

WOLFSON
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Plans and Prospects

For all Wolfsonians around the World | Issue 5: June 2015

Plans and Prospects

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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 *Santhy Balachandran, a Wolfson member since 2009, has won the University graduate photography competition social prize for her picture of a graduand on graduation day. Santhy, a Clarendon scholar, is reading for a DPhil in Anthropology. The graduand is Wolfson alumna Stuti Mehta with her father.*



Introduction

Dear Wolfsonians,

The builders are back in College and the second phase of the new academic wing is more than half completed along with the last of the modernisations of the family quarters. We are on schedule for the completion of the works by the middle of December and to be ready for our celebratory 50th anniversary in 2016. In time for next year, the College will have had a significant investment in its original facilities, a 25 per cent expansion of the College library and the opening of our hugely successful Leonard Wolfson Auditorium. Our main building will also have been designated as a Grade II listed building of historical importance.



In keeping with a theme of innovation and investment, the research clusters go from strength to strength each year. Most now have external funding to support students and research fellowships. We are on target to have 50 fully funded scholarships in place for the 50th anniversary; 41 have been recruited, 4 more are funded and the last 5 will hopefully be in place by the end of the year. Wolfson Innovate has had an excellent second year with much better funding in place from the Morningside Foundation. We were the first College in Oxford to successfully crowd fund for an academic subject, a £50,000 success story to extend a research fellowship in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies, and our annual phone campaign broke all records, nearly doubling last year's outcome, mostly due to our dedicated student callers.

We have planned an outstanding schedule of events and activities for 2016 and the year-long programme will be available soon. Mark your diaries for the anniversary party of 8–10 July, 2016. Arrangements are in hand to make College rooms available for extended periods around the anniversary event to meet demand from alumni and their families wanting to come back to Oxford for family holidays.

I meet many alumni who haven't returned to Wolfson in decades. We should be in wonderful shape for 2016 and will be looking forward to greeting old friends and to reacquaint you with your College.

William J Conner

Fellow and Development Director

The College is expanding and developing, but at the same time it retains its treasured atmosphere and ethos of friendly openness, family orientation, international range, and democratic egalitarianism



Professor Dame
Hermione Lee
© Jean Jottard.

A message from the President

Hermione Lee

Wolfson College's 50th Anniversary is one year away. The celebrations will be held on the weekend of July 8–10 2016, to mark the College's Foundation. Exciting big-name speakers for our named lectures throughout the year (Mary Beard for the Syme Lecture, Tim Berners-Lee for the Haldane Lecture and Kwame Appiah for the Berlin Lecture) are already in place. A series of Wolfson

Lectures on Global Education is being planned. There's to be a world première of a newly commissioned musical piece by our composer-in-residence, John Duggan, on the theme of Isaiah Berlin's 'The Hedgehog and the Fox'. Musical, artistic, academic and sporting events are all being planned for the year ahead, and there will be a special Anniversary Summer Ball on

25 June. A new book will be published on the College's history, and new art works are under consideration.

Meanwhile our wonderful new building, the second phase of the Academic Wing, is progressing on time. The new Wing, which will contain an elegant and much-needed extension to the existing library, more offices for our Fellows, a café providing a welcome to Wolfson to all our friends and neighbours, a new lodge, and a Front Quad with a silver birch grove and curved stone benches, will match the much-admired Leonard Wolfson Auditorium in beauty and usefulness. We're immensely grateful to our Honorary Fellow, John Adams, and to the Wolfson Foundation, for their generous support for our new building.

The College is expanding and developing, but at the same time it retains its treasured atmosphere and ethos of friendly openness, family



orientation, international range, and democratic egalitarianism. We're proud to feel that the spirit in which Isaiah Berlin founded the College almost fifty years ago persists and continues to grow.

Of course there have been losses and griefs this year, most notably the death of our Extraordinary Fellow and ex-Acting President, the poet and scholar Jon Stallworthy, in November 2014. The celebration of his life that was held in the College on 16 January 2015 showed how deeply his loss was felt and what a remarkable range of friends and admirers he had. Jon's loyalty and devotion to the College were well-known; he was, for many years, a leader in shaping and preserving its character. We're delighted that his friend Carol O'Brien has made a generous donation in his memory for the trees and benches in the new Front Quad, towards what will be named the Stallworthy Grove.

Earlier in 2014 we also lost our first Bursar and first and only Vice-President, the historian Michael Brock, who worked alongside Isaiah Berlin from 1967 to 1976 to make the College what it is today. On 4 May 2014, we marked a tragic moment in the College's pre-history, unveiling a plaque on the side of the LWA in memory of those who died when a Whitley V aircraft crashed on the site of Wolfson College on 4 May 1941. A number of those who witnessed the crash as children were present; and, even more remarkably, we learnt from our current Fellows, Jon Austyn and Nick Rawlins, of the medical outcomes of the event in the development of transplant surgery, which have affected many people's lives to the good.

We remember our past, but we also welcome our new arrivals, who reflect the remarkable variety and range of Wolfson's scholars. They included, in



2014 and 2015, Tarje Nissen-Meyer, working in Geophysics, Paul Jarvis, Professor of Plant Cell Biology, our new Senior Tutor, Gillian Hamnett (who is also undertaking a part-time DPhil in Classics, probably the only Senior Tutor in Oxford with such a double-life), and the new Keeper of the Antiquities at the Ashmolean, Paul Roberts. As Honorary Fellows, we welcomed the Right Honorable Lord Jonathan Mance, Justice of the Supreme Court; and our College Visitor, Christian Levett, the collector and businessman, owner and founder of the Mougins Museum, and generous patron of the College's Ancient World activities; Henry Hardy, the editor of Isaiah Berlin's letters and essays; and John Adams, patron and supporter of the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society.

The College has, as ever, been bursting with activity. Recent major events have included Haldane Lectures by Steven Pinker and Chris Stringer, a Wolfson Lecture series on South Asian fiction-writing, a Weinrebe lecture series for the College's Life-Writing centre on Political History and Life-Writing, and an appearance by the Nobel prize winning novelist J M Coetzee.

It's wonderful for the College to have such star names appearing here and attached to the College, but the heart of life here is the work of our students and our post-doctoral researchers, and we're proud of the support we are increasingly able to give them, at a time of difficult challenges for graduates and post-docs in all fields.

Our students and our research fellows are our future, and we applaud their work, their spirit and their involvement with the College. We currently have 647 students from all over the world, 226 of whom arrived this year, and 456 of whom are DPhil students. We have 3 Rhodes scholars and 9 Wolfson Foundation Humanities scholars. We are doing as much as we can to help and support our graduates, with unstinting hard work coming from the Development office and the Senior Tutor's office, and with the generous and imaginative commitment of our Bursar, whose priority is always the students. We currently award 36 scholarships, with that number set to rise to 49 when all of our Oxford Wolfson Marriott scholarships come on board. So far this year we have given out 97 travel and conference awards and 28 academic bursaries, and our total expenditure on scholarships, travel awards and academic bursaries is just over £310,000. We have also run a series of very successful Wolfson Innovate (WIN) events, organised by Pat Nuttall, with generous support from the Morningside Foundation, which attracts donors to provide prizes, judging and mentorship for students pitching creative new ideas for social innovation.

The story of Wolfson College is still unfolding and always changing; I count myself fortunate to be part of this history, and I am immensely grateful to all of those who work, in all their different ways, for the College's present life and its future legacy. ■

Editing Genius

The Isaiah Berlin Papers Project

by **Henry Hardy**

Isaiah Berlin, Wolfson's founding President, was a leading twentieth-century public intellectual – an arresting liberal thinker with a magical prose style and a prodigious gift for making ideas interesting. He was also a legendary talker and friend, sought out both for his exhilarating company and for his sure judgement. His influence on politics and culture was greater than is often recognised, because he lived and moved more behind the scenes than in the spotlight – always with a twinkle in his eye.

During the Second World War Berlin worked for the British Foreign Office in the USA, reporting on US politics for Churchill and his government as they tried to secure America's help against Hitler. His weekly 'political summaries' were said to be Churchill's favourite reading. In 1945 he was posted to Russia, and in Leningrad (where he had lived as a child) had an iconic all-night encounter with the great Russian poet Anna Akhmatova which, she believed, started the Cold War. He also came to know Boris Pasternak, and on a return trip in 1956 was given a manuscript of *Doctor Zhivago* to smuggle out of Russia.

As a Jew and lifelong Zionist, and a personal friend of Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel, Berlin was at the centre of Zionist politics; he was offered more than one post in the government of Israel, but always declined. He helped to set up the Marshall Plan scheme that rescued the economies of Europe after the war. A scintillating series of lectures on freedom on the BBC Third Programme in 1952 brought him national fame, and he became an intellectual celebrity featured in gossip columns and glossy magazines.

His contacts with politicians in several countries gave him an inside view of major world events – the creation of the State of Israel, the Suez Crisis, the Cold War. He knew President Kennedy and had a ringside seat at the start of the Cuban missile crisis; he knew many of the leading figures in British politics, including Harold Macmillan and Richard Crossman. Elizabeth Bowen, Alfred Brendel, Stuart Hampshire, Arthur Schlesinger, Stephen Spender, Bernard Williams and Edmund Wilson were among his close friends.

His intellectual preoccupations, too, have deeply informed Western culture. His trademark doctrine is 'pluralism', the view that human values are irreducibly multiple and often in tragic conflict, so that there can be no simple, consistent recipe for the good life. This subversive view stands against centuries of utopian philosophical dogma, and is growing in relevance. All the issues that gather round the question of the proper limits to tolerance of difference – multiculturalism, nationalism, fundamentalist extremism and terrorism, cultural imperialism – turn on whether pluralism is true, and what its implications are for our conduct.



Isaiah Berlin at Headington House with Oxford University philosopher Stuart Hampshire and Russian-born composer, Nicolas Nabokov; photo by Dominique Nabokov

Add that he was a reluctant publisher and a prolific correspondent, and the ingredients for a matchless publishing project are in place.

'The Isaiah Berlin Papers Project' began in 1990 and ended almost a quarter of a century later, in early 2015. It arose from a request Berlin made in 1988 that I should serve as one of his literary executors, having already edited four volumes of his collected essays.

I came to Wolfson as a graduate student in 1972 with an established taste for editorial work. There I met Berlin, and came to admire him and his essays enormously; discovered that most of them had not been collected; and subjected him and them to my editorial attentions. Once the fourth volume had appeared I imagined that my task was complete, until he asked me to be an executor. This spurred me to conduct a search of his home to see what I should have to deal with. I discovered a wealth of relatively finished but unpublished material; and eventually persuaded him that the task of editing his papers should begin while he was still alive, and could answer questions. I realised, too, that I should have to leave my then job as a commissioning editor at Oxford University Press and work full time on his material, if only I could raise the necessary funding; with that in view, I made my proposed new occupation more solid by adding the task of preparing an edition of Berlin's correspondence.

By a stroke of good fortune, I met Lord (Alan) Bullock at the crucial moment, and discovered that he both admired Berlin and loved the challenge of fund-raising. Once he had elicited the funding I needed, I took up a post at Wolfson and set to work. Before Berlin's death in 1997 three volumes had appeared:



Isaiah Berlin with members of Harvard's Department of Government, 1949: in front, Sam Beer, long-term professor at Harvard; IB; Adam Ulam, Polish-American historian and political scientist at Harvard; Roy Macridis, subsequently professor of politics at Brandeis University; Louis Hartz and Robert McLoskey, subsequently professors of government at Harvard

a book on the extraordinary German thinker J G Hamann, a collection of mostly unpublished essays and lectures entitled *The Sense of Reality*, and a 'best of Berlin' volume co-edited with another Wolfsonian, Roger Hausheer, *The Proper Study of Mankind*.

After Berlin's death I was free to publish material that he had not wished to release in his lifetime. Between 1997 and 2006 I published three sets of lectures – including the 1952 series already mentioned, and his equally celebrated 1965 Mellon Lectures on romanticism – and four collections of (mostly) published essays, including a revised and expanded edition of what he regarded as his most important book, *Four Essays on Liberty* (retitled simply *Liberty*), and a volume on Russian culture under Communism, *The Soviet Mind*.

At the same time I was collecting Berlin's letters – a sometimes tortuous and frustrating process. It was over a decade before I was ready to begin editing them for publication.

As work progressed I was joined by two experienced researchers. One of them, the brilliant Jennifer Holmes, became my co-editor for the second volume. Later, Mark Pottle, also from Wolfson, the acclaimed editor of the diaries and letters of Violet Bonham Carter, took up the baton from Jennifer, and he and I co-edited the last two volumes. Mark's historical expertise, as well as his wonderfully co-operative temperament, made him the ideal companion-in-arms, and I was delighted that upon my 'retirement' in 2015 he was appointed to the new post of Isaiah Berlin Legacy Fellow at Wolfson, charged with keeping the Berlinian flame alight during the next phase of the College's history.

Berlin always denied being sufficiently interested in himself to write an autobiography, but his letters are the next best thing: better, in some ways, because fuller and more unguarded. But he was far too prolific for us to be able to include more than a small fraction of what he wrote, even in our four volumes; so we selected the

letters that best told the tale of his life and opinions. Even so there was much editorial work to do to make the selection work biographically. Themes needed to be introduced, gaps in the story filled, context provided and allusions explained by linking passages (which Berlin called 'connective tissue') and thousands of footnotes (which he loved). Some of the footnotes were really challenging: Mark Pottle and I coined the concept of an 'iceberg' note, whose brevity belies the hours of research on which it rests. We also added chronologies that list the main events in Berlin's life.

Berlin was one of the last great letter-writers of the pre-email age, and we shall not see his like again. As well as being full of sometimes mischievous fun, his letters display his breathtaking understanding of the human condition, and are as much part of his *oeuvre* as his more formal writings, throwing new light on his ideas. Their cast of thousands made annotating them a challenge, but also an education in twentieth-century history and culture. They include passionate letters to his wife Aline, and a wealth of gossip,

as well as serious (but never solemn) treatments of issues in music, politics, philosophy – and life in general.

It is one of the glories of my fortunate life that I discovered a totally unplanned vocation when I was young. When Merton turned down my application for a graduate scholarship in 1971 they did me an unwitting favour: they caused me to apply to Wolfson, where I met Berlin. The rest is history – and for me,

what a history! I am as certain as I can be that Berlin was one of the geniuses of the twentieth century, and to have had the chance to act as his intellectual midwife is one of the greatest privileges I can imagine. What greater luck could an editor aspire to? ■

On 28 May, Henry Hardy gave the 2015 Isaiah Berlin Lecture, entitled 'The Genius and the Pedant: Working with Isaiah Berlin'.



Henry Hardy speaking in Riga in 2011; photo by Valdis Kaulins

Henry Hardy first came to Wolfson in 1972 as a philosophy graduate student, when Isaiah Berlin was still President of the College. Berlin was extremely accessible to those who wished to talk to him (or listen to him talking), often remaining in the common room between lunch and dinner. Henry soon realised that Berlin was an ideal victim of his editorial propensities. While still working on his DPhil, he persuaded Berlin to allow him to publish four volumes of his collected essays, which started a ball rolling that came to (comparative) rest only forty years and thirty books later.

While a Wolfson student, Henry founded the College magazine, originally called *Lycidas* (Greek for 'Wolfson'), and the College choir, which performed some of his own compositions; he also ran the music society, inaugurated by a Bach cello recital from Mstislav Rostropovich. Thereafter he had a fifteen-year career in publishing, latterly at Oxford University Press, before returning to Wolfson in 1990 as a research fellow (later a supernumerary fellow) to work on Berlin's papers and letters until his retirement in 2015, whereupon the College elected him to an Honorary Fellowship. He hopes to write more about his work with Berlin, and Berlin's ideas, which he considers to be of the greatest importance.



Mirror image

Susan Walker shared her passion for Celtic art and design with Wolfsonians on 29 April. Here's a taste of what she had to say.

The sinuous, curving motifs of ancient Celtic design inspired late nineteenth-century *art nouveau* and, in the 1960s, psychedelic art. Modern enthusiasts admired the brightly coloured motifs drawn from nature, their exuberant forms contrasting with the pedestrian character of Roman art. For some, Celtic design evoked an egalitarian, rustic lifestyle radically different from that of the highly urbanised and militaristic Roman conquerors of Britain.

In Britain and Ireland Celtic art flourished in the later Iron Age until the Roman invasion of AD 43. Over half a millennium later, Celtic art enjoyed a renaissance in Anglo-Saxon England, Pictish Scotland and Ireland. Later artists produced highly distinctive work, their style termed by modern art historians “insular Celtic” to distinguish it from contemporary work in continental Europe.

How did Celtic art survive the years of Roman occupation, and what native ingredients produced the insular Celtic style? Any answers will be partial, conjured from fragmentary pieces of a complex jigsaw. The evidence is skewed towards metalwork: ancient Britain was a source of raw metals, with strong evidence of metal-working skills. Moreover, late Iron Age society was fragmented, hierarchical and militaristic, far from the egalitarian, rustic vision. A recently compiled data-base of late Iron Age art reveals an overwhelming proportion of objects used to adorn chariots, horses and weapons. The whirling motifs were meant to be seen in motion. The inlaid colours, principally red

and blue, were intended to intimidate, like the blue woad painted on the bodies of the warriors.

Such symbols of local power were made redundant by the invading Roman army. Nonetheless, some dress accessories and funerary monuments of Celtic auxiliaries serving Rome suggest an enduring taste for local design. Sculptors could design a tombstone in Roman style with carved scrolls and finials, and sometimes competent Latin script, yet naturalistic figures of people and animals eluded them. In some parts of Britain local identity was asserted by wearing brightly coloured bronze pins; of new design, these were evidently inspired by pre-Roman art. On some bronze and pewter vessels, the latter a purely British confection of tin and lead in varying proportions, we find non-figurative, curvilinear, coloured decoration. We see craftsmen trained in local tradition creating images of Roman gods and emperors. Though instantly recognisable, these figures display pre-Roman features such as added colour and patterned hair. British craftsmen have lost visibility from the modern, iconographical classification of such work as “provincial Roman”. Such flashes of visibility reveal skilled members of a local population adapting to Roman occupation, some working for patrons who requested Roman forms and subjects, others aware of Roman taste but catering to local needs.

However, beyond the settled province we may glimpse some survival of Iron

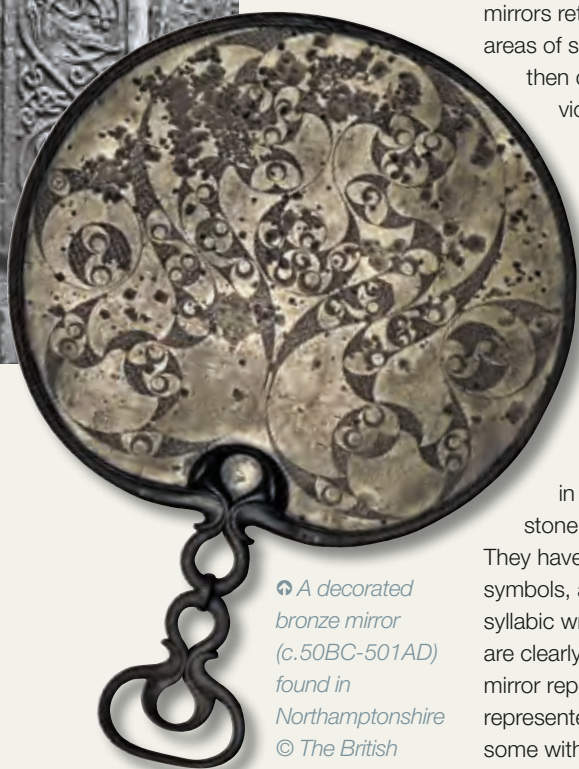


Age art. The first bronze mirrors are found in the graves of wealthy women living in the early first century BC in the area around London, members of tribes who were related to the Belgic tribes of the near continent. Overseas contact is seen in luxury goods and ceramics, but the bronze mirrors, like later Roman pewter vessels, were a British invention. The mirrors were decorated with elaborately designed curvilinear motifs.



🔗 Drawing of the stone from *The Sculptured Stones of Scotland* by J Stuart © RCAHMS

🔗 The Hilton of Cabdoll stone – a view of the reverse © RCAHMS



🔗 A decorated bronze mirror (c.50BC-501AD) found in Northamptonshire © The British Museum



Susan Walker FSA retired as Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum at the end of 2014. She played a significant role in the redevelopment of the museum, and served as a Governing Body Fellow of Wolfson College for 10 years. Dr Walker is President of the Society for Libyan Studies and Chairman of Publications for the British School at Rome. Until recently, she was a Getty Museum Scholar, studying the deposition of silver, pewter and bronze in late Roman Britain. Susan Walker's most recent publication is "Emperors and deities in south-east Britain: a copper alloy portrait of Marcus Aurelius from Steane, Northamptonshire", *Britannia* 45 (2014), another chapter in the story of the survival

of Celtic art. She is currently completing a book *Saints and Salvation: the Wilshe Collection of gold-glass, sarcophagi and inscriptions in the Ashmolean Museum*.

After the Roman invasion, the use of mirrors retreated to the less occupied areas of south-west Britain. They then disappeared, apparent victims of the increasing adoption of Roman motifs by the wealthiest members of British society. Nonetheless, an enamelled bronze pan naming the western forts of Hadrian's Wall was first brightly decorated with mirror-style motifs. Many centuries later, mirror motifs reappeared in the monumental Pictish stone sculpture of Scotland. They have been identified as Pictish symbols, and even interpreted as syllabic writing. However, the motifs are clearly drawn from late Iron Age mirror repertoire; indeed, mirrors were represented on some monuments, some with openwork handles typical of Iron Age design. On the Hilton of

Cadboll monument, a woman rides a horse through a forest where a hunt takes place. Beside her is a mirror, and above her are the mirror motifs. The woman has been identified as the Romano-Celtic goddess Epona, but might she not have been a chieftain, in the style of the late Iron Age queens Boudicca and Cartimandua? May we see here a clear instance of Iron Age survival?

Without accompanying text it is impossible to be certain, but a new data-set currently numbering over 750,000 metal objects recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme will surely increase the visibility of such survival and of the work of local craftsmen in Roman Britain. ■

A version of Susan Walker's London Lecture will be published by the Getty Foundation in a volume of ground-breaking studies of the Art of Rome's Provinces.

Materials, one atom at a time

Feliciano Giustino provides Wolfsonians with a light-hearted insight into the discipline of materials science.

7.00 pm. My taxi is nowhere to be seen. It is official: for my sixth year in a row I will be late at the Foundation Dinner. If I am lucky I might be able to sneak through the gowned crowd and reach for a well-deserved glass of white. But alas, as I step through the door of the Common Room the Butler slams his gavel, and with a broken heart I find myself leading the cheerful company towards the most glamorous dinner of the year. I always loved the Foundation Dinner and its magical atmosphere. It is one of those moments where everyone is in their best shape and I feel part of something grand. Yet as I walk down the marble staircase an ancestral fear comes back: The Question!

The Question is a mythological being which is known to inhabit the Wolfson College meadows, and which once a year swims through the punting harbour and climbs to the Hall. It likes the Foundation Dinner too. The Question has the power to disguise in human appearance, but is easy to recognise when it sits next to you at dinner, as it typically sparks a conversation using the adverb “So”.

As I hear the two-lettered word I know that The Question has found me. Yet again. A drop of sweat runs through my forehead in anticipation of the imminent attack. And there goes The Question, precise like clockwork: “Tell me, what is your academic subject?” At this point I must face an emotional swirl of panic, pride, disillusion and curiosity. I take a deep breath, hope that my (faintest) accent will deflect the conversation towards southern

European folklore, and I tell myself to articulate as clearly as possible the fatal word:

‘M-a-t-e-r-i-a-l-s’.

This strange word must have been invented in the Middle Ages for magic spells since it invariably triggers the short but eloquent reply: “What!?” During six Foundation Dinners at Wolfson I managed to collect a fairly colourful list of what Fellows think Materials Science is about. In the hit parade we have clothing, dental fillings and breast implants. I am afraid I must be a disappointment to The Question when I admit that, although very interesting, I do not study any of those subjects. In fact, I do not even make materials with my own hands (shame on me). “What I do,” I say warily, “is study materials using computers, one atom at a time”. To my great surprise The Question lightens up. It looks intrigued. “Please go on,” it whispers.

I explain that today we can indeed study certain properties of materials by describing one by one the atoms of which they are made. “You are certainly familiar with the words Quantum Physics,” I start. “And most likely you heard of Schrödinger’s cat who was at the same time dead and alive inside a box.” The Question nods. Of course it knew all this, the BBC had been brainwashing The Question with quantum legends since its youngest age. “Well,” I go on, “the same gentleman who reportedly was holding his cat in a box, a certain Mr Schrödinger, in 1926 happened to invent a mathematical equation which can precisely describe the properties

of the simplest of atoms, hydrogen. An equation so small that you can fit it into an SMS.”

“Really?” The Question seems moderately surprised, but cannot see the connection with my day job. “But what has the simplest of atoms to do with the science of Materials?” it objects. “Everything,” I say proudly, sensing that the The Question is warming up to my story. “If you can study one atom very precisely using a mathematical equation, why not try to study two atoms? Indeed, one year after Schrödinger published his famous equation two other gentlemen, Heitler and London, extended his idea to the case of two hydrogen atoms. They had explained the properties of the simplest of molecules, the hydrogen molecule. And if you can study one molecule, why not try to study an entire solid? In fact one year went by, and in 1928 Bloch used these equations to describe the properties of crystals, for example metals like aluminium or gold, or even jewels like diamonds.” The Question now looks really surprised and cannot hold a loud “My goodness, that was fast!” Indeed. “So what is the difference between what Schrödinger, Heitler, London, and Bloch were doing in the 1920s and what you do today?” Well put, I think. It seems that The Question is probing me.

“The answer is simple,” I continue. “What has changed since the 1920s is that today we have computers. And I am not talking about the various pads, pods, smartphones and apps. I am talking about supercomputers.”

The word 'super' has something heroic about it, and catches the imagination of The Question: "Keep going!" "A supercomputer is a very powerful computer, built of very many units of something like our desktop computers, all connected with each other. For example the most powerful computer in the world is called Tianhe-2 and is in China. This supercomputer is the equivalent of 30,000 desktop computers and can perform 30,000 billion multiplications per second. If in the 1920s those gentlemen were studying atoms and molecules using a pencil and a piece of paper, imagine what we can do today with this kind of computing power! This is the essence of my job: we use very powerful computers to study the properties of important materials with very high precision. The calculations are so sophisticated that we can often predict how materials will behave. Sometimes we can even design on the computer a material which has not been made as yet!" The Question now seems to like my subject and asks for more details: "Quantum mechanics, atoms and computers, I get it. But which materials and which properties do you study exactly?"

"In my group," I gladly continue, "we study materials for harvesting solar energy, for example silicon, titanium dioxide, conducting polymers, graphene. We are especially interested in materials for transforming sunlight into electricity (photovoltaics) and materials for converting sunlight into clean fuels (artificial photosynthesis). In these areas we can predict, for example, what fraction of sunlight can be absorbed by a given material. And this has to do with the identity and arrangement of individual atoms." "Very interesting," interrupts The Question, now with an inquisitive tone, "but surely you cannot do all that by

just solving one equation: atoms, molecules, and solids are all very different, therefore you must need a new theory for each different category, right?" This is all I wanted to be asked, I think to myself. Dissimulating my excitement with a perfect Oxford aplomb I calmly explain: "This is indeed the whole point: everything that we do is based on the first principles of quantum physics, therefore the theory is universal and applies at once to atoms, molecules, proteins, metals, plastics or ceramics. In fact people usually refer to these studies by calling them 'calculations from first principles'."

The Question now seems satisfied: "After all, this materials business is not

too bad," it tells me. But before it can finish its sentence the blast of the gavel calls for our attention: we are gently urged to leave the room for something between five and seven minutes (and a half) in anticipation of second desserts. After my usual round outside of the Hall I sit next to a complete stranger, as requested by the President. But this time something is different. I start feeling warm, then shaky and now itchy. I am not sure what is happening. And then all of a sudden I find myself addressing my neighbour at the table with a hoarse whisper:

"So, tell me... What is your academic subject?"

Now I am The Question! ■

Feliciano Giustino was born in the town in central Italy which gave birth to Ovid and was home to the Pope who made the great refusal (and for this was placed by Dante in the antechamber of Hell). He studied nuclear engineering at the Politecnico di Torino and then, eager to learn experimental physics, spent one year at the European Particle Physics Laboratory (CERN) in Geneva, mostly trying to break field-effect transistors with all sorts of radiations. But, after nearly blowing up an experimental lab, he was kindly talked into pursuing a career in theoretical physics. After a PhD in Physics at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, an opportunity arose to perform post-doctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley. This he gladly took – especially after checking, on a rainy Swiss afternoon, what the weather was like in San Francisco. In 2008 he decided that it was time to find a job, and by chance ended up in Oxford. After the first Foundation Dinner and his first encounter with The Question he found himself addicted to Wolfson College and unable to leave. In 2014 he published the book *Materials Modelling using Density Functional Theory* (OUP), which he will take to the next Foundation Dinner as a sacrificial offering to The Question.



✎ Feliciano Giustino in front of ENIAC, the first computer ever built (1946)

Wolfson news

Innovation prize goes to SmartCare Sleep

The winners of this year's Wolfson Innovate competition were SmartCare Sleep, who have developed an inexpensive, effective and easy-to-use home testing kit for Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA). Their method aims to save clinicians' time and is less expensive than alternatives, and has the potential to be extended to other conditions. Awarding the first prize of £5,000 at the Pitch Event on 28 April, the judges described the idea as a "very exciting venture".

Runner up prizes of £1,000 each were awarded to H2Ox, who have created a revolutionary water purification system, and PoDDIP, who have invented a device that captures and

analyses clinical data to support the diagnosis of pneumonia. The other finalists were MaMaBy Care, Spare Change: An app for giving help to the homeless, and WhyVaccinate. The entrants were judged by a panel of distinguished Wolfson alumni and friends, chaired by Professor James Crabbe, Supernumerary Fellow. The evening concluded with a drinks reception where teams received informal feedback from the judges and networked with their fellow competitors.

Read more about the teams and their ideas on pp 13–15.

👤 *Emma McIntosh, Communications Assistant, shows the SmartCare Sleep team her WIN tweet*

Paul Aveyard asks 'What's The Right Diet For You?'

Wolfson Governing Body Fellow Paul Aveyard featured on a BBC Horizon programme which looked at some of the factors that make it difficult for obese people to lose weight. 'What's the right diet for you?' categorised overweight volunteers as Feasters, who produced less of a gut hormone which tells them when to stop eating; Constant Cravers, who have 'hungry genes' that make them eat constantly; and Emotional Eaters, who eat in response to negative feelings. During the programme, participants were put in different situations to see how they responded.

"There are lots of reasons why people over-eat; it may be their genes or hormones, or it may be a question of acquired behaviour in response to circumstances," says Paul. "But the thinking is that, if you know about it, are conscious of it, you can do something about it." Paul describes the programme as an experiment – or demonstration given it could not be fully scientific – to look at how one might be able to take control of eating habits. "There were things we knew ought to occur in given dieting situations and the programme gave us the opportunity to demonstrate these in practice."

The broad conclusions from the programme were that participants – all jaded dieters – attacked the issue of weight control with renewed vigour and felt heartened by having some understanding of the reasons for their problems. They felt they could now tackle their weight, with a new target





Left to right: Professor Susan Jebb (Oxford), Professor Fiona Gribble (Cambridge), Professor Paul Aveyard, Dr Chris Van Tulleken (TV presenter and infectious disease doctor), Professor Tanya Byron (TV presenter and psychologist), Dr Giles Yeo (Cambridge)

that was tailored to their specific physiology/psychology.

Paul, who is Professor of Behavioural Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, is now working with colleagues to see if they can test their ideas more formally. They are considering a multi-institution approach that might enable them to obtain European funding.

European grant for five-year study of Migration as Development

Professor Hein de Haas, Wolfson Governing Body Fellow and Co-Director of the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), has been awarded a €1.75 million grant by the European Research Council to conduct a five-year research project entitled Migration as Development. The project aims to develop new theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of developmental drivers of human mobility in the modern industrial-capitalist era (19th and 20th centuries). Specifically, the project will address the question: How do processes of development and social transformation

shape the geographical orientation, timing, composition and volume of internal and international migration?

Major financial support for cutting-edge cancer research



Professor Gillies McKenna, Wolfson Governing Body Fellow, Head of the University's Department of Oncology and Director of the Cancer Research UK Oxford Centre, led the announcement in late 2014 of the foundation of the Precision Cancer Medical Institute. The Institute has received a £35 million grant from HEFCE and over £75 million of investment in financial contributions and support in kind from partners in the project. It will ensure Oxford is able to undertake cutting-edge research to further understand the genetic and molecular changes underlying a patient's tumour, as well as trials of novel cancer drugs and the latest in surgery, advanced cancer imaging, and proton beam therapy.

MRC grant for Research Fellow to fight bacterial antibiotic resistance

Wolfson Research Fellow, Dr Despoina Mavridou, has recently received a five-year Career Development Award by the Medical Research Council to carry out research that aims to help solve the immense problem of bacterial antibiotic resistance. The award will

allow Dr Mavridou to start her own group within the MRC Centre of Molecular Bacteriology and Infection (CMBI) at Imperial College London, a cross-faculty, multidisciplinary research centre, comprising members from the Departments of Life Sciences and Medicine.

Junior Research Fellow recognised as Rising star

Dr Jason Nurse, Wolfson Junior Research Fellow and Research Officer at the Department of Computer Science, has been named as a Recognising Inspirational Scientists and Engineers (RISE) Rising Star by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Dr Nurse leads a research team that investigates the issue of identity exposure to risk in cyberspace.

Outstanding success in 2015 Torpids

Wolfson College Boat Club crews performed outstandingly in this year's Torpids races, with all three Women's teams winning blades.

To read more about Wolfson College rowing, see p 21.



WINning Innovation

The first Wolfson Innovation Network (WIN), set up in 2014 to foster innovation and social entrepreneurship, was deemed a success by everyone involved. But in encouraging entrepreneurship, some suggest that Wolfson itself is demonstrating its ability to innovate and create real career opportunities for its students. Editor **Jackie Morgan** has talked to some of those involved.

The first year's WIN competition elicited 32 entries, generating 7 ideas that were presented at the Pitch Event, and 4 winners of cash prizes. Talking to the teams a year on, those prizes have allowed the winners to move forward, building or further developing their prototypes, testing products and ideas and taking the first steps to market. For example, Medyc (previously Omcare) used its £1,000 prize money to finish its first prototype and develop a partnership with US company Safe Heart, which has the ability to mass manufacture and commercialise the product.

Participants also benefited from input and advice from judges and mentors with a wide range of entrepreneurial experience, as well as exposure to potential investors. Jessica White of Vibewrite, the team that had produced an electronic pen to aid learning, told me: "The Wolfson connection gave us great credibility as we approached schools to work with in both England and Germany."

But while participants were in part motivated by the prize money and the connections they made, the competition was about much more. The ideas presented were striking in their teams' desire to make a real difference in the world. Teams were developing ways to use new technology for affordable primary

healthcare or to assist healthy ageing; another group was encouraging rainforest communities to preserve their environment by making money out of non-timber forest products. In other words, ideas with societal impact.

James Crabbe chaired this year's judging panel. For him, it is really important that students and staff think about the impact of their research: the impact on themselves, on society and the way they link with others. "The research element is key. First you need new ideas and you need to collaborate with others. If the ideas work, you create societal impact and, ultimately have the chance to make money. What we saw in last year's WIN was

people collaborating and, when they do, the whole is so much greater than the sum of the parts. This is one of the great strengths of the competition: it's facilitating collaboration between academic disciplines."

WIN judge and mentor Andrew Mackintosh thinks that WIN has another dimension in contributing to students' career development: "Many Wolfson students would like to become academics but not all can. So they have to consider other options, whether it's working for themselves or someone else, or setting up an enterprise that employs other people and is scalable. For young academics, this is not something which is part of the training so giving them an



James Crabbe introducing the judging panel

opportunity to test out an idea is a really valuable one.”

So does WIN have the potential to create cultural change within the University? Phil Clare, Associate Director of Oxford University's Research Services and Head of Knowledge Exchange thinks so: “Very few students think about going to work in a small or medium-sized business but effectively that's what students are doing here. They can learn a lot by engaging in a programme like this. The University as a whole is trying to encourage entrepreneurship but it's the colleges where students do their thinking and dreaming. There is something special about the college community and in due course I'd love to see 40 versions of this across Oxford. For now, Wolfson is leading the way.” ■

New funding for last year's winner

Since winning last year's Wolfson Innovation prize, Sentimoto – which developed a smartwatch to enable older people and their carers to monitor their well-being – has received funding from Nominet Trust. This funding is being used to develop an app to allow tracking of individual activity over time. This can be relayed to carers and enables them to identify behaviours that indicate worsening quality of life, such as social withdrawal, and enable them to take action to prevent negative impact on the users' wellbeing and care. On a larger scale, monitoring will help improve their understanding of how lifestyle and other factors impact older people's health.



The team is building an Internet-enabled platform, which it will then test and deploy on Android, to demonstrate the extent to which off-the-shelf wearable technology might help address the shortfall in professional support against rising demand in the care sector. ■

Wolfson Innovation teams

The following teams presented at the WIN Pitch Event on 28 April

H2OX

The team is implementing a pilot water purification system for use in Indian villages. The system is estimated to be capable of providing 600 people with water for drinking and cooking, and to do so more cheaply than other systems. It uses technology that is more operationally efficient, requiring less water, chemicals, energy and maintenance. Because the energy requirement is limited, the system can use solar power. The result will be lower charges to the community for water, making the project more sustainable than alternatives while still providing a slight profit that will go towards the maintenance of the system.

Current stage of development

The group is in the process of testing

the viability of its implementation model, defining the requirements for the installation, and working with its partner charity to address the needs of the community.

Wolfson Innovate

The attraction is the visibility that WIN provides within the University and among potential funders. It is a valuable experience in itself: attending the event, meeting the judges and other participants, and being on the web-site. The cash prize is also attractive.

The team

Wolfson College member: Bhumi Purohit, MSc in Contemporary India Studies. **Others:** Valerio Pereno, DPhil in Engineering Science, Keble College,

who has worked with the company in Italy that developed the technology for industrial use; Kunal Sharma, Melissa McCoy and Kya Shoar respectively studying civil law, business and computer science, and engineering science.





MAMABY CARE

Mamaby Care is developing a unique approach to the problems of malnutrition and consequent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among slum-dwellers, focusing primarily on India. They are utilising a fortified snack, like a simple samosa, which contains nutritional elements designed to mitigate against NCDs. Slum-dwellers will be employed in the production of these snacks and in their marketing in affluent areas of the city. The money they make will enable them to subsidise their own care and, by eating the snacks, become better nourished, thus improving the outlook for themselves and for their children.

Current stage of development

The group started work in 2014 and has been continuously refining its ideas by talking to specialists across a range of disciplines. They were able to run a small feasibility study in Mumbai in January and are gathering data from around 500 slum dwellers. This should provide them with better insight into the conditions and structure of the slums and how best to take forward their solution.

Wolfson Innovate

The team sees the potential prize money as providing funds to run a pilot later this year.

The team

Wolfson College member: Susan Graham, DPhil Engineering Science. **Others:** Elina Naydenova, Johanna Ernst and Arvind Raghu, all DPhil Engineering Science, as well as Batsheva Lazarus, a Fellow at the Skoll Centre of Social

Entrepreneurship and a management consultant.

POINT-OF-CARE DEVICE FOR DIAGNOSIS OF PNEUMONIA (PoDDIP)

The team is creating a tool for use in developing countries to diagnose a child with pneumonia, the number one killer of under-fives as a result of the lack of trained physicians and relevant tools. The tool will incorporate a simple algorithm that enables it to make a diagnosis on the basis of measures such as respiratory rates and lung sounds, and also determine how severe the infection is.

Current stage of development

The team started work in September 2014 since when it has been awarded a grant from the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. They are working on automating and recording lung sounds so that they can create a very cheap, automated, stethoscope which is a significant element of the overall product. Meanwhile, they are keen to find a partner who can provide low-cost point-of-care biomarkers that can be used in the field.

Wolfson Innovate

The competition provides an opportunity to test the idea in front of an audience that is not fully aware of the challenge, and to get their input. It also opens up a network of incredibly talented people at Oxford and adds significantly to the team's credibility.

The team

Wolfson College members: Christian Vaas, DPhil Cyber Security; Magda Abbas, DPhil Biomedical Engineering. **Others:** Elina Naydenova, DPhil in Biomedical Engineering at University College, is the group leader, having recognised the problem of child deaths from pneumonia while working for WHO in Geneva; Nora Petty and Patrick Beattie, both MBA students with relevant diagnostics and field experience; John-Paul Moszynski,

Instrumentation Technician at the University's Department of Physiology.



SMARTCARE SLEEP

The team's goal is to improve the way obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) is diagnosed. OSA sufferers stop breathing for up to three minutes while they sleep which can lead to heart disease and strokes as well as daytime fatigue. To get an OSA diagnosis currently, you have to stay overnight at a sleep clinic where you are monitored by being wired up to a range of different sensors. It is very expensive for the healthcare system and very uncomfortable for the patient. SmartCare Sleep has developed a simple solution that can be used at home: the patient sleeps wearing a single sensor which is connected to a mobile phone; this in turn sends the signal for processing by a cloud-based server. As well as providing a diagnosis, SmartCare Sleep will enable people to monitor themselves and see how their treatment is working.

Current stage of development

SmartCare Sleep is developing trials in collaboration with a sleep clinic at the Royal Berks Hospital in the UK and another in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the biggest in South America. The clinics will run the team's device alongside everything else they currently use to make comparisons about the device's effectiveness.

Wolfson Innovation

The Wolfson network has many useful connections and winning one of the prizes would have a significant impact

on making the business idea a reality. It would give the team the funds they need to get off the ground and enable them to accelerate the trials by buying more devices and running the tests in parallel.

The team

Wolfson College member: Niclas Palmius, Institute of Biomedical Engineering. **Others:** Joachim Behar, Jonathan Daly and Aoife Roebuck, all students at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering; Megan Morys, Deputy Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Medical Innovation.



SPARE CHANGE: AN APP FOR GIVING HELP TO THE HOMELESS

How many times have you been asked for money while walking down the street? And how often do you actually give something? You likely want to help; but are you really helping the person, or are you inadvertently helping them stay on the streets? Spare Change is a system that will harness that desire to help while eliminating the element of mistrust inherent in the standard begging model. Potential beggars will be given cards that givers can scan with their phones to donate toward a shelter stay, food, clothing or transport. A percentage can automatically be donated to a local homeless charity, and, if any balance on a Spare Change card is left unused, that will eventually be transferred to charity as well. The asker then becomes less a 'beggar' and more a fundraiser working to support their own cause and that of others in similar need.

Current stage of development

The team is carrying out interviews with shelters and organisations like The Big Issue to improve their understanding of homelessness and charitable giving and, meanwhile, developing the necessary technology.

Wolfson Innovate

Says Linda Boerner: "Many people have good ideas that remain just that. The WIN competition provides a framework within which to take that good idea and develop it. WIN gives you a structure, a deadline and the whole process is very supportive."

The team

Wolfson College members: Linda Boerner, BA Anthropology/Sociology, Wolfson Events Assistant Manager; Phil Nixon, DPhil Neuroscience, Wolfson IT Officer.



WHYVACCINATE

Fears about the side effects of vaccination, especially in relation to diseases such as measles and mumps, and the failure of doctors and health experts to make the case for child vaccination, has led to a significant decline in vaccination rates. In 2013, 94.7% of UK children reaching their first birthday received primary immunisation but second and fifth birthday vaccinations only reached 92.3% and 91.5% respectively (over 70,000 children). The result is an increase in illnesses that we had previously considered defeated. WhyVaccinate is responding to this challenge by creating new communications tools to disseminate knowledge that will reassure parents and overcome their resistance.

Current stage of development

WhyVaccinate is working collaboratively with health practitioners and parents to develop strategic and appropriate communications. They are using tools including systems mapping, experience journeys, stakeholder visualisations, and physical and digital prototyping in order to create appropriate, effective and viable solutions to the problem.

Wolfson Innovate

The team is seeking funding from trusts and foundations but winning one of the WIN prizes would allow them to run a small pilot of the project in Oxfordshire. Exposure to a unique set of judges and mentors is also very attractive.

The team

Wolfson College member: Kat Eghdamian, PhD student in International Development. **Other:** Neysan Zölzer, Design Principal at EDIS, a social impact design firm based in Oxford. ■



Wolfson College is grateful to the Morningside Foundation for its support for WIN.

Find out more about Wolfson Innovate and the Pitch Event by visiting



www.wolfsoninnovate.com

Wolfson London Lecture

Susan Walker

Mirror Image –
what happened to
Celtic art in Roman
Britain?



Susan Walker, former Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum and Governing Body Fellow of Wolfson College, entertained Wolfson College alumni and friends with her London Lecture 'Mirror Image: What happened to Celtic art in Roman Britain?' on 29 April. The occasion marked the return of the London Lecture to the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, once the professional home of Sir Thomas More and the backdrop for the opening scene of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*. ■



European Alumni weekend in Vienna: 24–26 April 2015



Weinreibe Lectures in Life-Writing



Roy Foster

Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of Irish History, opened this year's Weinreibe Lectures in Life-Writing in a lecture entitled 'The Making of Saints: Politics, Biography and Hagiography in Modern Irish History' with a fascinating account of the reasons behind, and the process of, the sanctification of the leaders of the Irish Revolution. 27 January 2015. ■

Lord Peter Hennessy

Professor Lord Peter Hennessy, the country's foremost historian of government, gave a fascinating and wide-ranging talk on personalities, political language, the issues raised by televised election debates, and his hopes and fears for the 2015 general election. 3 February 2015. ■



Anne Deighton

Wolfson College Fellow Anne Deighton, Professor of European International Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations, talked about her political biography of Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary in the 1940s and a central figure in the creation of many of the international institutions which shape our world today. 10 February 2015. ■

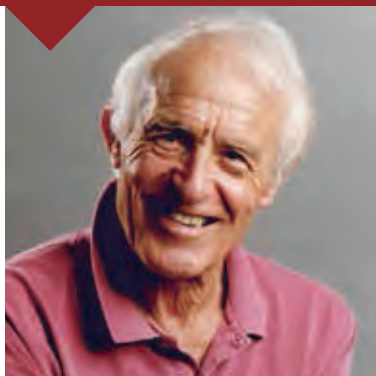
Margaret MacMillan

Margaret MacMillan, the historian, prize-winning author and Warden of St Antony's College, delighted the Wolfson audience with a talk entitled 'Sometimes It Matters Who is in Power.' 17 February 2015. ■



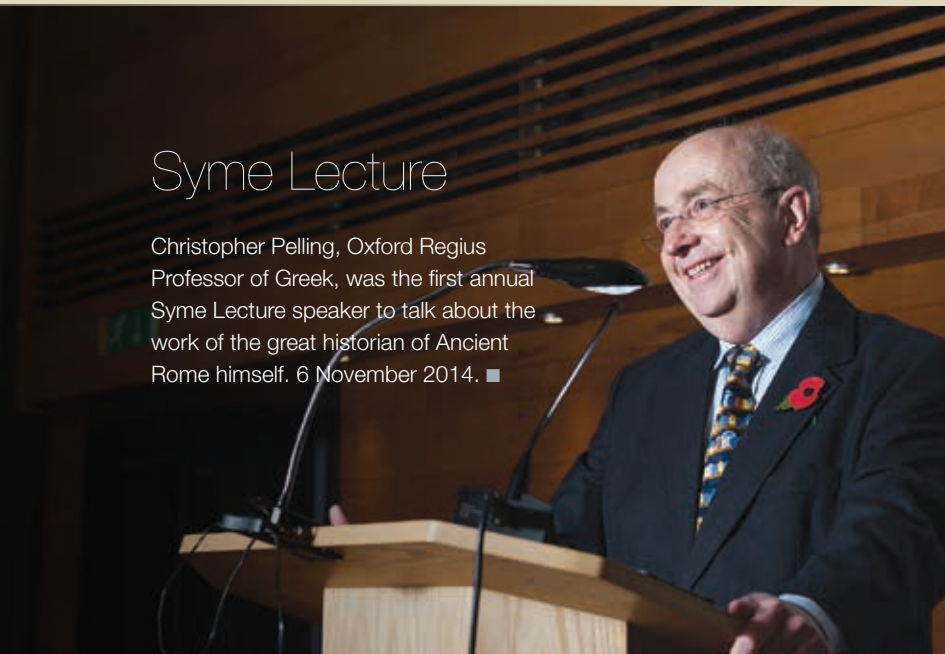
Celebrating the life and work of Jon Stallworthy

Over 200 friends, alumni, staff, and students joined together in the Hall on the evening of Friday 16 January to celebrate the life of the renowned poet, editor, biographer and literary scholar Jon Stallworthy. Professor Stallworthy was a leading figure in the English Faculty at Oxford and a much-loved member of Wolfson College before his death on 19 November 2014 at the age of 79. ■



Syme Lecture

Christopher Pelling, Oxford Regius Professor of Greek, was the first annual Syme Lecture speaker to talk about the work of the great historian of Ancient Rome himself. 6 November 2014. ■



Haldane Lecture

Professor Chris Stringer, Research Leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum, spoke about his work on the origin of species and the Museum's Pathways to Ancient Britain project, which he co-directs. 5 March 2015. ■



Isaiah Berlin Lecture 2014

The 2014 Isaiah Berlin lecture was given by Baroness Onora O'Neill. A highly respected philosopher, crossbench peer, former President of the British Academy and of Newnham College, Cambridge, and 2002 Reith Lecturer, Baroness O'Neill spoke persuasively about human rights, pluralism, value and conflicts. ■

JM Coetzee

Over 400 Wolfson members and friends were treated to a rare public appearance by Nobel Laureate JM Coetzee. The audience were

spellbound by Coetzee's measured, yet absorbing, reading of extracts from his 2013 book *The Childhood of Jesus* and from another work in progress. They also had the opportunity to obtain a signed copy of his book. 12 June 2014. ■



Members, alumni and friends are welcome at all Wolfson College events. To find out what's on, visit www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/events



Wolfson College **50th** Anniversary Weekend Celebrations 8–10 July 2016

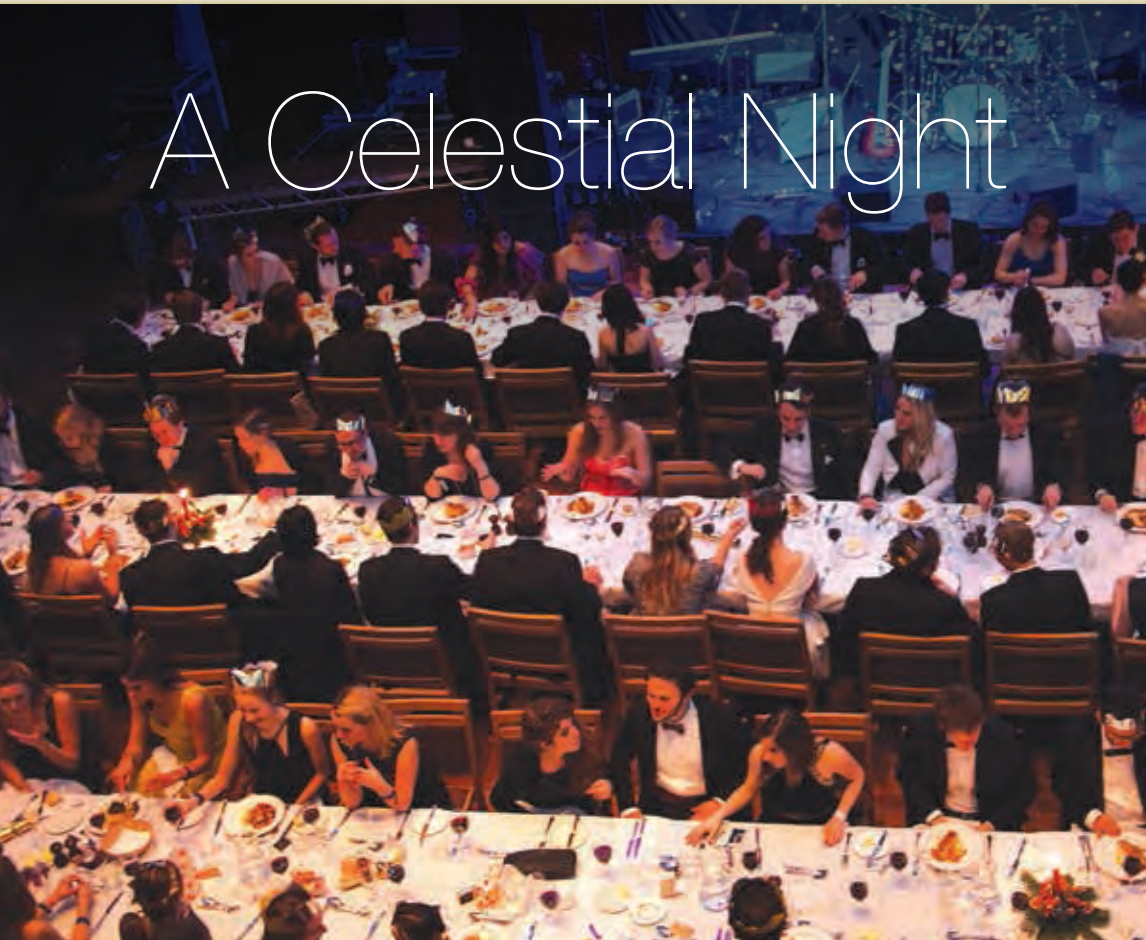


PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:

- Oxford University's **Chancellor Lord Patten** on Global Education
- **Fifty years of thinking**: brainstorming on academic advances 1966–2016
- A special tour of the Ashmolean's 2016 show of **Treasures from Sicily**
- **The Fournier Trio** performing the world premier of a work by Wolfson composer, John Duggan, based on words by Isaiah Berlin
- **Sports**, including football, croquet, rowing, punting
- Fun for all the family with **events and treats for children**
- **A guided tour** of the Wolfson landscape
- **A grand banquet in Hall** on Saturday 9 July, followed by
- **Celebratory fireworks** on the harbour

Watch out for details of a full year of outstanding lectures, seminars and other special events to which everyone is invited, to be announced early in the 2015–16 academic year.

A Celestial Night



The annual Wolfson Winter Ball saw more than 500 people enjoying a glamorous party, starting with dinner in the beautifully decorated Hall, complemented by a cocktail bar, casino and cigar lounge in the Upper Common Room. Entertainment in the Hall kicked off with jazz and swing by Corner Jam followed by the sweat-breaking ceilidh band Mouse and Trousers. For those seeking the College undergrounds, the mini golf area in the bar proved highly popular. ■



Outstanding rowing record

2014–15 has proved an outstandingly successful year for Wolfson College boats, both men's and women's crews. The seven Wolfson crews rose by a total of 25 places, the most

of any Oxford College this year. Two boats achieved their highest ranking on record, with W2 placing eighth in Division III, and M1 placing fifth on the river. ■



Chinese New Year celebration

Wolfson students have created a new tradition for the College: a Chinese New Year celebration. ■



Celebrating our gardens

A celebration of the re-opening of the gardens at 27 Linton Road took place on 30 April. ■



The 1960s was a decade of significant major change. The UK domestic political agenda was dominated by social reform, including the abolition of the death penalty, the availability of the contraceptive pill and the legalisation of abortion. Higher education was modernised, with more university places available and grants available to students, and comprehensive education was introduced. Behind these reforms was a real change in social attitudes, with a move towards greater egalitarianism, more freedom of expression and a recognition of the need to widen access to education.

Born in the 1960s

A new kind of college

At Oxford, the number of graduate students had increased significantly in the early 1960s. The same period had seen an increase in the number of University Lecturers in subjects for which tutorial fellowships were not available. It had become obvious that the needs of graduate students were different from those of undergraduates. Against this background, Wolfson College – initially Iffley – was born and, from its early days, gained a reputation for being collegiate, unstuffy, friendly and caring with Fellows representing a broad range of disciplines. Jackie Morgan, *Plans and Prospects* editor, has talked to early alumni about their experiences.

Arriving in September 1967, Andrew Prentice was one of the first students at Wolfson and the first appointed Junior Research Fellow. He remembers it



Andrew Prentice

as “extremely collegiate. In the early days, there were only about 30 Fellows, and we would meet for lunch at no 15 Banbury Road. We had access to the Fellows in a way that would never have happened elsewhere and they were very good company.” Lary Shaffer remembers how envious his fellow students were: “I would take students from my research group to lunch at Wolfson. They just couldn’t believe it – all the Fellows were sitting among us and I knew everybody. They were so envious because we had ‘real food’ and we could sit with interesting people.”

Most of its early students came to Wolfson with very little idea what to expect. Daniel Weiss arrived from Paris: “Wolfson was recommended to me by my tutor, David Patterson, who thought I would enjoy ‘the liberal, high intellectual level of the common room’ and I was certainly rewarded. For postgraduate



Daniel Weiss

students, it was a direct, vivid and fruitful exchange and the informality of the College was quite striking.” John Wells adds, as a scientist, he was attracted to the 2/3 science and 1/3 arts mix at Wolfson: “I wanted to be able to mix with graduates of all views and in all fields of study.”





One of the 1969 Eights

Daniel Weiss (second from left) with Lady Berlin and others at the University Boat Race in 1972



Dame Kay Davies

Even as Wolfson grew, the attraction of being in College persisted: in the mid-70s, Professor Dame Kay Davies remembers

catching the bus to go for lunch and back. "It was buzzing and everybody felt it was worth going up there," she says. As a Somerville alumna, Kay wanted a different experience for her postgraduate study. "At Somerville, you were with a lot of very young people whereas at Wolfson you were among mature students. The general ambience was completely different and there was great camaraderie. And people from across the disciplines were always ready to exchange ideas."

ESTABLISHING ITS OWN CHARACTER

Early on, the Fellows met to agree the College's rules of governance; Lary Shaffer remembers some of the early discussions and decisions that



Lary Shaffer

were taken: "We were all packed into the Common Room for the first College meeting and Sir Isaiah Berlin said there were things we needed to discuss, like whether we wore gowns, whether we should all continue eating together, and so on. One student

The Queen laying the foundation for the new building in May 1968

Andrew Prentice remembers the occasion:

"It was in the grounds where the College is now but of course it was just a meadow then. It was quite splendid – I regret to say there was a little too much wine on hand for a young innocent from the Colonies and I remember going home really pleased with myself but really sorry for myself the next day!"



ruffled a few feathers by proposing that students should have a role on all the committees. One of the Fellows said no student's going to want to be on domestic and premises committee, for example. So I stuck my hand up and said I'd do it and it proved a really interesting experience."

There was very much a sense that Wolfson wanted to get away from the standard mould of an Oxford college with a high table and a hierarchy of privileges, says John Penney, who came to Wolfson in the early 70s. "The idea was that we treated everyone the same. The Fellows really bought into this sense of difference and for some years were very unwilling to vote themselves any special privileges. The general meetings were incredibly well attended and the graduate students took a lively interest in the affairs of the College." Interestingly, says John, when the student body became more politicised in the 70s, some felt disadvantaged by not being able to pass resolutions about political/student issues; they felt they didn't have a student voice.



John Penney

CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY

From the start, Wolfson recognised that the social and cultural needs of graduate students had not previously been well met, that international students found Oxford a puzzling and not necessarily welcoming place. In *A Short History of Wolfson College*, Frank Jessup says: "Our ambition was to create what it has become fashionable to call a caring community without falling into attitudes of paternalism which may still have their place in some institutions, but assuredly not in a graduate college."

John Wells recognised the value of a college dedicated to his needs: "Having applied to Wolfson, I received a short letter from the Principal of Hertford, my undergraduate College, inviting me to talk to him about the ramifications of going to Wolfson. Being a fairly blunt undergraduate, I gave him my reasons – primarily that Wolfson had facilities available to students all year round: for example, food was available in College throughout the year, unlike at an undergraduate college. But most of all, graduates were being taken more seriously by Wolfson."

The new building was a vital step in achieving the ambition of creating a caring community and, indeed, made a dramatic difference to students' lives. Students were encouraged to move in from summer 1974, although the building was not inaugurated until November that year. John Wells remembers how wonderful it was for an impoverished student to move into a new building, with brand new furniture, new furnishings and even central heating. "In my third year, my wife was also a member of College so we were able to move to married accommodation at Wolfson, which elsewhere was quite unheard of for graduates."



Carlos Geraldès

the pond – it was like Paradise. While Carlos was at Wolfson, the so-called



John Wells

Carnation Revolution took place back home in Portugal. The new left-wing government wanted students abroad to return home without finishing their studies so cut off their grants. "We had some savings," says Carlos, "but it was difficult. Fortunately Wolfson facilitated our living for several months and the grant was re-established when the government changed, so I was able to pay back what I'd received. But I really appreciated this support."

A COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

"Wolfson was a clean break from the traditional colleges of Oxford. And being new, there was so much energy, so much harmony," recalls Andrew Prentice. "Everyone was really pulling together to get the College off the ground." Lary Shaffer describes how some of the Fellows – geologists – were concerned about the drainage of the site. "This had been the subject of discussion at several meetings and, finally, led by Stewart McKerrow, a gang of us with shovels dug deep ditches on the site to assess the drainage. As we were leaving College site after a morning's work, Michael Brock (Vice President and Bursar) came bounding out of his house nearby and in we all went for midday brunch. The College was that sort of place: everyone knew each other and



Michael Brock

was prepared to work together for the good of the College."

Joanna Shapland remembers getting involved with the bar: "Quite late in the day, the architects and Fellows realised it might be a good idea to have a bar in the new building and they had to find a spare space. Knowing I'd been involved with the bar at Darwin College, Cambridge, Cecilia Dick asked me if I would help. At one point, there was a dispute between the College and builders, which left the workforce on site but not working. So Mrs Dick, the Bursar and I donned our hard hats and supervised the building work!"



Joanna Shapland

PEOPLE WHO SHAPED THE WOLFSON COMMUNITY

Naturally, all the alumni mentioned characters who played a part in shaping Wolfson, especially Sir Isaiah Berlin. Lary Shaffer recalls that, from time to time, word would go around that Sir Isaiah was going to talk in the evening. "We would pack into the Common Room and he would free associate about romanticism or a similar topic. Typically there would be about 50 of us packed in the room – it was beyond wonderful." But Joanna Shapland also remembers him as a radical: "There was an industrial dispute at St Anne's and we told the President that we should support the strikers. He agreed, and we marched down Banbury Road with Sir Isaiah Berlin. He was very much the person who created that sense of radicalism within the College. He was one of the masters of the age, a great philosopher, but you knew he was genuinely interested."

Sir Isaiah and Lady Berlin made it their business to bring people together,

encouraging them to mix and mingle at regular parties. Carlos Geraldès remembers the parties for newcomers with cheese and wine, and garden parties at the Berlins' lovely house. Daniel Weiss, another who remembers their informality, remembers watching the 1972 University Boat Race in Lady Berlin's company.

As Domestic Bursar, Cecilia Dick played a crucial role. Larry Shaffer remembers: "I knocked on the door at 15 Banbury and Cecilia Dick answered the door. There were only 20 students in total and I was the first of the international students. Cecilia took me to the bank to open a bank account; she then drove me in her Mini to 47 Chalfont Road and showed me my room; then put me back in the car and drove me down to 60 Banbury for lunch, introducing me to everyone and showing me how everything worked. She was wonderful. ■



☞ Cecilia Dick

A new history of Wolfson's first 50 years will be published in 2016. The editors would be delighted to receive reminiscences and photographs. Please email them to john.pennney@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Carlos Geraldès:

Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Dame Kay Davies:

Dr Lee's Professor of Anatomy; Honorary Director MRC Functional Genomics Unit; Associate Head (Development, Impact and Equality) Medical Sciences Division, Department of Physiology Anatomy and Genetics, Oxford University.

John Penney:

Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College; from 1972–2012, he was University Lecturer in Classical Philology, Oxford University.

Andrew Prentice:

Emeritus Research Fellow in the School of Mathematical Sciences, Monash University, Victoria, Australia, and adjunct Professor of Astronomy at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia.

Lary Shaffer:

Owner of Scarborough Marsh Fine Furniture, Maine, USA; formerly SUNY (State University of New York) Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Joanna Shapland:

Edward Bramley Professor of Criminal Justice and Director, Centre for Criminological Research, University of Sheffield School of Law.

Daniel Weiss:

Director, Gallic Aviation Group, Paris, France; President, Paris Branch of the Oxford University Society.

John Wells:

An Oxford University Researcher in Particle Physics and a Physics Lecturer/Tutor until his retirement, on ill health grounds, in 1986. He continued taking tutorials until two years ago.

Oxford undergraduates have told us they come to Wolfson for their graduate degrees because we do so much more for them than other colleges. This is a reputation we have worked hard to enhance and we continue to invest in ways to make the graduate experience world class.

Fundraising

News and Aims in 2014–15

Our fundraising theme from now through the 2016 anniversary year will be participation. We want everyone to get involved in whatever way they can. After the Long Vacation, Wolfson will launch a completion campaign incorporating some new approaches to participation-focused fundraising so we hope that when the time comes you will have a look and join in.

ANNUAL GIVING

The College has records going back to its founding of over 1,100 alumni and friends of the College who have made donations. More than half of these donations have been made since 2008. We want to improve our alumni giving participation rates in order to continue to grow the pool of funding and, in turn, expand scholarship giving and other student support. In the current environment, students need all the help they can get. Please go to online giving today and make a contribution by visiting: www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/wolfsonians/donate

ACADEMIC CLUSTERS

The academic clusters have created a distinctive and exciting academic profile for the College. Many of our new scholarships are associated with a specific cluster while others are associated with the donor's original area of study at Wolfson. Other funding associated with the clusters has provided research support, prizes and travel grants to members of the

College. Have a look at the College web-site where the current academic activities of the College are explained: www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/clusters

WOLFSON INNOVATE

Wolfson Innovate is a new venture for Wolfson College and involves learning more about the growing field of social enterprise. It's about capturing some of the ideas we have, maybe from our academic studies or maybe something very different, and turning those ideas into opportunities. Perhaps there's an opportunity for a cool widget, a smart App, a neat financial model, a smart way of diagnosing common diseases – anything that can help others and make some money at the same time. Even if ideas don't turn out to be opportunities, Wolfson Innovate can be a great learning experience. It's not easy to put an idea across in a few words or a video – but if you can learn to do it, what a help it can be in life. For the last two years, Wolfson Innovate has captured the imagination of many in the College and we hope to expand the idea in the future.



NEW ACADEMIC WING: PHASE II

Phase II of the Academic Wing includes a significant expansion of the College Library, together with new offices, a new Lodge, improved disabled access, a café and exhibition space. About £1 million is being sought to complete the project to provide an additional 400 m² to the working area, with better storage for rare books, fully-wired work stations and stacks for our growing collection of scholars' libraries.

STUDENT/ALUMNI SPORTS

The Boat Club now has a sponsor in Investec. Student sports remain very important and there are continuing efforts to bring alumni back to College to join in student alumni events. Support for sports gear and events is always welcomed.



MATCHING FUND SCHEMES FOR DPHIL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Graduate Scholarship Matching Fund scheme, where permanent endowment funds are created on a 60:40 donor matching basis, has made a significant difference to the College. It was used to augment the extremely generous legacy from Emeritus Fellow Francis Marriott. A number of specific scholarships have been funded in the same way in the subjects of Economic History, Jewish Christian Studies in Late Antiquity, Korean Literature, Semitic Philology, Tibetan and Himalayan Studies and Classical Art.



LEGACIES

Please remember that legacy giving has been the great strength in building Wolfson College's – and much of Oxford University's – collective wealth. It is part of what has funded the

excellence at this great University. If you are thinking about giving a legacy to Wolfson College, please contact the Development office or follow this link: www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/wolfsonians/donate

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Hall Chair Campaign

The College continues to invite Wolfsonians to 'name a chair', either for themselves or for a family member or friend who was at Wolfson. For a donation of £300, your chosen name or phrase will be inscribed on a small disc, permanently incorporated into the back of the chair. About half of the Hall chairs have been committed already so there is still time to have your name on one.

A new Concert Piano

We would love to see the new Auditorium equipped with a first-class concert piano for use by concert pianists and talented students. The musical life of the College continues to expand as a result of the continuing residency of the Fournier Trio and the exciting programming of our composer-in-residence John Duggan.

Art and Design at Wolfson

Since Wolfson College became a listed building in 2010, we have come to appreciate just how wonderful and well-preserved our 1970s building complex is and how important it is as part of the output of the architectural

firm Powell and Moya. With the design thinking of the time came a commitment from the College to build a collection of contemporary art suitable to the style of the new College. Today we have benefitted from our founders forward thinking and wish to enhance and grow the College's commitment to good contemporary art and design. For the 50th Anniversary, we plan to reinvigorate our efforts to bring new and interesting art to the College both by loans and additions to the Collections. We also plan to review our commitment to good design and the College's presentation to the public.

Aris Lecture and Seminars in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies

The College seeks funding to support an annual lecture and symposium on Tibetan and Himalayan Studies. Wolfson /Oxford is the only university in the UK that supports research in this area, and we are looking to strengthen an already robust research cluster by endowing £30,000 for an annual lecture. An additional £100,000 endowment would allow us to organise an important global symposium on a related subject. ■

Supporting Wolfson

Methods of giving

Online giving

Our recommended method – if you are resident anywhere except the USA, please donate online at our special website www.giving.ox.ac.uk/wolfson_college.

You can set up regular giving there, or make a single gift with a credit or debit card.

In the USA, you can donate tax efficiently through Americans for Oxford at www.oxfordna.org/giving_how.htm

Telephone giving

If you live in the UK or anywhere except the USA, call the Wolfson College Development Office on **+44 (0) 1865 611041** for secure, single gift card payments. If you live in the USA, please call the team at Americans for Oxford on **(212) 377 4900** to make a secure, single gift card payment or to set up a regular giving plan using a credit card.

Giving by post

You can use the donation form enclosed at the back of this magazine or download the form at www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/wolfsonians/donate. Please send the forms to the Wolfson Development and Alumni Relations Team, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD. You can also call us on **+44 (0) 1865 611041**

Tax efficient ways of giving

Depending on where you live and whether or not you are a taxpayer, there are several ways you can increase the value of your gift to your College beyond what it costs you.

UK taxpayers

Please make sure to cover your donation under the Gift Aid scheme to increase the value of your gift by 25%, courtesy of HM Customs and Revenue. Higher rate tax payers will get a further deduction from their taxes.

USA taxpayers

Please send a cheque to Americans for Oxford, an American 501c3 charity, with clear instructions that it is for Wolfson College (include postal address: Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD). You may also use the online giving method offered by Americans for Oxford: www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/contribute/worldwide_giving/usa.html

Continental European Residents

Tax efficient giving is available through the Transnational Giving Europe Scheme. For full information, go to www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/contribute/worldwide_giving/europe.html

Canadian taxpayers

The University of Oxford is recognised by the Canadian Revenue Agency as a prescribed institution under Section 3503 of the Canadian Income Tax Regulations. On receipt of your donation, we will ensure that you are sent a receipt for Canadian tax purposes. For full information, go to www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/contribute/worldwide_giving/canada.html



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Photo credits:

The majority of photos of Wolfson events and of the College itself have been taken by **John Cairns**

Other photos were provided as follows:

The 2015 London Lecture photos:

Thomas Farnetti

The Wolfson College Ball images:

Phil G Brown

Wolfson College (this page): **Danny Chapman**

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The photo of the Queen laying the foundation for the new building (pp22–23) is published courtesy of **The Times**

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One of the successful Wolfson College crews that saw success in the 2015 Torpids races; taken by John Cairns

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YOUR LEGACY TO **WOLFSON COLLEGE**

No matter how small or large, a bequest will help to secure the future of Wolfson, as well as that of generations of Wolfsonians to come.



WOLFSON COLLEGE

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