

# Brazen Notes

## John Bowers QC, New BNC Principal

I am proud and humbled to be appointed as the new Principal of this great College. I am thrilled to be following in the line of such great men who have graced the position (I'm afraid that is only men so far). I am especially delighted to be stepping into the shoes of Professor HLA Hart, whose lectures I attended as a student and who was, like me, a northerner and a lawyer.

Professor Alan Bowman has, as you will already know, done a brilliant job as Principal. He has been half of a wonderful team with Jackie. Their warmth and wise counsel have already been invaluable to Suzanne and myself, as I know it has been to our fellows and students too, over many years.

I am excited to be joining Brasenose at such a fascinating time in College with the new library project underway and almost fully-funded, and at an interesting time for Higher Education in general with the increased competition for funding, globalisation, and the effects of the introduction of fees still being felt. As soon as I walked through the doors of the College, to be welcomed by Head Porter Andy Talbot for my interview, I felt at home and I have been impressed by the warmth with which alumni feel for the place.

My hope is that together we can build on the great traditions of the College as well as looking to the future with a fresh eye. As Churchill said, the first 500 years of any British institution are the most testing. I want Brasenose to remain the most rounded and open college in the University, and the friendliest. We must continue as a hospitable community to which all can contribute and where all are valued. That community crucially includes you as alumni.

I see our College building on its excellence, further fostering the student experience (we have astonishingly high student satisfaction rates), emphasising pastoral care and pursuing research and teaching of the highest level. Increasing the number of bursaries we can provide for our students is an important feature of the tasks ahead. This is close to my heart as well as head. I was educated at a Grammar School in Cleethorpes (next to Grimsby) which became a comprehensive school when I was in the sixth form. Oxford certainly shaped my career and gave me access to facilities and opportunities I could only dream about when growing up.

I did my MA in Jurisprudence at Lincoln College – and then a Bachelor of Civil Law. I relished the lectures by BNC's John Davies and Sir Jack Beatson, and Hugh Collins (then also at BNC) stimulated my early interest in trade union law. I then carried out weekend lecturing for four years at Lincoln, Christ Church and St Hugh's. I originally applied to Lincoln College largely because of my Lincolnshire connection and am delighted that BNC also has that link. I was pleased that the Bishop of Lincoln, the Visitor for both Lincoln and BNC, was able to officiate at my Inauguration.

My Lincolnshire roots however do not go back as far as the founding of the College by a previous Bishop of Lincoln in 1509. My grandfather arrived in Grimsby on a boat from Russia (he thought his ticket was for New York!) in the 1910s. My father ran a wood shop. I was not however gifted in the Do It Yourself department – I thought DIY meant Don't Involve Yourself – so I had to branch out into law (I had an idea to do PPE but my father did not think the concept of a Philosophy Shop was viable).

After graduating, I practised at Littleton Chambers, called to the Bar in 1979 and took silk in 1998 and have been joint Head of Chambers since 2013. I have represented interesting people in diverse cases within the field of employment law. I followed the Cab Rank rule rigidly and represented both sides (happily not in the same case!). I was involved as an advocate in the miners'



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and dockers' strikes, many newspaper cases and I also represented servicemen seeking to overturn the ban on homosexuals in the military in the European Court of Human Rights. I appeared in both the largest and longest employment tribunal cases. I have also sat on both criminal and civil cases as a Recorder and as a Deputy High Court Judge. On one occasion I was referred to by a litigant as "Your Majesty" but he still lost his case.

Since my appointment at BNC, I have noticed the deep affection that Old Members have for Brasenose. Alumni form a key role in the life of the College community and give generously of their time, expertise, and gifts. I want to provide more opportunities for interaction between Old Members and present students. The sheer wealth of experience and expertise of our alumni body could be of huge benefit to our young alumni and current students; these are difficult times for graduates.

As Principal it is my intention to listen, to absorb and to evaluate, and I hope to bring a fresh eye to the College. My wife, Professor Suzanne Franks and I live in the Lodgings on Old Quad and I want to be at the centre of College life. We hope to meet as many of you as possible in the coming months and years; we value your experience and ideas and look forward to welcoming you all.

**John Bowers QC**

*Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford*

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## John Bowers QC – career at a glance

### Qualifications

MA (Oxford) BCL (Oxford) Barrister

### Background

- Gained a scholarship to Lincoln College to study Law for which he was awarded a first.
- Awarded Bachelor of Civil Law.
- Weekend law lecturer at Lincoln and St Hugh's Colleges and Christ Church.
- Called to the Bar in 1979 and took silk in 1998.
- Practised primarily in employment law and human rights.
- Awarded Chambers & Partners Employment Silk of the Year 2010.
- Acted in most of the major industrial disputes over the past decades including the 1984 Miners Strike, the 1989 Docks Dispute, the News International Wapping dispute, numerous rail disputes and Gate Gourmet.
- Landmark cases include an European Court of Human Rights application on the employment of gay servicemen, House of Lords rulings on injury to feelings awards and the dates of outsourcing for TUPE purposes, the Supreme Court decision on whether legal representation is required in internal disciplinary proceedings and the largest ever Employment Tribunal application by 12,000 retained firefighters, which eventually went to the House of Lords.
- A frequent lecturer and author on employment law.
- Member of the Governing Council at the University of Kent for three years and was formerly a member of the Standards Board for England and the Home Office Task Force on Human Rights.



- Sits as a Deputy High Court Judge and a Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit. He is an approved counsel for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- Has been in turn a Member of the Committee of the Industrial Law Society, the Employment Law Association and Honorary Legal Advisor at Turnpike Lane Advice Centre. He chaired the Employment Law Bar Association. He has carried out work for the Bar Pro Bono Unit.
- Former chair of Bar Disciplinary Summary Tribunals (until they were abolished) and member of the Bar Council's Race Relations Committee.
- Since 2005 has been a Bencher of Middle Temple (and a member both of its Estates and Students Affairs Committees).

### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## Life in the Brasenose Archives

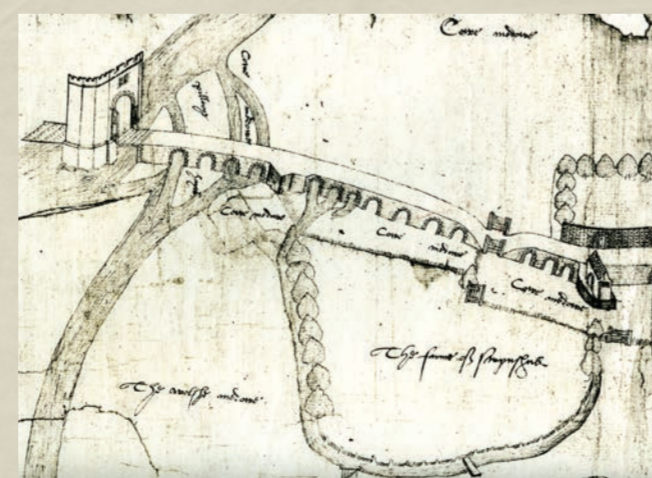
**Georgina Edwards**  
Archivist

I've been working in the Brasenose archives since 2011, firstly as the archives assistant and more recently as the archivist. However, it never fails to amaze me that the college's archives have been kept in the same place since at least 1516. My desk is situated in the Muniment room, below the Treasury in Old Quad tower and it's from here that I look after and support access to the archive collections. The role of archivists has changed dramatically over the past twenty years, especially with the emergence of the internet and emails.

The content of archival material at Brasenose relates to College life and its members from 1509 to the present day and I receive over twenty research enquiries a month relating to it. It's very rewarding when the archives fill a gap in someone's family history project or allow a University student to study written documents from the 17th century.

Before the end of the 19th century much of the income of Oxford colleges came from the ownership of land throughout the country and our wonderful collection of hand drawn maps allow many researchers to track down the history of their house or specific areas of land. Most of the archives, including these, are usually open to everyone and free to visit by pre-booked appointment.

Most of the Oxford colleges have an Archivist who is employed to care for traditional paper archives as well as manage modern, digital records. We have a responsibility to collect important documents, such as statutes, financial and student records for evidential reasons, as well as to enable those in the future to learn about College history. Many of the archives here are not yet catalogued, so my job involves cataloguing collections of documents.

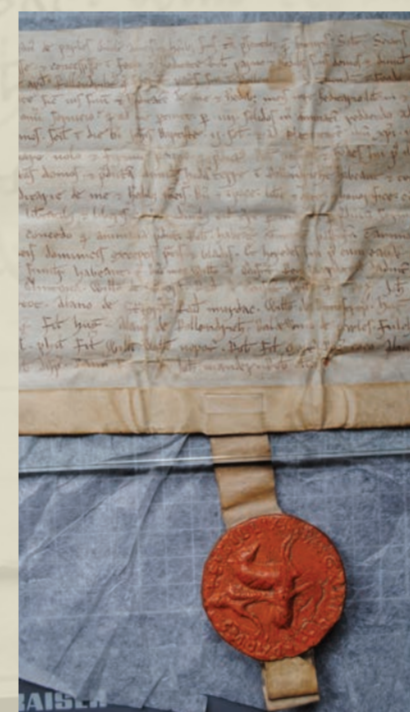


△ A map of Grandpont and Folly Bridge, Oxford c.1500s. It shows Cow Meadow, which is now the College sports ground.



△ The College servants 1861

Cataloguing archive collections is not a quick job, as it often involves reading lots of individual documents (such as bundles of letters) and assessing their value. Most recently I have begun to catalogue the papers of College staff, including correspondence written during the Second World War. It's very exciting opening boxes and discovering snippets of personal histories alongside information about the College's past and the people who lived, worked and studied here. I'm hopeful that our catalogues will be made available online in the near future.



◀ This piece of parchment, with a seal attached, is a grant of land between two people at Rollright in Oxfordshire, dated c.1285. The property was left to the College in 1509, as part of Bishop Smyth's endowment.

The Muniment room and the Treasury, where the College's legal documents and valuable items were traditionally stored have been recently renovated. Alongside this, the current archive basement store will be renovated and most of the archive will be moved off-site for protection and security. This will affect access over the next year but is a necessary requirement, which will enable me to concentrate on assessing a large amount of currently unassessed material for retention or disposal, a process known as appraisal in the archive world. The next couple of years will be a very exciting time for the library and archives, and I hope to engage more members of the College with the collections and the history of the College through tours, interactive sessions and exhibitions in due course.

If you are interested in the College archive collections, the history of the College or have records to donate relating to College or student life please contact me at [archives@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:archives@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

## College News

### Introducing our new Director of College Music



Christian Wilson joins BNC as Director of College Music from London, where he was Organist and Assistant Director of Music of the Chapel Royal at the Tower of London. He is an exceptional organist, and much in demand as a recitalist and accompanist both in the UK and further afield. He has considerable experience of choral and instrumental training, having worked at St Paul's Knightsbridge, Christ Church Cathedral and St George's Cathedral, Perth.

"I'm delighted to have been appointed as Director of Music at Brasenose – a college famed for its friendly, inclusive community. At the heart of the community, I'd like to think that music plays a vital role in the health and spirit of its

members, whether as a release from the rigour of academic life, or through the discipline, camaraderie and satisfaction of group music-making, such as singing in choir. I'm looking forward to developing the programme of music at Brasenose, encouraging the highest standards of music-making, augmenting the choral repertoire, and sustaining a series of student-led concerts, without propagating exclusivity – one woman and her guitar is as welcome as a seasoned classical specialist. My own musical interests cover a variety of genres and styles, and I look forward to celebrating this universal language in many shapes and forms at Brasenose."

We are delighted that Christian is beginning a new chapter with us, and will continue to develop the musical life of the College for the benefit and enjoyment of all its members.

### New Vice-Principal



Tutorial Fellow in English, Dr Sos Eltis, has stepped into the role of Vice-Principal after Professor Ron Daniel stepped down after three years in the position. Dr Eltis has been a Fellow at Brasenose since the 1990s and specialises in Victorian, Modern and Contemporary Literature with a special interest in drama.

"I am deeply honoured to have been elected Vice-Principal. I have loved being part of Brasenose for the last 18 years (though it's slightly terrifying even writing that number – that's the age of most of our incoming freshers!), and I hope to be able to give something back to the College and community to which I owe so much. The warmth, friendliness and humour of Brasenose have made it a wonderful place to work, as has its deep-seated commitment to teaching and student welfare. I hope I can help to make the College even more welcoming, inclusive and supportive, while ensuring that it is not only our plumbing that is truly modern."

### Dr Rowan Williams at Brasenose

We were delighted to welcome Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and former Archbishop of Canterbury to College earlier this year to preach the Runcie Sermon at College Prayers. The Runcie Sermon is an annual chapel event, held in memory of Robert Runcie, a former student of Brasenose, who went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury himself in the 1980s.

### Famous Sculptor Visits Oxford

On Saturday 11th October 2014 the sculptor William Tucker (born 1935) visited Brasenose College to give a lecture on his work. He has recently been made an Honorary Fellow of the College. He read History at Brasenose in the 1950s and attended the Ruskin School, which launched him on his career in art. He was a contemporary there of John Updike. The Ashmolean plaster-cast gallery seemed to him then 'the deadliest place'. He was part of the influential school of 'New Generation Sculptors' which exhibited at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1965. Tucker, Phillip King, David Annesley, Michael Bolus and Isaac Witkin worked under the aegis of Anthony Caro. His early work was abstract 'constructed' sculpture, and his principles were expressed in *The Language of Sculpture* (1974). In more recent years he has moved onto work influenced by human and animal forms. He continues to believe that sculpture 'is subject to gravity and revealed by light.' His work can be seen at the Pangolin Gallery in London (90 York Way, N1). The lecture was filled with intriguing insights, and demonstrations of the way in which subject-matter emerges from what are at first sight formless shapes. One of his projects has been a response to the famous Horse of Selene on the East Pediment of the Parthenon, now displayed as one of the Elgin Marbles. He expressed great enthusiasm for the bronze Riace Warriors, rescued from the sea in 1972. I asked him whether he felt 'anxiety' in the presence of all his predecessors through the ages – the kind of 'anxiety' Harold Bloom has identified in *The Anxiety of Influence* (1973). He said no: he felt admiration and gratitude.

**Bernard Richards**



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# Bumping to victory

This year saw the 200th anniversary of Bumps racing and to celebrate, BNCBC alumni and alumni from Jesus College boat club re-enacted the original race in traditional boats and period costume in a good-humoured Head of the River Race.

The first ever recorded Head of the River was raced between crews from Jesus College and Brasenose College in 1815 just a few months before the Battle of Waterloo. BNC won that race which began within Iffley Lock and ended at Mr King's barge near the current finishing line.

As part of the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of this event, a re-enactment was run, crewed by alumni from each college. Our guys were dressed in BNC caps topped with gold tassels and striped sweaters, the Jesus team in boaters and green neckerchiefs.

They rowed valiantly in period boats specially brought in for the occasion. The nineteenth century boats were built with a gangplank running down the middle. When the lock gates were opened, the stroke of the Head boat, who was standing in the bow with a boat-hook, would run down the gangplank pushing the boat out of the lock as quickly as possible before resuming his seat at the oar.

The significance of the 1815 race is that it is the first formally recorded race between two boat clubs. Prior to this, there had been races between professional watermen such as the Ranelagh Regatta of 1775, but there is no evidence of racing between any boat clubs. The modern sport of

rowing began in Oxford, between Brasenose and Jesus. This makes Brasenose College Boat Club, and Jesus College Boat Club the oldest known competitive amateur rowing clubs in the world for no club anywhere can boast of having rowed competitively prior to their race in 1815.

In 2015, rumour had it that Jesus was keen to balance the score sheet this time and were training hard, but on the day they rather lost it and 'caught a crab' outside their own boat house and the Nosemen sailed home to a victory.

## The Brasenose crew

Bow	<b>Nicola Smith</b> (1999)
2	<b>Dominic Barton</b> (1984)
3	<b>Hauke Engel</b> (2003)
4	<b>Ed Martin</b> (1980)
5	<b>Tim Whitaker</b> (1986)
6	<b>Michal Plotkowiak</b> (2006)
7	<b>Tom Baker</b> (1997)
Str	<b>Jim Kirwan</b> (1984)
Cox	<b>Jack Carlson</b> (2009)

With thanks to William O'Chee and Christopher Seward for the historical information.



Richard Wakefield



# Alumna Profile

## Dr Michelle Dipp

On the 200th anniversary of bumps racing, two past captains catch up with each other: Cassandra Kennedy, a current fourth year chemist, interviews **Michelle Dipp** (1998), co-founder and CEO of OvaScience, who has recently been elected as a Youth Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

**CK:** Hi Michelle, thanks for agreeing to doing this interview! Just as a brief introduction, could you outline what you did when you left BNC?

**MD:** While I was at BNC, Professor Graham Richards CBE was not only the Chemistry tutor at Brasenose and head of the department, he was also the professor who was leading many of the spin outs at Oxford. He was an entrepreneur, and he was one of my mentors and the person who introduced me to biotechnology. I remember the screensaver project which Professor Richards initiated at the Department of Chemistry when I was there - over three million personal computers in over 200 countries were used to screen 3.5 billion compounds against protein targets.

I begged Professor Richards for a summer internship at one of his spinouts, and he introduced me to the Wellcome Trust so that I could do an internship there. That led to a career which translates science into treatments for patients - the Wellcome Trust funds innovative research which can help humankind.

**CK:** Coincidentally my fourth year project is based in the Wellcome Trust Centre in Oxford! How did this lead to you setting up your own company and what was it like?

**MD:** When I was at the Wellcome Trust, we invested in a company in the Boston area, and I later joined that company, and have been in life sciences ever since. One of my proudest accomplishments has been co-founding OvaScience, which focuses on new fertility treatments for women.

The mission of OvaScience is to bring new fertility treatment options to patients. Friends shared stories about struggling to get pregnant and trying *in vitro* fertilization (IVF). I learned two important facts - infertility affects one in six couples and the standard of care (IVF) is a difficult process that fails most of the time. We were determined to find new ways

to approach fertility. We found groundbreaking science that had the potential to yield promising new treatments, and we built a company around it.

I have helped to start companies before, but OvaScience is very special to me. The fertility community is the most engaged and active of any I have seen - they are empowered and empowering. Starting a company requires vision and the right team to help you execute it, and we have a group of passionate individuals working hard to bring new treatments to women.

**CK:** Given the emphasis on getting more girls interested in science at school, do you think this has filtered through into industry and academia?

**MD:** Absolutely. It all starts with education. The life sciences industry has strong female leaders, from the bench all the way to the bedside and within Board rooms.

**CK:** What have you found most rewarding from a career in science? What have you found most challenging?

**MD:** By far, the most rewarding experience has been to help patients. We recently had a very proud moment at OvaScience where the first baby was born with our fertility treatment. This, for me, crystallized why we do what we do - to give women and couples more opportunities to build the family that they have always wanted. This is also the most challenging!

**CK:** That must have been very exciting! Successes in science like that are what inspire me to stay in research after my undergrad. Now, I'd like to ask a bit about rowing. Since passing on the captaincy of the women's squad to my successor, I have been involved in the 200th anniversary celebrations, so I'd be interested to hear about how the boat club has changed. What was women's rowing like at BNC when you were captain?

**MD:** Brasenose has been proud of its long history in rowing, and the College has been a strong supporter of women's rowing. When I was there, we had women's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vills because there was so much interest in the sport. We were fortunate to have the support of the late Tony Marchington who purchased a new women's boat that he named "The Caroline" after his wife.

**CK:** We still have Caroline! She's a well-used boat now! During my captaincy I learnt a huge amount about the importance of good communication and organisation, as well as developing strong working relationships with coaches and friendships with my team mates. I am still immensely proud of what my squad have achieved. What did you get out of being captain?

**MD:** It was a privilege to lead a great group of diverse and dedicated women who were keen to get out on the water each day. Most of all, we forged strong friendships. Many of us - the women and the men - are still in close touch today. Serving as captain taught me a lot about leadership, and I still draw on that experience today.

**CK:** And finally... What is your favourite memory of Brasenose?

**MD:** The wonderful people - those who are still there and those I met there.

**CK:** Michelle, thank you for such an inspiring interview! Hopefully we will see you at the boat house or in college soon!

Michelle Dipp, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of OvaScience, was named on FORTUNE's 2015 40 Under 40 list of the most influential young people in business.

# Amazing BNC Women

As part of the celebrations of 40 years of women at Brasenose, the current students have hung 12 portraits of 'Amazing Brasenose Women' in their common room. Margherita De Fraja (Third Year languages student) explains how the project came about.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the admission of women into Brasenose we, as students, really wanted to do something to mark this, and thought that it was really important for us to look back over these 40 years and reflect on some of the achievements and contributions to society that the women who have attended College in this time have made. I came up with the idea for the project when I saw that Hertford College – one of the other colleges who started admitting women at the same time – had done a similar thing. Even though 40 years may seem like a relatively short time compared to centuries of educating men who

## A Call For Memories

Oxford colleges pride themselves on their ancient pasts, and our plans for the library represent one way in which this past connects with the college's future. The celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the admission of women to Brasenose remind us that the college's history has a more recent dimension. With this in mind, I have launched an initiative to try and gather memories of the first forty years of co-education. You, our alumni, will have more – and more diverse – memories of this period than any one. I would like to ask each and every one of you to send me a couple of paragraphs, perhaps as much as 500 or 1000 words if you feel like it. These memories would be a wonderful resource for our archive in the centuries to come, enriching its potential as a source for social and cultural history. With this in mind, I want to underline that this call for memories is intended as a serious historical initiative, not simply an exercise in self-congratulation. We know that some of you will have happy memories, and some of you will have memories that are more complicated. That is only to be expected. Complicated can be interesting, and I would welcome everything that might shed light on the ways in which our community has changed over the past forty years. While we would like to publish a selection of this material in the Brazen Nose, rest assured that we will only do so with your permission. Please send all your memories to [memories@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:memories@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

**Abigail Green**  
Tutor and Fellow in History

have gone on to do great things, the wealth of extraordinary women who have come out of these 40 years is already quite astonishing!

At the first JCR (our student committee) meeting of the year, in October 2014, I proposed that we should celebrate some of the things that the women who have attended Brasenose over the past 40 years have achieved since graduating. Therefore, modelling our exhibition on the way that the portraits in Hall remind us of the many alumni who have made great contributions to College and to society, we have decided to fill the JCR with a series of portraits of our female alumnae. We think that having the portraits in the JCR is important because this is our common space and we want the focus to be on showing these amazing female role models to all our undergraduates. It will be really significant for us, especially when welcoming applicants on open days and interview candidates, for them to see the portraits on the walls of the common room – undoubtedly the heart of the student community – and be shown how much we value all the people who walk within these walls. As one of our subjects, top barrister Harini Iyengar, said, "As a British Indian woman of my generation who belongs to Brasenose and the Inner Temple, I've never had the experience of seeing someone who looks like me on a wall. I never thought this would happen and am moved that the college and students have done this to celebrate, to affirm and to appreciate the women members of the college."

*First of all we sought nominations from past alumni for Brasenose women they believed to be inspiring and extraordinary; in total we received nearly 200 nominations.*

So, over the past few months, with generous support from College and the Brasenose Society, Orla White, this year's Women's Officer, and I have worked really hard on the commissioning, creation and exhibition of these 12 portraits. First of all we sought nominations from alumni for Brasenose women they believed to be inspiring and extraordinary; in total we received

Oxford University students were all male until female only colleges were established in the 19th century. The first colleges to admit both male and female students were Brasenose, Jesus College, Wadham, Hertford and St Catherine's – all first admitting women in 1974. Today, around half of the undergraduate students Brasenose admits are female.

nearly 200 nominations. Reading the reasons for the nominations was undoubtedly one of the experiences I'll treasure most from this process; there were so many stories and anecdotes shared, so many women who have done amazing things with their lives and above all an emphasis on nominees' personal qualities and how much they are valued by those around them. To choose our final shortlist, we narrowed it down into various fields of work and then the JCR committee voted to select the final shortlist of 12 subjects. The chosen subjects subsequently had their portraits taken by photographer Bill Knight OBE. Bill was amazing to work with, so helpful, professional, and of course, an amazing photographer. When asked for his thoughts on shooting the subjects, he said "the Brasenose alumnae have very clear ideas about who they are, but are not used to being photographed and most of them approached the experience with trepidation. Over a range of occupations and backgrounds the common denominators were intellect and, in my opinion at least, a sense that they are all spending their lives in the way they want." After this, each portrait subject was then interviewed by a current undergraduate who is either reading the same degree that they did or wants to go into the same field of work, and we were told by several interviewers how amazing an opportunity it was to be able to meet these women who have achieved so much and yet were still so open and welcoming to students.

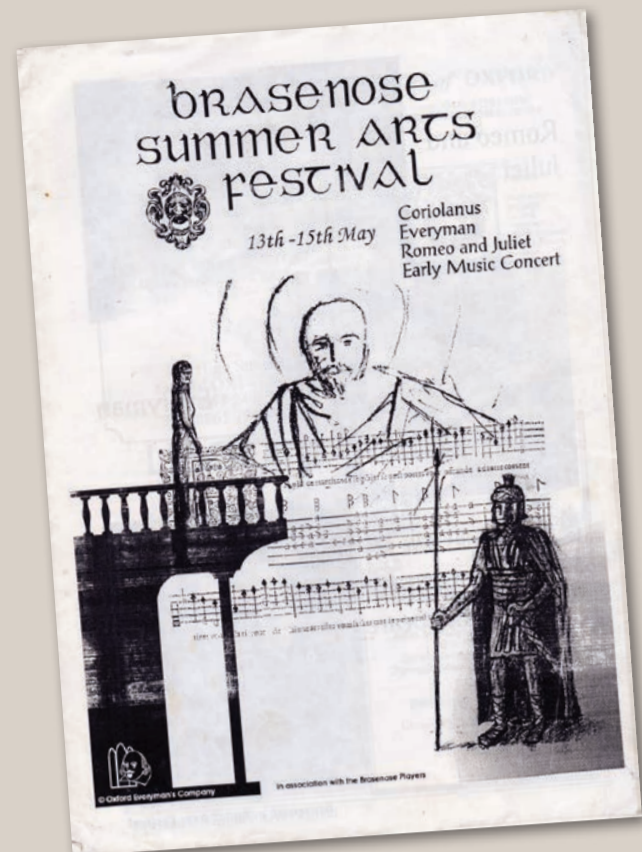
The portraits hang in the JCR and will remain there indefinitely, meaning hundreds of undergraduates over the years will see how much importance the JCR places on celebrating the achievements of women and how proud we are to have such amazing female role models.

## The Portraits

Kate Allen, Andrea Brand, Jules Chappell, Emma Garth, Rachel Harrison, Marcia Hutchinson, Ceri Hutton, Harini Iyengar, Fay Schlesinger, Kate Shand, Mary Stokes and Valerie Worth.

Photographed by Bill Knight OBE.





# Arts Week: How It All Began

It's hard to believe, but Arts Week, in some form or other, has been going for twenty-one years. This realisation made some of those who were involved in its first incarnation look back at how it started.

By **Paul Burgess**, with contributions by **Liz Owen**, **Mia Bennett** and **Rikesh Shah** (1993).  
Photo Credit: Thomas Furlong

I was part of a keen group of theatre-makers that first came up to BNC in 1993. When we arrived, however, there wasn't much theatre happening in College. Brasenose Players rarely staged its own productions. In fact, the idea of the College being a home to drama would have seemed absurd to many; the stereotype was that it was all rugby and rowing. So, when we decided to set up an arts festival to take place in Trinity of our first year, the initial hurdle for us was to get our idea to be taken seriously.



Luckily, the domestic bursar gave us his support, and eventually enough key members of the SCR were persuaded, although - not unreasonably - there was some scepticism about our ability to carry off such an undertaking and be ready for our first-year exams. There was also a fair amount of negotiating about which week it should be. We wanted it later because of the weather, but the College - again, not unreasonably - wanted it to be as far away from finals as possible. It ended up in Third Week, where it has pretty much remained.

There wasn't a battels contribution then, of course, so we had to plead our case to a slightly bemused JCR. Producer Liz Owen also managed to persuade several local businesses to buy adverts in the programme. We then decided to set up a new company, Oxford Everyman's Theatre, to produce the event. We got very enthusiastic about setting up companies in those days: a group of us had already set up Daedalus, in order to do our own productions in Oxford and Edinburgh. Later Daedalus would become a professional company; it is still going.

And so the first Brasenose Summer Arts Festival, as it was then called, started to take shape. It had two Shakespeare productions in New Quad: *Coriolanus* directed by Michael Brett Drennan (the joy of togas

in the rain) and *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Tom England, whose Land Rover was well-employed for costume and prop trips to London. A large seating rake was hired - a slightly problematic process, to put it mildly. We also ended up with real (albeit unsharpened) swords, and then had to stop a bout of improvised sword-fighting amongst the cast before blood was spilt in the quad. In the Chapel, meanwhile, was the mediaeval morality play *Everyman*, which I directed and which Daedalus later took to Edinburgh. Performed amidst candlelight and choral singing from the organ loft, its musical director was Laura Senior, who also organised the fourth element of the festival; an early music concert.

The whole thing was a steep learning curve, naturally, as nothing like this had been organised at BNC by undergraduates, but it was also extremely rewarding. And it's also very rewarding that it's still going, all this time later. The original group got as far as organising a second festival. After that came finals and we handed over to a new generation. Our involvement with Brasenose arts didn't stop, however, as many of the same people went on to set up and run the King's Hall Trust for the Arts, which continues to fund projects in College and beyond.



## Strollers

In late May, a date was finally found for the Strollers to challenge the undergraduates to an afternoon of cricket. It was friendly match, but the Strollers streaked ahead with 225 runs and the College made 86 but their enthusiasm was undiminished.



The alumni team: **Peter Hancorn** (1961), **Peter Aylott** (1984), **Robert Peel** (1984), **Duncan Wethey** (1991), **Christopher Townsend** (1991), **David Jones** (2002), **Sam Mallinson** (2010)



October saw a 1970s and a 1980s team take on the HCR and the JCR teams in an energetic football tournament followed by lunch in a nearby pub. The final was between the HCR and the JCR with the HCR being crowned victors.

## Awards

**Dr James Noel Adams, FBA** (1967) was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2015 for services to Latin Scholarship. Dr Adams is an Honorary Fellow, BNC and an Emeritus Fellow, All Souls.

**Professor Poly Arnold CChem MRSC** (1990) was awarded the 2012 Rosalind Franklin Award by the Royal Society. It was awarded for her scientific achievements, suitability as a role model and proposal to promote women in STEM. The prize enabled her to make 'A Chemical Imbalance', a documentary film and book that explores why Edinburgh has had a long history of successful women in science, and also is a call to action for the drive to equality of opportunity.

**Sir Timothy Barrow KCMG LVO MBE** (1983) was awarded a KCMG for services to British foreign policy and interests in Russia.

**Dominic Barton** (1984), Glocal Managing Director for McKinsey and Company, was awarded the Public Service Star Award (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) in May 2015.

**Nicola Byrom** (2009) received the Queen's Young Leaders award in recognition of her contributions to improving student mental health.

**Dr Michelle Dipp, MD, PhD** (1998) was elected to join the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders in recognition of her commitment to

the global community - particularly the fertility community - as well as her leadership and the contributions she has made to the healthcare industry throughout her career.

**David Fajgenbaum** (2007) has been named a finalist for a Social Impact Award from the British Council.

**Professor Russell Foster** (*Supernumerary Fellow in Circadian Neuroscience, BNC*) was awarded a CBE in the New Year's honours list in 2015 for services to Science.

**Dr Daniel Lee** (*British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and tutor in History at Brasenose College*) has won a BBC New Generation Thinkers 2015 award.

**Professor Philip Maini** (*former Fellow, BNC*) was made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

**Sir David Ramsden CBE** (1983) was awarded a Knighthood for services to Economic Policy Making.

**Sir Paul Silk KCB** (1970) was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath for services to the Parliaments of, and devolution in, the United Kingdom.

**Alasdair Stirling CBE** (2014) was awarded a CBE for services to Defence.

## Appointments

**Julian Brazier TD MP** (1972) was re-elected as MP for Canterbury.

**The Right Hon Mr David Cameron** (1985) was re-elected MP for Witney and remains Prime Minister.

**Camilla Cavendish** (1986) has been appointed to run the Number 10 policy unit. Ms Cavendish, an award-winning journalist has made a name campaigning for better child protection and social issues.

**Professor Anne Davies** (*Tutorial Fellow in Law, BNC*) is becoming Dean of Law Faculty from Oct 2015.

**Mark Harper ACA MP** (1988) was re-elected as MR for the Forest of Dean.

**Claire Perry MP** (1982) was re-elected for Devizes.

**Malcolm Turnbull** (1978) deposed Tony Abbott to become Australian Liberal party leader and Prime Minister.

# Alumni Events 2015

2015 saw many Old Members return to College or meet up in London, New York, and the rest of the world. Here are just a few of those shared moments.

See our Flickr site for the full Alumni Events Photo Gallery  
[www.flickr.com/photos/bnc\\_members](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bnc_members)



A good night was enjoyed by  $\Delta \triangleright$  the 1970-1973 matriculands at their Gaudy in March.



$\Delta$  The Hall was packed beyond capacity as 140 alumni returned to College for the 1983-85 Gaudy in March



$\triangleleft \Delta$  Two hundred years of bumps racing was celebrated at a garden party by the river with Jesus College at Summer Eights.



1998-1999 matriculands gathered  $\Delta \nabla \triangleright$  in June for their Gaudy.

$\Delta$  As part of the celebrations of women in College, over 100 alumni together with current students attended a day of reminiscences and debate over the May Day Bank Holiday.



$\Delta$  There was a full hall for the Jubilee Lunch for matriculands from 1957-1965 on a sunny spring day in April.



$\triangleleft \Delta$  The Institute of Advertising Practitioners provided a bright and elegant setting for the BNC Society President's Summer Party in June.



$\Delta$  February saw a successful reunion for physicists.

# Contact Us


The Alumni Relations & Development Office is always keen to welcome Brasenose Members returning to College. We are also pleased to be able to arrange Alumni Dining in Hall during term time for you and a guest and to assist you with booking College accommodation should you require it.

If you would like to visit us, we're located on staircase VII/2, just before the Library. Our usual office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

**The Alumni Relations & Development Office**  
**Brasenose College**  
**Oxford OX1 4AJ**

Tel: **+44(0)1865 287275**  
Email: **development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk**  
Web: **www.bnc.ox.ac.uk**

## Join our online BNC Communities

 [www.facebook.com/pages/Brasenose-College](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Brasenose-College)

 [www.twitter.com/bnc\\_members](http://www.twitter.com/bnc_members)

 [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

# Events Diary

## GAUDIES

**Gaudy for those who matriculated in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959**

*Friday 18 March 2016*

**Gaudy for those who matriculated in 2000 & 2001**

*Friday 24 June 2016*

**Gaudy for those who matriculated in 2008 & 2009**

*Friday 23 September 2016*

## ALUMNI & GUEST EVENTS

**New York Reception**

*Tuesday 12 April 2016*

Guests welcome

**Jubilee Lunch**

**For matriculation years 1960-66**

*Friday 15 April 2016*

Guests welcome

**BNC Society President's Summer Drinks Party**

*Thursday, 2 June 2016*

The City Club, 19 Old Broad Street, London EC4N 8AL

Guests welcome

**Alumni Garden Party**

*Saturday 31 July 2016*

Bring the family

**BNC Society Annual Alumni Dinner**

*Saturday 17 September 2016*

Guests welcome

## DONOR EVENT

**Alexander Nowell Circle Lunch (Legators)**

*Friday 18 November 2016*

## BNCBC EVENT

**Summer Eights Dinner**

*Saturday 28 May 2016*

## ALUMNI SUBJECT EVENTS

**Classics Reunion Dinner**

*Saturday 30 April 2016*

All events will be held in College unless stated otherwise. Invitations will be sent out in advance by post or email where appropriate.

For more information, contact us on  
**+44 (0)1865 287250**  
**development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk**

MUSIC DIARY