



# Brasene Notes

## Brasenose welcomes two new Fellows for Michaelmas Term

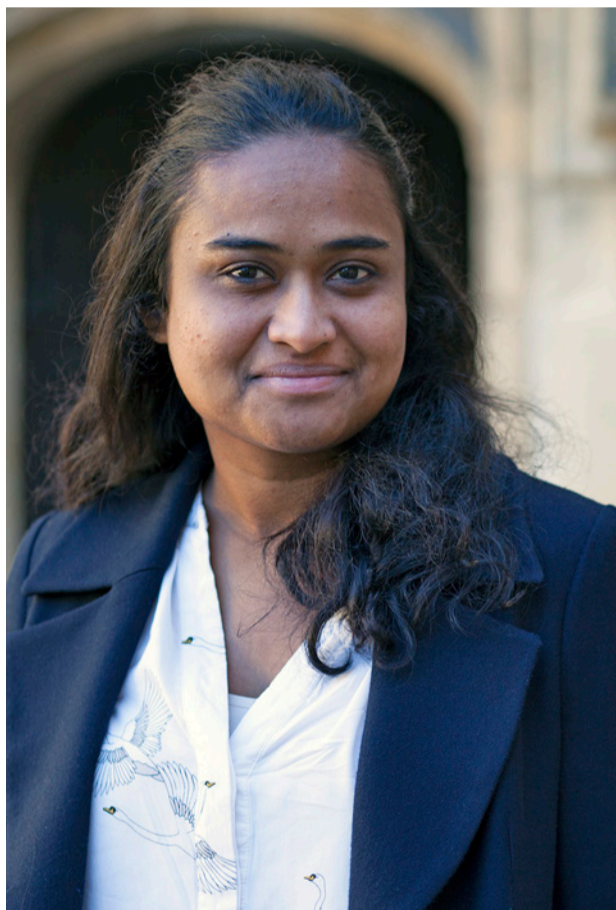
**Brasenose College is delighted to welcome two new Fellows this term – Dr Sneha Krishnan as Tutorial Fellow in Geography, and Dr Perla Maiolino as Tutorial Fellow in Engineering.**

Dr Krishnan is the Associate Professor in Human Geography at the School of Geography and the Environment. She comes to this post from a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College, Oxford. Sneha undertook all her graduate work at Oxford, and has an undergraduate degree from the University of Madras, India. As a cultural and historical geographer, Sneha researches gender and education in post-colonial India, looking in particular at how young women's lives have been shaped by colonial discourses regarding childhood, capacity and maturity. She is currently writing a book about hostels for girls in Southern India, and has ongoing research projects that focus on youth suicide, childhood and geopolitics, and on digitising archives. At Brasenose, Sneha will teach across the Human Geography curriculum.

On beginning her position at Brasenose, Sneha comments: "I am very excited to have joined Brasenose this term. It's been a wonderfully friendly and welcoming place so far. I'm looking forward to teaching the geographers here, and to being a part of this community (in addition of course to partaking of the brilliant food!)."

From 2019, Brasenose College will offer eight undergraduate Geography places each year.

Dr Maiolino received her doctorate in Robotics from the University of Genoa, Italy, as well as her BEng and MEng in Robotics and Automation. During her PhD she carried out research on the development and integration of distributed tactile sensors for robots, developing new technological solutions for artificial robot skin (CySkin). CySkin Technology has been shown at the Robots Exhibition at the Science Museum in London. During the 2017-18 academic year, she joined the Biologically Inspired Robotics Lab (BIRL) at



△ Dr Sneha Krishnan, left, and Dr Perla Maiolino, right

the University of Cambridge, pursuing research related to soft robotics and soft tactile perception. Alongside her BNC fellowship, she is an Associate Professor and member of Oxford Robotics Institute.

Dr Maiolino's research interests and future research objectives are related to the development of new technological solutions for Soft Robot sensors and actuators and to investigate the role of softness in Soft Robots perception for achieving autonomy and intelligent behaviours.

"Brasenose has warmly welcomed me, and everyone helped me to settle here," says Dr Maiolino. "I am really excited to teach Engineering here, and I really feel part of a wonderful community."

Principal John Bowers QC said: "The College is thrilled that Perla and Sneha have joined us this



year. They bring a wealth of experience in each of their fields and will doubtless make a wonderful contribution to College life and to the Fellowship. I know that the whole community will join me in welcoming them both and I am sure that they are looking forward to meeting alumni and friends of the College over the coming months and years."

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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)

**James Boyle (Mathematics, 2000):** "I moved to Buckinghamshire with my family in 2015, and this year have had a second child - Cara Feena Boyle, born on the 17th June 2018, a younger sister to Finnian James Boyle (aged two)."

**Sir David Akers Jones (English, 1949)** celebrated his retirement from the Oxford China Advisory Group with a luncheon in Hong Kong on 3rd October. Sir David is an Honorary Fellow of Brasenose and was Chief Secretary of Hong Kong from 1985 to 1986, and then Acting Governor of Hong Kong 1986 to 1987. He received the Distinguished Friend of Oxford award in 2010 and is a Member of the Vice Chancellor's Circle.

**Marty Gross (PPE, 1974)** writes: "I recently set up a Foundation to continue to promote, among other things, scholarly activities. I funded a translation into modern Hebrew of Hume's 'Treatise on Human Nature' as well as Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'. The latter, by my good friend Professor Yirmiyahu Yovel of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, came with a brilliant introduction to the Critique which was translated into English and recently published by Princeton University press titled 'Kant's Philosophical Revolution'. Every serious student of Kant may wish to read it. Other 'treats' are in process."



△ Sir David Akers Jones (bottom row, centre) at his Oxford China Advisory Group retirement luncheon.

**Alexander Pollock (Jurisprudence, 1963)** writes: "The Principal's blog of October 2017 about **Bruce Kent (Jurisprudence, 1949)**, formerly General Secretary and then Chair of CND, called to mind an unexpected encounter between us both outside Downing Street in late 1986 or early 1987.

At the time I was the M.P. for Moray, and also Parliamentary Private Secretary to the then Secretary of State for Defence, George Younger

M.P. It was his practice to have a weekly ministerial conference within the Ministry of Defence at 9 o'clock each Wednesday morning.

On my way along Whitehall for one such meeting, I became aware of the instantly recognisable figure of Bruce Kent standing just outside Downing Street. Whether or not he had a placard I cannot now recall, but clearly he was mounting some sort of anti-government demonstration.

**Tim Ramsey's (Classics, 2008)** charity Just Like Us (JLU) was highly commended in the 'Small Charity, Big Achiever' category at the 2018 Third Sector Awards. Congratulations to Tim and his team, which also includes **Ellie Keel (Modern Languages, 2010)**.

Just Like Us are working for a world where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people live amazing lives. Why? Because growing up LGBT is still unacceptably tough: 86% of young people hear homophobic remarks and 25% attempt suicide.

JLU works to change this by empowering young people to be role models who champion LGBT equality and challenge prejudice at school and work. Since launching in 2016, they've thus far trained some 119 LGBT young people to deliver talks and workshops to over 22,000 school pupils. Mentoring and training have helped double the number of LGBT young people who feel confident enough to start their first job openly LGBT.

To involve and unite schools across the UK, JLU launched School Diversity Week (SDW) with the support of the Department for Education. JLU provides schools with a free toolkit for organising events that celebrate LGBT equality in education. Last year, over 250,000 teachers and pupils across the UK took part in activities to tackle homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. With this year's SDW involving over 400,000 pupils, even more LGBT young people will benefit from JLU's work.



△ **Tim Ramsey (Classics, 2008)**, right, and **Ellie Keel (Modern Languages, 2010)**, left, are the Chief Executive and Director of Just Like Us, respectively

## 1968 Staircase XV Reunion by **Roger Gill (Modern Languages, 1968)**

BNC has never wanted for a reputation as one of the friendlier and more hospitable Colleges. Those of us who were newly arrived on Staircase XV in 1968 had direct experience of this when, about ten days into the Michaelmas Term, two of our number, **Chris Lowe (PPE, 1968)** and **Nick Bradbury (Theology, 1968)**, brought together our entire Staircase for dinner at the Golden Palace, then in George Street. This simple event was one of several that helped the Staircase maintain its friendships well beyond the first year.

Nothing too unusual in that, perhaps, but where we think we may have hit on something rather more unique is that Staircase XV (1968) has also continued to meet as a Staircase for several major anniversaries. Not only have we returned to enjoy an excellent dinner in College, but we have been generously allowed to stay overnight in our original rooms.

For our 25th Anniversary in 1993, dinner in the Eckersley Room was followed by a toast to "The Staff and Members of Staircase XV", proposed by **Rick Applebee (Modern Languages, 1968)**, who sadly passed away in 2000, and replied to in a characteristically entertaining manner by our guest of honour, Bert Penny-Larter, who had excelled as our Scout during those first three terms. For our next venture, the 40th in 2008, we were privileged to dine in the Senior Common Room, this time with the then Principal, Roger Cashmore, as our guest.

And so to our most recent reunion, our 50th, on 8th September of this year. Following drinks amid the superb panelling of the Old Library, we were conducted to a further stylish restoration,



△ (L-R) **Chris Lowe (PPE, 1968)**, **Nick Bradbury (Theology, 1968)**, **Brian Roebuck (Mathematics, 1968)**, **Tony Besgrove (Natural Sciences, 1968)**



△ (L-R) **George Jones (History & Modern Languages, 1968)**, **Alan Dean (Physics, 1967)**, **Nick Bradbury**, **Tony Besgrove**, **Brian Roebuck**, **Chris Tyldesley (Modern History, 1968)**

the Medieval Kitchen, for the main dinner. Proposing the toast, **Alan Dean (Physics, 1967)** revived musical memories of the time. These ranged from *Those were the Days* to the recently recorded *Ring Cycle*, available to hear with **John Slater (Mathematics, 1966)**, Alan's predecessor as JCR President, in the small hours. **Stephen Slade (English, 1968)** responded in similar kind, quoting from *Salad Days*, and speaking of some trepidation at academic standards and perceived abilities – and of the hospitality of Messrs. Lowe and Bradbury. We also remembered our exceptional friend, Rick Applebee.

Then back to the Old Library for dessert and the noteworthy Château Filhot (2007) Sauternes, first encountered at our Gaudy in March. Talk lasted until the early hours, with themes across the table including the Middle East, Brexit, Cecil Rhodes and Earl Haig, but conversation with immediate neighbours tending to deal more with travel, horticulture, Crystal Palace, opera (again), and grandparenting. The next morning our visit was rounded off with a very full English breakfast.

Besides the impressive quality of the food and the opportunity to see parts of the College not normally open to view, we would particularly like to acknowledge the warmth of the welcome from the Porters' Lodge, and from all the catering and domestic staff.

Should previous occupants of this or other staircases be interested to follow suit, we would thoroughly recommend the idea. But not, please, for 9th September 2023 - that is already booked!

As it happened, I was wearing my BNC scarf, on to which he immediately focused. He then explained he was protesting about ongoings at certain nuclear bases. In response I explained who I was, and that I was about to join the Defence Secretary at a ministerial meeting. I also undertook to alert him straightaway to the concerns that had prompted Bruce Kent's protest.

We thereupon parted on the most cordial of terms, shortly after which I duly reported my encounter with Bruce Kent, and his concerns, direct to the Secretary of State.

An unusual example, perhaps, of the Brasenose alumni network in practice."

**Philippos Kassimatis (Engineering, Economics & Management, 1992)** has been appointed as an Honorary Visiting Professor at Cass Business School, University of London.

**Peter D Jones (Modern History, 1963)**: "Finally planning to retire at the end of this year after 27 years teaching Humanities at The Friends' School in Hobart. I've used some of my PhD thesis in a chapter in a recently published book, 'Islamic Schooling in the West,' based on a paper I gave to a conference on Islamic Education in 2016. I plan to present a copy of the book to the BNC library when I get to visit Oxford again next year when I'll have time in retirement. My eldest daughter is working in New York, my second daughter is about the graduate in Law from Melbourne University, my son graduated last year as a teacher so started working for the Education department in Victoria this year, and my adopted refugee daughter is studying Pharmacy in South Australia. I plan to keep my brain active by joining U3A in Hobart and doing some travelling to catch up with my wide circle of friends around the planet as well as staying involved in politics, environmental issues and human rights work here in Australia."

**Sarah Walker (Management Research, 2004)** featured in Management Today's 35 Women Under 35, the country's longest-running, most prestigious list of young, female business talent. Earlier this year, Sarah joined BlueGem Capital Partners, a pan-European private equity firm specialising in consumer brands, where she leads investment and portfolio management in the UK and Ireland.

**Elena Chong (Chemistry, 2007)** and **Matthew Neve (Philosophy and Modern Languages, 2006)** got married in Dorset on 14th of July this year.

*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.*



△ Andy at a welfare tea for students

# Head Porter Andy Talbot: Interviewed

Head Porter Andy Talbot, winner of the 'Best Support Staff' award for making a significant difference to the lives of students at the Oxford University Student Union awards in 2014, spoke to journalist Olivia Gordon about his life and time at Brasenose.

## Five things you never knew about Head Porter Andy Talbot

- Andy continues to play the trumpet today and if you're lucky you might catch him at a College concert playing jazz or classical music
- Andy cycles into College daily from his home in Abingdon
- His chosen last meal on earth would be gammon, egg and chips
- For over 20 years, Andy has supported children with special needs, in particular autism, and their families
- His favourite musician is the big band leader Ted Heath

If you're a member of Brasenose, whether you're a student, a Fellow or a member of staff, you'll know Head Porter Andy Talbot. And that's the way things should be, Andy believes. In his seven years at Brasenose, Andy has made it his mission to get acquainted with everyone, and in his frequent walks around College, he stops to say hello to each person who crosses his path, effortlessly recognising an extraordinary stream of faces and names. He knows which undergraduate comes from Hartlepool; he knows who's in their second year reading English. When he sees a face he doesn't know, he checks with the student which College they're from to confirm they're visiting for a tutorial.

You might be surprised to know that Andy started his working life as a professional trumpet player. Having grown up in County Durham, the son of a vicar who had studied at Keble (and great grandson of a Magdalen alumnus), Andy was a chorister at Durham Cathedral and was sent to a strict boarding school. But his first jobs were playing in dance bands and backing stars including the Nolan Sisters, the comedians Little and Large, and (perhaps most exciting of all) Basil Brush.

At 22, realising it would be hard to build a long-term career playing the trumpet, Andy joined the police: 'It was a bit of a shock to the system initially, going back to a disciplined life again,' he recalls. He was posted to Witney in Oxfordshire initially, and then Oxford, which kept him busy in a city centre environment.

Over the years as he chased criminals, Andy climbed the ranks of the police force through firearms, traffic and armed protection squads, faced sensitive challenges including the Miners' Strike and Greenham Common, and took control of situations from a taxi driver being threatened by a gunman to a hostage situation. He married Karen, a fellow police officer he'd crewed with in a panda car, and they had a son and two daughters, now in their 20s.

By the millennium, Andy was an inspector responsible for a large swathe of the Thames Valley, and led the rollout of neighbourhood policing and the Prevent anti-extremism agenda in Oxfordshire. 'That made me understand that as well as reducing and detecting crime, it's so important to have the public on board with you and police in a way that they're happy with,' he says. 'I understood the need to engage with the public, and that has helped with the job I do at the moment in the sense of understanding how a college works and working closely with the students so I can understand what the issues are and do my best to work with them to solve those problems.'

When Andy had served for 30 years in the police, it was time to retire, and he was 'ready to do something else'. The move from Police Inspector to Head Porter at an Oxbridge college is one that makes sense. Having seen police colleagues go into Oxford colleges as Head Porters, Andy realised 'there was a real opening there to go into a college and properly engage with the students' – putting everything he'd learned in the police into play in a very different field.

'I think traditionally Oxbridge porters have been seen as a bit grumpy, whether a true picture or not,' he notes. 'That clearly was an image we needed to change.' Andy sees his team of nine full-time and several casual porters as working in a harmonious partnership with the members of the College: 'a lodge is defined by students feeling they can come in and ask anything,' he says. It's essential to be



△ Andy opening the door between BNC and Lincoln as part of the Ascension Day traditions (see page 5 for more info).

welcoming – including to the prospective applicants to visit the College each year – ‘I’m not just thinking of the lodge and security and fire safety, I’m thinking of the bigger picture and my role in making sure that the very best people apply to come here.’

Given his police background, Andy is highly adept at keeping order, but in all his years at Brasenose there have been no crises, apart from a few occasions when he’s caught, detained and pursued to conviction a thief from outside the College trying to steal a bike or a laptop – ‘I take the safety of the students and their property very, very seriously,’ he says. He adds: ‘Students are no problem. We don’t behave in an authoritarian manner at all, and so we work in a way that the students are on board. I work very closely with the students and staff, obviously, so we’ve got a really quite high degree of trust.’ He adds: ‘Having my own children of similar age to the students has helped me.’



△ Andy serving Ivy Beer on Ascension Day (see right for more details).

As the gatekeeper to the College, the Head Porter sees it all. ‘Students pop in and chat about something they might be worried about,’ Andy says. ‘We get to know everyone in time, but some we get to know sooner because they’re very chatty and are proactive. The set-up of the pigeonholes means that the students and staff need to come in to the lodge or pass the lodge, which instigates a conversation, and that’s how you get to know people. That’s how you see things aren’t right at times, if someone’s not quite themselves. Sometimes it may be that they need some more in-depth support, but sometimes just a chat over a cup of tea. Many times, someone’s not been well and we’ve sent for the nurse or got them to the doctor or the hospital.’

The bonds created can be meaningful and long-lasting. Two or three Brasenose alumni come back every week to chat to the porters. ‘We care about the students and the students pick that up,’ says Andy. ‘The students call Brasenose the friendliest College. It’s great to be part of that and watch them grow from their arrival to when they leave three or four years later. You’re part of their life.’

# From the Archives

The Ascension Day festival commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily ascension of Christ into heaven. On this day each year Brasenose plays a key part in two ancient traditions, writes Deputy Archivist **Helen Sumping**.



△ Ivy Beer being enjoyed on Ascension Day at Lincoln College

## Ivy Beer

At lunchtime on Ascension Day members of Brasenose College are invited into Lincoln College through a connecting door between Brasenose’s Old Quad and Lincoln’s kitchens. This usually-locked door is only opened for 10 minutes, and Brasenose members who pass through are entitled to free beer provided by Lincoln. There are several stories behind this ancient tradition, the two most popular being either that a Brasenose man was chased by a town mob and murdered at Lincoln’s gates when Lincoln students refused to open them, or that a Lincoln man killed a Brasenose man in a duel. It became the custom for Lincoln to taint the beer with ground ivy to discourage

the Brasenose students from taking too great an advantage of the hospitality, hence the name of Ivy Beer.

Despite the unpleasant addition of ground ivy, the tradition remains popular every year. In 2014, however, it was prevented by an outbreak of mumps. A group of Fellows were still allowed through to keep the historic practice in place, and Lincoln delivered a barrel of Ivy Beer for Brasenose students, which was served at lunch in Hall. According to a historic article in the Evening Standard, the free beer was also stopped during World War II, when Lincoln became a ‘Government institution.’

## Beating of the Bounds

Also on Ascension Day, Brasenose welcomes groups of visitors from two parishes carrying out the ancient custom of beating the bounds. This annual tradition has been preserved for centuries, and is thought to go back to the Anglo Saxon period at least. Sadly it is dying out, but is still preserved by St Michael at the North

Gate and the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, whose parish boundaries pass through the grounds of Brasenose College.

In the days before maps and written title deeds, a knowledge of parish boundaries was very important in order to check each parish’s jurisdiction and responsibility for its inhabitants. Every year a procession of old and young parishioners would walk the boundaries, stopping at certain intervals to strike boundary stones with sticks and mark them with chalk whilst shouting ‘mark, mark, mark!’. In modern-day Oxford, which is very built up, these landmarks are located at slightly unusual sites including the shop floor of Marks & Spencer. Nowadays the procession of clergy and parishioners is joined by members of the public and slightly bemused tourists from all over the world.



△ The Beating of the Bounds



△ An expert from Thwaites & Reed and the longform clock.

# Clock Watching

At Brasenose, we embrace both modern and traditional aspects of Oxford's unique academic experience. The latter category includes the College's heritage assets which are held in trust for the benefit of future generations.

In August, Thwaites & Read were called in to conduct a horological muster of the belfry and four antique clocks. Thwaites & Reed can trace their antecedents to 1610 and has a strong claim to be considered the world's oldest clock manufacturing company. The firm are entrusted with maintaining many of the most historic timepieces in Europe, including the clock at London's iconic Big Ben.

The College belfry houses a large eighteenth-century stationary 'calling' bell controlled by a powered clockwork mechanism and a smaller manual bell operated by a hand rope. The calling bell is rung to announce dinner time and Sunday services in chapel. It is set for a cycle of 210 peals which takes exactly five minutes to complete. Both bells passed muster with no reported problems.

Matters were not as straightforward in respect of the timepieces. A regency ebonised table clock, kept in a small dining room, performed well a year after Thwaites & Read carried out a major restoration. An eighteenth century French gilt clock, not currently on display, was diagnosed as requiring similar work. Attention then centred on a longcase clock which dates from the late seventeenth century. The mechanism, case, and hands are all in good original condition. Following restoration, it was installed at Brasenose in 2012 as a bequest of farmer, philanthropist, bibliophile, and former

student **William Delafield (Geography, 1957)**. The clock's square dial bears the name of John Trubshaw, who was a noted London dealer. Its mechanism and case, however, were manufactured separately and the movement may even be the work of Thwaites & Read.

The longcase currently resides in the Senior Common Room on a carpeted floor. Its clockwork

mechanism is sensitive to temperature and movements in the carpet, which interfere with time-keeping, the date function, and the lantern bell's hourly chiming. An individual walking past might easily perturb these inner workings. In consequence, the clock often has eccentric opinions as to Brasenose time and exhibits internal inconsistency between its dial reading and chimed hours. A further symptom of irregularity is reposed in the pendulum. When keeping good time, this oscillates noiselessly within the case. During periods of contrariness, however, the pendulum strikes both sides. Melvyn Lee, owner of Thwaites & Read, refers to this as the clock's 'bonk'. At a very early point in the longcase's history, grooves were carved in an effort to mitigate the pendulum's maverick bonking tendency.

Assisted by Alex, in the fourth year of a five-year apprenticeship with the company, Melvyn reset the mechanism with the aid of a microset precision timer which measures beats per hour. During the countdown to four o'clock, he pointed out a feature of the clock face's brass cartouche: four cherubs in clouds that occupy the triangular spandrel space between the round dial and its square enclosure. Then at 4pm precisely, the longcase chimed exactly four times.

Clock manufacturers were among the first craftsman to apply scientific methods to the improvement of technology. Among the College's Fellows, the longcase has attracted particular interest from Engineer, Professor Guy Housby and Physicist, Professor Jonathan Jones, who acts as Brasenose's unofficial longcase clock curator. Professor Housby plans to design a small plinth (attached directly onto the floorboards) to provide a much firmer base, properly adjusted for alignment.

At the conclusion of the muster, which was supervised by our Steward Julie Sturgess, Melvyn Lee assessed the current state of Brasenose's horological heritage portfolio as follows: 'The clocks here are in fantastic condition, they just don't keep very good time!'



△ The calling bell

# 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)

## April 2018

When you think of San Francisco, you think of sun and more sun, but over the North America Alumni Weekend on 6th and 7th April it just rained and rained. It was as though we Oxonians brought the weather with us. The University put on a packed programme with speakers including Sir Michael Moritz and Reid Hoffman, former CEO of LinkedIn. I chaired the excellent session given by our Supernumerary Fellow **Professor Russell Foster** on sleep and circadian rhythms. There was a Gala Dinner too at the Harbour Building. The event attracted about 550 alumni and each College had its separate events alongside the main event. We had an excellent dinner in a restaurant attended by twenty alumni of all ages. We took the chance to visit an alumnus in Palo Alto and had a tour round Stanford University. We have a very successful and long-lasting exchange programme with Stanford.

We then flew to Chicago to meet more alumni; what a great town, but we did not have long to see it as we were only there for 30 hours (and it snowed all the time!).

New York was, as always, so exciting. We held several one-to-one meetings with alumni and two dinners for several alumni each. We had a party through the good offices of McKinsey and I paid tribute at the event to **Dominic Barton (Economics, 1984)** who kindly hosted the event, and has since stepped down as global managing partner. **Professor Chris McKenna**, our Fellow in Management Studies, did an excellent presentation about his Global History of Capitalism Project, which is based at Brasenose.

We entertained alumnus **Chris Evans (English, 1986)**, the Editor of the Daily Telegraph, in College on 22nd April.

On 23rd April, I attended a dinner at Middle Temple for the Oxford Bar Society. Five of the ten Masters of the Middle Temple Bench who hosted were from Brasenose. It was a great way for the students to meet experienced barristers and judges.

Vicky Pryce gave a virtuoso performance at a Principal's Conversation on 25th April. I started by asking questions and then the audience joined in. We concentrated on Brexit, on which she has firm



△ *Principal's Conversation with Vicky Pryce*

views. It was a very enjoyable presentation with Fellows, alumni and students.

I was interested to read in the news that the man who has the task of prosecuting Jacob Zuma on sixteen charges of fraud, corruption, money laundering and racketeering is an alumnus, State Advocate **Billy Downer (Jurisprudence, 1980)**. He is a deputy director of public prosecutions in the Western Cape.

On 30th April, I was delighted to host a drinks reception for those students engaged on our Annual Fund telethon held in March this year. During this telethon many wonderful conversations were had between Brasenose past and present, and the students involved truly enjoyed the opportunity to learn about Brasenose from those who came before them. This campaign again has been very successful, Brasenose's most successful ever in fact, with over £210,000 raised in gifts and pledges – an astonishing figure. The most popular gift to the Annual Fund is a monthly direct debit of £20 and every penny truly counts. This year the Annual Fund topped £500,000 for the first time and continues to grow from strength to strength. Our alumni are the best alumni and thanks to their support, Brasenose will continue to enrich the lives of its students both present and future.

## May 2018

We congratulate our Senior Kurti Fellow **Professor Daniella Bortoletto** in two different respects. Firstly, she is to be the new Head of Particle Physics from September. Secondly, she was shortlisted in the Vice Chancellors' Diversity Awards for her work in setting up the Conference of Undergraduate



Women in Physics in 2015. It is striking that even now only 21% of UK physics undergraduates are women and this group aims to support them.

The Annual Beating of the Bounds took place on Ascension Day, 10th May. There were some forty people taking part in going around the parish boundaries. The long established custom involves demarcation of parish boundaries by striking boundary stones with sticks and marking them with chalk. At noon there was the much anticipated opening of the College door to Lincoln, which remains steadfastly shut the rest of the year. A special Ivy Beer is served in Lincoln College (see *more on page 5 – Ed.*)

We congratulate our alumnus **Christopher Bellamy QC (Jurisprudence, 1964)** who has been elected as Master of one of the City Livery Companies – the Broderers.

Emeritus Fellow **Dr Richard Boyd** spoke at the spectacular offices of MSD near Kings Cross station over breakfast on 24th May. These are the offices of **Tom Lillie (1986, Physiological Sciences)** and we thank him very much for hosting.

Dr Boyd taught Physiology at the College from 1980 until his retirement in 2012. In 2016 he won the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Teaching Excellence Life Time Achievement Award for high quality and sustained commitment to education throughout his career. Touchingly, he has a bookshelf in the library named after him by one of his former students who has said that he inspired a generation of BNC medics. He gave a fascinating talk about his career in which he advised that it was important to leave space for the unimportant and made a plea that teaching medicine should be about learning how to do things and not just the doing. There was a terrific discussion afterwards of life as a doctor in which almost the whole audience participated. It was great to see some of our students present as well as alumni of various ages.

## June 2018

We held our first Law Networking Event (the first of many, I hope) at the amazing offices of CMS just over Cannon Street Station on 7th June. This

was arranged through the generosity of **David Zeffman (Jurisprudence, 1977)**. About 30 barristers and solicitors had a great time discussing legal cases (and no doubt much besides).

On 12th June High Table was full and arranged well into the Hall for a demitting dinner for **Dr Sos Eltis** as Vice Principal. As I said in my speech before Dinner she was characterised as Vice Principal by passionate commitment in the post. She is adored by her students and respected throughout the University. The lasting legacy of her three years as Vice Principal is to put diversity in the mainstream of our agenda and thinking strategically about achieving this. In a recent interview she has said 'Well, I feel slightly like I've measured my life out in committee meetings.' Now she can get back to her books.

The Leavers Service is always a poignant event. The Chapel is packed and our excellent choir sings with even greater gusto than is normal. Amongst others there were readings from Thomas Treherne's "Centuries of Meditations" and William Golding's "The Spire". Both were alumni of the College but of course centuries apart; they matriculated in 1653 and 1929 respectively.

This year's service on 10th June was particularly special for me. I had grown up with them. Some of the leavers at the Service had only known me as Principal. It was great to see many parents too. We wish *au revoir* to all our leavers, but a special thanks go to Fleur Snow and Sarah Hughes, whose choir conducting and general musical abilities have added greatly to College life.

The term ended formally with the magnificent procession to Encaenia which was unexpectedly graced by the presence of pop star Katy Perry as the guest of one of my fellow Heads of House!

Congratulations to all Nostrils who were honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. There was a Knighthood for **Simon Schama** who was a Fellow between 1976 and 1980 and took part in a memorable Principal's Conversation last year. **Hugh Hildesley (Jurisprudence, 1960)** Vice-Chairman, Sotheby's USA and **John Phibbs (Classics, 1970)** gained MBEs.

## July 2018

It was wonderful to preside at our main College graduation day at the end of July. Over 70 students graduated in glorious sunshine. I always enjoy meeting the relatives of our graduands who travel from all over the country and from far overseas. It was also great to see that we were again seventh in the Norrington Table for the third year running.

Our Open Days were again a great success. The Tutor for Admissions, who always reviews Brasenose attendance carefully, reports that since 2012 visitor numbers have risen by a factor of 1.4 with statistically significant rises in the proportion

of students from state schools and persons travelling from more distant UK locations.

I give grateful thanks to the many people in College who make these events such a success, but particularly the student hosts and academics whom prospective students flock to see. The logistics of organising an event as complex as this should not be under-estimated and we are lucky to have such an excellent Schools Liaison Officer in Dr Joe Organ.

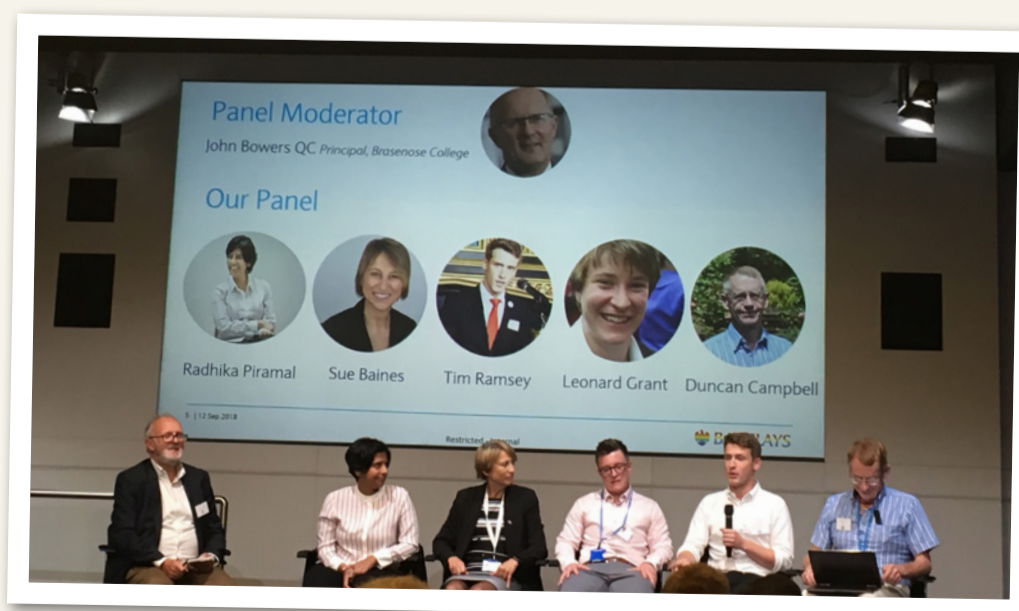
**Professor Elspeth Garman** received the 2018 Sosei Heptares Prize for Biophysics for her outstanding contributions to the understanding of radiation damage, which has contributed to the improvement of X-ray crystallography and structural biology.



△ Richard Henderson (Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, Nobel Prize 2017 for electron microscopy) presenting Elspeth with the 2018 Sosei Heptares Prize medal.

## August 2018

In late August my wife Suzanne and I visited some fascinating alumni in Monaco and near Nimes with our Development Director, Dr Liz Miller. We had generous hosts in both places and got to sail round the port in Monaco with one of our hosts, noting that the yacht of the Chairman of Fulham FC was parked just opposite the Chelsea owner's second string boat.



◁ LGBTQ+ event, 12th September

## September 2018

On 12th September, we launched the BNC LGBTQ+ Network at the Canary Wharf Headquarters of Barclays plc at a great event attended by about eighty people. **Yera Hagopian (Modern Languages, 1976)**, who works at Barclays, gave the opening address, and we had a terrific panel.

**Leonard Grant (Chemistry, 2003)** addressed, as a trans person, the particular issues faced by trans people. **Duncan Campbell (Physics, 1970)**, the well-known campaigning journalist spoke movingly of the steps forward since he was involved in setting up Stonewall in the 1980s, while Sue Baines, Director of UK Barclays Debit Card Optimisation & Growth and Co-Chair of Spectrum, Barclays LGBTQ+ Network. **Radhika Piramal (PPE, 1997)** expanded on relevant experiences in the business world, and **Tim Ramsey (Classics, 2008)** of Just Like Us and Leonard Grant particularly referred to their work in education. Radhika, CEO of VIP Industries (India's Number 1 luggage company), also talked movingly of the difficulties of coming out in India. Sue Baines was the only non-alumna on the panel; she addressed using supply chains to promote diversity.

I mentioned my own small role in the fight for equality as an advocate for the Claimants in the case in the European Court of Human Rights, which led to the opening of the Armed Forces to gay people; and the fact that Rev Jeffrey John, the first person to have been open about a same-sex relationship to have been nominated as a Church of England Bishop, had been our College Chaplain for three years.

A big thank you to **Cuthbert Kendall (Jurisprudence, 1994)**, an ally at Barclays Spectrum LGBTQ+ Network, who helped make the evening possible.

Tim, whose idea the network was, said "I didn't feel able to be openly gay at BNC, but it would have given me so much more confidence to have known that there was a community of BNC alumni whose identity was celebrated. I wanted to set up the network so BNC's commitment to LGBTQ+ equality is clear for all to see and as a place for new friendships and connections to be made."



Our next LGBTQ+ Network event will be on Wednesday 20th February, kindly hosted by **Lucy Fenton (PPE, 1992)** at her LGBTQ+ pub, The Apple Tree, in Clerkenwell, London. There will be a talk from **Gary Powell (Philosophy & Modern Languages, 1982)**. Gary was President of Oxford University GaySoc in 1982 and the Chair of OUSU Gay Rights Committee for a couple of years while a student at BNC. He was one of the few gay or lesbian people to be "out" in Oxford at the time. A few years ago, he was invited by Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society to give a talk about GaySoc in the early 1980s.

Our Senior Golding Fellow **Masooda Bano**, Professor of International Development, addressed a packed lecture theatre on 15th September at the Oxford Alumni Weekend, on Political Islam. She traced the organisations which grew out of the Muslim Brotherhood and put the modern split between Political and Militant Islam into context. A terrific lecture.

On the same night, we played host to the Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Brasenose Society. For the first time in living memory the event sold out (presumably applicants did not realise that I would be speaking there!). It was a great crowd with people from every age group. I was pleased to pay tribute to **Penny Gilbert (Biochemistry, 1979)** who has been an excellent President this year and who will hand over to **Sir Paul Silk (Classics, 1970)**, a former Clerk of the House of Commons.

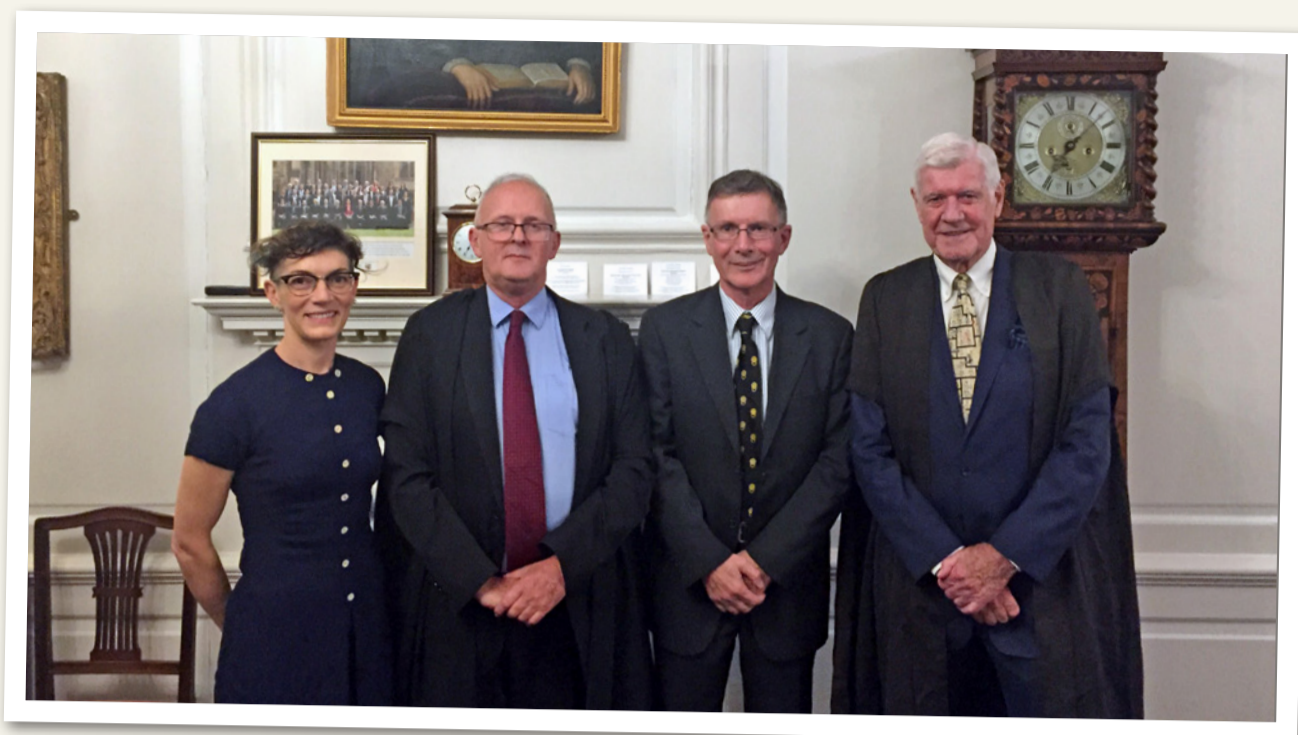
On 21st September, we held an excellent Gaudy for those who matriculated in 2011-2012. The numbers were so large that we had to spread guests over two rooms, the Hall and an overflow in Lecture Room VII.



△ Emeritus Fellow, Professor Richard Cooper

It is with great pleasure that I read of the appointment of Emeritus Fellow, **Professor Richard Cooper** (pictured) to the role of Acting Master of St Benet's Hall for at least two terms. He will I am sure fulfil the role with great skill and dignity and will maintain his role as Dean of Degrees for Brasenose.

Two alumni have been appointed as Fellows of the British Academy, Canon **David Thomas, (English, 1968)**, Professor of Christianity and Islam at the



△ John with (L-R) Polly Arnold, Rick Dixon and Graham Richards at a celebratory dinner for FRSS.

University of Birmingham, and **Jerry Hausman (Modern History & Economics 1970)**, Professor of Economics at MIT, as a Corresponding Fellow. Congratulations to them!

Congratulations also to **Professor Juliet Gerrard (Chemistry, 1985)**, who has been made the Scientific Advisor to the New Zealand Prime Minister.

I also have pleasure in recording that **Professor Masooda Bano** and **Professor Chris Timpson** have received Recognition of Distinction awards from the University – an accolade that confers the title of Full Professor.

## October 2018

This year for the first time we, as a College, had a higher number of female than male Freshers for both undergraduates and graduates.

On 9th October we welcomed our three new Fellows of the Royal Society for dinner in College. We think this is the first time a single college has had so many alumni honoured in a single year in this way. One of the new FRSS flew in especially from the USA: **Professor Rick Dixon (Biochemistry, 1969)** is Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and Associate Director of the BioDiscovery Institute at the University of North Texas, Denton, and Faculty Fellow of the Hagler Institute of Advanced Study, Eminent Scholar in Residence, Visiting Professor in the College of Science, and Timothy C Hall-Heep Distinguished Faculty Chair at Texas A and M University, College Station; he also serves as a Chief Scientist in the Beijing Advanced Innovation Centre for Tree Breeding by Molecular Design, Beijing Forestry University.

**Professor Polly Arnold (Chemistry, 1990)** is the Crum Brown Chair of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh and already a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Society of Chemistry, and currently holds an EPSRC

Established Career Fellowship. She was awarded the 2012 Rosalind Franklin award by the Royal Society. She is the sixth-youngest person to be made a Fellow.

Emeritus Fellow, **Professor Graham Richards (Chemistry, 1959)**, served as Chair of the University Department of Chemistry from 1997 for 10 years. He was one of the first academics to be involved in the commercialisation of technologies. In particular, he co-founded Oxford Molecular Ltd, which was floated on the stock market. He was director of ISIS Innovation Ltd, the University's technology transfer company. He is a Brasenose man through and through and I strongly recommend his book *40 Years in Oxford*.

On 11th October I attended the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors which recognises donors to the University and Colleges, with our inductees, **Mohamed Amersi (EMBA, 2014)**, who has generously given towards the refurbishment of Lecture Room XI (currently well under way), **Duncan Greenland CBE (PPE, 1966)**, whose benefaction enabled the renovation and extension of the fabulous Greenland Library, and **Björn Savén**, who has also given generously to the College and the collegiate University.

On 16th October we welcomed Emeritus Fellow **Professor Robert Evans** to High Table to celebrate his Honorary Fellowship bestowed by the University of Cambridge. He was a Fellow from 1968 to 1997 and then moved to Oriel as Regius Professor of Modern History. He specialises in the post-medieval history of Central and Eastern Europe, especially concerning that of the Hapsburg lands from 1526 to 1918.

I am sorry to tell readers of the sad death of **Professor Ceri Peach** after a period of illness. Ceri looked after Geography between 2003 and 2006 at Brasenose for some years prior to the full-time employment of Greg Tucker as a Fellow. Ceri was a champion of Brasenose Geography and was a huge figure in its development. Some senior members of the College will remember him.

# Photo Gallery

Summer was a busy time at BNC and saw many alumni events take place. 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)



△ 19th June saw BNC Society President **Penny Gilbert (Biochemistry, 1978)** hold the annual Summer Party. This year it took place at the Royal Society and it was a most enjoyable evening.



△ We welcomed 1986 & 1987 matriculands back for their Gaudy on the delightfully warm summer evening of 22nd June.



△ Despite the rain, alumni and their families had a joyous time at the annual Alumni Garden Party on 29th July.



△ For the first time in 12 years, the Brasenose Society Annual Dinner was sold out, and a wonderful evening was had by all on 15th September.



△ The Hall was packed to the rafters on 21st September, as we welcomed back matriculation years 2010 and 2011 to College for their first Gaudy.

# Alumni Boat Club BBQ

by **Peter Edmondson (Economics & Management, 2016),  
Brasenose Boat Club President**

In traditional barbecue weather – heavy rain – fifty former BNC Boat Club members joined the current squad down at the boathouse on 22nd September for the inaugural Boat Club alumni barbecue.

The rain was not to stop us, however, as a gazebo had been acquired – little did we know that this would simply collect the smoke and almost blind everyone! With that particular crisis averted the Pimm's began to flow, as did stories about the successes and failures of old.

**Dan Brocklebank (PPE, 1995)** was on hand, after the burgers had been handed out, to explain about the good work The Bowman Fund is doing to help fund the Boat Club, with an exciting 15-year capital plan confirmed just that morning.

The afternoon finished in the best way possible – a race. Two crews, mixed with current students and alumni, bombed down the length of boathouse island with surprisingly good technique given the alcohol. Some long-awaited returns to the Summer Eights' beer boats could be in order!



△ **Dan Brocklebank (PPE, 1995)** giving an address at the BBQ.

This was hopefully just the start of many more Boat Club alumni events, so do keep your eyes out for the next invitation. We can't wait to see you down at the boathouse again!



# Medical Alumni Dinner

by **Professor William James,  
Fellow in Medicine**



I have always felt that ideally the College community should extend beyond the core of current students and staff, and should embrace those who have studied or taught here in earlier generations. There are of course many opportunities for alumni and Emeritus Fellows to attend Brasenose events, but one dimension that we hadn't succeeded in embracing fully was the continuity across the generations of the subject family of medicine and its related sciences. So it was a great pleasure for me that on 29th September we took the first steps to complete that family.

Former students of medicine and the medical sciences who matriculated at Brasenose between 1947 and 2013 were greeted by the Principal in the Deer Park, with warm words of welcome and admiration for their contribution to the life of the College. The dinner continued in the Medieval Kitchen and the alumni and I were joined by current clinical tutor, **Dr John Willan**, medical Fellow **Dr Anne Edwards (Physiological Sciences, 1974)**, and former tutors **Dr Richard Boyd**, **Professor Julian Hopkin** and **Dr Derek Hockaday (Animal Physiology, 1947)**.

Towards the end of a very enjoyable evening, there was an open discussion of the ways in which the current generation of medical students could best benefit from the experience of medical alumni, and the enthusiasm of those present to provide a sounding board for students on any matter concerning their careers was palpable. In addition to setting up a contacts database to help current students identify alumni with geographical or career experiences from which they could benefit, there was enthusiasm for organising events both in Oxford and elsewhere at which alumni and students could meet and share experiences. I am looking forward to the first such joint event, which will probably be held in Trinity term 2019, and am very grateful to those alumni expressed willingness to help coordinate this and other events. Watch this space!

# Save the Date

## Forthcoming Events for 2019

### Principal's Conversations:

#### Mark Williams

Monday 21st January, 5.30pm  
College Chapel  
*Free, places limited so registration is essential*

### 1974 Society Women Alumnae Network Launch

Tuesday 29th January, 6.30pm  
The Weiss Gallery, 59 Jermyn St, St. James's, London SW1Y 6LX  
*Free, places limited so registration is essential*

**Platnauer Concert** *Elizabethan Lute Song with Alison Hill (soprano) & the Amphion Consort*  
Friday 1st February, 6.00pm  
College Chapel  
*Free, no registration needed*

**An Audience with Michael Palin**  
Wednesday 6th February, 5.30pm  
Venue TBC (Oxford)  
*Free, places extremely limited so registration is essential*

**LGBTQ+ Alumni Network Drinks & Talk**  
Wednesday 20th February, 6.30pm  
The Apple Tree, 45 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AE  
*Free, places limited so registration is essential*

### Breakfast with Brasenose:

#### Professor Alan Bowman

Thursday 21st February, 7.30am  
Rawlinson & Hunter, 8th Floor, 6 New St Square, London EC4A 3AQ  
*Free, places limited so registration is essential*

### Gaudy for 1960-1962 matriculands

Friday 15th March, 6.00pm  
College  
*Free, £35 for accommodation for the night*

### Golden Jubilee Lunch for 1960-1969 matriculands

Friday 12th April, 12.30pm  
College  
*£35 per person, guests welcome*

### Classics Reunion Lunch

Saturday 27th April, 10.00am  
College  
*£50 per person, guests welcome*

### Principal's Conversations:

#### Baroness Camilla Cavendish

Tuesday 7th May, 5.45pm  
College  
*Free, places limited so registration is essential*

### Diamond Jubilee Lunch for 1959 & before

Friday 10th May, 12.30pm  
College  
*£35 per person, guests welcome*

### Platnauer Concert

*The Bloomsbury Quartet feat. Rachel Maxey (Music, 2013)*  
Friday 17th May, 6.00pm  
College Chapel  
*Free, no registration needed*

### Gaudy for 2002-2003 matriculands

Friday 28th June\*, 6.00pm  
College  
*Free, £35 for accommodation for the night*  
  
\*NB CORRECT DATE, not 21st June as listed in Brazen Notes Issue 25 & Brazen Nose Issue 51. Many apologies for the error.

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 register for events (apart from the Platnauer concerts which do not require registration).

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*



## 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 from 6.30pm. The dates for 2019 confirmed so far are:

- Tuesday 15th January
- Tuesday 5th February
- Tuesday 12th March
- Tuesday 2nd April
- Tuesday 7th May

Emails with registration links for the above will be sent out nearer to the date of each event.

## 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!

Prove that  $989 \times 1001 \times 1007 + 320$  is not a prime number.

**And the answer is...** Issue 25's answer was:  $x=y=z=c$  where  $c$  is either 0, or  $1/\sqrt{8}$ , or  $-1/\sqrt{8}$ . Perhaps more interesting is the proof that there are no other solutions!

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

Alumni are welcome back to College at any time. Let us know if you would like to visit, and we will let the Lodge know to expect you.

### Contact us

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)

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