



Brazen Notes

Special Edition

Farewell from Principal Alan Bowman

As Jacqueline and I prepare to vacate the Principal's Lodgings after a quinquennium in residence, reflections on the experience and the nature of this wonderful community are rich and diverse, offering a different perspective from the aggregate of seven or eight decades which we have between us spent 'teaching and learning' in secondary and tertiary education.

We think particularly of a landscape in which the College's staff and alumni play a very vital and prominent role. More than a decade ago the College commissioned an expert survey of Old Members and was given to understand that Brasenose has an exceptionally loyal group of alumni even by Oxford college standards. We have both had the pleasure and privilege of meeting many hundreds of our Old Members in the past few years and that verdict has been reinforced many times over, frequently in the simple statement '*I love this place*'. Well-meaning sentiments about the value and importance of education are easy to produce, but willingness to help provide the resource which underpins education of the highest quality is a rarer and infinitely more precious commodity. We have received it unstintingly from our alumni in the past few years, in the form of



The new BNC Library; made possible by the generosity of our Old Members.

gifts, expertise, time and commitment. For that we are enormously grateful.

We have known for many years that what drives that generosity is a genuine interest in and engagement with the core objectives of the College – education and research. Those core objectives are directed towards enriching the intellectual experience of our 600-odd students, undergraduate and postgraduate, and of the academic Fellowship. The most gratifying features of the past five years, and those of which we are proudest, are the consistently excellent academic performance of our students, and the commitment of our Old Members in supporting our ambitions to enhance our bursary schemes and to undertake our major capital project; the extension and refurbishment of the Library. This year over 90% of our undergraduates have once again achieved first or upper second-class degrees in the Schools and the number of postgraduate distinctions is likewise well above the University average – this without in the least diluting the quality or the range of cultural and sporting activities which enrich their Oxford experience. The generosity of our alumni enables us to continue to make that experience accessible to many who would not otherwise be able to take up the offer of a place here.

Our New Library

The highlight of our time at BNC has been the opportunity to embark on the major improvement of our Library facilities, a project highlighted as a priority by our students and now (I am very proud to announce) funded by the unstinting generosity of several of our alumni. This will provide extensive new work and study areas in the old cloister, to relieve the enormous pressure on previously limited space, and will see a major facelift for the existing upper



Photograph: Richard Wakefield

Library and Reading Room. A striking contrast with the pre-1879 era when the Library was not accessible to undergraduates and was occasionally used by the Fellows for dancing-parties and badminton! We are also able to refurbish the Stocker Room to provide better archive space for 500-years-worth of historical material, whose richness and importance has certainly not yet been fully explored. There will also be the opportunity for occasional display of interesting samples of our rare book and manuscript collections in a much more attractive setting than hitherto.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have helped us over the past five years, with their gifts, time and commitment – and, not least for both of us, the enjoyment of their company. On this evidence, we are sure that John Bowers and Suzanne Franks will continue to enjoy the same high level of support and friendship from the whole Brasenose community in the years to come.

Professor Alan Bowman *Principal*

More on the Library overleaf

Almost there: £200,000 to go...

Brasenose's historic library was built in the seventeenth century to be used by 28 Fellows and house 2,300 books. Today, the original space is required to serve 60 Fellows, 550 students and over 60,000 books. Thanks to the generosity of a group of Old Members, £4 million has already been pledged to fund an extension and refurbishment to the library designed by BNC alumnus and architect Tim Lee (History Modern, 1990). In order to complete the project, we need to raise an additional £200,000. As the library goes through its transformation into the perfect space in which academic excellence can flourish, we want to give you the opportunity to get involved by donating to the project.

Be part of the new BNC Library

Easy chairs for quiet reading

Moveable walls for a multi-functional space

Unrivalled views over Radcliffe Square to the Bodleian, Radcliffe Camera, All Souls and St Mary's Church

The original 17th century walls and floors revealed

Spiral staircase linking both levels

Wifi and power sockets for student laptops and tablets



Photograph: Lee Fitzgerald Architects



Old Cloisters has served many functions during the College's history including housing the HCR from 1972-2007.

How to get involved

We need to help to ensure the new library receives the resources it needs to serve the modern BNC community. Gifts of any size are very welcome.

By naming a chair, desk or bookcase, you could seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to etch your name on a seat of learning that has existed for over 500 years. By giving £1,509 or more in one year, you will be invited to join the College's new donor recognition circle, The 1509 Society.

- £1,509+ **Name a chair**
- £5,000+ **Name a table**
- £25,000+ **Name a bookcase**

Any gift can be made monthly or annual installments over a period of up to five years.

Please note that there are limited numbers of each of these naming opportunities.

Alumni Relations & Development Office, Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square, Oxford OX1 4AJ. +44 (0)1865 287277 development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Name

Matriculation year

Address

Phone

Email

Please return to:
Development Office, Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square, OXFORD OX1 4AJ, UK
 Registered charity number 1143447

- £1,509+ **Name a chair**
- £5,000+ **Name a desk**
- £25,000+ **Name a bookcase**
- Other amount to the library fund £

Gift Aid Declaration

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I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that Brasenose and all other charities to which I donate will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I declare that, until further notice, I wish Brasenose to treat all donations I have made to it in the last four years, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid donations.

Signed Date

Regular Gift

Service User Number: 435917



I wish to make a regular gift by Direct Debit of £ per month/quarter/year starting on the 5th/25th of 2015

Name and address of bank

Account name Sort code

Account number Signature

Single Gift

I wish to make a single gift of £

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Brasenose College'

Please debit my **Mastercard/Visa/Delta/CAF/Solo**

Card number

Name on card

Security number Exp Date