an exceptional team of people to pull this off.'

The successful SNO and T2K experiments have paved the way for further experiments. Professor Dave Wark, Professor in Experimental Particle Physics at the University of Oxford and former UK Co-Spokesperson for SNO, said:

'Our observations are just the start. These observations open the doors to a whole new set of tools to probe the Universe at the smallest scales. We are already building new experiments to use them.' The University of Oxford will continue to collaborate with institutions around the world to develop these experiments and make discoveries in this exciting field of research.

Professor Wark, who started the T2K project in the UK and has led the UK group since its beginning, concluded: 'It is great to see our experiments recognised for the contributions they have made to our understanding of fundamental physics. What is even more fun is trying to guess what the next generation of neutrino experiments will find – what you don't know is always more fascinating than what you do know.'



The SNO detector

# Sweet success

A prize committed to exposing scientific truths has been won by an Oxford professor performing controversial research, writes **Charlotte Mitchell** (2014, Medical Sciences).



Susan Jebb, Professor of Diet and Population Health at the University of Oxford, has been awarded the John Maddox Prize for courage in promoting science and evidence on a matter of public interest, despite facing difficulty and hostility in doing so. She was awarded the prize for tackling misconceptions about sugar in the media and among the public while enduring personal attacks and accusations about her scientific integrity.

Established in 2012, the John Maddox Prize is a joint initiative of the science journal *Nature*, the Kohn Foundation, and the charity Sense about Science. The late Sir John Maddox was editor of *Nature* for 22 years and a founding trustee of Sense about Science. A passionate and tireless communicator and defender of science, he engaged with difficult debates, inspiring others to do the same. The prize, named in his honour, recognises those who correct misleading science, bring evidence to the public eye despite opposition, and assist public understanding of a complex issue. It is intended to encourage a society in which we support scientists to come forward with

evidence, however controversial this may prove.

Professor Jebb's work certainly caused controversy. She was accused of being swayed in her arguments by industrial funding. She defended herself by stating that she would use public funding if she could, and it is 'better for a new food or diet to be tested independently with some industry funding, where the results are published whether they are good news for the company or not, than for the food company to do its own testing and keep the results secret if they are unfavourable.'

After receiving the prize Professor Jebb said: 'Everyone is interested in nutrition and everyone has a view. That's great for heated debate over dinner but if we are to shed light on the health issues it needs to be based on evidence not opinion. Policymakers, the food industry and the public need support to access and engage with the evidence and I passionately believe that scientists can help everyone to do so. It does mean getting out of the laboratory and standing up for science, but it is only by participating in the dialogue that we can hope to see scientific evidence translated into real health benefits.'



## Spitsbergen retraced

A group of Oxonians will follow in the ski tracks of a group of their predecessors this summer, writes **Dr Stephen Pax Leonard**, Fellow in Anthropology.



This summer five members of Oxford University, including myself, will attempt a 184-mile crossing of East Spitsbergen in the Norwegian Svalbard Archipelago, just 700 miles from the North Pole. We will retrace an Oxford expedition that explored this region of the Arctic in 1923, one which has yet to be repeated. For five weeks we will ski entirely unsupported, towing all our equipment in sledges and building on the previous expedition's scientific legacy.

On 31 July 1923 the Ternigen arrived at Duym Point on the north-east coast of Spitsbergen and waved goodbye to Noel Odell, Geoffrey Milling, Robert Frazer and Andrew Irvine. What followed was an epic, 30-day crossing of the East Spitsbergen ice cap. The team's route took them up through the difficult ice falls and waist-deep morass onto the ice cap proper. Diverting only to summit outlying peaks, including the highest in Spitsbergen, the team conducted a ground-breaking geological survey, mapping the region for the first time, using then state-of-the-art photographic techniques.

At the end of 2015, we unearthed over 30 of these original landscape photographs stored in the archives at Merton College and the Royal Geographical Society. Enthused by the stunning glacial landscapes and the opportunity to explore how they have changed over 93 years, we decided to re-trace this expedition. Our expedition aims to replicate the original photos as well as supplementing them with drone footage, the 21st century equivalent to their 'state-of-the-art' techniques. The resulting 3D maps will enable us to consider the effects of climate change on glaciers and their surroundings.

This area has received very little attention from researchers and we are working with the University Centre in Svalbard to ensure that the data we collect will be beneficial to the scientific community. The only set of biological samples for this region was taken by the 1923 expedition, and we will build on this legacy by taking photographs and collecting DNA samples from the species of vascular plants we encounter en route.

We hope to draw attention to these changes through a documentary feature, touching on the question of how polar exploration has changed in 93 years. Drawing on the diaries, journals and maps of the original expedition we will tell the stories of its members. These included Andrew Irvine, a Merton graduate who disappeared on Everest a year later, having potentially made the first ever ascent of the world's highest mountain.

To support the expedition and find out more please visit our website, [svalbard2016.com](http://svalbard2016.com).



Images: Andrew Irvine in Spitsbergen in 1923



# Oxford honours award-winning director

Although no stranger to controversy, Pedro Almodóvar's films make him worthy of the University's recognition, writes **Rebecca Oxland-Isles** (2014, Modern Languages).



Nine honorary degrees were awarded at the University's Encaenia ceremony this year. Among the eclectic mix of eminent figures was Spanish film director, screenwriter and producer Pedro Almodóvar (pictured above).

Almodóvar is considered one of Spain's most internationally successful filmmakers, having achieved worldwide recognition for his 1988 feature film *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* [*Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*] and accrued an impressive array of awards including two Golden Globes, two Academy Awards, and four BAFTAs. Despite this recognition, Almodóvar remains little-known in Britain.

Almodóvar's body of work is often labelled 'niche' and 'kitsch'. His films are vibrant, scandalous, darkly funny, and often farcical, presenting the audience with larger-than-life characters, dizzying plots, and shocking situations. The final scene of *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, for example, is a show-stopping cinematic feast: the central character returns home after a series of crazy events to find her bedroom burnt to ashes, with various animals running loose, and an array of unconscious guests sprawled across the living room amidst puddles of spilt sleeping-pill-laced gazpacho. Yet beneath the surface frivolity of his films, Almodóvar is dealing with a number of serious issues in a complex and sophisticated fashion – gender, sexuality and nationality in particular. He has often been called a

'women's director', and a feminist ethos characterises his oeuvre. While he has been subject to some criticism for often presenting female characters who are victimised and oppressed, they are always survivors, and female relationships are consistently explored in an interesting way. He also challenges gender roles, and in his 1987 film *Law of Desire* [*La ley del deseo*] he deals very sensitively with the themes of homosexuality and transsexuality. Indeed, what Paul Julian Smith argues in his comprehensive study of Almodóvar's work, *Desire Unlimited*, is that this code of femininity is the very reason many critics have dismissed his films as 'zany' and have neglected to take them seriously. Hopefully studies like Smith's and the recognition of institutions like the University of Oxford will encourage more people to look past the 'kitsch' surface of Almodóvar's work and realise their greater significance.

After the ceremony Almodóvar spoke with humility: 'I think I don't deserve such an honour. When I was listening to what the other honorees did in their careers and in their lives I really thought that I didn't deserve this.'

Receiving honorary degrees alongside Almodóvar were physicist Professor Mildred Dresselhaus, priest and theologian Monsignor Professor Tomáš Halík, Supreme Court Justice the Right Honourable the Lord Mance, economist and writer Professor Paul Krugman, architect Professor Kazuyo Sejima, neurobiologist Dr Cornelia Bargmann, product designer Sir Jonathan Ive, and composer Mr Arvo Pärt.

# Bodleian's landmark acquisition is Shelley's 'lost' poem

The 12-millionth book in the Bodleian Library's collection marks the moment the Romantic poet's work became political, writes **Ellen B Brewster** (2013, English).



In November the Bodleian Library announced the 12-millionth book acquired for its collections: a radical poem by the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. First published anonymously in 1811, the 'Poetical Essay on the Existing State of Things' was considered a lost work until 2006, when it was discovered in the possession of a private collector.

The 20-page poem was written by Shelley in support of the Irish journalist Peter Finnerty, who was imprisoned for criticising British military operations and accused of libel by the government. The poem condemns Britain's involvement in the Napoleonic War, describing in rhyming couplets how:

*Millions to fight compell'd, to fight or die  
In mangled heaps on War's red altar lie.*

Michael Rossington, Professor of Romantic Literature at the University of Newcastle (and Visiting Fellow at Exeter, Michaelmas Term 2015), said that the poem is especially interesting to scholars as it 'marks a new stage in Shelley's development as a poet, revealing his early interest in the big issues of his day and his belief that poetry can be used to alter public opinion and effect change.' The poem was written while the poet was in his first – and only – year at Oxford. The College Register at University College records that Shelley was sent down for 'refusing to answer questions put to [him] and for also repeatedly declining to disavow a publication entitled *The Necessity of Atheism*'.

Very little research around the poem has been completed since its rediscovery a decade ago. Its recovery means that access to the poem will be granted to more than the handful

of scholars who have been permitted to see it so far as it is now freely on display on a dedicated website. Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian, said that the acquisition of the poem by the library will mean 'preserving this remarkable work for ever, and making available online a lost work by one of the greatest poets of all time. We are extremely grateful to the generous donors who made this acquisition and our website possible.'

To view Shelley's 'Poetical Essay' visit [poeticalessay.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://poeticalessay.bodleian.ox.ac.uk).



Engraving of Percy Bysshe Shelley, based on 1819 painting by Alfred Clint



## A kingly legacy

Cecil the lion's death at the hands of hunters has given Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit a vital boost in donations, reports **Serin Gioan** (2015, English and Modern Languages).



On 2 July last year, a lion known as Cecil was slaughtered by trophy hunters on the edge of Zimbabwe National Park. The killing

provoked international outrage and led to a flood of donations to Oxford's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), which had monitored and studied Cecil since 2008.

The WildCRU project was founded in 1999 to improve conservation science so we might understand the threats that species such as lions face and use cutting-edge science to develop solutions to those threats. WildCRU uses satellites to track the movements of over 200 of these majestic creatures and has

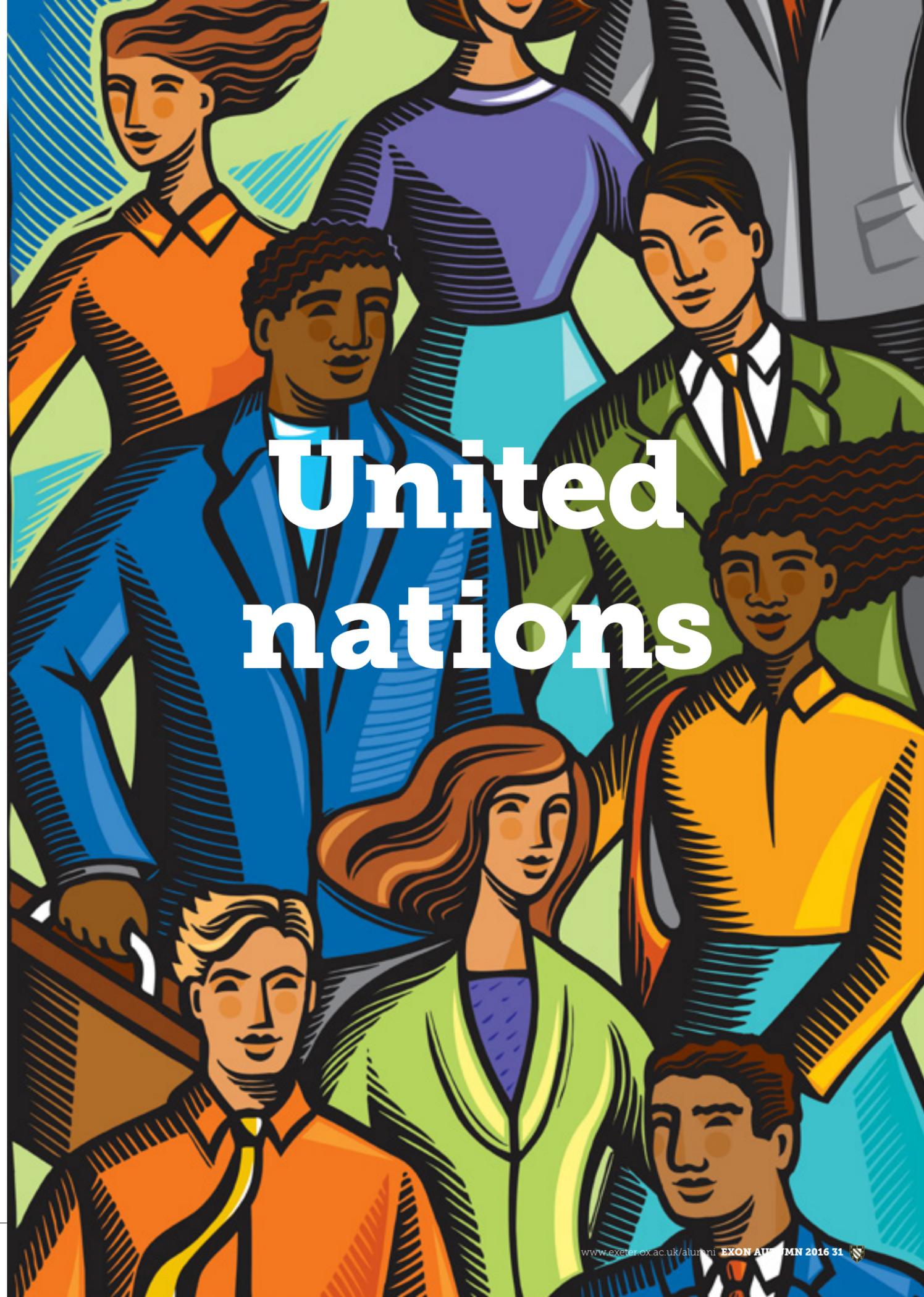
monitored in meticulous detail the lives of more than 500. It coordinates the work of an anti-poaching team, a local conservation theatre group, and an education campaign that works with schools in the area. WildCRU also works with local farmers to help them live alongside lions and improve their livelihoods. This initiative involves villagers protecting local cattle (and people) from lions by receiving information on the lions' movements via satellite.

Following Cecil's death, WildCRU received over 13,000 donations totalling nearly £800,000. Professor David McDonald, the Founding Director of WildCRU, expressed gratitude for the generosity shown and hope for the future. 'Lions are beautiful

and their behaviour fascinating beyond imagination,' he said, 'and it is heartbreaking that they – most iconic of Africa's mammals – face a perilous decline. WildCRU is dedicated to reversing their plight.

'The death of Cecil has galvanised world attention, and its importance extends far beyond the scurrilous killing of one lion – it is a metaphor for the plight of lions, other big predators and indeed wildlife as a whole. My greatest hope is that out of this sad affair will come a global commitment to finding ways that wildlife and people can live together for the wellbeing of both.'

*Donations to WildCRU can be made at [www.wildcru.org](http://www.wildcru.org).*



## Recent UN resolutions on climate change and sustainable development will prove pivotal for future generations, writes John Kufuor (1961, PPE), former president of Ghana.



I could see the theme of this year's *Exon*, Global Politics and Government, as giving expression to the evolving global citizenship as embodied in, and spearheaded by, the epochal resolutions of 2015 on Climate Change and Sustainable Development by the United Nations.

Arguably, these two resolutions have received the largest endorsement ever in the history of the world body so far. The fact that both took place in 2015 marks that year as a watershed year in the affairs of the nations of the world.

The imperatives of the times make the impact of climate change overarching. No country is exempt from its devastating consequences, and the perception is that all in the world should pull together to save our planet.

The world must move quickly to seek to arrest and mitigate the rise of global temperatures to under 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the middle of this century, else life might cease to be the same as has been known.

Towards this, governments around the world, corporate entities, philanthropic organisations, non-governmental organisations, and many other stakeholders took part to express commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement last September.

In order for the world community to be able to meet the necessary targets set in the Climate Agreement there is the need for transparency, accountability, and sincerity



on the part of all nations to the commitments made. There is the need for robust investments in green technologies to ensure resilience to the climate change menace. And this must be extended through the multilateral organisations to the developing world, to avoid continued greenhouse emissions from both the developed and developing worlds.

Sustainable development, the other major pre-occupation of global governance, is born out of the need to join international development efforts with the efficient management of the world's resources. At the turn of this century, the world community elected to tailor international development under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a set of 10 targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions: income poverty, hunger, disease, conflicts, migration, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion, while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability – with a target year of 2015.

At the end of the period, many targets had been achieved at varying levels, and many more had also been missed.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – subsumed the MDGs, and is now the new development paradigm to fight global poverty, inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by the year 2030.

Indeed, at the launch of the SDGs in New York last September, Madam Helen Clark, the UNDP Chief noted that: 'This agreement marks an important milestone in putting our world on an inclusive and sustainable course. If we all work together, we have a chance of meeting citizens' aspirations for peace, prosperity, and wellbeing, and to preserve our planet.' I could not agree with her more.

These are the current challenges confronting mankind in the evolving global governance to ensure a fairer world that tackles inequality, by engendering equality of opportunity.

Undeniably, the critical point where the world started pulling together was after the Second World War. After the end of the war, the world entered into an epoch of decolonisation, with Asian nations, led by India, being the first countries to gain independence from their colonial masters. Sub-Saharan Africa, led by my country, Ghana, followed in the decolonisation process, with Ghana attaining her independence in March 1957.

Unfortunately, the Cold War divided the world into two spheres of influence under a bi-polar economic, political, and military paradigm.

The new advances in science and technology that followed ushered an era of industrial development, producing the jet propulsion technology, and was the precursor to the Internet age.

The devastation of the Second World War caused the then world leaders to proclaim 'never-again' to such a worldwide calamity. This led to the creation of the United Nations (UN) system and its agencies, as well as the companion Bretton Woods institutions.

Humanity generally accepted that there should be no more justification for 'might is right,' and that the wellbeing of all humanity matters. This led to the promulgation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which has led to an increasing sense of common humanity, and shared conscience. This has accelerated the evolution of global citizenship that has been in the works down history.

The current efforts regarding climate change and the SDGs are critical to humanity, because, as the World Bank reports, climate change alone will drive 100 million more people into poverty in the next 15 years, unless action is taken now. These efforts exemplify the evolving global governance, and constitute a challenge to the next generation of leaders.

Mankind, today, is at the cusp of a great and phenomenal information age and knowledge revolution, which is impelling the transformation of, and shepherding all nations and peoples into, the perceived global village, the hallmark of which should be shared values and wellbeing. The youth should muster these transformative trends and embrace the universal need for sustainable development that works for all peoples, and for all times.

This will enable them to stand equal to the task of efficient management of the resources of our planet into the long term, in order to meet the increasing demands of the ever-growing population of the world community. The youth of today should be mindful that economic governance must go in tandem with environmental governance, as well as good and inclusive representative governance. This is the surest guarantor of the sovereignty of the people; it is governance that meets the aspirations, needs and challenges of the citizens and the planet.

The reality of globalisation, which comes with the ever-growing inter-dependence among nations and peoples of the world, is as indisputable as it is irreversible.



However, happily and paradoxically, it is at the same time symbolised by competitiveness, and hallmarked and tempered by an ever-growing sense of common humanity. This, nevertheless, is yet to include free global markets that are tempered with a social conscience to balance and even-out the excesses of the markets, in order to ensure fairness and reasonable profit-making. This is what will truly reflect human-centeredness in our efforts, in order to guarantee all of mankind's economic and social wellbeing.

Today, the international community rushes to offer help and assistance to peoples afflicted by natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis; infectious diseases such as Ebola and HIV/AIDS; and phenomena like mass migration out of necessity. Humanitarian organisations from richer parts of the world, such as Médecins Sans Frontières, are everywhere, working in dangerous parts of our world, and at constant peril to their lives. Richer nations continue to provide aid and economic assistance to the least developed countries of our world.

Indeed, down the millennia of history, there have always been lone voices in religion, as well as in philosophy, pointing at the universality of mankind. Unfortunately, such voices were hardly heeded, on grounds of their being either utopian, or dangerous, or not pragmatic.

Thankfully, the advent of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is compelling global acceptance of this ancient truth.

I believe that the leavening attributes of leadership of institutions like Oxford should be employed to create nurseries of ambition, vision, and science and technology around the world, and for the necessary cooperation to make mankind become a true master of the planet, and hopefully, the universe.

# The end...

Writing just after the EU referendum vote, **Frances Cairncross**, Rector Emerita of Exeter College, considers an uncertain future.



By the time you read this, the world will look different. The last day of June is the day when Michael Gove suddenly (and improbably)

announced that he would run for prime minister; when Boris Johnson suddenly abandoned his campaign; and when both main parties were effectively leaderless. A Scottish referendum is on the cards, senior business figures are publicly discussing their plans to move out of Britain – and the EU's leaders cannot decide whether to negotiate with or to bully their departing member. 'This is the most extraordinary day in British politics since yesterday,' read one tweet.

Yet even as the jokes and insults fly, there are some aspects of the future which are reasonably clear. For a start, the implications of the referendum are global, not purely national. In Europe, enthusiasm

for the European project has been fading in many countries over the last decade of stagnation. America's Pew Research Centre finds that the proportion of French citizens who say they are in favour of the European Union has declined from 69% in 2004 to 38% today; the proportion of Spanish, from 80% to 47%. I write this during a visit to the United States, where people have been quick to spot the similarities between the Leave campaign and Donald Trump's rhetoric, blending mockery of the establishment with hostility to immigration.

The direct economic impact on Britain may yet turn out to be moderate. After all, Britain has never been part of two of the three main agreements of Europe: the Schengen passport-free agreement and the

euro. To formalise this associate membership makes some sense. Besides, both sides have good reason to want to do a deal on the third substantial area: participation in the single European market. The UK has a large trade deficit with the rest of the Union, and the other countries of the EU will want to retain access to this large market. That will be especially important for German manufacturers, who do particularly well – for instance, BMW sells almost as many cars in the UK as it does in Germany, and the market is the company's third largest internationally after China

# ...of the affair

and the USA. And for Britain, there are serious dangers to leaving this huge trading bloc – as has been clear from the companies which have talked since the referendum about relocating part of their operations from the UK to Europe.

From the British side, the deal will require extracting some agreement to restrain immigration from Europe. The sharp slowdown in the British economy next year, which will be the probable consequence of an autumn of uncertainty, is in any case likely to reduce the inflow of EU job seekers. But free movement of labour has always been, in political terms, the EU's most risky policy – made vastly riskier by the boatloads of North Africans arriving across the Mediterranean and by the rise of Islamist terrorism. Today, it is hard to imagine any electorate

in Europe voting in favour of such a relaxed policy on border controls and migration as the EU has developed. At least it is an area that Theresa May, today looking the most probable new prime minister, understands better than any other British politician.

But while a deal will probably be done between Westminster and the remaining 27 which will seek to minimise the economic impact of Brexit, there may well be two much more serious consequences.

One may be a second Scottish referendum, this time successful. Working as I now do with a Scottish university, I am acutely aware of how rejected and betrayed many Scots feel by the result south of the Border. Although Spain already promises to veto Scots membership of the EU, a departure by Scotland from the UK now looks more likely. And if it occurred, it would reawaken uncertainty about the future of Northern Ireland, which has closer ties with Scotland than with the rest of the UK.

The other is the danger of turmoil spreading through the European Union itself. The combination of a decade of economic stagnation with the rise of cheap manufactured imports from Asia and the inexorable stream of non-white immigration from south to north has had similar impacts throughout Europe – and indeed, on both sides of the Atlantic. Between them, these forces have undermined the living standards of the middling and poorest families, destroyed established industries and visibly changed societies and cultures. Add to this toxic mix a global central-bank policy of creating money and cutting interest rates, and you drive up the prices of assets, whether houses or shares, and create a bonanza for those who already own wealth. It is a recipe for revolution.

So will the Leave vote be seen, in 50 years' time, as the beginning of the most difficult period for the West for half a century? I hope not. But the dread that it might be so was why I voted Remain.



# The future of power

The 'American century' was founded on international alliances, military and economic power. With a new president imminent, political scientist **Joseph S Nye, Jr** (1958, PPE) asks what is the future of American power?



Americans frequently misunderstand our place in the world. We oscillate between triumphalism and declinism. Charles Dickens wrote that the Americans always think they are in 'an alarming crisis.' After the Soviets

launched Sputnik in 1957, we believed we were in decline. When Japan's manufacturing outstripped ours in the 1980s, we thought the Japanese were 10 feet tall. In the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008, a majority of Americans mistakenly thought that China was about to overtake the United States as the world's leading superpower. The result is a foreign policy debate that is often divorced from reality. The Middle East is in turmoil and American influence in that region *has* diminished. But the causes are the revolutions in the Middle East, not American decline. It is a mistake to generalise from the Middle East to the rest of the world.

In the 19th century, following George Washington's advice to avoid entangling alliances and the Monroe Doctrine focused on the Western Hemisphere, the US played a minor role in the global balance of power. The US did not keep a large standing army, and in the 1870s the American navy was smaller than that of Chile. The US did not shun military power (as Mexico and native American nations can attest), but isolationism was our attitude toward Europe and the global balance of power. In the short Spanish-American war of 1898, the US took the colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines from a declining Spain; but that period of formal global imperialism was brief.

A big change was American entry into the First World War, when Woodrow Wilson broke with tradition and for the first time sent American men

to fight in Europe. Moreover, he proposed a League of Nations to organise collective security on a global basis. After the Senate rejected American membership in the League, the troops came home and America 'returned to normal'. Though it was now a major factor in the global power balance, the United States became virulently isolationist in the 1930s. Not even the eloquence of Franklin Roosevelt could persuade the American people to stand up to Hitler's threat. We had no alliances in the 1930s and the result was a disastrous decade marked by economic depression, genocide, and world war.

The turning point and the beginning of the century in which the United States has been central to the global balance of power was Harry Truman's post-war decisions that led to permanent alliances with a military presence abroad. When Britain was too weak to support Greece and Turkey in 1947, the US took its place. We invested heavily in the Marshall Plan in 1948, created NATO in 1949, and led a United Nations coalition

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***Of the 150 largest countries in the world, nearly 100 lean toward the United States while 21 lean against it.***

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that fought in Korea in 1950. In 1960, we signed a security treaty with Japan. American troops remain in Europe, Japan, Korea and elsewhere to this day.

While Americans have had bitter debates and partisan differences over intervention in developing countries like Vietnam and Iraq, the bedrock consensus in American foreign policy for

seven decades has been our alliance system. Now it has been called into question by a major political party presidential candidate. That would be a radical change in American foreign policy. Our alliances have reinforced our leadership and slowed the dangerous proliferation of nuclear weapons. While presidents and secretaries of defence have sometimes complained about the levels of alliance defence spending, they have always understood that alliances are best judged as stabilising commitments like marriages rather than as temporary real estate bargains. Even though it has often complained about free riders, the United States has been in a position to steer the bus.

What is the future of American power? My guess is that among the range of possible futures, ones in which a new challenger such as Europe, Russia, India, Brazil or China surpasses the United



States and precipitates the end of the American centrality to the global balance of power are not impossible, but not very likely. The distinguished British strategist Lawrence Freedman notes that among the features that distinguish the US from 'the dominant great powers of the past: American power is based on alliances rather than colonies.' Alliances are assets; colonies are liabilities.

The real problem for the United States is not that it will be overtaken by China or another contender, but that it will be faced with a rise in the power resources of many others – both states and non-state actors. The real challenge will be

entropy – the inability to get work done. We will face an increasing number of new transnational issues which will require power *with* others as much as power *over* others. In a world of growing

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***Alliances are assets; colonies are liabilities.***

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complexity, the most connected states are the most powerful. The US comes first in Australia's Lowy Institute ranking of nations by number of embassies, consulates and missions. Washington has some 60 treaty allies; China has few. In political alignments, *The Economist* estimates that of the 150 largest

countries in the world, nearly 100 lean toward the United States while 21 lean against it.

The American century is not over, if by that we mean the extraordinary period since 1945 of American pre-eminence in military, economic and soft power resources that have made the United States central to the workings of the global balance of power, and to the provision of global public goods. We have not entered a post-American world. But the American share of the

world economy will be less than it was in the middle of the past century, and the complexity represented by the rise of other countries as well as the increased role of non-state actors will make it more difficult for anyone to wield influence and organise action. Now, with slightly less preponderance and a much more complex world, our ability to sustain the credibility of our alliances as well as establish new networks will be central to the success of American foreign policy.

*Joseph S Nye, Jr is University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard and author most recently of Is the American Century Over?*



A DFID staff member supervises the unloading of UK aid from an RAF aircraft in Kathmandu, Nepal

# Britain in the world

We can be proud of Britain's commitment to helping the world's poorest countries, writes former Minister of International Development **Nick Hurd MP** (1981, Literae Humaniores).



Some years slip by quietly and without fuss. Not so 2016. Rough and noisy, it keeps putting us through the mangle of emotions. Many of us are still struggling to come to terms with the seismic convulsion triggered by the Brexit vote.

That historic vote will take us out of the EU but we will continue to be European. However Brexit requires us to redefine our place in the world. It creates the opportunity to build relationships in our own name and on our own terms. In that process, we need to play to our strengths. But do we really understand them?

We have traditional 'hard power' in the form of economic strength and military clout. However we should not underestimate just how well placed we are

in terms of 'soft power' and the ability to build networks of collaboration and influence. This matters enormously in the modern world. President Obama described real power as getting what you want without having to exert violence. How does the UK stack up on soft power? In a recent report Portland Communications, a prominent political consultancy and public relations agency, looked at 75 different metrics and positioned the UK second only to the USA. This is strength built over many generations and dimensions. Our language, culture, higher education system, global brands; civil society, the BBC, the British Council; our creative industries and indeed our Premier League are all part of our ability to attract and influence. And of course we benefit hugely from London being seen as the leading 'global city'. On top of that we have one of



Images from left: Syrian refugee women talk to Jihanne Latrous, a gender-based violence counsellor from UNICEF; John Sesay stands in the streets of Magazine Wharf – one of Freetown's largest slums

the best diplomatic networks in the world. I want to add one more asset that we do not talk enough about.

David Cameron made an historic decision on our behalf. He honoured a long standing promise to increase the proportion of our national wealth that we spend on supporting the poorest countries in the world. He went further than that, and enshrined in law our commitment to spend 0.7% of our Gross National Income. This is a tiny percentage but amounts to over £10 billion per year, depending on performance of the economy. This commitment makes us one of the most generous and outward looking countries in the world. It is part of what defines us as a nation. Of course it is not popular in all corners, especially in times of austerity. Indeed I have lost track of the number of people over the years who are keen to tell me that 'charity should begin at home'.

I do not agree. This is not just because I believe that we have a moral responsibility to live up to the commitments that we have made in the past to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. It is also because I believe that this investment is firmly in the national interest.

Take the example of Sierra Leone, which I visited earlier this year. No country has played a bigger role than Britain in the recent history of that country, first by helping to end a terrible civil war but more recently in the herculean effort to contain the devastating Ebola disease. Did we lead that effort simply because of our real sense of solidarity with the people of Sierra Leone? No: we threw ourselves into the challenge because we were also determined to protect the British people from an unthinkable threat to our health security.

Take the tragedy of Syria. Few countries have contributed more aid to support the refugees in their desperate plight than the UK. Of course, we want to show leadership in responding to overwhelming humanitarian need. However we are also aware that the British people are very

concerned about the pressures of immigration. So it is right to do what we can to try and give refugees reasons to stay closer to their own country, and not try to make the perilous journey to Europe.

Then take Africa, where we invest £2 billion per year directly. That amazing continent is going to become even more important to our future prosperity and sense of security. Just consider the demographics and the impact of population growth. Africa may be where our history as a species started but it is today a very young continent. The projections are that by 2050, one in four people in the world will be African. The World Bank estimates that 18 million jobs per year will have to be created for the number of young people coming through. Now this could go very well or it could go very badly. We all have a stake in the question 'What are all these young people going to do?' If we get the right answer, then Africa can secure what is known as 'the demographic dividend' and be a major driver of global prosperity. If we get it wrong then the things we worry about today, such as levels of irregular migration and vulnerability to extremism, are only going to get a lot worse. So of course it makes sense for us to work with our African partners to help shape a positive future. I know from my own personal experience how valued UK Aid is – not just because of the money, but also through respect for the quality and integrity of the advice that comes with it. So in this process we are also building and deepening relationships that will become increasingly important to Britain in the post-Brexit world.

In DFID, Britain has the best international development agency in the world. Of course this investment needs to be heavily scrutinised to ensure we get value for money and avoid wasting taxpayers' money. However I do believe strongly that we should celebrate British leadership in so many areas, whether it be making sure girls exercise their right to an education, combating malaria and HIV, or tackling corruption. It is part of who we are, and I for one am very proud of that.

# To call, or not to call, that is the question

A high proportion of alumni want to support their college, but strict new fundraising regulations are making it hard to stay in touch, reports **Katrina Hancock** (1998, Earth Sciences), Director of Development.



For over 15 years, Exeter students have been calling alumni to talk about life in College and to ask if they will consider making a donation. An exceptionally high proportion choose to make a gift – usually around 60% – which is indicative of how much alumni enjoy speaking to students, and their warmth towards College and their desire to support it.

Naturally, there are some alumni who do not appreciate being approached this way or who are not in a position to donate. This is always respected and we take great care to give those we intend to contact the chance to opt out.

We have a wide range of other initiatives, including events and publications, to ensure all alumni feel connected to the College, regardless of whether they choose to speak to a student or to donate.

Nonetheless, telethons remain one of the most important and successful ways of connecting with alumni and seeking financial support; they generate around 50% of the Annual Fund's income – essential for providing financial support for students and teaching each year. But in light of Sir Stuart Etherington's review of fundraising practice and regulation, published in September 2015, Exeter's telethons are under threat.

You may recall the story of Olive Cooke, an elderly lady who, it was widely reported last year, had been 'hounded to death' by charities seeking her support. Despite her family later saying her death was not related to the numerous solicitations she received, the controversy was sufficient for the government to step in and order a review on the fundraising practices of charities. The whole charity sector, including the University of Oxford and its colleges, is now subject to the outcome of the review which includes a tightening of regulations regarding calling those who are registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). TPS allows people to opt out of receiving direct marketing calls, which include fundraising calls, and makes good sense

where there is no prior relationship. However, given that our donors are mainly our alumni, with whom the College has had a relationship since matriculation, together with some parents or friends who choose to engage with the College, this is very frustrating. We are not cold calling – we are building on an existing relationship that goes beyond fundraising.

Where once we could call alumni registered with TPS provided we could demonstrate an existing relationship, the new rules mean we cannot unless we have 'unambiguous consent'. Consequently, the number of people we were able to call during this year's telethon in March was reduced from 2,743 in 2015 to 1,545. Understandably this had an impact on the gifts we received; it also adversely affected our relationship with those alumni registered with TPS who were surprised not to hear from us this year.

So is this the end of the Exeter telethon and the wonderful conversations between students and alumni? We hope not. Over 1,800 alumni have recently returned a personal information form in which unambiguous consent has been given for telephone fundraising. Obviously we will keep checking we understand the individual wishes of alumni regarding College communications, and we will continue to give people the chance to opt out of receiving a call.

But we are committed to maintaining our relationships with all members of the Exeter family, wherever possible, and to ensuring we communicate with each member in the way that suits them. So don't be shy, let us know if you do or do not want to be called, and bear with us while we continue to navigate our way through uncharted waters following Etherington's review.



## The ties that bind

With every phone call she makes on behalf of the College, **Isabella Neil** (2014, English) feels more a part of the family.



'Hi there, my name is Izzy, and I'm calling from Exeter College to talk to you about the Annual Fund, update you on life in College, and catch up with our alumni community.'

That's how most conversations start for a telethon caller, but where they go from there is pretty diverse. Having participated as a student caller in two telethons, I feel as though I should be more certain about picking up the phone and dialling an alumnus, and yet experience seems to be almost no use. Every phone call is different, and it is this variety that highlights what it is about Exeter and its community that is so exciting. Through the telethon, I have had the chance to chat to alumni who have gone on to do innumerable different things, all over the world.

Despite the apparent disparity in the profiles given to us as student callers, there is a common theme that runs through the telethons, and that is the connection that Exonians of every generation have with the College and the community of people that make up Exeter. Exeter is more than just the place that we happen to inhabit for three or

four years in our early adulthood; as cheesy as it sounds, it is a family, with a generous and caring mentality that extends far beyond the quads and gardens and teaching rooms that make up its physical space.

The telethon is an experience in the past, present, and future of the College. Many conversations contain some sort of comparison between current experiences of Exeter and episodes from its past. At this point in the College's history, many more conversations touched on Exeter's future, with Exonians around the globe united in their excitement for Cohen Quad.

As I go into my final year, preparing for my exams in the newly developed Cohen Quad, I am increasingly preoccupied with the future, both my own and Exeter's. My time as a telethon caller has, however, allayed some of my fears. I may not yet know exactly what I want to do after Exeter, but I have been reassured that Exonians tread paths that lead to every corner of the globe, and that my time here in this beautiful nook of Oxford is preparing me to make an impact in a far wider sphere than I could possibly yet imagine.

# Don't thask, don't get

**Katrina Hancock** (1998, Earth Sciences), Exeter's Director of Development, explores the tricky etiquette of expressing gratitude for support whilst asking for more.



In March I discovered a new verb – ‘thask’: the art of thanking someone and asking for something more in the same conversation, or even the same breath. Admittedly the Oxford English Dictionary has not yet adopted it, but it certainly describes something that fundraisers, including myself, sometimes have to consider.

Opinion is divided among fundraisers whether it is acceptable to thask. Perhaps it would be better to thank someone for their gift and ask them to consider making another gift separately. Often in a world where time is scarce it makes sense to seize the opportunities presented to you; donors tend to be very busy and so you may only have one chance a year to meet face to face. Do you use that time to thank or to ask? Most fundraisers will, therefore, thask. But is that appropriate or sensible?

I confess I am split both ways. There are occasions when it is good to thank a donor by describing the impact of their gift, and use that opportunity as a springboard to invite future support. For example, anyone who has attended one of Exeter's termly London City Drinks events will be familiar with this; after thanking attendees for their support in the previous year I move seamlessly to asking them to make a gift again this year. Similarly, in one-to-one meetings with donors, given that you can never thank someone enough, it seems sensible to start a conversation with appreciation before moving on to ask for another transformative gift.

However people may often appreciate a break from being asked for their support. There are times when it is appropriate to let the act of appreciation stand alone. Whether it is a letter to acknowledge a small but significant gift from a recent graduate or an event to open formally a building paid for and named after a major donor, there are times when it is right to thank and not to ask. But I have found that there are other, less obvious times where forgoing the opportunity to ask for a gift can be welcomed. At the most recent London City Drinks event, for instance, in June, I spoke solely about the impact of giving and our gratitude as a whole College to those who have made a gift this year. Afterwards I wondered if I had missed an opportunity to make around 100 face-to-face solicitations in a single breath. To my relief, the messages I received over the following days showed that the approach was appreciated, and many people chose to give off the back of

that event despite not being asked directly for a gift. Just as importantly, our guests knew that they, and their previous support, are valued, and the benefit of strengthening the relationship between the College and its alumni and friends cannot be overstated.

Another example came at the end of the 2015-16 tax year. We realised we are not thanking our regular donors frequently enough for their support. So, in April, we wrote to all our alumni who had direct debits or standing orders in place to provide a record of their giving over the previous year, thank them for their support, and share a little about the impact of their gifts. The letter did not contain a solicitation for a renewed gift and there was no donation form enclosed. On reflection it was, in fact, liberating to be able simply to thank those on whom we rely so much. Furthermore, it was wonderfully encouraging when so many alumni replied to the letter to say they appreciated it and were going to reinstate a gift that had finished, or even increase it.

The value of a standalone thank you is clear. It lets donors know they are genuinely appreciated and gives them a moment to enjoy having made *that* gift before considering moving on to the next. Sometimes, that act of appreciation is all that is needed to motivate someone to give again. It also frames the relationship between donor and College, underlining the respect and gratitude in which their generosity is held, so that any future solicitations are made within a positive context and as part of an ever developing relationship.

As we think about the opening of Cohen Quad this coming academic year, we recognise that it will be a time for celebration and appreciation. Not only will we be opening a cutting-edge new building but, all being well, we will also be celebrating achieving our £45 million target for the *Exeter Excelling* campaign, which has been supported by over 4,000 alumni. Although the need for ongoing financial support will remain, this will be a good opportunity for us to pause, reflect, and thank all of those who have helped us to achieve so much over the last 10 years. So, on this occasion, while we may share our future vision for the programmes we hope to place in the infrastructure we have built, we will endeavour not to thask, but to thank. We know full well that we couldn't have done it without you and want to show our appreciation: thank you.

# Down on the farm

A new destination provided a host of fresh experiences for 32 disadvantaged Oxfordshire children this year, writes **Laura Spence** (2012, Literae Humaniores).



This year has certainly been an exciting one for ExVac, Exeter College's student-run charity. After a year of hard work from the whole committee, two fantastic teams of student volunteers took 32 Oxfordshire-based children from socially and economically deprived backgrounds on holiday this Easter. For many of them it was their first ever holiday.

In a change from the past few years they headed to a new centre – a working farm in the New Forest. The children had an incredible time, enjoying ExVac's usual mix of fun days out at Legoland, an indoor play centre, and pottery painting, but also revelling in the opportunity to help out on the farm every day. We introduced some other new activities to the fun-packed weeks too, including a visit to a nearby motor museum and an afternoon canoeing. For the children it was an amazing time away from stressful home environments, and we hope they will



have taken away memories of friends and fun times that they will always treasure.

ExVac has also had a great year in College. Our student committee has worked hard to fund the holidays, receiving donations from numerous trusts, bucket-shaking on Cornmarket Street, taking part in local fundraising events such as Project Soup (a series of micro-funding charity dinners in Oxford), and running memorable events, including fantastic bake sales and a sponsored ergathon in partnership with Exeter College Boat Club (see page 21). We have an amazing new website that keeps children, their parents, and donors up to date with what we are doing, and we have produced a promotional video featuring a number of current and former members of the ExVac committee.

As ever, we are so grateful for the support of so many alumni, without whose generosity we would be unable to give these deserving children the holiday of a lifetime. If you would like to support ExVac or watch our video please visit [exvac.co.uk](http://exvac.co.uk).



Students from Aberystwyth University rehearse a stage version of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*

## BBC to adapt Pullman fantasy inspired by Exeter

Fans of Philip Pullman rejoice. The Exeter alumnus's popular trilogy *His Dark Materials* is being brought to life over 40 episodes by the BBC.

By **Jake Donald** (2014, Modern Languages).



The BBC has commissioned an adaptation of Exeter alumnus Philip Pullman's (1965, English) *His Dark Materials* trilogy of books, with production to begin in autumn of this year.

Parts of the trilogy, which won the Carnegie Medal in 1995 and has sold over 17.5 million copies worldwide in more than 40 languages, are set in fictional Jordan College in an alternative Oxford, and it is no secret that it was Exeter College which served as Pullman's inspiration.

It is from this college that Pullman's heroine, Lyra Belacqua, escapes and travels north in search of the children that have been kidnapped by the sinister Magesterium, a powerful, pseudo-religious body that seeks to 'end tolerance and free inquiry.' On her journey, Lyra meets and befriends a boy named Will, with whom she is destined to overcome the Magesterium and save not just her world, but the multiverse.

With a budget of \$180 million, Chris Weitz's 2007 Hollywood adaptation of the first of the trilogy, *The Golden Compass*, was praised for its visual effects and the character depth of its villains. While box office takings in the USA were

considered a little disappointing, they dramatically exceeded expectations overseas, earning \$372 million worldwide. In an interview with *The Times* in 2008, Pullman said that he hoped that the rest of the trilogy would be adapted too.

It is no surprise, then, that Pullman 'couldn't be more pleased' to serve as the executive producer of the BBC adaptation of the trilogy, which was commissioned earlier this year by Controller of BBC One Charlotte Moore and will be produced by Bad Wolf and New Line Cinema. Not only will the adaptation be shot in 'the very best studio in Wales,' but it will be written by one of the leading contemporary British stage and screen writers, Jack Thorne, who has been nominated for three BAFTA TV awards, as well as writing the critically-acclaimed play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is now showing at London's Palace Theatre.

The hope, Pullman has stated, is that the adaptation will fully exploit television's capacity to reach levels of characterisation and suspense which cannot be achieved by a single film. Released in the UK across five series in 40 episodes, the BBC's production is set to bring fantasy home for Exonians both past and present.



# Exeter alumnus Pedro Pablo Kuczynski elected president of Peru

After winning Peru's presidential run-off election by the thinnest of margins, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski faces a battle to unite Peru, writes **Danny Concha** (2013, Modern Languages).



Exeter alumnus Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (1956, PPE) has been elected president of Peru in an extraordinarily close run-off election. Kuczynski, better known by his initials PPK, narrowly edged past his rival Keiko Fujimori – the daughter of imprisoned

former president Alberto Fujimori – with 50.1% of the vote: a margin of just 41,000 votes out of 17 million cast. As the unlikely winner in a hugely dramatic and controversial election, the challenge for PPK is only just beginning.

Kuczynski is not a typical modern-day presidential candidate. Aged 77, he has become Peru's oldest elected president. Regarded as the 'orthodox economist' of the

elections, PPK was hired by the World Bank aged just 23 and went on to pursue a career in private equity and banking in the United States of America. He has also filled various prominent roles in Peru including manager of Peru's central bank, minister of energy and mines, and, from 2005 to 2006, prime minister.

It is no surprise then that his party, *Peruanos Por el Kambio* (Peruvians for Change), will seek change through a conservative pro-business model based on tax-reduction and increased public investment. He has pledged to stimulate Peru's economy and raise GDP by 6% through a restructuring of its booming copper industry and incentives for small businesses. He has also promised to raise the

minimum wage, improve healthcare and water sanitation, and tackle poverty and crime. Despite criticisms that he represents a president 'straight from Wall Street', PPK is expected to bring vast business experience to Peru's hopes of maintaining its economic growth.

This said, PPK's triumph owes as much to a powerful rejection of *Fujimorismo* – the politics of former president Alberto Fujimori – as it does to his own campaign. As Alberto Fujimori's daughter, PPK's opponent Keiko Fujimori is thought by many to represent a continuation of *Fujimorismo* policies and ideologies. Nothing divides Peru like the long shadow of Alberto Fujimori, currently serving a 25-year prison sentence for murder, corruption and human rights violations. Whilst he is revered by many as the saviour of Peru's economy who ended the war against Maoist rebel group *Sendero Luminoso* (The Shining Path), for many other Peruvians Fujimori represents authoritarian rule, corruption, organised crime, and death squads. The polarising *Fujimorismo* has therefore proven to be pivotal in Peru's politics, with the presidential elections almost representing a referendum on Alberto Fujimori's legacy.

For PPK's voters, his victory will be perceived as a triumph of democracy over authoritarian rule. Yet there is no denying that Kuczynski owes his victory largely to the fierce anti-*Fujimorismo* protest vote which has propelled him past frontrunner Keiko Fujimori following a series of corruption scandals and investigations into her *Fuerza Popular* (Popular Force) party in the final weeks of campaigning. The thousands of protesters who gathered in Lima, across Europe, the USA and on social media to reject Fujimori

ultimately served as the wind behind Kuczynski's sails and proved just enough to transform his fortunes from the first-round election, where he won just 21% of votes, and secure his victory by a razor-thin margin.

Given the tight result, it is clear that great challenges lie ahead for PPK when he takes office on 28 July; his first major task will be to unite a divided country.

Effecting change will also present a major challenge for PPK. Several leading political figures, including leader of the left-wing party *Frente Amplio* (Broad Front) Verónica Mendoza, who crucially backed PPK publicly on the day of the run-off election, have made it clear that they will oppose many of his policies. And whilst Fujimori's Popular Force party holds 71 of the 130 seats in Peru's congress, PPK's Peruvians for Change holds just 20. The reality is that any policies he wants to implement will need support from some of his most prominent political opponents. Though defeated, Keiko Fujimori still holds considerable power.

As well as fighting for unity and change, PPK must fight to rectify his image. Despite a favourable reputation as Peru's most creditable and principled presidential candidate, PPK has often been accused of being simply too old, too white, too American, and too out of touch with the Peruvian people. His affiliations with the wealthy classes and international business elite don't sit well with many of the indigenous voters who are firmly behind Keiko Fujimori after five years of tireless campaigning in some of Peru's most remote regions. PPK has made big promises to tackle inequality and poverty; now it is time for the middle-class technocrat to prove his heart is with the people.



Images: Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (top left) and his supporters at the *Fiesta de la Democracia* in Huaraz

# Viral campaign

Grace Jackson was recognised in the New Year honours list for her help coordinating the British response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

**Edward Wignall** (2014, Literae Humaniores) met up with her in College to learn about her work.



Torrential rain was a stark reminder of how far Grace Jackson (2009, PPE) had travelled in the last 48 hours. As everybody knows, the only way to start a conversation is to ask about their journey. Hers was more interesting than most: 'There are no more direct flights,' she explains, 'which is a pain.'

The last flight from London to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, was in August 2014, and Grace was on it.

'To be honest, that's when everyone really started to panic... the day I walked into the office, that's when all hell broke loose.'

As part of the Civil Service Fast Stream scheme, Grace was told in May 2014 that she had been allocated to the Sierra Leone Economic Growth Team – a month after the president, Ernest Bai Koroma, had ruled out the presence of Ebola in the country.

Soon, however, Ebola was the single focus of the British contingent in Freetown.

'I was the programme manager for the UK treatment centres, which meant mostly the financial, contractual, operational side of setting up six ETCs [Ebola treatment centres].'

The international response to the outbreak was on a vast scale and presented a daunting logistical challenge.

'It is pretty complex, because all the different bits have to work perfectly for it all to come together. But I think we had a fairly clear strategy for what needed to happen.'

This strategy included the need to improve rapidly the clinical facilities in Sierra Leone. The situation was desperate.

'In the initial few months, there was a lot of focus on bed numbers, because that was seen as the major blocking point. But then all the other bits were also not working, so it was targeting all of them at once.'



Waterloo cemetery – one of Freetown's safe burial areas for Ebola victims



Medics in full safety gear at the entrance to a new isolation unit at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown

Worries such as these contributed to growing panic as 2014 wore on. Predictions were made that up to five million people could be killed in Sierra Leone and Liberia alone. Was there ever a sense that this might happen?

'Personally, not for me. All I was thinking about was the number of days we had left to build the treatment centres and I didn't really look up from that. I think that if I had, it would have been overwhelming.'

It is extraordinary to hear first-hand how close disaster came.

'There were discussions being held around that time: "we have one month to get on top of this and get the transmission rate to go down and if we don't make it by then, we're never going to make it."'

Despite this, it is tempting to view Ebola as just the next in a series of global epidemics that, like SARS and the swine and avian flus, wasn't as deadly or wide-spread as some people projected. Not so.

'What Ebola made everyone realise is that you're only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. If the next Ebola epidemic hits a country as unprepared as Sierra Leone, then we could be in big trouble. I think it has put a lot of renewed focus onto the global health-security agenda.'

Sadly, this does not spell the end for the disease.

'We know now that it's in the animal reservoir so it will

happen again, but the point is that it won't get to the stage that it did. I think the Democratic Republic of the Congo has a manageable outbreak every year.'

Grace's work has continued well after the media spotlight shifted from West Africa. She is still in Freetown, working with the Sierra Leonean leadership. I asked how she was finding it now things have died down.

'The work has changed, but it's still quite intense. You can definitely feel things going back to normal. New places are opening, places are re-opening – it just feels a bit more alive.'

Unfortunately though, this is something few tourists will experience.

'There's so much that Sierra Leone could offer tourists. It's just that it takes a decade or more for people to forget that Sierra Leone is the place with the civil war, and it's going to take another decade for people to stop thinking of Sierra Leone as the place with Ebola.'

Grace's passion for the country comes across powerfully. Even a brief encounter is enough to see why she has been recognised for her remarkable work there. 'Grace Jackson OBE' won't be appearing on her email signature any time soon, she tells me. I think it should; she has certainly earned it.

# Is HarperCollins flogging a dead horse with latest Tolkien publication?

More than 30 books have been published bearing Tolkien's name since his death. Should we let his unfinished work rest in peace, asks **Dr Stuart Lee**, Member of the English Faculty and Merton College.



On the day Terry Pratchett's posthumous book was published, the latest publication by JRR Tolkien arrived through my letterbox

– a thin volume called *The Story of Kullervo*. This latest from Tolkien is a paraphrasing of the tale of Kullervo from the Finnish *Kalevala*, which inspired Tolkien's own reworking of the story in *The Children of Húrin*. Tolkien had bemoaned the lack of anything in English to rival the *Kalevala* as he saw it, and in part then his Middle-earth legendarium was written in response.

The differences between the Pratchett and Tolkien publications are striking, of course. Terry Pratchett has only recently died; his book was, by all accounts, '90% there'; and we are told this will be the last ever Discworld volume. Tolkien, on the other hand, died more than 40 years ago and since then, if we include the work that has been published for the first time in scholarly journals, there have been more than 30 new titles bearing his name. It would be hard to imagine a writer with a posthumous publication record to match this.

The immediate response is cynicism. As is well known, especially to the publisher HarperCollins, any title bearing Tolkien's name immediately opens up international sales to a large and ever-hungry readership. Images

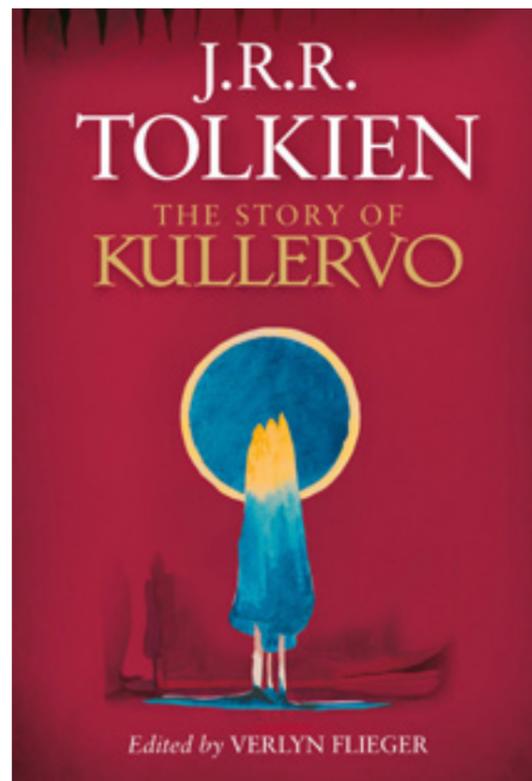
of the golden goose spring to mind, especially when we note that this latest publication is based on some unfinished notes and an attempt at a tale by Tolkien at the beginning of his career (some 20-30 years before *The Lord of the Rings* saw the light of day), is based on a relatively obscure tale from Finnish mythology and has already been published more or less in a previous edition of the journal *Tolkien Studies*, also edited by Verlyn Flieger. To top it all off, some of it is simply a talk he gave as an undergraduate.

So is this fair, or is the seemingly never-ending publication mill attributing works to Tolkien warranted?

The answer is mixed. First we must remember that the posthumous publications include *The Silmarillion*, Tolkien's great unfinished epic that presented the underlying history of his world, which was edited after his death by his son Christopher. To this we can add the extraordinary series

of volumes detailing the history of Middle-earth, not only providing us with a series of unseen tales, but also the creative process behind *The Lord of the Rings*. Again all edited to a very high standard by Christopher Tolkien.

And herein lies the issue. Tolkien's strength was also his great weakness. His mythology succeeds precisely because it is so intricate. References in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* to tales and legends



we only have a glimpse of were thus revealed to be already written but unpublished. This added to the depth within the mythology that Tolkien desired, but such a mammoth task, especially for a constant rewriter like Tolkien, proved too much to allow for a chain of publications within his lifetime. So we can only celebrate the work by Christopher Tolkien and other editors in terms of providing this corpus of material that illustrates, if it was not already evident, Tolkien's genius.

It often comes as a surprise to many people to hear that Tolkien was also an eminent medievalist, a professor at Oxford University. His publication record was not his strength, and while everything he did manage to get into print was of exceptional value, there is a wealth of material that never saw the light of day – some of which has also been posthumously published. Into this category fall his lectures, and translations or paraphrases of some of the great medieval tales – such as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Beowulf* (which appeared last year), and now *The Story of Kullervo*.

But like Bilbo's feeling of butter being spread too thin there are signs of a sense of weariness here. It began with *The Fall of Arthur*, Tolkien's attempt at part of the Arthurian myth which appeared in 2013. It was incomplete, as *The Story of Kullervo* is (the latter finishes with only a few hurried notes detailing Kullervo's death). We then had the *Beowulf* translation. Fascinating though this has been, and no doubt has brought a new audience to the great work, as many people have noted the commentary and notes just run out of steam around half-way through.

*The Story of Kullervo* deserved publication. But one questions whether it was right to move it from an academic journal (where Verlyn Flieger's research deserved its place) to mainstream book production. That said, who can deny this piece to a wider audience? Tolkien readers now have access to these rare texts – and on balance, that must be a good thing.



Images: Akseli Gallen-Kallela, *Kullervo Cursing*, Google Art Project

Copy: © Stuart Lee, Deputy CIO; Member of English Faculty; Member of Merton College, University of Oxford <https://theconversation.com/is-harpercollins-flogging-a-dead-horse-with-latest-tolkien-publication-46968>

# Exonians in print

Our selection of publications by alumni and Fellows is a smorgasbord of treats, from political thrillers to poetry collections.



**2017: War With Russia: an urgent warning from senior military command**  
Richard Shirreff (1974, Modern History)  
Drawing on his experience as a former NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff presents a terrifying analysis of potential future events if the world's powers fail to recognise the threat of Russia. A *Sunday Times* best seller, this novel is not to be missed.



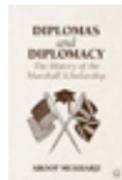
**Mapping Mythologies: countercurrents in eighteenth-century British poetry and cultural history**  
Marilyn Butler (1937-2014), Exeter College Rector 1993-2004  
Written by Professor Butler in the 1980s and published posthumously last year, this book explores a succession of great writers, but also the politics of a wider culture, in which scholars, publishers, editors, booksellers and readers all play their parts.



**Speeches that Changed Britain: oratory in Birmingham**  
Andrew Reekes (1970, Modern History)  
Mixing rich illustration and influential oration, Andrew Reekes looks at 10 speeches made in Birmingham that challenged the rest of the UK to embrace reform. Over the 200-year period covered, the book encounters the Chartists, the Chamberlains, Enoch Powell and Oswald Mosley.



**Vulnerable Adults and the Law**  
Jonathan Herring, Fellow and Tutor in Law  
Professor Herring has added to his extensive and impressive bibliography with a publication that incorporates family law, medical law, disabilities studies, feminist analysis, and legal theory as it addresses the controversial topic of autonomy and mental capacity, including the care of vulnerable adults.



**Diplomas and Diplomacy: the history of the Marshall Scholarship**  
Aroop Mukharji (2007, Williams)  
The Marshall Scholarship is a prestigious postgraduate scholarship that enables American students to study in the United Kingdom. This is the first published work to chart its history, and includes a foreword from Philip Hammond.



**The Founder's Mentality**  
Chris Zook (1973, Economics)  
*The Founder's Mentality* examines how businesses can overcome the predictable crises of growth. It focuses on the barriers to profitable growth and identifies three internal crises that every company will go through at predictable stages as it grows.



**The Student's Guide to Mathematics; The Student's Guide to English; The 11+: a practical guide for parents**  
Mark Chatterton (1976, Theology)  
Mark Chatterton is a teacher with over 20 years of experience preparing children for the 11+. He has published three handy guides for pupils taking the 11+, SATs or GCSEs and a guide to the 11+ for parents.



**Advising Chiang's Army: an American soldier's World War II experience in China**  
Stephen L Wilson (1970, PPE)  
Phil Saunders was an adviser to Chiang Kai-shek, and this book recounts his two years spent in China assisting the nationalist army. The second lieutenant in the US Army is profiled here both during his time in China and his post-war career in politics.



**Pink Museum**  
Caroline Crew (2011, English)  
Exeter alumna Caroline Crew has published her first collection of poetry. She describes the *Pink Museum* as 'the not-so-imaginary space where girls are permitted to talk' that 'transforms Victorian meter into a jagged contemporary howling.'



**Getting On With It: a history of London youth**  
Terry Powley (1964, Modern History)  
Dr Terry Powley has written a history of what is now called the Federation of London Youth Clubs, whose origins can be traced back to the formation of the Girls' Club Union in 1880 and the Federation of London Working Boys' Clubs and Institutes in 1887.



**Cycles of Change: the three great cycles of American history, and the coming crises that will lead to the fourth**  
Martin Sieff (1969, Modern History)  
Examining political patterns over 200 years of US history, Sieff finds America has gone through six eras of 32-40 years' length, each dominated by particular political ideas, economic interests and charismatic leaders from different parts of the country.

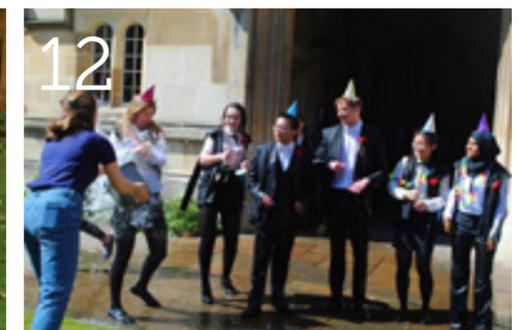
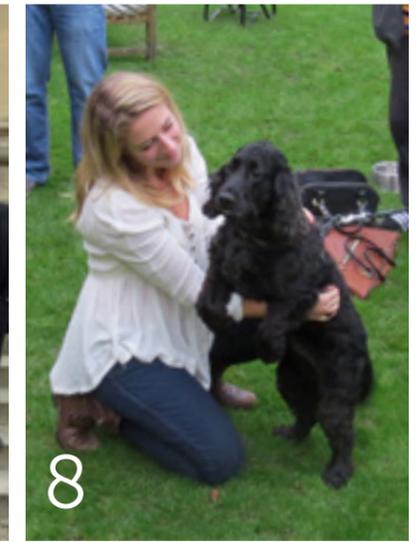


**Some Ethnolinguistic Notes on Polar Eskimo**  
Stephen Leonard, Fellow in Anthropology  
This ethnographic introduction to the Polar Eskimo language provides insight into Inugguit (a sub-group of the Inuit) customs from north-west Greenland. Around 770 people speak the language, and the glossary covers traditions, such as drum-dancing and story-telling.

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# The year in pictures



**1** Architect Alison Brooks, Rector Sir Rick Trainor and Sir Ronald Cohen celebrate the topping out of Cohen Quad  
**2** Reverend Andrew Allen blesses one of the Boat Club's new boats before its first launch **3** Croquet in the Fellows' Garden  
**4** Jeri Johnson, Fellow in English, (pictured left) celebrates her 25 years at Exeter College **5** Hard at work in the front quad  
**6** Cuppers Bowl final **7** Freshers at matriculation **8** The Bursar's dog Hector entertains students **9** ExVac volunteers help at the popular Families in the Fellows' Garden event **10** Ascension Day **11** Welfare Reps prepare to welcome guests at Freshers' Tea **12** Second-year Medics celebrate finishing their exams



# EVENT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016 – 2017

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SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Exeter Alumni Lunch  
(part of the Oxford Alumni Weekend)

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SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

2000–2004 Gaudy

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SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER

Freshers' Parents' Tea

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SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

Lyell Society Dinner

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FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Physics Dinner

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SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Medical Society Dinner

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SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Symposium: The Power of the Written Word

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TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Winter City Drinks – Canary Wharf

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SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

Children's Christmas Carol Workshop and Concert

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THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER

Alumni Event in New York City

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FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Fortescue Society Dinner

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FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Regional Event – Liverpool

---

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Exepreneurs Event – London

---

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Parents' Dinner

---

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

PPE Dinner

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SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 18 AND 19 MARCH

Cohen Quad – Formal Opening Events

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THURSDAY 23 MARCH

Exeter College Event in Hong Kong

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FRIDAY 24 MARCH

Exeter College Event in Singapore

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WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL

Amelia Jackson Society Luncheon

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SATURDAY 13 MAY

Families in the Fellows' Garden

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SATURDAY 13 MAY

ExVac AGM Dinner

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FRIDAY 19 MAY

Regional Event – Gloucestershire

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SATURDAY 27 MAY

1314 Society Garden Party

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SATURDAY 27 MAY

Young Alumni Boathouse Drinks

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SATURDAY 27 MAY

Boat Club Dinner

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JUNE

Summer City Drinks

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SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Leavers' Parents' Lunch

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SATURDAY 24 JUNE

1980–1984 Grand Gaudy

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All events, unless otherwise stated, take place at Exeter College. For full details of events and dates as they are confirmed, please see [www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events). Invitations are typically sent out three months before an event. Event details may be subject to change; we therefore recommend you do not make travel arrangements until the Development Office has confirmed you have a ticket.

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