



# Brazen Notes

## The Grand Opening of The Greenland Library

**On Saturday 5th May, Brasenose gathered around our infamous 'King's Door' on Radcliffe Square, originally opened in 1664, to name the final unnamed library on the iconic square.**

Philip Pullman CBE, Carnegie Award-winning author of *The Northern Lights*, Oxford resident, and much-loved middle school English teacher of one of the College staff, opened The Greenland Library, the third and final library on Oxford's Radcliffe Square to be named by a benefactor.

Previously, the College library was too small for the number of students and academics wishing to use it, countering the modern assumption that libraries are a thing of the past. As part of this project, a considerable extension was undertaken which cost around £4million – this was completely funded by donations from alumni. Thank you!

Pullman cut the ribbon across the beautiful liveried 'King's Door' at a ceremony to celebrate the completion of the extensive renovation and extension works. These works included transforming the original College cloister (a previously covered walkway open to the elements) into the ground floor of the library. Many years ago, this area also served as the College's burial ground. Today you can still see initials and dates of those buried below carved into the stone floor. The contractors had to dig down to check how deeply the bodies were buried to ensure that the works did not disturb the graves. The College left them undisturbed and re-laid the original floor after cleaning off hundreds of years of dust.

The Greenland Library was originally built with a bequest from Samuel Radcliffe (Principal of Brasenose College 1614-1648) who left money in his will to build:

*'a Chappel' and 'a buildinge upon Pillars . . . which will make a walke under it, the greate want of Brasennose Colledge' (sic.)*

The 'building on pillars' was the library, constructed after his death, between 1657 and 1664 with open



△ Philip Pullman CBE (right) opening the Library with the Principal, John Bowers QC (left)

cloisters underneath to provide a sheltered place for exercise as well as a burial ground.

The College, like many in Oxford at the time, was clearly royalist, and commissioned an unusually ornate chapel and its adjacent library building, featuring the rebelliously named door. The 'King's Door', complete with a royal crown, was a veritable "two fingers" to the new Protector. The Greenland Library is one of the very few buildings of significance built during the commonwealth period.

The Greenland Library is open to students and faculty 24 hours a day and contains over 60,000 books and periodicals.

The library works were primarily funded by three College alumni, **Duncan Greenland CBE (PPE, 1966)**, **James Del Favero (Engineering Science, 1978)** and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**, plus a whole host of other generous alumni who named chairs, desks, and bookshelves. Two reading rooms have been named in honour of Del Favero and Smith respectively with the overall library

being named after Duncan's brother **Jeremy Greenland (Modern Languages, 1962)**, who sadly passed away in 2005.

Principal John Bowers QC said: "We are delighted to officially open The Greenland Library. It is at the centre of College life and we are incredibly grateful that our alumni and friends Duncan, James and Gerald have ensured it remains fit for twenty-first century learning and research. The whole Brasenose community – current and future – thanks them for their tremendous generosity."

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# Your News

This is where we share your news; whether it is an award, personal achievement, a new baby, job, or just an update on how you are getting on – we want to hear it! If you would like your news to be included in the next issue, email us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)



◀ Brasenose is pleased to announce that on 10th March, **Diane Coyle CBE (PPE, 1978)**, **Sir Peter Jackson (Jurisprudence, 1974)**, and **Alexandra Marks CBE (Jurisprudence, 1977)** (left to right, with the Principal) were elected to the prestigious title of Honorary Fellow.

**Saul Hillel Benjamin (PPE, 1970)** writes: "In September 2017, I was named by Billy Collins, Pulitzer Prize Winner and recent U.S. Poet Laureate, as one amongst a dozen or so poets worldwide acknowledged in the 2017 University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor's International Poetry Prize competition. My book *At Summer's End* is now en route to first tier New York City publishers. Not exactly what either my PPE or DPhil Theology tutors would have anticipated. Nor I. Meanwhile, and vastly more significantly, I delight in the daily discoveries of my five-year-old son Noah. Late to fatherhood, yet more unanticipated journeys."

**Geraldine Brodie (English, 1976)** published two books: *The Translator on Stage* (Bloomsbury, 2017),

and *Adapting Translation for the Stage* (Routledge, 2018).

As of September 1st, 2017, **Anne-Marie Greene (Modern History, 1991)** has taken up the Chair in Work, Employment and Diversity at the School of Business, University of Leicester.

**Jeremy Mitchell (1949)** continues to pursue his retirement project on the life and work of the author, Mary Gordon (Mrs. Disney Leith), who lived from 1840 to 1926 and was Swinburne's cousin and soul-mate. In a joint collaboration with his wife, Dr Janet Powney, Jeremy has had four articles published recently and a fifth, *The Lure of Iceland: the Northern Pilgrimages of Mary Gordon (Mrs. Disney Leith)*, is due to appear shortly.

**Chris Shucksmith (Engineering & Computation, 2002)** and **Sarah Shucksmith née Byrne (Mathematics, 2002)** are delighted to announce the birth of their son Leo William Strike Shucksmith on 6th March, 2018.

**Tim Hall (Classics, 1984)**, tells us about his time on BBC2 quiz show Only Connect, where he was on a team with fellow alumni **Tim Harrison (English, 1985)** and **Ian King (Modern Languages, 1984)**.

What's Victoria Coren Mitchell like? I'm sorry to have to tell you I'm much quicker than you on the missing vowels. When she reads out those facts about contestants at the start, are they true? Actually, I've heard enough about you, please tell me more about VCM.

If you haven't buzzed in with an answer already, I can reveal that the connection between those four sentences is that they are the things you hear most often when you have been a contestant on BBC2's Only Connect. For those who don't follow it, our team of BNC alumni of a certain age took part in Series 13 of what is generally referred to as "TV's toughest quiz show".

After passing an audition, we had the biggest struggle of all: finding a name which was acceptable to all parties. Sadly, we couldn't just be "Brasenose", as a team of graduates from BNC claimed that name back in Series 3, so our opening bid was The Endeavours, on the grounds that we are all fans of Morse, and the fictional Lonsdale College would do instead of the real thing. After a bit of to-and-fro with



the production team, this was widened to The Detectives, and we were introduced as having a love of Lewis, or a hunger for Holmes.

Filming takes place in Cardiff, a long way in advance, and if anyone thinks TV is incredibly glamorous, my advice is to visit an industrial estate in Splott - yes, it is a real place - and think again. It's like an intellectual version of Big Brother, as everyone checks in to the same hotel, carefully sizing up any people in groups of three, who may well represent the opposition, or may just be photocopier sales reps from Bradford;

and every morning you leave the hotel, knowing that your performance in studio that day will determine whether you check back in again later that day, or end up in a taxi to the station.

Once you've left the Only Connect house, the results are as unknown to you as everyone else, so almost a year later, we were delighted to cheer on The Escapologists in the final, on the grounds that if a team who'd beaten us along the way ended up as champions, that made us effectively the real runners-up. Presumably.

The answers, incidentally, are: pretty much as you'd expect. I'm sorry to have to tell you that clever editing means the clue appears on screen to the viewing audience a second or two before we see it in the studio, so that people playing at home actually get a chance to read it before someone (usually from a team other than ours, sadly) buzzes in almost instantaneously with a correct answer. They are all 100% accurate, except for the ones which people made up; actually, you should apply to be on the show and you'll find out for yourself. Seriously, do - it's F NT ST C.

# From the Archives

## David Warriner (Modern Languages, 1996)

recently published his first full-length literary translation with London-based Orenda Books. *We Were the Salt of the Sea*, a literary crime novel by French-Canadian author Roxanne Bouchard, was launched at Canada House in London on 9th May, 2018. David continues to pursue his translation career from his home in Western Canada, with an increasing focus on literary fiction, short stories, children's fiction and nonfiction.



△ We're delighted to announce that in May Emeritus Professor and alumnus **Graham Richards CBE (Chemistry, 1958)** and two of his former students, **Polly Arnold OBE (Chemistry, 1990)** and **Richard Dixon (Biochemistry, 1969)** (above, left to right), have been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. Congratulations to them all.



△ Congratulations again to **Graham Richards CBE (Chemistry, 1958)**, pictured above, receiving the 2018 Richard J. Bolte Sr. Award for Supporting Industries on Heritage Day on 9th May, 2018.

*This is just a small selection of the news we received. If you cannot see your submission printed here, it may appear in the next edition of the Brazen Notes or Brazen Nose. Please note that Brasenose College reserves full editorial control over all its publications.*

College Archivist **Helen Sumping** writes about the history of one of Brasenose's many peculiar traditions – Ale Verses.



On Shrove Tuesday each year the College observes its ancient custom of reciting verses in honour of Brasenose Ale. The origin of the Brasenose Ale Verses is unknown and only two survive from before the 19th century, both in secondary sources.

The May 1925 edition of *The Brazen Nose* notes the revival of this recipe in 1924 (p.50):

*In 1924, when the Ale Verses were presented on Shrove Tuesday, they were accompanied, for the first time for many years, with the ancient loving-cup of 'Lambs Wool', which is a preparation of beer, apples, and other ingredients. The only person who knew the old recipe was Henry Stannard, a College servant of long standing. This year the same loving-cup was circulated and we trust that it will be continued in the future.*

The brewhouse was demolished during the second stage of the erection of the New Quadrangle in 1886-1889, and the College stopped brewing its own beer. Between 1889 and 1909 no Ale Verses were produced, but in 1909 the poetic tradition (although not the brewing) was revived as part of the College's Quatercentenary celebrations, and continues annually today. In recent years the verses are usually set and sung to well-known songs. The majority of the Verses from 1815 onwards survive in some form in the College Archives. Collections were published in 1857, 1878 and 1901.

### BEERYNOSE

Tune: *Jerusalem*

And was there ale in ancient time  
Moved Brasenose men to rhyme,  
And did the lure of spiced mulled beer  
Call forth bright songs to glad the ear,

And brewed the College Audit Ale  
With profits from the Battels Bills,  
And was the brew of Brasen Nose  
Such as inspired the Muse to verse.

Bring me my ale in silver mugs,  
Bring me a pencil and note pad,  
Bring me mulled beer, in steaming jugs,  
Bring me a tune to make dons glad;

I shall not cease from writing verse,  
Nor shall my pen sleep in my hand,  
Till we have changed Brasen Nose  
Into a cheery beery land.

S L L E W D

△ *Ale Verse from Shrove Tuesday 1981*

Like most large private institutions and households the College brewed its own beer, and every year verses would be written in praise of the brew with references to current events or members of College. By 1856 the Ale Verses were written by junior members, and would be recited by the Butler on Shrove Tuesday, accompanied by a special brew known as 'Lambs Wool' (a traditional recipe).

The recipe was published in *Aeneinasensiana: Some Old and New Facts Relating to Brasenose College, Oxford*:

### LAMBS' WOOL OR BRASENOSE ALE.

Warm Beer  
½ lb. Sugar to 1 gallon.  
Sprinkle with Nutmeg and Spice.  
Put baked apples in when cool.  
Drink when milk-warm.

Lambs Wool (Samuel Pepys).

Beer heated with peeled apples, lemon, sugar and spices.—*Wine and Food*, Autumn Number, 1940.

English Customs and Usage by Christina Hall.

### BRASENOSE BATTLECRY

Tune: *John Brown's Body*

If you go to Oxford there's a college you must see  
I doubt you've ever heard of it but it's called B.N.C.  
Tell you friends about it and I'm sure they'll all agree  
That they've never heard of it.

Chorus: *Why does nobody know Brasenose,  
Why does nobody know Brasenose,  
Why does nobody know Brasenose,  
When Brasenose is the best.*

It's not as if we're modern, we've been here since 15 - 9  
When Sutton and old Matthew Smythe were having a good time,  
And still we like to dine in as the food is really fine  
But no one's heard of us.

Chorus:

Now Cowdrey, Buchan, Golding, Haig and Palin all came here.  
The Child of Hale and Robert Runcie, that at least is clear  
And even the great genius who thought up bottled beer  
But no one's heard of us.

Chorus:

But quietly we all know why nobody's heard our name,  
All colleges in Oxford plot to rob us of our fame,  
Because when the world has heard of us they'll all be  
put to shame,  
As Brasenose is the best.

Logie Baird

△ *Ale Verse from Shrove Tuesday 1982*

Authors of Ale Verses include Reginald Heber (Bishop and hymn writer), William Webb Ellis (credited with the invention of rugby football), Thomas Humphry Ward (author, whose more famous wife wrote as Mrs Humphry Ward), Cuthbert John Ottaway (footballer), Frederic Edward Weatherly (songwriter), and Sir Arthur Evans (archaeologist). Other famous names appear as subjects in the verses, including Jeffrey Archer and Michael Palin.



△ Alan (centre) with his Buttery staff team in 2015

# Bye, Alan! Steward Retires After 38 Years

In February, Steward Alan Bennett retired after nearly four decades at Brasenose. Journalist Olivia Gordon interviewed him about his time at BNC.

## Five things you didn't know about Alan Bennett

- Alan lives in Marston. He has three children: Eamonn, 39, a manager at St Clare's College who in the past has been head chef at a number of other colleges; Lucy, 28, a history teacher; and Lewis, 24, who is events manager at the town hall. He also has two young grandchildren.
- Following in Alan's footsteps, Alan's father Stan Bennett came to Brasenose to work as a scout for the last 18 years of his working life - many Old Members will remember him.
- A season ticket holder at Oxford United, Alan has followed his local football team since he was a youngster.
- Alan loves long-distance walking and has walked all over Scotland, the West Highland Way, Yorkshire, the Cotswold Way and Hadrian's Wall - as well as Oxfordshire, of course.
- Alan is a keen golfer with a handicap of 12, and looks forward to playing more when he retires.

During his 38 years at Brasenose, Steward Alan Bennett has been interviewed for the College several times. But this, his final interview, will be his 'last statement', he says. We have met in the Senior Common Room's wood-panelled dining room, and sit at the polished table where Alan has overseen countless meals. Today, it's quiet apart from the ticking clock, and Alan has a rare chance to reflect.

When he first arrived here in 1980, 'it was like Dickens,' he says. Many Fellows used to live in College and were served meals by the butler, and there were many full-time male scouts. Staff then were called 'servants' and called Fellows 'Sir'.

Alan was, at first, dubious about universities, let alone Oxford colleges. He had grown up on the housing estate of Blackbird Leys, where his father worked in the car factory, and Brasenose 'was another world for me, really'. Having worked from the age of 16 to 22 on building sites, in hospitals and even as a bellboy at the Randolph Hotel, he met some friends who came from Capri, and at 18, he went with them to Italy, and worked in restaurants and as a bartender. On returning to Oxford, Alan met a local girl and married. When their accommodation fell through, he met the Butler at Brasenose (John McDonald) at a wedding, who told him there was a job going as a Junior Butler which came with accommodation - in those days, one of the perks of many staff working for Oxford colleges.

'I thought: "I can't do this job," Alan recalls. 'I was a bit of a socialist, and I thought: "I can't come and work in one of these places." Being local, you did have this view of town and gown.' Back then, he remembers, it was not typical, as it is now, for students and locals to go to the same pubs. 'Coming into town on a Saturday, and especially during the exam period, seeing them all popping champagne, you thought public schoolboys, Eton College...I went to school in Blackbird Leys.'

To his great surprise, though, Alan soon realised he thoroughly enjoyed College life. No one in his family had ever been to university but now he saw how much it offered young people. He got to know many undergraduates, and, being not much older than them, used to play football with the College team, run cross-country, and play squash with them, as well as rowing in the staff VIII against the Fellows. He still thought the University was quite an elitist place, with few students from ethnic minorities or working class backgrounds, and he tried to open students' eyes. 'I used to say to freshers, if they spent three or four years in the city centre, "Just hop on the bus and go as far as the bottom end of Cowley or to Botley and actually get to see more of Oxford."

Alan's first role as Junior Butler made him responsible for serving at the dons' lunches, dinners, and sherry parties. ('You never hear of sherry parties now!' he notes.) Things then were much more formal. Alan had to wear 'dicky bow and long tails'. He was soon promoted to Butler of the College, 'which was quite daunting at 23 years of age, and especially with all the other members of staff who had been here all those years.'

The College started to modernise in the 1980s. The 'small kingdoms' of the Head Hallman and Head Scout disappeared when people retired, and Alan suggested to the Bursar that the College's catering could come under one body. That's when, in 1991, he was promoted to College Steward, where he ran the 'front of house', overseeing all the Colleges' meals and functions, making sure everything runs smoothly, from the wine choices to the decoration of the table to timings.

Although Brasenose has moved with the times, as 'a firm believer in traditions' it's been Alan's job to keep them going - 'otherwise, if one lapses for a term, or a certain period, new students are not aware of it, and the Fellows are not aware of it to keep going.'

Take snuff for instance - a centuries-old ritual which, amazingly, still continues (at the end of a dinner, the Junior Fellow offers guests snuff from a little silver box). Or take the bell which has been rung for decades and decades five minutes before formal dinners. Or making the special brew, Brasenose Ale, on Shrove Tuesday every year - which dates back to when there was an alehouse in the College (see page 3). Alan has kept these and many other traditions alive - they mean something; they shouldn't be lost, he thinks.



△ Alan in the 1980s



△ Alan (fourth from left), having just won staff VIII's with cox **Alexandra Marks (Jurisprudence, 1977)**, circa 1981

He became the person who knew all the answers to matters of College protocol. 'There are lots of quirky things the Fellows come to ask me, like "What gown should I wear to this?" and most of the time I've got the answer. Students will ask: "What's the procedure for this function?"' Sometimes the students saw him as strict, he thinks, because he was a stickler for discipline. 'Coming into meals, they have to be on time and dress correctly.'

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Alan's work has been his responsibility for the College's wine cellars, which contain roughly 20,000 bottles of wine. He also maintains the College's collection of silver which dates back to the 1500s, performing a 'silver muster' check every two or three years during which there is the great spectacle of every single piece laid out in the Hall to be catalogued, which takes many months to prepare. The silver must be polished regularly and Alan has always warned staff not to rub the hallmarks away – again, maintaining the heritage of the College.

Alan has loved seeing Old Members come back. 'We talk about old times, playing football or drinking down the bar, or certain students that were funny.' It has meant a great deal to receive letters from former students. He smiles: 'I've got some amazing letters from guys now in their 50s who are headmasters or working in business.' After they see him again at a College reunion or event, they often write to say they remember with gratitude how he looked out for them in their first weeks as a homesick fresher.

Alan's bonds with fellow staff have been very important too, of course. 'You are like a big family here; you work on top of each other all day long and you get to know each other quite well.' The



△ Alan with Emeritus Professor Richard Cooper (left) in 2011.

worst parts of Alan's time at Brasenose have been the deaths of work colleagues and fellows.

Having been at Brasenose so long, Alan has seen hundreds and hundreds of staff (including five principals and seven domestic bursars) and thousands of students come and go. He admits he doesn't always remember every one, but they often remember him. 'Quite often people will come up and say: "Alan, how are you?" and I'll go, "Fantastic, how are you, great to see you!" A member of staff will say: "Who's that?" and I'll say: "I'm not sure."'

## Memory jogger

Here are some of the College figureheads Alan remembers best from the old days: 'strong characters' he remembers with fondness. 'If someone is reading this in their eighties, those names will mean something to them.'

- Jock Wallace, Head Hallman
- Jack Markham, Buttery Manager
- Bill Young, Head Scout
- Ted Allen, SCR Butler
- John Watkins, Head Porter
- Ian Presdee, Head Chef
- Harry Judge, SCR
- Robert Gasser, Bursar
- Elizabeth Carter, Domestic Bursar
- Richard Cooper, SCR
- Vernon Bogdanor, SCR
- Nicholas Kurti, SCR
- Graham Richards, SCR
- Philip Jones, SCR
- Robert Shackleton, SCR

Always passionate about history, especially local history, over the years Alan fell in love with Brasenose's unique history of its own. He finds it fascinating looking through the College archives, especially to learn about the lives of College staff in centuries past, with whom he feels a great connection. And he has long taken casual staff out in the quad on an evening before a late dinner to see the moon shining or the sun setting. 'I still do it now some mornings, when I come in and it's quiet. What a fantastic place to spend all those years.'



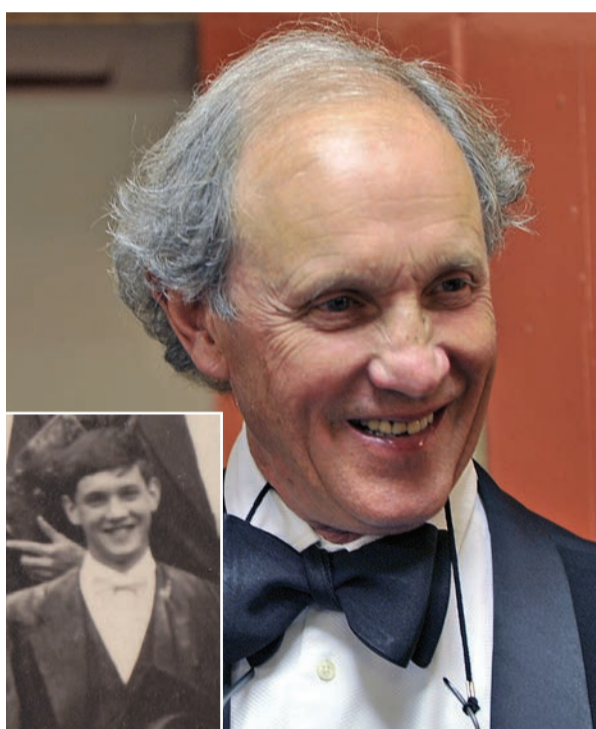
△ Alan (third from right) celebrating the staff Summer VIII's victory against the Fellows circa 1981, with cox **Alexandra Marks (Jurisprudence, 1977)**

# JCR Presidents Past & Present



Current JCR President **Manish Binukrishnan (Economics & Management, 2016)** talks to JCR Presidents from the past to see how things have changed – **James Flecker (Classics, 1958)**, JCR President from 1960-61, **Mark Williams (English, 1978)**, JCR President from 1979-1980, and **Aditi Arora (Geography, 2010)**, JCR President from 2011-2012.

◁ Manish Binukrishnan, Current JCR President



△ James Flecker's matriculation photo from 1958, left, and at a recent College dinner, right.

After graduating, James became a teacher. He played hockey for England – one game – and for Wiltshire, winning the county championship five years out of six. In 1980 he became Headmaster of Ardingly College where he introduced co-education. After 18 years he became Chairman of Trustees of two African charities founded by Jim Cogan (Corpus, 1958): *Alive & Kicking*, which makes leather footballs for donation in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa; and the *Good Earth Trust*, which makes interlocking building blocks out of compressed subsoil, in Uganda and Kenya. He married Mary in 1967 and has three daughters, the oldest of whom also attended BNC – **Rachel Flecker (Geology, 1988)**.



△ Mark Williams in 1980, left, and at his Gaudy last year, right.

Mark started acting at Oxford, performing with the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS). Having made a career as a theatre actor and working for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre along the way, he came to wider public attention through his appearances on the BBC television sketch programmes *Alexei Sayle's Stuff* and *The Fast Show*.

His most famous cinema role is as Arthur Weasley in the *Harry Potter* film series. Other high-profile appearances include the film adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *Stardust* alongside Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro and Claire Danes and a 2012 role in *Doctor Who* as Brian Williams, father of the Doctor's companion, Rory.



△ Aditi Arora as an undergraduate, left, and in 2018, right

Whilst at Brasenose, as well as being JCR President, Aditi was a member of the Oxford Belles acapella group; helped to organise the BNC Arts Week; and was a fashion contributor for the *Cherwell* paper. She also won the Undergraduate Dissertation Prize awarded by the Journal of Transport Geography for her dissertation, entitled *Negotiating Space: Cycle rickshaws in a changing capital*, which looked at cycle rickshaws in New Delhi, India. Since graduating in 2013 she has worked as a consultant and is currently Senior Strategy Consultant, Co:Lab, for C Space, a leading customer-collaboration consultancy.

## What's your most distinctive memory of Brasenose?

**James Flecker:** Beating Teddy Hall in the semifinal of Hockey Cuppers, largely because we set a rugby player who had never played hockey before to mark their best forward. After that the final was easy. Or always being first into breakfast every morning for three years with the same dozen fellow

undergraduates. We even celebrated at the end of our second year with an early breakfast dinner after which all who had eaten oysters were horribly ill!

**Mark Williams:** Sausages. An Oxford diet in the seventies didn't feature quinoa or smoothies. Food was fuel. Egg curry was a specialty of the college kitchen. But I did have my palate educated. I had my first French fries in Oxford – skinny chips,

what a novel concept. Pike Quenelles at **Gill Hornby (Modern History, 1978)**'s 21st dinner; deeply sophisticated. But my heart belonged to the Buttery, then run by Jack and Vi. Everyday Jack would fetch a large aluminium tray of sausages from the kitchen and carry them across New Quad like a swan or boar's head triumphantly borne. Small and sticky, served in a small bridge roll it was comfort food of the best kind.

**Aditi Arora:** Whenever I think back to my time at Brasenose, I always remember the feeling of sitting on new quad in Trinity term. To me, that is the quintessential BNC memory – there is nothing quite like it. Most importantly, there is nowhere else quite like it and currently, sitting at my desk in my office in grey and rainy London, it's amazing to think how lucky I was to call somewhere that looked and felt like that my home for three years.

### What was your best achievement as JCR President?

**JF:** Not an achievement at all, but in my year of office, in the summer of 1960, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came to the University and all the college Presidents of JCR were invited to meet them. As I recall, the Duke was much easier to converse with than Her Majesty!



△ The Queen in Oxford in 1960

**MW:** Achievement is a rather grand word, but I was happy with a games night we organised. The College staff, students and SCR didn't mix much informally and I found that curious. In 1980 it hadn't been long ago that the College staff had been known as servants. The gap wasn't (in my opinion) cultural, merely institutional. So we had a night of pub games in the bar (curiously). Darts, table football, and even arm-wrestling. Very simple.

### Could you tell me about your favourite member of staff whilst you were at Brasenose and what made them great?

**JF:** Undoubtedly Robert Shackleton, who was then Senior Dean, and later Bodley's Librarian, and who prided himself on knowing everything that was going on in the College. He had a great sense of humour and a very distinctive way of talking. There were more humorous stories, probably most apocryphal, about him than about all our other Brasenose dons put together.



△ Robert Shackleton (right) in his post as Bodley's Librarian with the Queen on another royal visit in 1976.

**MW:** I shy at nominating my favourite anything. No good at it. However I remember Barry Nicholas (Principal 1978-89) being very kind to me in my first college meeting. I'd never been to meeting with an agenda. When the first item was raised Barry turned to me and said: "Mark?" I just launched into my notes for discussion. He got me onto the agenda with a great teacher's skill.



△ Portrait of Barry Nicholas, Principal 1978-89

### What was the biggest difficulty you faced as JCR President?

**JF:** Trying to persuade the Junior Dean and the Domestic Bursar that it was not unreasonable for undergraduates to have toasters and electric kettles in their rooms. Their response was always "maybe, but the College wiring was not up to it."

**MW:** Gareth Cadwallader (PPE, 1977) the previous JCR president had written a constitution for the JCR. Apparently it no longer exists; that's politics for you. I had to use the whole JCR in committee to debate and ratify this White Paper. I learnt a great deal about chairing a meeting in that time, particularly from the student lawyers.

### How did you go about balancing the oft-conflicting interests of College staff and students?

**AA:** I first had to learn to accept that you can't make everyone happy all the time. You have to learn to take emotion out of the decisions you make which is much easier said than done. You also have to learn that some things are just out of your control. I was lucky that I had close relationships with members of staff who were really helpful and supportive, and advised me on how best to balance conflicts as they came up – Giles Wiggs, Andy Talbot, Simon Smith and Sabina White, thanks for saving me countless times!

### How have your experiences at Brasenose helped (or hindered!) life after university?

**MW:** Learning to process information quickly can be seductive. It can become an end in itself. Learning to not rely on that facility is very healthy. Sometimes it is good to retain some clay on the feet.

**AA:** They've definitely helped! For starters, I came away with an amazing group of friends who I am really lucky to have in my life now. I did Geography and absolutely loved it (no, there were no colouring pencils), and I genuinely feel more interesting and interested after having studied it. Also, whenever I'm about to do something terrifying – usually presenting in front of senior clients – I always remember that I made it through

finals, and honestly, what in life is harder than that? That is my genuine pep talk. No joke.

### Would you do anything differently if you could study at Brasenose again?

**JF:** I was a hockey Blue and spent, as I now see it, far too much time on sport and not nearly enough on studying. There were some amazing History of Art lectures given by Professor Wint, to which I never went. Unforgivable. Also I should have left Classics after Mods and gone to read either History or English.

**AA:** Yes! It sounds bizarre but I would actually study more. Brasenose was the last time I was in the academic world, and it was the last time I had all the time, support and resources to develop a strong expertise in something that I was interested in. It sounds odd but I miss it! I would go back and would spend more time reading (and spend more time on my essays).

### What is the best piece of advice you would give to a current JCR President?

**JF:** Enjoy your year.

**MW:** Never listen to advice, unless it is medical.

**AA:** Make sure you have a good support network of staff and friends to help advise you, or just be there when you want to complain! Definitely enjoy the dinners all the management consultancies put on – they're pretty delicious.

### Why did you want to be JCR President, and did that reason change by the time you finished?

**JF:** I think my only motive may have been to have a third year living in College. In those days only scholars and exhibitioners had a second year in, but the President of JCR always had rooms in Amsterdam. But really it was a pure accident that I became President. The Secretary of the JCR the year before was a good friend of mine. He had done a lot of work in his year and thoroughly deserved to go on to be President, as was the norm, but for some reason he did not want to and prevailed on me to stand for election in his stead. I can't remember if there were other candidates, but I rather suspect there weren't!

### Did you find you met more or fewer people because of the hectic nature of being President?

**JF:** I don't recall that my time of being President was at all hectic! As a four year Great's man, I seemed to have plenty of time. It was not an onerous position and, I rather suspect, very different from what it's like today. Certainly it was not at all political, as perhaps it is today.

### And finally, did you ever use your role/title as JCR President for ulterior motives?

**JF:** Absolutely not!



△ L-R: Angharad Morgan, Eleanor Dodd, Manish Binukrishnan

# Students Have Their Say on Access and Admissions

Schools Liaison Officer, **Dr Joe Organ**, spoke to **Angharad Morgan: 1st Year Biology**, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, Neath (state), **Eleanor Dodd: 1st Year History**, Tadcaster Grammar School, North Yorkshire (state), **Manish Binukrishnan: 2nd Year Economics and Management and current JCR President**, Manchester Grammar School (independent).

## Could you tell us your reasons for choosing Brasenose?

**Manish Binukrishnan:** Randomly walked past during the Open Day and was given a tour by Nabila [Biochemistry student]. Everyone was very friendly and the location and tutors meant that Brasenose was the whole package.

**Eleanor Dodd:** Joe Organ and Phoebe [JCR Access Rep] came to my school so I knew about Brasenose. Then I stayed over during the Open Days at the College.

**Angharad Morgan:** I attended UNIQ [Oxford's main summer school aimed at raising the aspirations of students studying at UK state schools and colleges]

and the site manager at the college I stayed at was a Brasenose student – he showed me round and I loved it. I came again on an Open Day and had a really long tour with Alison [Biology student]. Brasenose just didn't seem like other colleges.

## Did your teacher encourage you to apply either to Oxford or Brasenose? Did the school provide help after you decided to apply, for example ahead of interviews?

**MB:** My school encouraged me and the Economics department were very good. I had a practice interview but the content was not relevant as it was not academic. My school didn't have any help for the Management side of the degree.

**“I thought Oxford was ‘too posh for me’ ... but loved it once I was there”**

**ED:** It was the combination of school and Brasenose organising a trip that encouraged me to apply and showed me it was an option – though my head of sixth was really helpful, she was only in post for a year. I also went to a Harrogate conference arranged by Brasenose. The history teachers were aware but didn't directly help, however I did speak to them about the History Admissions Test. I got some interview practice because Joe Organ and his team visited the school.

**AM:** My head of sixth form was really good and suggested I apply. I thought Oxford was “too posh for me” but agreed to apply to UNIQ. I didn't want to go when I learned I got a place but loved it once I was there. I had two mock interviews with a Biology teacher and a careers advisor. They were academic in nature and were quite similar in style to Oxford interviews, so they were really useful.

## Interviews are sometimes criticised for favouring candidates ‘with polish’ or who are better prepared by schools. Do you think they are a fair way to gain information about applicants’ potential to succeed on course?

**MB:** Economics and Management interviews were fair in my view. I did a lot of preparation which turned out to be useless. The basic principles, the intuition, the skills in an E+M interview are not something you can prepare for. The tutors were very friendly.

**ED:** I had interviews based on written work and then a historical problem. The problem bit can't be prepared for anyway. I did wonder if some candidates would know that their written work would come up and others didn't but this year, working on interviews, I know this was tackled because the tutors had a meeting with all candidates to tell them what was going to happen.

**AM:** The content of my interviews were very fair. It was a matter of thinking aloud, which I can imagine some candidates not being used to.

## How did your first term experience at Brasenose compare with what you were expecting? External commentators sometimes claim that Freshers from independent schools are more confident initially and for this reason can be intimidating to meet. Was this your experience?

**MB:** Academically it was such a foreign experience for all. Socially, no-one opens with “I went to this





△ Dr Joe Organ (right) with Angharad (middle) and Tom Steer (second year PPE student) in Scarborough on a road trip to North Yorkshire schools as part of BNC's outreach programme.

school" – you only find out what kind of school everyone went to much later on. People just want to get along rather than find a reason to be divided.

**ED:** I really enjoyed the experience. Academically it was overwhelming but I think it was for everyone. Socially everyone was very normal.

**AM:** Yes, academically we are thrown in the deep end and I don't think schooling made any difference to anyone. The traditions we have are not taken too seriously.

**Brasenose has gradually increased representation from less affluent social groups and the proportion of state school UK students is now about two-thirds. This has been achieved primarily through outreach work to which current students contribute greatly. There are aspirational targets but no quotas and students are each assessed in the same way as individuals and receive the same offer regardless of background. Do you think that we should review this approach in favour of more radical interventions, such as quotas or lower offers?**

**MB:** There's so much sensationalist media about Oxbridge which discourages people from applying. We just need to go out and meet candidates to encourage them and break down the myths – quotas would be too much.

**ED:** I think the current approach is the right one – I'd have felt like an imposter if I'd have got an offer based on quotas. It would be unfair for worthy candidates not from under-represented groups. The access work at Brasenose made me apply. Having had the Brasenose Access roadshow [an initiative funded by an alumni donation] encourage me to apply, I went along to my old school with Joe and his team and I spoke to a sixth former who said we had really inspired him to apply.

**The College celebrates both traditions (for example, Formal Halls) and change (for example, the rainbow flag). Do you feel the balance is right? For example, would you like to see more celebration of change and less of tradition?**

**ED:** I'm really impressed by how progressive it is here. Seeing the rainbow flag flying was a good outward facing sign.

**AM:** School visitors had it pointed out to them on tours – which was great.

**ED:** The history course is changing – it has world-wide modules. Things that can be changed are being changed.

**MB:** The new lecture room VII portraits of alumni are going to show off a range of people from different backgrounds to celebrate how diverse we are now.

**ED:** And then there's the JCR photo exhibition [of women alumnae, celebrating the 40th anniversary of BNC going co-ed].

**MB:** There isn't necessarily a stand-off between old and new. For instance, sub-fusc isn't gender specific now. I've never felt that being a BAME [black and minority ethnic] student at Brasenose is an issue – it's not like being in an airport! I do look around the tutors at some meetings I attend and recognise that often I'm the only BAME person



△ The rainbow flag flying in February.

– but I know that changing this takes time. The College has long-term plans and are doing what they can short term.

**AM:** We attended the first lecture by a woman in 6th Week of the first term.

**ED:** History is more split – it varies between topics.

**MB:** Management is very diverse, lots of female academics and an international feel, but there are not many female economics lecturers. I would also like to finish by praising the College. Everyone is so friendly – tutors and staff. There are so many students that get involved in access – we are really lucky.



### Senior Tutor, Simon Smith, comments:

"Over the past decade, Brasenose has seen a big rise in applications from groups that previously generated fewer candidates and this is feeding through into a more diverse student body. An active outreach and schools liaison programme is one of the primary reasons for this. Just before Easter, I joined Joe Organ (our brilliant Schools Liaison Officer) and several student volunteers at Eleanor's old school in Yorkshire. As I write, a group of prospective students is visiting the College – they set off at 5.45am from Tadcaster to get here with their travel assisted by a donation from an alumnus. There are upwards of 250 contact stories like this every year. Greater diversity is a sign that we are progressing towards our goal of recruiting students with the greatest potential, regardless of background. We are embarked on a journey and there is a lot of hard work still to do. Nevertheless, it is heartening that this year Brasenose's offers hit all four of Oxford's access targets."

More info at: [www.bit.ly/BNCAdmissions](http://www.bit.ly/BNCAdmissions)



△ Joe with the student volunteers at an Open Day.

# The Principal's Blog

BNC's Principal, John Bowers QC, keeps a blog of his thoughts and impressions of Oxford College life. We have gathered some snippets from the last few months to give you an insight into Brasenose's daily running. Read the full blog here:

[www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog)



## October 2017

**Bruce Kent (Jurisprudence, 1949)** the former General Secretary and then Chair of CND and an alumnus and Honorary Fellow of the College, addressed a Principal's Conversation on 25th October. I asked some searching and (I thought) difficult questions and the 88-year-old Bruce gave a very feisty set of responses.



△ Bruce Kent in conversation.

Before becoming a student at Brasenose he had served as an officer in the Royal Tank Regiment between 1947 and 1949. He was clearly fond of the College; he had described in his memoirs Oxford as "a slack water time, my lotus eating years". He had come from a conservative household where the reading was the Telegraph and Express newspapers. He had not even seen a Marxist until he arrived here. His only speech at the Oxford Union was in favour of private education. He became a priest after putting his dilemma as to what to do next to our then Principal Barry Nicholas.

He served for many years as a Catholic priest at St Aloysius Church, a multi-cultural parish near Euston station. Restricting nuclear weapons however became the defining theme of his life and he achieved more in shaping the debate than if he were an elected politician (he had unsuccessfully fought the Oxford West and Abingdon seat for Labour in 1991). He stressed in answer to questions from the audience that he was not a pacifist but claimed that it was never appropriate to use nuclear weapons. He described his years in the priesthood as satisfying but he finished life as a full-time priest in 1987 when the Catholic hierarchy wanted to restrict his political activities. He said in his public retirement statement issued at the time that "I no longer find it possible to cope with

the strain resulting from the tensions between my pastoral role which means so much to me and what is thought to be an unacceptable political role".

The work of CND brought unwelcome and bitter scrutiny by the media. When he left the General Secretaryship of CND he said, "I had enough of being prodded and dissected by every journalist and politician with half an hour to spare".

Some may have been surprised by his statement at the event that he could understand why North Korea would want nuclear weapons, given Trump being in the White House.

I strongly recommend Bruce's autobiography *Undiscovered Ends*. It is great to have him as a Brasenose radical voice.

## November 2017

On 8th November, I was made an Honorary Fellow of Lincoln College of which I am an alumnus. A symbol of the closeness of the Colleges.

The Ellesmere Society demonstrates the good health in which Brasenose law finds itself. The Hall was packed at its Annual Dinner on 11th November with present students and alumni to hear **Sir Peter Jackson (Jurisprudence, 1974)**, alumnus and a judge of the Court of Appeal. When we asked him to speak he was a High Court Judge but was elevated recently.

As a High Court judge, he presided over a number of controversial family law cases. In February 2011, he made a landmark ruling allowing journalists to attend hearings in the Court of Protection in a case about an autistic man who had been kept away from his home and family by a local authority.

In September 2016, Sir Peter was praised for rephrasing an entire judgement into a 17-page document using simple phrases and emojis in the hope that the children involved would be able to read and comprehend it for themselves.

In July 2017, he delivered a judgement in a case about the residence and citizenship of a teenage boy. He presented it in the form of a letter written directly to the boy, explaining why he was deciding the case in that way.

As part of Equality Week, students invited alumna **Radhika Pirmal (PPE, 1997)** to speak on 16th November. She is CEO of VIP, India's largest luggage brand. She took over as managing director after completing her MBA from Harvard Business School and a stint at consultancy Bain & Company in New York. She spoke about the challenges of coming out as a lesbian in India and how supportive her family had been and the choices that women had to make in their careers. She said it had been a mixed experience at Brasenose for her as a gay woman, but she was delighted to hear that we decided to fly the rainbow flag for a month.



△ Radhika Pirmal speaks at BNC Equality Week.

Also on 16th November, I attended a scintillating lecture by **Prof Andrew Burrows QC (Jurisprudence, 1975)**, an alumnus of Brasenose and a member of our Remuneration Committee. He was giving the third of the Hamlyn Lectures series on Improving Statutes.

We held a drinks party in College on 21st November to celebrate the launch of Douglas Vernimmen's excellent book *Oxford Through the Lens*. Douglas was a researcher at Brasenose for some eight years and it was here that he put together the excellent photographs that make up this book, many of them being of or near the College. All proceeds from the book go towards student scholarships.

## December 2017

Keeping track of our "Father of the House" Simon Altmann is difficult because he is flying all over the world in his nineties. He is our former Fellow in Mathematics and now an Emeritus Fellow. On 22nd November he went to Rome, where he was asked by the University (La Sapienza) to give a lecture on Science and Art. On his return

he flew to Madrid, where he had been asked to address a conference organised by the Universidad Complutense (on 'Images from the Prado') on the subject of the Prado Annunciations.

We congratulate **Peter Sands (PPE, 1981)** who has been appointed to run the Global Fund. This is funded largely by Bill Gates and is committed to the alleviation of the major disease burden in the developing world.

Congratulations also to all those who received offers this year. Brasenose's offer profile is 63% state schools (among UK offer-holders) and all four OFFA targets have been met:

1. schools with limited progression to Oxford historically: University target 15.9%, BNC offers 17.8%
2. households in socially deprived areas: University target 9.5%, BNC offers 15.8%
3. households in areas with low progression to higher education: University target 13%, BNC offers 13.9%
4. students declaring a disability: University target 3.2%, BNC offers 7.9%.

## January 2018

I hope you all enjoyed *The Miniaturist* on BBC. The drama was based on the book by our alumna **Jessie Burton (English & Modern Languages, 2000)**. She also had a role on screen.

Our Development Director Liz Miller and I had a successful trip to Hong Kong at the start of the month, which is always such an exciting destination. Altogether we met many alumni at a party at the Hong Kong Club hosted by alumnus **Tony Tyler (Jurisprudence, 1974)**, as well as a dinner and in various one to one meetings.

On 10th January, Emeritus Fellow Professor Richard Cooper gave a scintillating account of his long career as a Fellow of Brasenose at a "Breakfast with Brasenose" event at Deloitte in London. This was put on through the generosity of **Ben Bell (Modern Languages, 1988)**, a former student of Richard's. It was pleasing to see such a large turnout, especially of Modern Linguists.

It was entirely appropriate that Richard spoke on World Laughter Day as he had the audience in stitches. In a wide survey of Brasenose over the years, he commented on the positive influence of women. He recalled an Ale Verse reflective of a time long gone by when:

*Brasenose the best of them all  
But your chance of a first is exceedingly small*

We are still of course the best, but now the chance of a first is statistically good. Richard also recalled a cricket match where Colin Cowdrey batted and Archbishop Robert Runcie was umpire and used papal infallibility to disguise what

Richard thought were distinctly dodgy decisions. Richard wholly lived up to my introduction of him as a "Brasenose Legend".

We are delighted to see New Year's Honours for **Diane Coyle (PPE, 1978)** of a CBE and an OBE for **David Earnshaw (Education, 1981)** who does terrific work for education in the North. Congratulations also to **Mary Loram (Jurisprudence, 1988)** who became a QC.

It has been widely reported that for the first time in the near millennium of Oxford University's existence, new female undergraduate students this year outnumbered their male peers. It is certainly true that qualified candidates who previously were not applying are now doing so in growing numbers and gaining places and that this is a cause for celebration. Overall, however, slightly more men (1,648) than women (1,622) matriculated. Among new UK students, there was a slim female majority (3) and a larger majority (45) for UK students admitted aged 18. At Brasenose, 56 women and 50 men matriculated this year, including 47 UK women and 39 UK men.

## February 2018

Leading journalists and authors David Goodhart and Brasenose alumnus, **James Fergusson (English, 1985)** took part in a brilliant Principal's Conversation on 7th February. It was mainly centred around their respective books *The Road to Somewhere*, which focuses on explaining the rise of populism and *Al Britannia, My Country; a Journey Through Muslim Britain*. James has had a long involvement with Afghanistan and extensive knowledge of the Taliban, which began when he was a reporter in the country in the mid-1990s.

I wonder whether readers are aware quite how much we as a College spend on student support in one form or another. Thanks in no small measure to the generosity of the College's alumni, the figures are very large: about £729,000 is spent on students generally whilst the graduate component of the budget is £318,762. These sums have increased from £454,512 and £189,900 respectively in the 2011-2 budget. Clubs and societies have £80,690 earmarked to them. This is separate from subsidies for vacation residence and for food too.

The College observes a custom on Shrove Tuesday every year which goes back to the days when the assembled company were gathered around braziers in Hall, with smoke floating in the open timber roof (which is not the case now). The College then brewed its own beer; and each year an undergraduate would write verses in praise of the Brasenose Ale, usually including topical references to current events and members of the College (see the full story on page 3 - Ed.). This year was no exception with thirteen excellent entries set to modern popular songs which were in some (well almost all) cases better known to students than to your Principal. The verses are anonymous save for the winner who is chosen by the Clapometer system, i.e. the level of applause which the verse

gains in the packed Hall. This year's worthy winner was penned by **Rob Warrington (History, 2015)**

and was on the highly topical and very important subject of diversity. Its words are worthy of reading even by those who are unfamiliar with the "tune" to which it is set of *All Star* by Smash Mouth:

*Somebody once told me the Hall is full of old men  
Who gave all their money to College  
It was looking kind of dumb with no women and all men  
'cept that one who just killed all her husbands*

*Well the years keep going, we've admitted women  
Change the rules, get those artists painting  
Doesn't make sense not to celebrate all  
JCR looks great but how sad is Hall*

*So much to do, so much to see  
So much Brasenose diversity  
They'll never know if we don't show  
Old men, it's time to go*

*Hey now, you're a Hall star, get your face on the walls  
Hey now, Brasenose College, get women up in Hall  
Cos all those women are gold  
Only diversity can break the mould*

Alessandro Raho was sitting next to me at the Ale Verses dinner. He will be soon painting two Brasenose women for our Hall, **Cappy Hill (PPE, 1976)**, ex-president of Vassar College, and **Kate Allen (PPE, 1974)**, Secretary General of Amnesty International. If he did not feel pressure before, he says he does now!

I was delighted to see two Brasenose alumnae two weeks running on BBC Question Time, **Claire Perry MP (Geography, 1982)** and **Lady Camilla Cavendish (PPE, 1986)**.

On 23rd February, I visited **James Johnson (History & Politics, 2010)** who now works at Downing Street as part of their strategy team. You might think that the place would appear a hive of activity but the public parts appear quiet and it resembles a Georgian townhouse although it was constructed during the reign of Charles II. James is kindly arranging for a visit by some of our PPE students to his workplace.

I remind readers that we always encourage alumni to send the Brasenose Library copies of their publications. There is a section in the Library which contains books by Brasenose Authors including two by yours truly.



△ Ale Verses being sung in Hall



△ Claire Perry MP at a College event.



△ James Johnson graduating in 2014.

# Photo Gallery

The last few months have seen BNC Members getting together all over the world! Here are some pictures from those reunions and College events.



See our Flickr site for the full events photo gallery:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/bnc\\_members/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bnc_members/albums)



△ To coincide with the Oxford University Alumni Weekend in March, Meeting Minds in Rome, a group of alumni met for a dinner in Rome, kindly hosted by **Sander Evers (Ancient History, 1994)**. Clockwise from left: **David Clark (PPE, 1970)**, **David Lambert (Modern & Ancient History, 1988)**, Juliette Triozon, **Sander Evers (Ancient History, 1994)**, Marilyn Clark, **Ian Thomas (Modern History, 1964)** and **Paul Clough (PPE, 1966)**.



△ March saw a very lively Gaudy take place for those who matriculated between 1967 and 1969.



*"I must write to thank BNC for a delightful Golden Jubilee Lunch last Friday. An excellent and of course a nostalgic occasion. A delicious meal - BNC cooking has improved immeasurably since 1960..."*

**John Shepherd (Theology, 1960)**

△▷ In April, we welcomed back those celebrating half a century or more since Brasenose at our annual Golden Jubilee Lunch.

# BNC Melbourne Reunion

**Graham Craig (PPE, 1974)**, writes:

"In October, a programme was established for the global network of Brasenose College alumni to meet locally on an annual basis. The aim is to build on the momentum of the Principal's visits and to establish a thriving BNC community worldwide. I was asked to be the 'Regional Alumni Ambassador' for Victoria, as I play a similar social role for the Rhodes Scholars' community.

Graduate House, an affiliated college of the University of Melbourne, was the venue for our dinner on 1st March. Wines for the evening were provided by **Terry Boehm (Philosophy, 1976)** from his Metcalfe Valley estate in the nearby Macedon Ranges. Eleven alumni and guests gathered to re-acquaint with friends and to meet new ones, with matriculation years ranging from 1969 to 2014.

The theme for the evening was "Biography without End", the closing words of J Mordaunt Crook's biography of Brasenose College. Each guest was invited to speak about their memories of being in College and at Oxford and also to update their 'biography' to the present day. Personal stories covered details of courses taken, anecdotes of teaching highlights in tutorials, news of Fellows, rowing in Eights Week, social activities in College, the transition to the working world and current activities. Some of those present were at the College around the time of the admission of women in the mid-1970s and a number of stories related to this event. **Caroline Boehm (Modern History, 1975)** revealed that she and Terry first met in the laundry at the foot of Staircase XIII. **Nigel Creese (Classics, 1948)** unfortunately wasn't able to attend, but sent a message recalling living in army huts and winning Rugby Cuppers three years in a row.

Brasenose College dinners in Melbourne were for many years hosted by the late **Sir John Young (Jurisprudence, 1938)**, former Chief Justice of

Victoria (1974-1991) and an Honorary Fellow of the College. **Carl Moller (Jurisprudence, 2001)** explained how he came to be the custodian of Sir John's collection of leather-bound volumes of *The Brazen Nose*.

The evening concluded with a quiz entitled "Who Knows their Nosemen?" Thirty questions were posed with the answer to each being a notable Noseman. These ranged from Nobel laureates to British and Australian Prime Ministers and included writers and sportsmen. The questions were educative and the answers were at times. All participants were rewarded with a bottle of Terry Boehm's wine with a commemorative label of the event."

If you'd like to volunteer to organise BNC reunion events in your city, please write to us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)



Left to Right: **Terry Boehm (Philosophy, 1976)**, **Georgia O'Connor (Modern Global & Imperial History, 2014)**, **Graham Craig (PPE, 1974)**, **Caroline Boehm (Modern History, 1975)**, **Tony Cannon (Jurisprudence, 1969)**, **Paul Liondas (Jurisprudence, 2003)**, **Carl Moller (Jurisprudence, 2001)** and **Sam Greenland (Chemistry, 1993)**.



◁△ Our Diamond Jubilee Lunch in May celebrated six decades since Brasenose, welcoming back those who matriculated in 1958 & before.

△ Whilst on a trip to the USA to take part in the North American Alumni Weekend in April, the Principal held a reception at McKinsey & Co in Manhattan, kindly hosted by **Dominic Barton (Economics, 1984)**.



◁ We had our inaugural event for Young Alumni (defined as those who graduated 15 years ago or less) at the Yorkshire Grey pub in London at the end of May. It was an enjoyable evening with the chance for many to catch up. We'll be planning another similar event soon – watch this space and join our Facebook group for young alumni at [www.bit.ly/BNCyoungalumni](http://www.bit.ly/BNCyoungalumni)

# Where There's a Will...

Dr Llewelyn Morgan, Tutorial Fellow in Classics, reports on the unlikely discovery of part of BNC's history on eBay...



Loftus Road, the home of Queens Park Rangers FC, may be an unusual place to start a discussion of a seventeenth-century manuscript, but at the end of the 2017-18 season QPR supporters said farewell to our long-serving centre-back—and latterly team captain—Nedum Onuoha. But whether or not Mr Onuoha knows it, he is one of many beneficiaries of a piece of parchment now safely housed in the Brasenose archives.

This document is the will of William Hulme of Kearsley, to be precise the probate copy of Hulme's will with reference to which Hulme's executor realised his dying wishes. William Hulme had been a student at Brasenose in the late 1640s (an interesting time to be there, one would think), and was a prosperous landowner in the North West of England. His will established a trust that funded scholarships for students from the North West who had achieved a B.A., initially four of them, to continue their studies for the four further years of an M.A., a standard route into the Church. Hulme's aim was clearly to improve the quality of Church of England clerics in a part of the country where Nonconformism was making significant inroads.

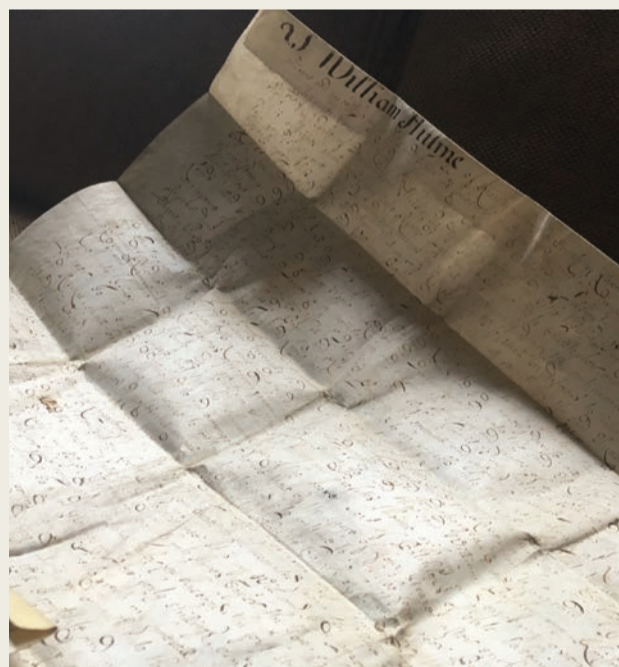
All in all, an interesting fragment of our distant history, but not apparently very much more.

Or it wouldn't be, if a lot of the land controlled by the Hulme Trust had not been located in places, a sleepy market town called Manchester especially, that in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries would become the heart of the Industrial Revolution, with the rocketing land values that went along with it. William Hulme's relatively modest legacy is in actual fact one of the most important events in the entire history of Brasenose College.

How exactly this concerns Nedum Onuoha we will discover in good time, but this document has not

been in the College archives, as you might imagine, for hundreds of years. In fact it was spotted on eBay just last year by our Fellow in Management Studies Chris McKenna (I still haven't quite fathomed what he was looking for...), and by the time Chris saw it it had already been sold, for the princely sum of £75. To our immense good fortune the purchaser, Mike Buckley, was a local historian who had been as stunned as we were to see such a historically valuable document on sale, and he generously donated it to the College archives.

The will has a probate certificate attached, and this identifies it as the copy taken away by its executor, William Baguley (Hulme's cousin), after the original will had been proved in the probate court or registry in Chester. What we have, then, is the document on the basis of which the Hulme Trust was established by Baguley, an astonishing survival. Where it did survive for three hundred years is at present mysterious, but we are actively searching for the source of the cache of legal documents that ended up on eBay, Hulme's will among them.



The story of the Hulme Trust is complex and fascinating. Luckily there is an excellent book on the subject by I.B. Fallows, *William Hulme and his Trust*. In simple terms a bequest designed to fund the further education of poor scholars in time found itself handling vastly more money than it knew what to do with. Fallows traces the Trust's ballooning revenues as Manchester property prices took off: £95 in 1693, £280 in 1750, £1,176 in 1794, and £5,161 in 1825 (with accumulated savings and investments of £40,782). An increase in the number of Hulme Exhibitioners at Brasenose, and in the value of their awards, could soak up the surplus for a while, and between 1691 and 1881 a total of 641 young men benefited, among them William Webb Ellis, alleged inventor of rugby. Ellis represents quite well the kind of beneficiary for whom the Trust

was designed, albeit not in geographical terms: a student of straitened circumstances whose father had died in the Peninsular War, after a scholarship at Rugby and a B.A. and M.A. at Brasenose, Ellis went on to a successful career as an evangelical rector of various parishes in London and the South East.

But still the money flowed in, and the trustees tried various strategies to spend it. One idea was to pay for a special accommodation block for the Hulme Exhibitioners, but the College was unwilling to agree to the differentiation between students this entailed. They then started purchasing advowsons for the Hulme Exhibitioners, in other words providing livings for all the priests the Trust was educating after they left Oxford. This was a reasonable extension of Hulme's wishes, but as the Trust got richer, so also grew the desperate need for an adequate educational infrastructure in the booming industrial cities of Lancashire. Pressure increased to direct the funds to the benefit of Hulme's place of origin, and to Manchester in particular. A series of Acts of Parliament in the nineteenth century extended the capacities of the Trust, and culminated in 1881 with a radical new plan to support schools in the Manchester area (along with the beginnings of Manchester University). One such school was Hulme Grammar School in Oldham, alma mater of Mike Buckley, who gifted us this remarkable document, and Nedum Onuoha, our much-missed former captain at QPR.

Fallows estimates that between 120,000 and 150,000 young people between the ages of 11 and 21, female and male, have benefited "directly (through personal scholarships) or indirectly (through help given to their school or college)" since 1881. Brasenose has continued to benefit, too: one corner of New Quad was built with Hulme money, and we still draw income from the Trust to support our educational activities, alongside a collection of beneficiaries in the North West.

The Hulme Trust has disbursed somewhere in the vicinity of £20,000,000 since its inception, by Fallows' reckoning: not bad for a comparatively modest bequest based in an area of the country, the North West, which was a bit of a backwater in the seventeenth century. But this is also a story of thousands of individual lives made better, in entirely unanticipated ways, by a single act of generosity. Our archivist Helen Sumping has found in our manuscript a detail which was not apparently recorded in other records of the will, Hulme's bequest "to Elizabeth Bromiley another of my Serv[ants] forty Shillings." Among all the many beneficiaries of William Hulme of Kearsley, Esq., I hope Elizabeth got what she was owed.

# Changes to our Alumni Privacy Policy

In response to the introduction of new data protection laws this year, we have made some important changes to our Privacy Policy. These changes ensure our policy is compliant and that everything we do with our alumni and supporters' personal and financial information is clear and transparent.

Rest assured, these changes do not imply that your data has ever been at risk or misused. We have always kept alumni and supporter data secure and in line with all relevant legislation. Details are available below and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Full privacy notices can be found at <https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/privacypolicies>

Brasenose College is a data controller and is committed to protecting your personal data and working in accordance with all relevant data protection legislation. Your data is used for alumni and supporter engagement activities. This Privacy Notice explains how the College processes and uses the personal data we collect about our alumni and our past, current or future supporters.

## What data do we hold?

The College may hold data relating to you from a number of sources. The majority of data we hold on alumni is that which you provide whether during your time as a student, when you update your details, volunteer your time, attend an event, make a donation or engage with us in any other way. If you were a student at the College, your personal data is transferred from your student record to the College's alumni database when you graduate.

Should you be a supporter but not a former student, we will have sourced your data through your initial and continued interactions with us.

## Our records may include:

*Education Details*—e.g. what you studied and when you graduated.

*Personal Identifiers and Biographical Information*—e.g. your name, your alumni numbers and your date of birth.

*Contact Details*—e.g. your address, email address and telephone numbers

*Engagement Details*—e.g. details of clubs and societies of which you were a member, your attendance at events, details of donations you have made to the College (including your bank account details if you give regularly), your contact with us and your relationships with other alumni or supporters.

*Family Details*—e.g. your marital status and details of your spouse and other family members.

*Personal Details*—e.g. disability and dietary preferences for events management purposes.

*Your preferences*—to help us engage you in the ways most relevant to you.

We may also supplement data you provide with data which is publicly available, for example we may record:

- Your career details and other achievements
- Your interests
- Your philanthropy, including donations and support made to other organisations.

We are required to ensure that data we hold about you is as accurate as possible, therefore we may update your details based on reliable publicly available sources. For example we may update your address, telephone number, or business details.

We use a wide variety of sources either directly or via internet search engines, some on a subscription basis, to augment update and validate the data we hold. These include:

- National Change of Address File
- Business directories
- Social media
- Reputable news reports
- Companies House and other business related resources including company websites

- The Charity Commission and other websites relating to charitable trusts and foundations
- Rich lists
- Honours Lists
- Services to assist in the College's due diligence processes

In order to enable and support your relationship with the College we will keep your data indefinitely unless you request otherwise. We do need to retain some skeleton information for compliance and legal purposes.

## How do we use your data?

The College primarily uses your data to communicate alumni activities, support our fundraising programmes and for the promotion of benefits and services. These can include:

- Sending you the *Brazen Nose*, *Brazen Notes* and our donor report
- Inviting you to events and gaudies
- Informing you of benefits available to alumni and supporters
- Asking you to support the College by giving your time or financial support.

These activities include an element of direct marketing.

Other departments aside from the Alumni Relations and Development Office (e.g. the Finance Bursary and the Principal's Office) have limited access to our alumni and supporter database.

We are required to conduct due diligence checks before seeking or accepting major donations which includes reviewing publicly available data about an individual's personal conduct including any criminal convictions.

Communication may be sent to you by post, telephone, email, SMS or other electronic means (e.g. through social media) depending on the communication preferences you have shared with us.

Detailed processing and retention period for data the College holds about you can be found in the relevant ROPA (Record of Processing Activity) at: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/privacypolicies](https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/privacypolicies)

## How will we share your data?

Data may be shared with other external organisations acting as agents for the College (e.g. mailing houses for the mailing of alumni publications).

We may also share data with volunteers, for example those supporting us with specific fundraising appeals or international alumni contacts who have been approved as volunteers in your country/region and who support us by organising local alumni events. Such volunteers will have signed a confidentiality agreement prior to any data being shared.

Data is only shared in support of the College and is never shared with anyone to enable other charities or companies to contact individuals. The College does NOT sell data to third parties or allow third parties to sell on data where data is shared with them.

## How do we protect your data?

Your data is held securely on the College's alumni and supporter database. The database is accessible to a limited number of College staff. All staff who access the database sign a confidentiality agreement and complete the College's data protection training.

The College ensures that appropriate data sharing agreements are in place prior to sharing your personal data with any partners.

## Your rights and preferences

If you no longer wish to receive communication from the College by any medium, please contact the Alumni Relations and Development Office on +44 (0)1865 287275 or at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

When contacting us please provide your name, year of matriculation and subject of study. Please also specify if you wish to unsubscribe from all communications or from specific communication channels.

If you ask us to delete your data, we will maintain a skeleton record comprising your name, subject of study, year of matriculation and date of birth, to ensure that we do not inadvertently contact you in future. We may also need to retain some financial records for statutory purposes.

## Legal Basis for Processing

We will only collect and use your personal information where:

- it is necessary to perform the contract we have entered into with you
- it is necessary to comply with a legal obligation
- it is in our legitimate interests (or those of a third party) and your interests and fundamental rights do not override those interests
- it is necessary for the performance of a task in the public interest

We may also use your personal information, typically in an emergency, where this is necessary to protect your vital interest, or someone else's vital interests.

## Future Privacy Notice Changes

This Privacy Notice will be kept under review. Any changes will be updated on our website and communicated to you as appropriate. This Privacy Notice was last updated in May 2018.

You have the right to:

- see the information we hold about you
- request personal data to be amended if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued use
- block or restrict the processing of your personal data
- object to the processing of your data

You also have a right under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to receive any data requested in a structured, commonly-used and machine-readable format. This right applies where your data is being processed on the basis of your consent or in line with a contract to which you are party.

If you wish to exercise any of your rights or have concerns about the processing of your personal data or wish to raise any issues in relation to data protection, including in relation to the use of it by Brasenose College please contact the Data Protection Officer at: [data.protection@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

or  
Data Protection Officer  
Brasenose College  
Radcliffe Square  
Oxford  
Oxfordshire  
OX1 4AJ

If you are unhappy with how your personal information is being handled, you also have the right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, an independent body set up to uphold information rights, which will investigate your complaint concerns. Details can be found here: [www.ico.org.uk/concerns](https://www.ico.org.uk/concerns)

# Save the Date

## Forthcoming Events

### Brasenose Garden Party

all alumni & their families are welcome  
Sunday 29th July, 2.30pm  
College  
*£10 for adults, £5 for children*

### Brasenose Society Annual Alumni Dinner & AGM

all alumni are welcome with a guest  
Saturday, 15th September, 6.00pm  
College  
*Dinner £50 per person, accommodation £35 per person*

### Gaudy for 2010-11

Friday 21st September, 6.00pm  
College  
*Free, £35 for accommodation for the night*

### Medical Alumni Dinner

all medical alumni are welcome with a guest  
Saturday 29th September  
College  
*£60, £45 for 2017/18 graduates and/or Junior Doctors*

### Ellesmere Society Dinner for alumni of Law

Saturday 10th November, 7.00pm  
College  
*Save the date – prices and booking details TBC*

### 2019 Gaudies – save the date!

- 1960–1962: Friday 15th March
- 2002–2003: Friday 21st June
- 2012–2013: Friday 13th September

Go to [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events) for an up-to-date list of our upcoming events, and to book for any events coming up in the next three months.

To update your contact details using our online alumni community, visit our alumni pages at: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni)



## Brasenose Society Drinks at the O&C Club

Every month during the academic year, the Brasenose Society hosts after-work drinks for alumni at the Oxford and Cambridge Club on Pall Mall in London. All are welcome to attend with guests for free. Please note the dress code for the Club is Jacket and Tie/Business Wear (no trainers).

All O&C Drinks start at 6.30pm.

The upcoming dates for next term are:

- Tuesday 2nd October
- Tuesday 6th November
- Tuesday 4th December

# Brasenose Knows...

We leave you with another brain-teaser from

**Professor Konstantin Ardakov**, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics at BNC.

Email your answer and postal address to

[development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk). The first five successful entries will receive a (very) small prize! The answer will be published in the next issue, or you can email us for it if you can't wait until then!



Let  $x, y, z$  be real numbers satisfying

$$(x + y)^3 = z$$

$$(y + z)^3 = x$$

$$(z + x)^3 = y.$$

What are the possible values of  $x, y$  and  $z$ ?

THE BRAY'S NOSE



## Once a Member of Brasenose, always a Member of Brasenose!

Alumni are welcome back to College at any time. If you let us know you would like to visit, we will let the Lodge know to expect you – but do just pop in if you're near.

If you are passing through please report to the Lodge, clearly identify yourself as an alumnus, and show your alumni card if you have one. If you do not have an alumni card, please be aware that you may be asked some questions to confirm you are a graduate of Brasenose, as we take security very seriously.

Access to the Hall may not be given during lunch time (12 - 2pm) and visits to the College Library are by appointment only. Please ensure you contact us in advance if you wish to visit with a large group.

## Contact us

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

Tel: +44(0)1865 287275

Email: [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

## Join us on social media



[www.facebook.com/brasenosecollege](http://www.facebook.com/brasenosecollege)



[www.twitter.com/BNC\\_members](http://www.twitter.com/BNC_members)



[www.instagram.com/brasenosecollege](http://www.instagram.com/brasenosecollege)

## Alumni Benefits – new way to book

We are excited to announce you can now request to book Guest Rooms and Alumni Dining on our website at [www.bit.ly/BNCAlumni](http://www.bit.ly/BNCAlumni). We aim to get back to you in 3-5 working days.

