



# Brazen Notes

## Banking on the future

**Brasenose College is delighted to announce that it has purchased 1-5 High Street, Oxford, known to many as Lloyds Bank who currently rent the space.** The Governing Body, advised by the Investment Advisory Committee, secured the property in Michaelmas Term 2018.

John Bowers QC, Principal, said: "We are thrilled to have procured such an important building in the heart of Oxford. We have a proud history as a resident of Oxford's High Street; this purchase expands our stewardship to another significant building, which will provide sound investment returns. I encourage all alumni who visit Oxford to reacquaint themselves with 1-5 High Street to experience its significance and prominence first hand."

In the immediate future, Lloyds remain as tenants. In the medium term, the College will consider adapting the upper floors for accommodation for our students.

About one third of our endowment is invested in property. The College's Investment Advisory Committee consists of five alumni with significant expertise – **Nigel Wightman (PPE, 1971)**, Chair, **David Watts (Engineering Science & Economics, 1968)**, **Charles Scott (Jurisprudence, 1976)**, **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**, and **Mark Boulton (Chemistry, 1984)** – and also the Principal, Bursar and two academic Fellows. The College is very grateful for the commitment and experience of the alumni on the committee. The College is also grateful to **James Del Favero (Engineering Science, 1978)**, who helped the College secure the purchase of the building during the final stages of negotiations with a generous donation. Thank you, James.



△ L-R: Nigel Wightman (PPE, 1971), Phil Parker, the Bursar, and John Bowers QC, Principal

### 1-5 High Street: A short history

The corner building which currently houses Lloyds Bank is strikingly ornate. You get a clear view despite the crowds as it sits at the crossroads opposite Carfax Tower. A quick glance shows that 1-5 High Street is formed of two distinct buildings, both with a long history. The Georgian block making up numbers 4 and 5 was built around 1800 and has housed a succession of hatters, a couple of ironmongers, a corn merchant and, from around 1910 until the 1970s, a branch of Sainsbury's.

The more florid block on the corner (numbers 1 to 3) was originally designed by architect Stephen Salter F.R.I.B.A of Carfax with R. C. Davey. The eastern part was the first to go up, completed in 1900-1 by builders Benfield & Loxley with Mr W. H. Feldon of Oxford in charge of the stone carving.

Coincidentally, builders Benfield & Loxley were the contractors who undertook much of the recent and much-needed extension and renovation work on the BNC Greenland Library and the even more recent expansion of our Amersi Foundation lecture room (formerly Lecture Room XI).

Lloyds Bank took up occupation of numbers 2 and 3 immediately on completion in 1901, expanding around the corner to number 1 in the 1920s and into the older numbers 4 and 5 in the mid 1970s.

The *Oxford Chronicle* of 1903 noted during construction: 'The two old shops at the corner of Carfax have been removed, and two new ones, with suites of offices are roof high...The renaissance style adopted does not appear to advantage in a narrow front, but is exceedingly

effective in a block'. Pevsner, however, appeared rather less impressed: '...the NE corner, Lloyds Bank...takes some beating...and shows the consequences of seeing too much Jackson about every day. There is nowhere that motifs don't sprout, alternately blocked columns, Ipswich windows, big, steep shaped gables.' Whatever your view, we're proud to add the block to the BNC portfolio.

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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, go to [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/submissions](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/submissions) or email us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)



**Richard O'Brien (English & Modern Languages, 2008)** was named as the new Birmingham Poet Laureate during a National Poetry Day event held at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire at Birmingham City University on 4th October 2018. Richard, a lecturer in Shakespeare and Creativity at the University of Birmingham, becomes Poet Laureate for 2018-20, succeeding poet Matt Windle.

**James Forrest (Modern History, 2002)** writes: "Perhaps due to a mid-life crisis, I recently climbed all 446 mountains in England and Wales in just six months – the fastest ever time. Solo and unsupported, I walked over 1,000 miles, ascended the height of Everest over five times, and slept wild in the hills on numerous occasions. Oh, and I did it all on my days off from work. My debut book *Mountain Man*, which relives my 446-mountain journey, was published by Bloomsbury on 2nd May."



△ Susan Treggiari sitting on the chair she named in the Library\*

**Susan Treggiari (Visiting Fellow, 1976-77)** published *Servilia and her Family* (Oxford University Press) on 17th January.

**Robert Moss (Modern History, 1968)** writes:

"Finally retired in August 2018, after enjoying a new lease of life as part of the senior management team in Kanoo – a Bahraini owned conglomerate. Have thoroughly enjoyed their regional shipping and logistics business and have also been Chairman of S5 Agency World for the last 5 years. Bahrain is a great place to live and thoroughly recommended – just wish I had learned Arabic earlier."

**Sally Bates (Modern Languages, 1986):** "In May 2019, after 26 years as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language, I took up a new position as Associate Pastor at Frinton Free Church, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, with particular responsibility for the over-65s in the church and the community."

**Robert Likeman (Oriental Studies, 1960):** "I am delighted to inform you that Her Majesty the Queen awarded me the Medal of the Order of Australia in the latest Australia Day Honours list 'for service to medicine'. The award approximates to the MBE in England. The post-nominal is OAM, and it comes before my other post-nominals, CSM and FRCOG."



In October 2018, **Marston Conder (Mathematics, 1977)** was awarded the Jones Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand for lifetime achievement in the mathematical sciences. In November 2014, he was also awarded the Hector Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand for outstanding contributions to mathematics.

**Juliet Gerrard (Chemistry, 1985)** is to be made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry on 23rd July.

**Jim Ring (English, 1976)** spoke about the role of the Royal Navy in WW1 at the Oxford Literary Festival this April, following the publication of his eighth book in November, *How the Navy Won the War*.

**John Ostroff, (Educational Studies, 1966):** "I have recently retired as a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria, a State Government body. Prior to then I was employed as a senior town planner with the City of Melbourne.

I emigrated with my wife and three young sons in 1982 having worked in Lanarkshire and Hampshire in the town planning field. I was one of three who prepared the report 'The Future of New Lanark,' adopted in 1973, which led to this heritage settlement being designated a World Heritage Site.

We live in the Dandenong Hills east of Melbourne which is designated an area of high bushfire risk, so January and February over here is always a worry when the temperature reaches over 40°C. Otherwise the landscape reminds me of Devon, and includes the Puffing Billy preserved railway with one of its steam engines built in Manchester in 1926!"

**Chris Lawson (Classics, 1988)** is overjoyed to announce that he has now begun working as a trainee station porter at Kingscote and East Grinstead stations on the Bluebell railway. He believes this new post to be of far greater import than any of the others in his career.

**Stevie (Stephanie) Zimmerman née Loshak (English, 1982)** writes: "I am working as a theatre director in the Washington DC area. I recently became the Resident Director of 4615 Theatre Company, a relatively new company where I've helmed three shows and am embarking on the fourth, a production of Pinter's *Betrayal*. In 2020 I will be directing the world premiere of a play at Tony Award winning Signature Theatre. I am also the narrator of about 200 audiobooks, a career that came out of the blue a few years back. I have two grown children, 25 and 23 and am 26 years married to Chris, a music director/conductor of two regional US orchestras. I wouldn't have been able to predict a single one of these things when I arrived at Brasenose all those years ago!"

*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.*

*\*If you are interested in Library naming opportunities, please get in touch with us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk), or +44 (0)1865 287275*

## Same room, years apart

On a warm Spring day in April, **Andy Rattue (English, 1979)** – now living and working in Oxford as Principal of St. Clare's School in Summertown – returned to College to see his former room (II.2) and meet its current occupant Rosie Duthie, a third year studying Jurisprudence, and former Ellesmere Society Secretary.

Andy spoke of his memories of the room and was delighted to see it was now an en-suite – he remembered having to walk out into Old Quad to the next staircase in his dressing gown and slippers of a morning to shower; not nice when it was raining – or when tourists were around! He also commented that the room is a lot warmer these days than it was then, with proper heating. Both he and Rosie agreed it has one of the best views in Oxford; the Radcliffe Camera looming over the Quad.

The pair compared their time and experiences at Brasenose. One of the main differences between College life then and now was that in 1979 Brasenose had only been co-ed for five years, and women made up around a third of each year – now it's roughly 50:50.

Andy also spoke about his career in teaching – and that how throughout he has often run into BNCers – for example, **John "Charles" Cuddon (English, 1949)**, who sadly died in 1996) gave him his teaching job at Emanuel School in Battersea – and asked Rosie her plans for the future when she's finished

her exams (she has accepted a position as a solicitor, but delayed it for a year, having applied for an internship with the Foreign Office. She is hoping to complete her training as a lawyer and perhaps then work in the Civil Service).

Andy mentioned the merits of an Oxford education – how employers feel alumni are reliable and can be trusted to work well under pressure given the intensity of their degree. He described his life in Oxford as transformative – he met his wife here – but also a shock to the system, being the first in his family to go to university, and how he felt out of place sometimes. Rosie empathised as one of the few Scots at BNC (Andy remembers there being more in his day!).



△ Andy Rattue and Rosie Duthie in room II.2

## Brasenose in the Boat Race!

This year's Boat Race saw three Brasenose students compete.

Two of the students, **Katie Anderson (Economics & Management, 2018)** (pictured top left) and **Juliette Allen (Geography, 2016)** (pictured middle left), were in Osiris, the Women's Reserve Boat: Katie as stroke, and Juliette in the two seat.

Katie joined Brasenose having already won a gold medal for Team GB at junior level – Coupe de la Jeunesse – and naturally she joined OUWBC. Characterised by a ferocious work-ethic, it is a testament to her commitment that she was the stroke in Osiris as a Fresher.

Juliette learnt to row at Brasenose three years ago, quickly becoming the lynchpin of the Club. Her rowing ability and leadership as Captain meant she was the heart of the Club's success, and they are traits that have clearly served her well during her time with OUWBC. Pushing herself to the next level was a huge challenge and is one that Juliette has matched with her incredible drive and commitment.

Last but not least, **Toby de Mendonça (Chemistry, 2016)** (pictured bottom left), coxed the Men's Blue Boat and did a sterling job, keeping very close to Cambridge throughout and putting up an incredible fight. Toby started off as a rower, making the switch to coxing last year – going from sitting in a coxing seat for first time to coxing in the Boat Race in just over a year is an unbelievable achievement, and a testimony to his ambition and dedication.

Toby is a recipient of the David Watts Honour Bursary, funded by a generous alumnus. Writing about how the bursary has helped him in our Donor Report last year, Toby said: "To accompany the 3am late nights of Chemistry I felt I should include 6am starts into my routine and have joined Brasenose College Boat Club. Being at Oxford I couldn't really avoid it, and Michaelmas got off to a great start when I made the novice first boat. The year went on to almost bring blades at Torpids and doing well at Summer Vllls in the first boat. Without support from my bursary, I wouldn't have been able to get all of the kit, so thank you hugely for that. Next year, I become Captain of Coxes next for the Boat Club."



Congratulations to Katie, Juliette and Toby on absolutely valiant efforts; Brasenose is very proud of you all, and wishes you the very best of luck for your futures in rowing!



△ Chaplain Revd Julia Baldwin

# Chaplain Revd Julia Baldwin: Interviewed

BNC's Chaplain, Revd Julia Baldwin, joined us from Canterbury in 2017 as our first permanent female chaplain. She spoke to journalist Olivia Gordon about the transition from Church to College Chapel, and the importance of a diverse Fellowship.

Genuine warmth and kindness shine from Brasenose's Chaplain, the Reverend Julia Baldwin, who started in September 2017.

The friendly College Chaplain doesn't just lead services in the historic Chapel dating back to 1666 – she is here to offer support to any member of the College who needs it, for those of any religious faith or none. And a steady stream come to talk with Julia over tea and – when helpful – a bit of chocolate, in her large but cosy study overlooking the High, with bookshelves filled with everything from *The Bhagavad Gita* to Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*.

Julia says: 'I was really surprised when I first came – people just knock on my door, which I think is a good thing. A few times a week, maybe more, I'll have an email out of the blue, I'll have a knock at the door – just somebody wanting to talk.' The religious beliefs, if any, of the visitor, are irrelevant to Julia. 'It's a fellow human being coming through the door, and that's what's important. The Chaplain is here for everybody.'

So what do people want her support with? Anything and everything, from homesickness to bereavement to serious mental health concerns. As part of the College's welfare team, which includes

dedicated student supporters and reps, Julia speaks with people herself or connects them with the appropriate person, whether to the student support adviser, nurse, Dean, counselling service or senior tutors. The fact she is not responsible for College discipline or academia, as well as being in College over the weekends, she notes, means 'my door is an easy door to knock on for anybody.'

The first ever permanent female chaplain at Brasenose, Julia sees her role as 'a living, evolving tradition'. She's keen to listen to the College community in order to 'keep the best of the past, but make it our own – make it real for today and tomorrow'. After all, as she says, the Chapel is 'impressive and beautiful, but what's really impressive here is the community'.

Julia sensed 'the call' to her vocation as a priest at the age of 18. Her initial reaction was fear that the Church would accept her: she remembers thinking 'If they say yes, I'm stuffed, and that's it for the rest of my life.' For a time she considered whether this was her true calling, thinking: 'Is this the best way that I can be Julia? The Julia God's called me to be?' The lifelong commitment of priesthood was too much, and at 20, she pulled out of the ordination process.

Instead, having always been passionate about education, she completed her degree in English Literature at Durham, became a special needs teaching assistant, did a PGCE at Cambridge and then taught as a secondary school English and Drama teacher.



△ Julia with the Principal, John Bowers QC

## Six of Revd Julia's inspirations

### Walking

Julia has trekked across the Alpujarra mountains in Andalucia, and she's most recently been on a pilgrimage in northern Spain, from Loyola to Monserrat.

### Family and friends

'They're gracious enough to laugh at you, prick your balloon and bring you back down to earth.'

### Books

Julia reads voraciously, especially fiction. Recently she's been enjoying C.S. Lewis, *Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain, and Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. She also has a love of children's picture books and has written her own. 'I haven't quite got to the place where I'm willing to share them with a publisher,' she says. 'Maybe one day.'

### Theatre

You might equally find Julia taking in Shakespeare in Stratford, enjoying a musical, or at a ground-breaking new play at the Almeida in London.

### Baking

Julia says she loves baking, preferably something deliciously calorific.

### Pope Francis

'Meeting Papa Francesco is one of those encounters I will never forget. I got a sense – here is a man who has spent an enormous amount of time in the presence of God, and being with him was really humbling – I felt I was in the presence of sheer mercy.'

Julia loved teaching, but 'that niggly from God didn't go away' and eventually she thought: 'OK, Jesus.'

Starting the ordination process again, she was accepted by the Church of England, then went to 'vicar school' at Ripon College, in the Oxfordshire village of Cuddesdon. This involved a degree in Theology at Oxford. After an "apprenticeship" as a curate in the rural parts of Canterbury diocese, where she grew up, Julia was appointed as Chaplain to the Bishop of Dover and local Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, eventually working in the diocese as the Archbishop's interim Chaplain at Lambeth. While at Lambeth in 2016, an email pinged into her inbox from Brasenose asking if she would consider applying to be the College Chaplain. Brasenose was especially keen to interview women for the role.

The deadline was the next day and although she hadn't been looking for a new post, Julia jumped at the opportunity. The attraction, she says, was 'pastoral ministry'. She remembers being a student herself and the fertile, 'life-changing' conversations she had with Fellows and Chaplains, and this was her inspiration for 'walking alongside students at such a critical time in their lives, when they're really beginning to flourish as adults and finding out who they are.'

Female chaplains are increasingly common at Oxford. What does a female chaplain bring to the role? 'Really the question is: what can a diverse Fellowship and welfare team bring to the College?' responds Julia. 'I think diversity is good news for everyone, not just women. It's healthy for the Fellowship and our welfare team that we've got a mixture of men and women, different people with different expertise and life experiences, so there is always somebody that someone might feel akin to, to go and talk to – but we need to continue to strive for wider diversity in all areas.'

Revd Julia leads morning and evening prayer daily in Brasenose Chapel, as well as preaching on a regular basis. 'I rarely find that I am alone at morning or evening prayer, which is lovely – the dedication of students to their faiths across the College is impressive,' she says. Often students lead services with her: 'The more students want to take a lead, experiment and run with new ideas, the better.' The most popular services are ones rich in music: Sunday night College prayers and the Tuesday Eucharists – as well, of course, as special services where the choir, organ scholars and musicians showcase their talents. At the carol service and Oxmas nearly midnight mass, the Chaplain leads the College's celebration of Christmas in November, which is 'a bit like being in another time zone!' Julia adds: 'We're also experimenting with forms of meditation, prayer and stillness to see if that's a gift we can offer to the wider Brasenose community.'

Brasenose is characterised by being 'absolutely 100 per cent friendly and outward looking,' Julia has found. 'I've found the welcome overwhelmingly warm. And it's not at all pretentious, which is really refreshing and right. It's how it should be.'

# From the Archives

2019 marks 55 years since The Beatles visited Brasenose College. The Fab Four came to Brasenose on 5th March 1964 for a short time, at the climax of a fundraising appeal by the charity Oxfam. College Archivist **Georgie Edwards** reports, with thanks to Schools Officer, **Dr Joe Organ**, for his input.



1964 was a period of frenetic activity for The Beatles. Shortly after their visit to Brasenose, they embarked on their first world tour, including shows at exotic locations such as Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Adelaide, Auckland and, most glamorously, Blackpool. Just before coming to the College, they had visited America for the first time. With Beatlemania gripping the United States, they were greeted at John F Kennedy airport, New York, by thousands of screaming fans, and later played the Ed Sullivan show, with 73 million viewers watching (still considered the largest number of viewers for an American TV show). Musically, the band were in a prolific phase too; their second album *With The Beatles* had just been released, and a *Hard Day's Night* album was just around the corner. During the days either side of their visit, the band were filming for the *Hard Day's Night* movie.

On 21st June, 2016, Principal John Bowers QC reflected on re-creating the 1964 photo of the band's visit to Brasenose, with actors from the *Let It Be* musical, then touring in Oxford:

"The real Beatles came to our Lodgings just before going on one of their seminal tours to the USA. They were received by the Principal, Sir Noel Hall, who by repute had no idea who they were. There is just a grainy black and white photo remaining. It turns out that the furniture is still arranged in much the same way today. Thus it was possible to recreate the famous photograph with "The Beatles" who are the stars of the musical *Let it Be*, which was playing at the New Theatre. This time the Principal did know who The Beatles were. It was Lord Archer who brought the group to the College in 1963, as he had been organising a concert for Oxfam with them, but alas he was not available for the recreation.

*Unfortunately the archive retains no further documentation of this visit. The Archivists would love to hear from any members who remember the occasion and would be willing to share their memories. Please contact us at [archives@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:archives@bnc.ox.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1865 277 826.*



△ **Sir Noel Hall (eminent economist and Principal of Brasenose 1960-1973) and David Stockton (Fellow in Ancient History 1954-1993)**, chatting to the group, along with author and former politician, **Lord Jeffrey Archer (Educational Studies, 1963)**, who arranged the visit.



△ The recreation of the picture with Principal John Bowers QC with the stars of the *Let it Be* musical, taken on 21st June, 2016.

# 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)

## November 2018

On 5th November a packed crowd in the Medieval Kitchen was treated to a virtuoso performance by Sir David Butler, interviewed by Michael Crick of Channel 4 News. Michael has recently produced an excellent book about David, entitled *Sultan of Swing*, covering David's role as a TV pundit; the person who introduced the idea of the swing (and the swingometer) to British politics and a man who knew everyone who was anyone on the political scene for decades. David is now 94 and has been an active student of the political scene since he came to New College in 1943.

It is not generally known that David was Politics Tutor for eight years (1956-64) at Brasenose, and he clearly retains great affection for the College.

The following day, we welcomed **Sir Julian Brazier (Mathematics & Philosophy, 1972)** to the PPE Society. He was Conservative MP for Canterbury from 1987 until the last General Election in 2017. He spoke about Brexit, which he saw as a great opportunity for the UK. He explained his own journey from voting for the Maastricht Treaty to moving to Brexit, and pointed to the single currency as a major problem. He recounted that there was no group of disparate countries with a single currency that had worked. As to the economic effects of Brexit, he pointed out that unemployment was at a very low rate and many companies were opening or expanding in the UK. He said that the outflow of £350m a week to the EU, which was on the side of the Brexit Campaign Bus, was nearer the truth than people imagined.

We were very lucky to be addressed by Lord Briggs at the annual Ellesmere Law dinner on 10th November. Michael Briggs was one of the most outstanding Chancery barristers of his generation and an excellent High Court and Court of Appeal Judge. He has been in the Supreme Court for about a year and conducted an important review of civil justice. In a wide ranging address he spoke of how digitisation and AI may affect the courts, and warned that as Sir Nigel Shadbolt (my Fellow Head of House at Jesus College) had predicted "one cannot put the digital genie back in the bottle", nor could one simplistically state that robots would do the hard work leaving judges to make the judgments.

On 11th November, the one-hundredth anniversary of the Armistice, a moving ceremony of Remembrance was held in the Chapel. A small exhibition about the Great War had been organised by the Chaplain, and she drew out two names to focus upon, Antony Strode Jackson, a Brasenose undergraduate who won gold in the 1500 metres at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, and Bob Brandt, a former tutor of Classics. Jackson won no fewer than four DSOs, and by 1918 he was the youngest Brigadier General in the British Army. Seriously wounded, though, he never ran again. Brandt was killed at Ypres in July 1915. The names of all the Brasenose dead in the War were recited, year by year, and it seemed an impossibly long list.

**David Cameron (PPE, 1985)** visited College on 23rd November, as widely reported in the press (despite it being a private event!). He gave a stimulating talk to our PPE students, answered questions and was very well received by our students.

Our excellent Stanford Visiting Academic, Professor Charles Kolstad, organised a trip on 21st November to meet with **Claire Perry MP (Geography, 1982)**, an alumna and now Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, about her climate change policies.

On Tuesday, 27th November we hosted Oxmas drinks for Young Alumni at the White Horse pub near Liverpool Street in London. Around 30 alumni came, and it was a wonderful evening and opportunity for those that graduated 15 years ago or less to catch up with their friends and the goings on of the College. It was the second event we've hosted for young alumni, and we'll be doing another next year. There is even a Facebook group for our Young Alumni at this link: <http://bit.ly/BNCyoungalumni>.

I am delighted to report that the Greenland Library, funded by our generous alumni donors **Duncan Greenland (PPE, 1966)**, **James Del Favero (Engineering Science, 1978)** and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**, was awarded a certificate at the Oxford Preservation Trust annual awards, in the category of "large building conservation"; it is indeed a

magnificent building, expertly reconstructed, and congratulations are due to the whole team who worked on it.

## December 2018

It was good to have an opportunity to say goodbye to Lynda Barratt who has been with College since May 1989 and has always worked in the SCR. She at one stage gained a reputation for setting off the fire alarm when cooking toast for High Table! She has been a great employee of College and most of her family work or have worked in Oxford colleges. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

I was delighted to note that we had **Ben Parker (Second Year, Biological Sciences)** as prop in the Male Blues rugby team at this year's Varsity Matches on 7th December, and **Hatty Wigginton (Third Year, Geography)** in the women's game.

I think our *University Challenge* alumni team battled in the face of very difficult questions from Jeremy Paxman in a Christmas special on 24th December. The team comprised **Kate Bliss (English, 1993)**, **Andrea Brand (Biochemistry, 1977)**, **Tim Harford (PPE, 1992)** and captain **Jessie Burton (English & Modern Languages, 2000)**.



△ Our alumni team on *University Challenge*, aired on Christmas Eve 2018

# January 2019

Congratulations to members of the College community who were honoured in the New Year's Honours List 2019. **Michael Palin (Modern History, 1962)** received a knighthood for services to travel, culture and geography; **Tim Harford (PPE, 1992)** was honoured with an OBE for services to improving economic understanding; and **Peter Acheson (Modern History, 1957)** gained the MBE for services to the voluntary and community sector.

I am keen to meet alumni in all parts of the UK. We have so far visited Edinburgh and Manchester for College events, and on 9th January it was the turn of Newcastle. We got a very warm welcome as is to be expected in the North East, with sixteen alumni attending a dinner at the excellent Café 21. They were of all ages and the conversation was terrific. Many had come from miles away.



△ Alumni Dinner in Newcastle

I doubt whether many in the 130 strong audience will forget in a hurry the Principal's Conversation I had on 21st January with **Mark Williams (English, 1978)** in the Oxford Martin School. Mark will be better known to most people (especially the young) as Arthur Weasley in the *Harry Potter* films. Almost as well-known are his roles in *The Fast*



*Show* and *Father Brown*, and maybe even his earlier work with the National Theatre and the RSC. We nabbed him as he was in Oxford to perform the lead role in a new adaptation of *Doctor Doolittle*. He was described by one questioner as a "national treasure" and he is certainly one of our Brasenose treasures, having been our JCR President and having kept in touch with the College over the years as he gained stardom. He offered a brilliant address about the need for aspiration, as he described how his career had been marked by serendipity. It was a great evening. Mark only wanted as "recompense" a chance to row, so he started the day on the river with our crew at 6.30am!

On 29th January, the HCR hosted **Gordon Orr (Engineering Science, 1981)** for a careers talk followed by a Q&A. Gordon is a Senior Advisor to McKinsey and a Board Member of Lenovo and Swire Pacific. In addition, he works with the CEOs of several of China's globalising companies; is an advisor to Oxford University and Harvard Business School in Asia; and is a Board Member of the China Britain Business Council. Gordon shared his memories at Brasenose, including being a cox for the Brasenose rowing team, and how the College has changed over the years. Gordon was also extended an invitation to come for a session at the Boat Club, one he gladly accepted.

The evening of 29th January also saw the launch of Brasenose's Women's 1974 Network at the Weiss Gallery in St James's, London – thank you to **Florence Evans (English, 1998)**, Curator at the Gallery, who generously offered us the beautiful space. Following the success of the celebrations to mark 40 years of women undergraduates at Brasenose in 2014, and the Brasenose women's lunch in 2017, we were pleased to launch the new group in order to share ideas, hear inspiring speakers and meet friends new and old. The evening was a resounding success and saw a packed room full of interesting, inspiring discussion and ideas. There was a short introduction from the network's founders, **Jane Johnson (English, 1987)** and **Amanda Holland (PPE, 1988)**, about the launch of the group and plans for its future. Thanks must also go to **Geraldine Brodie (English, 1976)**, whose generosity brought the launch to life. We look forward to the next event soon.



△ The Launch of the Women's 1974 Network at the Weiss Gallery in London

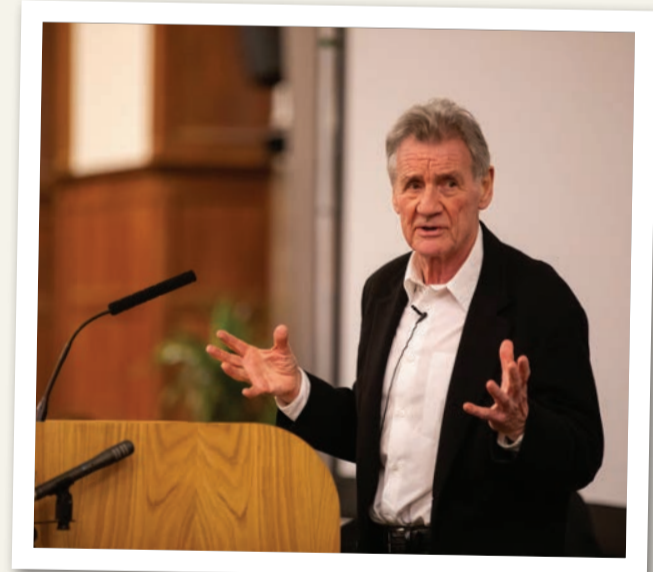
◁ Mark Williams with the College's Boat Club following an early morning row

Congratulations to **Judge Alan Conrad (Jurisprudence, 1972)** for moving as a Judge to his native Manchester. I was also delighted to see in the Queen's Counsel lists our alumni **James Bailey (Jurisprudence, 1993)**, **Richard Chapman (Jurisprudence, 1994)** and **Professor Richard Fentiman (Jurisprudence, 1977)**. I know the latter (who gained it as an Honorary QC) from my university days (although I was at a different college!) and he has just finished a distinguished term as head of the Cambridge University Law Department.

# February 2019

We are delighted that Brasenose occasionally provides a marriage service along with its other facilities. This year we will celebrate in Chapel the weddings of two couples that met at Brasenose. First up are **William Bunce (Classics with Oriental Studies)**, still here in his final year, and **Megan Burnside (History, 2014)**, now on a year's internship at St Albans Cathedral. She was Bible Clerk in 2015-16; William was Bible Clerk 2016-17. Secondly, **Philippa Collins (Jurisprudence, 2015)** who is now a lecturer in Law at Exeter University, will marry **Joshua Denton (Educational Studies, 2016)**, and now teaching in a primary school in Exeter.

On 6th February we were very privileged to be addressed by Brasenose alumnus and Honorary Fellow, **Sir Michael Palin (Modern History, 1962)**. The South Examination School was packed with over 400 members of the Brasenose Community – Fellows, staff, students and alumni – from the young to the old. I introduced him as a national and Brasenose treasure.



△ Sir Michael Palin: *Life and Times* at the Examination Schools on 6th February

He spoke of his extraordinary career commencing at the Oxford University Psychology Society Christmas party where he co-wrote a show with **Robert Hewison (Modern History, 1962)**. He said that his love of history and geography suffused his career. His wide-ranging talk covered his early teachers who inspired him, his love of comedy, his recent book *Erebus: The Story of a Ship* and his documentary on North Korea. He recalled

meeting Terry Jones at St Edmund Hall, his first visit to the Edinburgh Festival, the difficulty the Monty Python team had in funding their films and the controversy about the film *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (which was considered to be blasphemous by some). He joined a small group for dinner afterwards, and few will forget a fantastic evening.

On 20th February there was a packed room at the Apple Tree pub in Mount Pleasant, London for the second gathering of the Brasenose LGBTQ+ alumni network. We were hosted by the pub's owner, alumna **Lucy Fenton (PPE, 1994)** and treated to a fascinating address by alumnus **Gary Powell (Philosophy & Modern Languages, 1982)** about the history of gay rights and his treatment over the years. It was also great that Gary's contemporary at Brasenose, Energy Minister **Claire Perry MP (Geography, 1982)**, was able to attend the event. The full text of Gary's speech will be published in the 2018-19 edition of the *Brazen Nose*.



△ Gary Powell giving his talk at the LGBTQ+ alumni event.

On 21st February, **Professor Alan Bowman**, my immediate predecessor as Principal, spoke at a Breakfast with Brasenose event at Rawlinson & Hunter in Fetter Lane, kindly hosted by **David Barker (Classics, 1979)**. Alan spoke of his time as a Tutor, Camden Professor of Ancient History, and Principal. He saw the general principle operating in Oxford to be "do what you want until someone tells you otherwise". He saw the tutorial as the jewel in the crown of Oxford.



△ Former Principal and Emeritus Fellow, Professor Alan Bowman, speaks at Breakfast with Brasenose

## March 2019

I am delighted to say the men's boat got blades at Torpids this year, and the women's boat did well too.

Shrove Tuesday as usual was the date of our boisterous Ale Verses, where groups of students compete for best song. The winner this year was a feisty song about the problems older students have with noisy freshers who do not know the rules. It was to the tune of *Pack Up* by Eliza Doolittle (with which I am ashamed to say I was not familiar!). The refrain was:

*"So shut up you freshers  
With your late night noise  
Because some of us are trying to sleep  
You don't care what the porters might say"*

As usual it was a very special event in our calendar with the usual terrific ingenuity on show. I warmly congratulate the winners who were Katie Sayer, Amy Small, Natalie Carter and Hatty Wigginton (all third years).

The Oxford Foundry and Brasenose College are both very grateful for the generosity and support of Mohamed Amersi (EMBA, 2014) and the Amersi Foundation. We held a wonderful lunch with Mohamed on 6th March which brought together representatives of Durham University (including their Vice-Chancellor, Stuart Corbridge) and representatives of the Saïd Business School, the Oxford Internet Institute and the Blavatnik School of Government. Durham is considering a similar scheme to the Oxford Foundry.

We were very honoured to have **Malcolm Turnbull (Jurisprudence, 1978)**, Prime Minister of Australia between 2015-2018, stay in College between

7th and 9th March. We bestowed an Honorary Fellowship upon him at the Betty Morley Dinner on the 9th March. It was great also to welcome his wife Lucy, who is Chair of the Greater Sydney Commission.

Malcolm addressed a lunch for students and Fellows, in addition to a well-attended Principal's Conversation at the Oxford Martin School on 7th March. He covered a wide range of topics, including his time at Brasenose. Before the College, he had attended Sydney Grammar School which has a long connection with Brasenose, sharing the same colour tie – and the school even has a replica of the Brazen Nose still displayed.



△ Honorary Fellow Malcolm Turnbull at his Principal's Conversation

He gained a BCL at the College as a Rhodes Scholar (1978-80), but was already working for the *Sunday Times* in London. He then practiced as a lawyer in Sydney before going into business and then politics as MP for Wentworth between 2004 and 2018. As a young lawyer he won the famous *Spycatcher* victory over the UK Government in 1986, which led to the phrase with which we are still familiar, "economical with the truth", the euphemism he wrung out of Sir Robert Armstrong – then the UK Cabinet Secretary – in a highly effective cross examination.



△ L-R: Lucy Turnbull, Malcolm Turnbull, Suzanne Franks, John, Duncan Greenland and Barbara Greenland at the Honorary Fellowship Ceremony.



At the Betty Morley Dinner we also welcomed **Duncan Greenland (PPE, 1966)** as an Honorary Fellow. He made our library renovation and extension possible. Duncan chose to name our College Library after his late brother, Jeremy, who also studied at Brasenose both as an undergraduate and a graduate student. The Greenland Library is the new jewel in the crown of our estate, and we are delighted that Duncan has been elected an Honorary Fellow. We look forward to seeing him around College often.

We had a terrific whistle-stop tour round Asia from 18th to 27th March, based around the Meeting Minds in Tokyo event organised by the University's Alumni Office. Some 500 Asian alumni including ten from Brasenose attended. There were fascinating presentations, and speakers included a range of alumni such as the Governor of the Tokyo prefecture and Governor of the Bank of Japan, along with Oxford's Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. Suzanne and I had not visited Japan properly (having flown in and out in one day before), and it was wonderful being there at the start of Cherry Blossom season.

Round the fringes of the conference we held one-to-one meetings with seven alumni and held a reception for around fifteen alumni and friends. It was strange bumping into so many Oxford folk in the Hotel Okura in Central Tokyo.



△ The BNC alumni reception in Tokyo

Our tour started in Hong Kong, which we visit each year, and where we always have a great reception from our dedicated alumni network. This year we held our reception for some thirty BNC alumni at the Hong Kong Football Club, which is part of the sprawling complex of the Jockey Club of Hong Kong. We were able to watch racing through the window of the reception. We wish to thank **David Powell (EMBA, 2015)** for his generous donation of the room and reception, especially since he was not able to attend his own party because of flu. It was great to see there **Sidd Shrikanth (Biological Sciences, 2013)** who was JCR President in my first year as Principal, and is now a *Financial Times* correspondent in Hong Kong. We were also able to gain much political and other wisdom from our alumnus and Honorary Fellow **Sir David Akers Jones (English, 1949)**, former Interim Governor of Hong Kong, in particular. As usual, the alumni we met were a mixture of native Chinese and those visiting for a few years, which gives greater diversity of view.

Shanghai was the greatest single revelation of the trip. Suzanne and I had last visited China long ago in 1980 (before the opening to the West, when there were few cars to be seen and most people wore Mao suits). Nothing prepared us for the vibrancy and sheer enthusiasm in the city. It is like Hong Kong or New York in that it is a city which never appears to sleep. There are light shows on most of the tall buildings, and in every direction an enormous number of skyscrapers. We were lucky enough to be taken on a boat trip down the Huangpu River (a major tributary of the Yangtze) by alumnus **Yi Nan (Engineering Science, 2011)**.

We really love meeting on these trips alumni at all stages of their career, and from all parts of the world. It is a great pleasure to be able to thank College donors, resident in cities far away from Oxford, for all that they do to make Brasenose the marvellous institution it is. Brasenose really has a vibrant community with great affection for and commitment to the College everywhere we go. It is truly heart-warming.

## April 2019

Our trip to the USA (Suzanne, Development Director Dr Liz Miller, and myself) was hectic and, as always, very satisfying. We started the visit in Naples, Florida, staying in a beautiful house of alumnus **Shan Nair (Physics, 1969)**, who also kindly hosted a dinner for us. There the transport was mainly by boat. For this part of the visit we were accompanied by **Professor Russell Foster, Fellow in Circadian Neuroscience**. One alumnus drove two and a half hours to meet us.

We met upwards of 120 alumni in New York, including a truly great party at the Harmonie Club near Central Park, attended by 85. They were young and old from all sorts of professions, who had great nostalgia for College. The party was sponsored through the generosity of **Marty Gross (PPE, 1972)**. A measure of its success was that alumni were still present ninety minutes after the party was due to end (and the Club staff eventually turned the lights off)!

We were also delighted to be entertained in New York, along with other alumni on consecutive



◁ John (centre) with the alumni and student cyclists, about to ride from Brasenose to Brussels.



△ The BNC alumni reception in New York

evenings, by **Hugh Hildesley (Jurisprudence, 1960)**, Vice President of Sotheby's New York, and **Clifford Press (English, 1972)**. We also met many alumni one-to-one.

On 17th April, **Sir Paul Silk (Classics, 1970)**, President of the Brasenose Society, and I co-hosted a lively dinner of ten alumni in Cardiff at the excellent Chapel restaurant. This is part of our round Britain alumni tour (not by cycle!). Next up are Leeds and Birmingham in early September (*ed: please see dates on the back page of this issue*). Please spread the word.



△ The alumni dinner in Cardiff

On 26th April, I was delighted to see off from Radcliffe Square a group of cyclists led by **Simon Godwin (Physics, 1987)** who were cycling for Diabetes UK, whose Chief Executive (also cycling) is **Chris Askew (Classics, 1985)**. In addition to them, other alumni from 1985 to 1987 matriculations joined them in College overnight: **David Horner (Physics, 1987)**, **Angus Palmer (Engineering Science, 1985)** and **Tim Whittaker (Chemistry, 1986)**. **Susannah Stobart (Physiological Sciences, 1984)** joined the next morning. They were accompanied on the ride to Brussels by four current students. Simon himself is in the middle of a two-year bike ride to the South of Italy.

# May 2019

On May Day we had an excellent visit from **Jock Miller (PPE, 1970)**, the CEO of Melrose plc. He gave a masterclass for Economics & Management students, and then stayed for dinner. He started with a wide-ranging account of his varied career, which included spells as an accountant and then working for Lord Hanson before setting up two extraordinarily successful buyout funds, Wassall and then Melrose. He concentrated on the recent contested takeover bid for GKN which he predicted might be the last ever contested takeover. The philosophy of Melrose is “buy, improve, sell”, and he detailed how the company goes about this.

On 7th May, we held the ‘soft’ opening of the Amersi Foundation Lecture Room, the culmination of a year of hard work by excellent craftsmen ably project-managed under the auspices of our Bursar and Domestic Bursar. We record the generosity of **Mohamed Amersi (EMBA, 2014)**, our donor. The room has excellent audio-visual effects and will provide a versatile space for Governing Body meetings, lectures, events and plays. We are very proud of it. Besides some forty internal Fellows and staff, there were representatives of the architects and builders present. We will hold a formal opening next year.

On the same day, the first event of the Amersi Foundation Room was a Principal’s Conversation with **Baroness Camilla Cavendish (PPE, 1986)**. She described her varied career as aid worker, McKinsey management consultant, journalist and politician. She spoke about meeting David Cameron at Brasenose and her views on the present political class (negative) and Brexit. We then discussed her remarkable new book, *Extra Time*. This deals mainly with the greater time people will have post retirement, and rapidly changing demography and how those extra years can be well used. **Professor Peter Sinclair**, one of Camilla’s tutors, was in the audience of around fifty.

On 11th May, I attended with some 1100 others the first part of the magnificent College Ball, and presided at the dinner. The theme was “Electric Dreams” which was (according to the blurb) all about “embracing your confusion and exploring the electric possibilities of your sub-conscious”. It is not often you open your bedroom door and find a helter skelter just outside the window – it took me



△ The Brasenose Ball on 11th May

back to growing up by the seaside in Cleethorpes, where there is a funfair on the beach. The Ball revellers enjoyed two bands playing, lots of street food, three bars, a magician, jugglers and Willy Wonka’s sweet room. Lecture Room VII was turned into a giant ball pool, and guests were entertained by such acts as “Artwork” and Abba Gold.

On 14th May, alumna **Gill Hornby (Modern History, 1978)** joined me for a Principal’s Conversation. The main theme was her forthcoming book, *Miss Austen*, on the relationship between Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra. Gill also shared with the audience the key elements of her career which has taken in TV, reviewing, and now novels. She also described the process of researching and writing her books. This event was part of Arts Week, which is always an excellent and varied festival, with three or four events each day during the seven days.



△ Gill Hornby at a recent College event

Life is never dull here at Brasenose. I was just settling down to some reading on the Friday afternoon of 17th May when a message came through that **Niall Robinson (Physics, 1981)**, who recently entertained us in Monaco, was in Oxford. He had not intended to be, but was collecting a vintage Rolls Royce in North Wales which broke down in Oxford. Our Development Director Dr Liz Miller rushed in to help Niall navigate road repair operators, who eventually said the Rolls Royce was ready(ish) and Suzanne and I had a spin round Radcliffe Square in it, which was certainly a first for me, and very enjoyable in the sunshine. Niall came to Brasenose from Barton Peveril, a state sixth form college, and was amongst the first of our state school “conditional offer” holders back in 1981. Niall says he was the first pupil from his school to get into Oxford.

On 20th May, our alumnus **Paul Pester (Engineering Science, 1985)** addressed some of our Economics & Management, PPE and MBA students. He is the former Chief Executive of TSB plc and served previously at McKinsey and Virgin Money, Santander and Lloyds Banking Group. He talked about his career, which had taken him from a DPhil in Physics to management consultancy and banking. He gave great advice to the students that what he was looking for in candidates for employment was ability, resilience and communication skills. He also spoke about the agony of being taken apart by the Treasury Select Committee over their computer breakdown which became a media storm. It was a real masterclass, and it was great to welcome him back to Brasenose after a thirty-year absence.

On 21st May, we were proud to hold the third Biennial Brasenose Undergraduate Access Symposium, in memory of our alumna **Heather McKissack née Ray MBE (Educational Studies, 1975)**, who sadly passed away last year. The subject was “Access to Higher Education at Oxford and Other Places”, and we could not have attracted a better speaker line-up.

The first speaker, **Dr Cappy Hill (PPE, 1976)** is President Emerita of Vassar College and currently Managing Director of Ithaca S&R New York, an organisation which manages over 120 selective colleges and universities which have made a commitment to admit and graduate 50,000 more low income students by 2025. She spoke about dealing with the effect of income inequality in the USA, and the challenges to affirmative action programmes which might succeed in the US Supreme Court.



△ Cappy Hill speaking at the Undergraduate Access Symposium

Dr Sam Lucy is Director of Admissions for the Colleges at the University of Cambridge. She emphasised “red lines” in admissions, in particular that students should not be taken just to make metrics look better. She mentioned the differences in procedures between Oxford and Cambridge and stressed that the hostility of the domestic media (relative to overseas coverage) was a continuing challenge.

Ms Naomi Kellman is Senior Manager for Schools and Universities at Rare Recruitment. She co-founded Target Oxbridge (with which we at Brasenose work) and is Co-Chair of Oxford’s Black Alumni Network. She described the development and success of Target Oxbridge through excellent power points, and emphasised the need to make students from all cultures feel welcome.

Dr Jo-Anne Baird, Head of the University’s Education Department, responded to the three presentations and skilfully pulled the themes of the different contributions together. There was then a lively Q&A session afterwards.

Also on the same day, **Ed Davey (Modern Languages, 2000)** spoke to our PPE Society about his new book *Given Half a Chance: Ten Ways to Save the World*, which is about policy solutions to environmental problems. Ed now works for the environmental think tank World Resources Institute, but used to write speeches for the Prince of Wales on sustainability.

I am delighted to announce that our **Professor Elspeth Garman, Fellow in Macromolecular Crystallography** will receive an Honorary DSc at the University of Durham, of which she is an alumna, on 3rd July. We wish her many congratulations.

# 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)



△ We welcomed matriculands from 1960-62 back to College for a lively Gaudy on 15th March.



△ On 10th May, we celebrated 60 years and more since Brasenose with those that matriculated in 1959 and before.



△ We celebrated five decades since Brasenose with those that matriculated between 1960-1969 on a wonderful afternoon in April.



◁ On 4th June, BNC Society President **Sir Paul Silk (Classics, 1970)** hosted the Society's annual Summer Party, this year at the Charterhouse. Many thanks to our two alumni-in-residence there, **Dudley Green (Classics, 1954)** and **Stephen Green (Classics, 1962)**, for their tour beforehand.

# Save the Date

## Forthcoming Events in 2019

### Brasenose Garden Party

Sunday 4th August, 2.30pm, College  
£15 adults, £10 children

### Women's 1974 Network Drinks

Tuesday 6th August, 6.30pm  
The Apple Tree Pub, 45 Mount Pleasant,  
London, WC1X 0AE  
Free, includes a welcome drink

### Medical Alumni Dinner

Saturday 10th August, 7.00pm, College  
£60 for dinner (£45 for or Junior Doctors and/or 2018/2019 graduates), £35 for accommodation (£25 for Junior Doctors and/or 2018/2019 graduates) subject to limited availability

### BNC Dinner in Leeds

Wednesday 4th September, 7.00pm  
Crafthouse, Level 5 Trinity Leeds, 70 Boar Lane,  
Leeds LS1 6HW  
Pay your own way, email  
[development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) to register.

### BNC Dinner in Birmingham

Thursday 5th September, 7.00pm  
Aluna, 128-130 The Mailbox, Wharfedale Street,  
Birmingham, B1 1RQ  
Pay your own way, email  
[development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) to register.

### Media Networking & Panel Discussion

Wednesday 11th September, 6.30pm  
Deloitte, 2 New St Square, Holborn, London EC4A 3BZ  
Free, for those working in the media industry

### Gaudy for 2012-2013

Friday 13th September, 6.00pm, College  
Free, £35 for accommodation for the night

### Brasenose Society Annual Alumni Dinner

Saturday 21st September, 6.00pm, College  
£50 dinner, £35 accommodation, guests welcome

### BNC Dinner in Belfast

Wednesday 25 September, 7.00pm  
Deanes at Queens, 1 College Gardens, Belfast BT9 6BQ  
Pay your own way, email  
[development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) to register.

### BNCBC Alumni Dinner

Saturday 19th October, 7.00pm, College  
£50, guests welcome

### Dr Bernard Richards' English Reunion Day

Saturday 9th November, 11.00am, College  
£35 per person

### Annual Equality Lecture - Sarah Jackson OBE (Classics, 1977): "Work, Family and the Economy: the Gender Equality Revolution"

Wednesday 13th November, 5.30pm, College  
Free

### Ellesmere Society Dinner for alumni of Law

Saturday 16th November, 7.00pm, College  
Guest speaker: Lord Philip Sales, Justice of the Supreme Court  
Save the date – prices and booking details TBC

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.

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 alumni are welcome to attend with guests for free (there is a cash bar). 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 remaining dates for 2019 are:

- Tuesday 1st October
- Tuesday 5th November
- Tuesday 10th 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  $n$  be a non-negative integer. Calculate the sum

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} k^2$$

**And the answer is...** Issue 26's answer was:

Let  $f(t) = (t-11)(t+1)(t+7) + 320$ .

Then  $f(t) = t^3 - 3t^2 + 81t + 243 = (t-9)(t-3)(t+9)$ .

Therefore  $989 \times 1001 \times 1007 + 320 = f(1000) = 991 \times 997 \times 1009$  is not prime.

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

### Call for 1970s photos of College

We are very short of photos of this era from College, and would be grateful for any you could send to us via email: [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)