

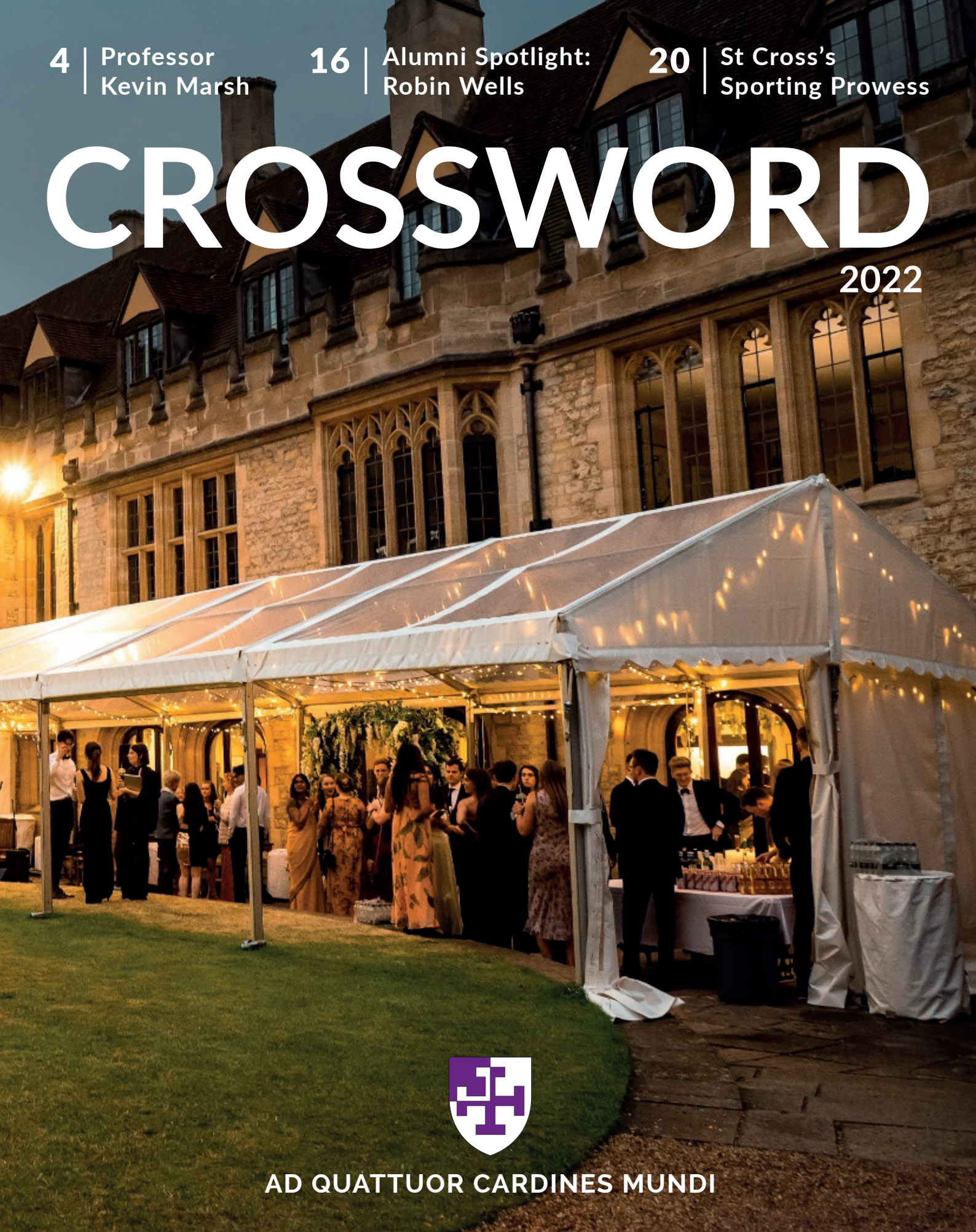
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CROSSWORD

2022



AD QUATTUOR CARDINES MUNDI



ST CROSS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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A FAREWELL AND AN INTRODUCTION

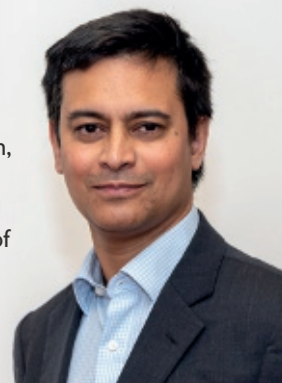


Welcome to the 2022 issue of Crossword magazine. As I write this, I am in my last few days as Master of St Cross. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to serve as Master of St Cross, and I have worked to do justice to the legacy of previous Masters and help the College continue to move forward with confidence and ambition. I wish to thank the Fellows, Members of Common Room, staff, students, alumni and friends for all their hard work in making St Cross one of the best graduate colleges at the University. The vast majority of our alumni and students come from overseas – a diverse and interesting community of which I have enjoyed being a part of, and enriched for having met so many of you, at St Cross and around the globe. I look forward to hearing of the College's continued successes in the coming years.

Carole Souter CBE, Master of St Cross, 2016-2022

It is a great privilege to succeed Carole as Master of St Cross, if only in an interim position. Vice Master, Kevin Marsh, and a committee of Governing Body Fellows will coordinate the process of identifying a new Master whom we intend to appoint by summer 2023. Until then, it is an honour to be able to provide leadership for the College during a period of transition and I look forward to conversation and cooperation with our community of students, staff, associates, and Fellows.

**Professor Rana Mitter OBE FBA,
Interim Master of St Cross**



MOURNING HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The death of Queen Elizabeth in September saddened the United Kingdom and Commonwealth. The University of Oxford has a long history of links with the British Royal Family and The Queen, and during the period of mourning, the collegiate University paid tribute to The Queen via a Book of Condolence and a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. It and more information about Oxford's relationship to The Queen can be found at the University's website.



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Professor KEVIN MARSH

BY EIMEAR RYAN

Professor Kevin Marsh, Vice-Master of St Cross, stepped into the role in January 2021 – a time when vaccination was just beginning and many Covid measures were still in place. It was, he admits, a turbulent time to take up a new position, with many of his initial meetings taking place on Zoom rather than in person.

‘It was a role I was very much looking forward to when I was asked to do it, because it gave me a chance to get much more deeply involved in College life,’ he says. ‘But it was strange because normally you’d expect to meet everyone in person – both colleagues and students – and that just wasn’t possible at the time. So that did make it very unusual – but I guess everybody was having unusual times anyway, so I can hardly complain about that.’

A Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford and a senior advisor at the Africa Academy of Sciences, Professor Marsh has had a storied career, both at Oxford and in Africa, where he spent 25 years of his career: first in The Gambia for a training period of three years, and then subsequently in Kenya. From an early stage, his research was focused on the immunology of malaria, a subject he had become fascinated with while studying medicine at the University of Liverpool. What was it about tropical medicine, and malaria specifically, that intrigued him?

‘I should caveat this by saying that I’m always a bit sceptical of people’s explanations of their careers in retrospect,’ he says, ‘because we all tend to make a consistent narrative that makes sense. I’m not sure it’s quite so organised and rational as we sometimes make it appear. My experience is that most things are a happy accident. We tend to move from opportunity to opportunity and hopefully make the right choice.’

Tropical medicine attracted him in part because it seemed so different to the other paths open to him. ‘To be absolutely honest, I didn’t know what I wanted to do when I qualified in medicine, but I knew what I didn’t want to do. It might sound a little bit pretentious to say this, but I just didn’t want to be bored. It isn’t that medicine’s boring, of course not; it’s really interesting, with many important roles. But when I looked at the path forward, it did seem to involve a lot of training and then getting a consultant job and then spending the rest of your life doing that. And I think at that stage, I wasn’t ready to do that.’



Professor Kevin Marsh, Vice-Master of St Cross College

Paired with this spirit of adventure was the fact that he had always been very interested in international politics and development. It also helped that Liverpool had a famous School of Tropical Medicine, with an inspiring lecturer in Ian McGregor, who Professor Marsh describes as the British doyen at that time on immunity to malaria.

‘For whatever reason, by the end of his third lecture, I had decided that was definitely what I wanted to do,’ he says. ‘So I became fascinated with malaria and understanding how people became immune to it. I also loved the exposure to so many different aspects of health, both the social and the biological. And from then on, that really defined my career.’

In 1989, he established with colleagues a series of research projects on malaria on the Kenyan coast, which soon evolved into the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, an organisation of some 800 staff working on all aspects of health in east Africa. Professor Marsh served as KEMRI’s director until August 2014, when he became a Fellow at St Cross and returned to the UK – although he still travels over and back to Kenya frequently.

He acknowledges that the transition to life at Oxford was an interesting one. 'It was unusual beginning to spend more time on campus. I'd been employed here since the mid 1980s, but it had been more of a postal address in the sense that I wasn't living in Oxford. So it was strange at first, but I have found I have enjoyed living in Oxford very much. I like that it is very vibrant – so very intellectually stimulating, lots of interesting things to do.'

His commitment to diversity and his keenness to maintain a connection with Africa led to his involvement in creating the Africa Oxford Initiative, of which he is director. 'I was interested in finding out what was going on across the university in relation to Africa. I knew what was happening in relation to health research, but I didn't know what else was going on. And it turned out that there was so much going on and it wasn't connected up at all.'

He worked with colleagues to consolidate these activities, establishing the cross-university platform which has forged links and collaborations with 36 countries across Africa. AfOx also facilitates a travel grant scheme, offers advice and resources for funding applications, and provides mentorship support to African students and researchers at Oxford. This is a

particular passion of Professor Marsh's – developing the next generation of scientific leadership in Africa. Over the years, he has sponsored or supervised over 40 research fellows and doctoral students, including four winners of the Royal Society Africa Prize for research in Africa.

"We tend to move from opportunity to opportunity and hopefully make the right choice."

'I spent most of my career working in Africa and wherever you are, you become very engaged with circumstances you are in,' he explains. 'One of the striking things about working in academia in Africa is the low numbers. The numbers of researchers per head of population are very much lower than in the rest of the world. Being based in Kenya made me realise, very early on in my career, that it just didn't seem appropriate that much of the work that was going on in malaria was not being led from within those countries most affected. So it was

important for me to be based on the ground, as it were.'

Professor Marsh is broadly positive about the future in Africa, and is occasionally frustrated by the media's negative portrayal of the continent. 'I mean, news in general is negative, isn't it?' he says philosophically. 'This leads to a perception of Africa being a problematic place, a place with poverty, a place with corruption. I'm not saying those things don't exist – they are a part of life there just as they are in any other part of the world. But there are so many positive things, too, and the media often misses optimistic aspects of the continent in terms of its people and its potential – both economic and social. And there's a very vibrant scene in music and art and all sorts of aspects of life, which aren't captured at all.'

For now, Professor Marsh is content at St Cross – and equally optimistic about the College's future. 'One of the things I enjoy most about the College is the fact that it's both international and egalitarian. And so I'm very keen to continue to develop the links with African academia. The Master has been very supportive of AfOx, and we hold a lot of our events at the College. Our biggest priority, going forward, is to support more visiting students and to pursue our aim and our values of being international.' 

Kevin with students and researchers of the Africa Oxford Initiative



Food & AGRICULTURE

BY EIMEAR RYAN

With global warming on the rise, and farming trends ever-evolving, the subjects of food and agriculture have never been more vital. Across the College, historians, archaeologists and scientists are delving into these subjects, looking both to the past and the future. We spoke to four St Cross scholars at different stages of their careers to hear about the cutting-edge research and new discoveries being explored in this exciting sector.

PROF. HELENA HAMEROW

Professor of Early Medieval Archaeology
and St Cross Fellow

What drew you to the early medieval period, and to food and agriculture as a lens on history?

I liked the idea of the period, not only a subject that was poised between two fields – history and archaeology – but also a period that’s poised between pre-history and history; between the classical world and barbarian Europe. In terms of how I came to be interested in farming, settlements and rural life – I suppose when I was a student, everybody was interested in burials and mortuary archaeology, because that’s where you’ve got lots of grave goods and jewellery and weapons and cool stuff like that. I thought that I needed to do something different – not occupy the same space. It’s a period where pretty much everybody was a farmer and yet we don’t seem to know very much – the written sources tell us very little; the archaeology is quite difficult to get at. I guess I found that quite challenging and interesting.

What’s the most exciting excavation you’ve been involved in?

I personally was very excited to excavate at a place called Sutton. *Time Team* [a British television programme] were involved in that as well. It was a site that I’d known about since I was a student and I had my eye on it for a long time. I knew there were these buildings in a field that people had thought must be part of an Anglo-Saxon great hall complex.



But until you excavate, you don’t really know. I’d tried for years to make contact with the landowner and see if they would be willing for us to do an excavation and never had any luck. One phone call from *Time Team* was all it took and we were in! Even though it was a very short excavation – three days – we found out a lot about that site. It was exactly as I thought – a great hall complex dating from the seventh century. That was really exciting to see unfolding there in real time over those three days.

Tell me about your FeedSax project and the cerealisation of England.

After the end of the Roman empire in the West, populations all across Western Europe declined pretty sharply, and yet by the time of the Norman conquest, it was back up to the levels of the Roman period in some regions. So the question was – how did they do that? How did they grow enough cereals to feed that rapidly growing population? People have been arguing about this for about a hundred years – the written sources are very limited.

One of the big questions is whether there was some kind of medieval agricultural revolution. It’s always been a controversial idea because it implies that there was a new type of plough, that they invented systematic crop rotation, and these technological innovations drove a sudden revolution in the way people farmed. It’s clear from our research that it was a more drawn-out and messy process, but one that was largely complete by the time of the Norman conquest.

I got together with another St Cross Fellow – this is where St Cross lunches are so useful – Professor Amy Bogaard, who’s an archaeobotanist. We thought, isn’t there some way in which archaeological science and perhaps the study of preserved plant remains – the cereals that were grown, the type of soil, the weeds that grew in the fields – might that give us a more direct way into understanding how crops were actually grown? That’s how FeedSax was born.



Keren's FEED study is working to figure out what people mean when they describe their diets, such as what 'flexitarian' means?

DR KEREN PAPIER

Nutritional Epidemiologist at the Cancer Epidemiology Unit & St Cross Postdoctoral Associate

Can you describe your path to St Cross?

Before coming to the University, I was based in Australia where I studied public health nutrition, and epidemiology. My PhD was based in

Thailand and Australia, and it examined the dietary and lifestyle risk factors associated with the risk of developing type 2 diabetes in a nationwide cohort of Thai adults.

I moved to Oxford for a three-year postdoc with the LEAP (Livestock, Environment and People) project, which aims to understand how meat and dairy production and consumption affect both human health and environmental health. I was becoming involved in the University community, trying to find ways to get connected with the different colleges, and I came across St Cross. It struck me that it was global – completely global – and I just absolutely love that. I'm a citizen in three countries myself, and having lived and worked in different countries, I completely connected with that ethos.



Tell me about your work with EPIC (the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition). What is it like working on one of the biggest ever studies on the impact of meat on people's health?

EPIC began in the early 1990's. It's actually a collaboration of separate studies from 10 different European countries, but together they form a cohort of half-a-million European adults. The EPIC dataset enables you to investigate different exposures such as meat consumption, or not being physically active, and see what happens to people's health risks over time. There are some similarities across the countries, but there are also some interesting differences – for example we see that meat is consumed in different amounts in the different EPIC countries.

It's a really powerful resource that researchers like me get to use. For instance take the EPIC Oxford cohort, its specialty is that about half of the cohort of the 65,000 don't eat meat. As a result, researchers using these data have been able to investigate the various health risks associated with following diets that either contain or don't contain meat. Also, EPIC-Oxford investigators collected information from

the participants in the nineties and then they collected additional information over the following decades, including blood measures, and these people were so kind – they also gave consent for us to access their NHS records. This means that if somebody goes to the hospital, develops a cancer, or passes away, EPIC Oxford researchers receive a notification. As a result, we can track cohort participant's health over time. That's a really big strength which is not available in all cohort studies.

Your current project, Feeding the Future (FEED), investigates contemporary plant-based diets in UK adults (eg flexitarian, vegetarian, and vegan) and examines the motivations and characteristics behind these diets. What are the trends you're noticing?

There may be some health benefits and environmental benefits to consuming plant-based diets, but it takes time to see these. If you go vegan for a week, you're probably not going to see any difference. Though I think it's better to think about the average over time. So if you're having a meatless Monday, after a year you'll have consumed less overall – assuming you haven't gone and doubled your meat the next day!

Part of the FEED study is figuring out what people mean when they describe their diets. For example, what's a flexitarian? I want to find out – in the study, we haven't defined what it is exactly. I want to find out how much meat a person might eat per week and still call themselves a flexitarian. And of course, you're going to have different health profiles if you have unusual or restricted eating habits. An all-day sugary beverage diet is a vegan diet and gluten-free diet potentially but may not be as nutritious as a varied vegan diet!

The World Health Organization is excited about FEED and supporting us in order to learn more about plant-based diets in different European countries. They're interested in the survey we developed. We're even hoping to be able to expand the FEED study beyond its current size in the future so watch this space!



JACQUES BOUVIER

**Interdisciplinary Bioscience DPhil candidate
& Lorna Casselton Memorial Scholar**

Tell me about your background and your path to St Cross.

I studied biology at the University of Sheffield. It was a very broad degree, but as I progressed through it, I became increasingly interested in sustainability and food production and combining those two aspects to drive food security in the 21st century – without destroying the planet, basically. Sustainability is something I'm very passionate about. If we want to preserve the natural world, we need to maximize the efficiency of agriculture and make it as sustainable as possible. We need to have these pockets of very efficient agriculture and then have space for real nature.



I graduated and I did my master's thesis on photosynthesis, because I became aware that if we can maximize photosynthesis and carbon fixation in plants, then we can use that to drive increases in plant productivity, which would lead to more yield. I then applied for my PhD and St Cross very kindly offered me a scholarship. It's really helped me – I don't come from a super privileged background so it's been very, very good to have that.

Do you have any farming background in your family? How did you become interested in food production?

My dad's side of the family are from the mountains in France – the Alps – and they are traditionally cow farmers. In fact, I think my surname Bouvier actually means 'herdsman' in French! They've had cows for generations and though I've never lived in France, I've always had that connection through going to visit family. So maybe that had an influence.

What is the focus of your DPhil and did the pandemic present any challenges?

My original plan was to explore various genetic engineering techniques to improve carbon fixation. We look at photosynthesis as a whole in plants and then look at which

components of that could be optimized to increase growth, and then try to engineer those improvements in the lab.

I think genetic engineering – a term that people hate! – will inevitably need to be applied to our day-to-day lives over the course of this century. An important goal is to help people understand that it's not about creating ' Frankenfoods,' it's just a way we can save nature. We've already manipulated nature in the farm; it's by no means natural anyway, so why not tweak it more and then save space for real nature? Just one or two changes to a plant's genetic code can make dramatic changes in your phenotype or your crop, so you can potentially make a crop that is completely tolerant of whatever you want it to be, be it drought or extreme weather.

My approach changed a little bit because of the pandemic and the closure of the department. A lot of my research became more computational instead, which isn't necessarily a bad thing in hindsight, because developing those skills is really useful for broadening your potential. My research took a bit of a new direction in that respect, but it's probably made me a better scientist in the long term.



Jacques is studying how sustainability and food production intersect.



Sophy's current project looks at bear baiting in early modern England.

DR SOPHY CHARLTON

Postdoctoral Associate at the School of Archaeology

What is the working day of a biomolecular archaeologist like?

I work in the ancient DNA lab at the School of Archaeology, and my research uses lots of different scientific techniques – things like stabilized type analysis, looking at ancient DNA and ancient proteins. DNA degrades quite a lot over time, so it is harder to get that information back. We're working, unfortunately, not with lovely long strands of modern DNA, but little fragmented bits of DNA. So it's more like a puzzle, putting everything back together.

DNA will preserve very differently in different environments. DNA likes to be kept cold; your ideal environment is something like a permafrost environment, maybe a cave. But it's really variable. If we



have a sample from a very warm part of the world, then DNA preservation is likely going to be poorer.

Tell me about your recent study about milk in prehistoric humans.


For me, it's very interesting to think about what people ate in the past. That's always been my big interest. My PhD was about the transition from people being hunter-gatherers to early farmers, because not only is there a big cultural transition but there's also a massive dietary transition.

As soon as we have an agricultural lifestyle, we seem to eat a lot less marine foods. With milk, there is a lot of archaeological evidence that as soon as people had domesticated animals, they start to use them for milk; we can see that in the pottery evidence. But in order to digest milk as an adult, you need to have a genetic adaptation that allows

you to do so, called lactase persistence or LP. People in the neolithic period didn't have that genetic ability. Even in the bronze age, maybe only five to ten percent of the population had LP, so it's a much later adaptation than we had previously thought.

I was really interested in that dichotomy: it looks like people are consuming dairy, but they don't actually have the genetic ability to digest raw milk. I looked at dental calculus on human teeth which is basically the plaque that builds up. Nearly all archaeological skeletons will have quite large deposits, and it preserves DNA and proteins really well. I did some work looking at the proteins from three different British neolithic sites, and quite a good proportion of the skeletons had milk proteins in their teeth. It suggested that they definitely were consuming milk, but again, they actually didn't have the genetic ability to digest it. My suggestion with that paper is perhaps that people were processing the milk in such a way to reduce the lactose content to make it more palatable to them, and perhaps that's why we find it in the pottery.

Much of your research focuses on the relationships between humans and animals throughout history. What approaches have you explored here?

My research for the last few years has been quite varied. My current project is Box Office Bear, which looks at bear baiting in early modern England. In the Shakespearean period, as well as the playhouses, they also had these baiting arenas. But we know very little about the bear populations because bears aren't native to the UK. People were obviously importing bears from elsewhere to utilise for the baiting, so the genetic work in part is trying to work that out. Most of my research is on pre-history so there are no written records, but on this project we're working a lot with historians. We're looking at the archival material and then we can compare it with the archaeology. They even have accounts of what they fed the bears, and then you can look at the bones themselves and try to marry the two together. It's been very different, but I've really enjoyed it. 

Alumni Spotlight:

ROBIN WELLS

Since leaving St Cross nearly 30 years ago, Robin has built several businesses from the Middle East to the Midlands, including his own car company - Wells Motor Cars. One of his greatest investments has been in the form a scholarship which has so far benefitted 14 students since its inception.

SCHOLARSHIP

In 2008, Robin Wells had a decision to make. An entrepreneur: Robin had already built and sold several businesses and his new company, based in Dubai, was taking off. He wasn't wealthy though good things were possibly in store.

Robin could take that money, reinvest it in business, spend it on leisure for he and his family, or reinvest it another way. Of all his options, Robin decided to donate money to St Cross College, his alma mater - offering an annual scholarship which, since then, has benefitted 14 students.

Though perhaps cliché, says Robin, Pay It Forward works: By physically giving away something, it bought back a lot more karma - the law of attraction. There was also a slightly different, subtler angle to creating a scholarship. "It forced me to also up my game. If you're giving something away then that's x you no longer have, so I have to then work doubly hard to not only regain what I've given back but get more again."

Each scholar supported by Robin's donation wrote him a letter to introduce themselves while at Oxford. "It's really nice to read what they're studying and the diverse range of stuff. I love that. For me, sitting in my office, doing business deals, to get a letter from someone saying, I'm studying poetry of the late Inca empire and all these great things: I think that makes the world a richer place."

WORKSHOP

28 years after graduating, and 15 years after creating a scholarship, Robin returned to St Cross in Spring 2022 where he posed a rhetorical question to students at a workshop titled What to do if you don't know what to do.

"What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" he asked the Lecture Theatre. That piece of advice has stayed with Robin Wells since he started in business, a principle he has lived by as a successful entrepreneur in Dubai, until now, running Wells Motor Cars in Warwickshire.

Robin's workshop was part of the Careers Programme, designed for St Cross alumni to share their knowledge and experience with current students. After leaving St Cross in 1994, Robin spent much of the following years travelling and doing odd jobs until a 'personal path' emerged in his late 20s. Over the next two decades, he built a successful business, which he sold, becoming financially free at age 45.

During his workshop, he encouraged students to think outside the box when planning their next move and gave a taste of what it meant to be an entrepreneur or to work in a start-up.

His golden ratio: "Imagine, plan, execute. If you're going to take away one thing from this afternoon, take away this; write it down, memorise it, internalise it, use it for the rest of your life. It applies whether you're doing a dinner party tonight, or if you're trying to be an Olympic champion, or become a billionaire."

ROBIN AT ST CROSS

Before going on to build a business as – what he describes himself as – a “hardcore” capitalist, Robin trained to be a classical musician. “In some people’s minds, those are diametrically opposed: Musician, capitalist. But music gave me one really valuable skill, and that was a skill to listen. Listening to music all day long, you’re learning to follow the rhythm and harmony in what’s being said, what’s not being said. That’s tremendously important in business.”

Robin, too, benefited from scholarships growing up. He received music and choral scholarships, and another to study and collect data in southern Africa for a book he would later write. At Oxford he did a master’s degree in Anthropology.

The Robin that came back to St Cross five years after leaving is very different from the person coming back 30 years later, “and hopefully different in 40 years,” he adds. What he cherished most as a student were lunches and dinners in the Hall, and they are what he continues to cherish as a returning alumnus. It’s worth repeating, he says, that meals at St Cross are a unique part of College life,

where there is no formal distinction, no hierarchy which other colleges impose.

The architecture supports that spirit, he says. The site is made up of both new and the old buildings, the artwork, the long Hall tables, it makes for easy communal interaction. “The opportunity for that cross pollination, particularly for people like me,” says Robin, “if I’ve had success, it’s because of just taking ideas and absorbing and perhaps using them elsewhere.”

Conversations across such a wide range of fields aren’t as likely later in life, after leaving St Cross, he says, because in life, “your circle is going to be smaller. You’re going to be in an office, or in a place of work of some kind, and you’ll be surrounded by people doing the same sort of work.”

VERTIGE

As an entrepreneur, Robin believed that dedicating his time to business would allow him to follow his dreams later. “And now I’m absolutely living my passion,” he says. He’s not only driving sports cars, but driving cars designed and sold by the very company he founded in 2015.

“I’ve always loved cars. Other people like horses or whatever. For me, it’s cars. When I was at school, I built a little basic car as a workshop project. It was a death trap: Health and safety went straight into the wall. I learned a very painful lesson.”

Alongside building a second business in sports cars – his passion – Robin also holds several board positions and ownership in other businesses in property and tourism.

LEGACY

Soak up every experience, Robin told the Lecture Theatre during his 2022 workshop, reminding them: What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

“I’ve been really lucky, and somewhere, someone in the past created that scholarship. And now it’s my turn.”

Robin believes you’re in St Cross for life. Even when your physical time at the College is over, you’re always a St Crosser. “Our lives are richer by that, and hopefully the College is richer. That ties in with the motto of College: To the four corners of the world.” 📌




Meaning vertigo in French, the Vertige is the flagship car of Robin’s company and can sometimes be seen on St Giles where he visits his alma mater.

St Cross has an incredible community of scholars both past and present. We are proud to be home to many fantastic and talented students from all around the world. Scholarships and bursaries at St Cross are supported by philanthropic funds from our alumni and friends, and we are delighted to be able to offer such a wide range of awards thanks to the generosity of our community.

If you would like to support the College, donations can be made online at the QR Code, or by completing and returning a donation form.



 Make a gift

Professor Mallica KUMBERA LANDRUS

BY EIMEAR RYAN



Mallica is Keeper of the Department of Eastern Art at the Ashmolean Museum.



Photo credit: Matthew Pattimore



Photo credit: Matthew Pattimore

As Senior Curator of Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Art, Mallica is bringing contemporary works into the world's oldest public, and university museum – the Ashmolean.

Professor Mallica Kumbera Landrus does not own a smartphone. This is in part strategic: as Keeper of the Department of Eastern Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Senior Curator of Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Art, and Associate Professor for the History of Art in India, she has a lot on her plate; it's nice to not always be connected using technology.

'I have a phone that is I don't know, 12 or 15 years old, it's a very old Blackberry,' she says, laughing. 'I think if I had a smartphone, I would very quickly be absorbed in email and social media at all hours!'

As I speak to Professor Kumbera Landrus via Zoom in her office in the Ashmolean Museum, my eye is drawn to a striking print on the wall behind her, depicting a figure dressed in white against an orange background. This is the poster for Ali Kazim: *Suspended in Time*, the hugely successful exhibition that ran at the Ashmolean from February to June 2022. Kazim, a contemporary artist from Pakistan, was the University's first South Asian Artist-in-Residence. The exhibition

comprised 23 new works created during his residency, alongside objects from the Ashmolean's collections which inspired the artist.

Suspended in Time was one of two Ashmolean exhibitions in 2022 that marked the 75th anniversary of the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan. The second, *Postcards From Home: 1947 and the Partition of India* by the New Delhi-based Manisha Gera Baswani, is running until March 2023. This exhibition consists of 47 postcards depicting 47 different artists from India and Pakistan in their studios; on the back of each postcard is the artist's personal story, describing how partition affected them and their families. The postcards have been displayed differently in past installations on the subcontinent. At the Ashmolean, they are hung in a curve resembling the partition line between India and Pakistan.

The response to both exhibitions from the museum's audience has been overwhelmingly positive, says Professor Kumbera Landrus. 'They've said things like, "I didn't know about such works.

I didn't know about this history. What fantastic contemporary artists!'" We have also had new audiences come to the Ashmolean to see specifically these shows, because they have felt that for the very first time they are reflected; they are represented in something that we are doing. I'm talking specifically about the South Asian diaspora that lives in Oxford, many of them who arrived here in the fifties, sixties, seventies. The audience has included first, second and third generation South Asians, as well as recent immigrants. Many of them visited the Ashmolean for the first time.'

Postcards From Home, despite its small size, packs a powerful emotional punch and has resonated strongly with audiences. 'It was a show that I saw in India about four or five years ago, and I was really struck by it,' explains Professor Kumbera Landrus. 'It really touches you irrespective of whether your family were connected to that particular story. My family was not directly affected by partition, but it is very difficult for me not to be affected by the installation.'

Visitors to the exhibition are struck by its intimacy and simplicity, she says. 'There are people who I feel are sitting there almost meditating in the postcards. I've had conversations with people who are in tears. The act of pulling a postcard out from the wall display also engages them. Engagements like this help immerse audiences in the experiences they read about. I have seen fathers' sharing family history with their children, mothers reading some of the postcards aloud to their daughters, sisters in tears thinking about grandparents, spouses in deep conversation, and generally people wondering why they had not read about this in school.'

It is hugely satisfying, she says, to be able to bring contemporary practice work into the Ashmolean, particularly since it is the world's oldest public and university museum, founded in 1683. 'Exhibitions and displays beyond Eurocentric narratives support one of our priorities to diversify programming. Contemporary displays and exhibitions help us connect with regional, cultural, and religious backgrounds, while also drawing links with our early collections. Expanding and enhancing our holdings to capture current practices is essential, and thus acquiring contemporary art fits naturally in our plans. Thanks to support from the Art Fund, Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund and Patrons of the Ashmolean Museum, the


Ashmolean has now acquired three paintings by Ali Kazim. The artist has generously donated a fourth work.

While her curatorial duties at the museum take up a large portion of her time, she is also passionate about research, teaching and engaging with students. 'Teaching is one of the many things I very much enjoy at Oxford. I'm privileged to be able to connect with the next generation. It would be very easy to shut my door and just focus on the exceptional collections (including archives) and do my research, but I feel strongly about the fact that we are a university museum and therefore we must research and engage with the curriculum and teach here.'

*"We want our
objects to be here
for hundreds of years
after we are all gone."*

She enjoys incorporating objects from the museum into her teaching. 'I have noticed that students here are much more engaged with the history and developments of these objects when they can hold the works in their hands and discuss them.'

Being able to examine and understand the materiality of objects, their texture, weights, and how they have been handled, she says, really enhances the experience of engaging with the art. 'Ali Kazim said, when he was looking at some of the objects he worked with, "Now that I see it this close, I can actually see the tools of the artists. I can see what the artist was thinking or where he or she changed their mind." For 10 years, one of the objects I have used for my courses regular receives the comment "This is much heavier than I thought it was going to be." These are not experiences that you can get from looking at the object in a book or even looking at it from behind the glass. We can put the dimensions and material of the object on a label, but holding it is something people don't forget.'

Keeping the objects accessible in this manner is important, she explains, but it is always balanced with the need to preserve the objects for future generations while also continuing to study and write about them. 'The handling that happens in the museum is done appropriately and it is supervised. The care of collections is a priority.' It is a responsibility she relishes. 'We clearly want our objects to be here for hundreds of years after we are all gone. They were under the care or keepership of many people before me and certainly they'll be here after me as well. We are just the current caretakers.' 



Junior Research Fellow focus: DR ANDREW CREAGH

BY EIMEAR RYAN

Dublin native Dr Andrew Creagh wears many hats. He is a postdoctoral researcher in the Computational Health Informatics laboratory at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering (IBME), he works at the Wearables Laboratory at the Big Data Institute, he is a postdoctoral fellow in digital biomarkers & AI/ML at GlaxoSmithKline, and a Junior Research Fellow at St Cross



His research involves harnessing the potential of everyday devices like smartphones and smartwatches to generate digital biomarkers for patients with neurodegenerative diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and dementia. Digital biomarkers are built from data collected by the sensors on a device, for example, your step count, heart rate, levels of activity, or quality of sleep. Dr Creagh and his colleagues then use machine learning (ML) to mine these data sets for information about diseases, and to monitor how

patients respond to various treatments. 'My research is basically trying to find better ways of quantifying how changes in disease impact a person's daily life, using digital measurements taken in their own home,' he explains. 'From this digital data, we hope to improve our understanding of how a patient's treatment is working, allowing us to develop more patient-centric and personalised care.'


Dr Creagh began his doctoral degree at St Cross in 2016, at the department of Engineering Science and in collaboration with the pharmaceuticals company F-Hoffmann La Roche. His DPhil was focused on digital biomarkers, 'which didn't really exist as a word back in 2016, but it's blown up since then. I was serendipitously in the right place at the right time.' He is happy that he is now maintaining his connection with the College as a JRF.

2021 was a banner year for Dr Creagh in terms of recognition for his research. In April, he won a STEM for Britain medal at the Houses of Parliament. Then in November, he was awarded the prestigious William James Award by his peers at the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), for his work on a smartphone app called Draw-a-Shape. Its interface is straightforward and intuitive: users are asked to trace simple shapes on the screens of their phones.

The results generated can then be used to evaluate the hand model function of MS patients. Draw-a-Shape is now deployed in multiple clinical trials.

For Dr Creagh, the potential of wearables is vast, and their efficacy will only increase with time as more data is gathered – both for individual patients and on a macro level. He describes it as 'digital healthcare revolution.'

'In 20 years' time, we'll have a wealth of data that might be predictive of a patient, say, developing dementia later on in life. If a patient is healthy in 2022, but then develops dementia ten years later, we'll be able to go back to the data from 2022 and hopefully identify a pattern that might be predictive of dementia. Ultimately, finding those predictors or digital biomarkers of dementia will help to develop therapies and preventatives.'

Digital biomarkers are also useful in providing doctors with a clearer idea of their patients' progress over time, helping to fill in the blanks between appointments. 'So many people have fitness trackers, whether it's your Google Health app or Strava, to looking at your step count every day, to looking at your sleep patterns,' he points out. 'This data is really useful for clinicians, but at the end of the day, you're not looking to replace clinicians. You're looking to give them an extra pair of eyes.' 



With one foot in industry and one foot in academia, Andrew sees both sides of the coin.

Former Fellow GRACE WAHBA

BY EIMEAR RYAN

Grace Wahba is an eminent statistician, the retired I.J. Schoenberg-Hilldale Professor of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a former St Cross Fellow. She was recently recognised with a special lectureship and award by the Institute of Mathematical Sciences – the inaugural lecture of which was delivered in London in June 2022. When I spoke to her via Zoom, she and her husband David had recently returned from this trip.



The whole thing was great fun,' she says. 'Michael I. Jordan [of the University of California, Berkeley] gave a bang-up lecture. David and I went to London and we were royally entertained. There's an endowment behind it, so long after I'm gone, there will be somebody giving the Wahba Lecture every year.'

A pioneer in smoothing noisy data, machine learning, climate prediction, risk modelling and more, Wahba's storied

career began at Cornell University. She went on to gain her PhD from Stanford and in 1967 became the first female faculty member at the Department of Statistics at UW Madison where she spent most of her career. In the 1970s she spent two years at St Cross, and has fond memories of the College.


'The benefits at that time were a very nice lunch. The bartender who would ask you, if you were an American, would you prefer to have your beer cold? Because their beer was room temperature and he knew that Americans didn't like warm beer,' she laughs. 'My thesis advisor, Emanuel Parzen, used to say "There's no free lunch" – but there is a free lunch for Fellows! I still hear from the College regularly. Once you're a Fellow of St Cross, you're a Fellow forever.'

Among her many accolades, Wahba was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1997 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 2000. There is even a theory named after her – Wahba's Problem, first posed in 1965, seeks to find a rotation matrix between two coordinate systems from a set of vector observations.

'It's fun to have a problem named after you,' she says, laughing. 'I was working at IBM and this problem came across my desk. They had a device called an

electrostatic analyser on a satellite that measured the properties of the solar wind, and we needed to know the attitude, that is, orientation of the satellite. If you're going to figure out what the satellite is seeing, you have to know where its direction cosines are sitting in the real world. So you had to figure out how you rotate the axes of the satellite so that the axes are pointing in the correct direction. I figured out a reasonable way to do that.'

On top of her pioneering research, Wahba spent 51 years in education, supervising dozens of PhD candidates in the process. Though she is now retired, Wahba remains active, competing as a racewalker in the Wisconsin and National Senior Olympics, frequently placing in the medals. After a glittering career, she is able to savour the many milestones along the way. I asked about her personal definition of success, and what she felt was her proudest moment.

'I've been successful beyond my wildest dreams as a high school student,' she says. 'My high school grades weren't much, but I did quite well on the SATs, got into Cornell, and ultimately got a PhD from Stanford. I went through graduate school part-time, as a single mom. My son was 11 when I got my PhD, and I felt I had really accomplished something.' 



Grace is a pioneer in smoothing noisy data, machine learning, climate prediction, and risk modelling.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

For being a “small” graduate college, St Cross punched well above its weight in the sports arena this year. The College turned out a whopping eight varsity athletes who represented the University in rowing, rugby, ice and field hockey, canoe slalom and pole vaulting.



Alexander Post was named Man of the Match at Twickenham



Varsity athletes included (from clockwise): Julia Lindsay, Nils Lager, Alexander Post, Euan Friend, Mungo Mason.

On top of that, The St Cross and Wolfson first women's boat defended their position at the Head of the River at this year's Torpids, while several other students represented the College across a wide breadth of sports, from marathons to mixed basketball.

Perhaps the strongest sports showing was on the Oxford 2022 Rugby Varsity Squad, where St Crossers **Alexander Post, Mungo Mason** and **Euan Friend** beat Cambridge 21 to 17, at Twickenham during The Varsity Match.

Alexander Post was also named Man of the Match. "I got a few messages [of congratulations] from people in my faculty and course," said Alexander Post, "and about twice as many from people at College."

Around 11,000 attendees watched the match at Twickenham, the home of English Rugby. Mungo Mason, whose parents had travelled from Australia and watched from the stands, said: "There were no illusions that [Oxford's Rugby] forward pack was particularly strong compared to Cambridge's. In the second half we lost wind a little bit, but Cambridge did a very good job of coming back."

For the second year in a row, **Julia Lindsay** competed in The Boat Race against Cambridge, which is regularly attended by over 250,000 spectators at the banks of the river and watched by millions more on television, was back in London after two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. It was Julia's first race on the Tideway, where she sat 4-seat in the Dark Blue Boat.

"The Boat Race is a dream for many rowers, almost a 'bucket-list' race," said Julia Lindsay. "I couldn't come to Oxford and not do it!"

Although Oxford broke its previous course record during the Boat Race, they couldn't catch Cambridge who cut across Oxford early and maintained the lead, finishing with a lead of 2.25 lengths.

Closer to home, on the Isis, St Crossers **Tamsyn Clark, Verena Wiedemann, Greta Miller, Jennifer Elizabeth Astley**, and **Daina Šadurska** were in the first women's boat which retained the Head of the River in March. This is a third incredible win for the women's boat which won the Summer Eights for the first time in 2019 and created history by taking headship of the river for the

first time in Torpids in 2021. The women's first boat won also Blades for winning the race, which will allow them to buy blades with the names of their crew painted on.

The Wolfson College Boat Club, which is made up of both St Cross and Wolfson students, entered an impressive nine crews in total: four into the men's division and five into the women's division. Each of the women's boats finished highest on the river; and fifth women's made them the only club to ever qualify five women's boats.

On the ice, **Nils Lager** represented the University this year. The Oxford's Men's Ice Hockey team had a better than average year, and although Nils and his teammates lost in the Varsity match, they beat Cambridge when the two met again at Nationals in mid-April. Oxford advanced to the semis where they lost in a shoot-out against St Andrews.

Bill Taylor, who was also the Student Representative Committee's Sports Rep this year, was awarded a full blue after Oxford won over Cambridge in Varsity Hockey. This was rather unique, as Bill also holds a full blue from Cambridge. In 2021, he played on their squad while studying his undergrad there. That luck he brought with him to Oxford in 2022.

Jun Ong represented Oxford at British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Canoe Slalom this year. Whilst Jun came 12th out of all university entrants, he took first of the Oxford team, and was awarded a half blue.



Nils Lager seen here playing Cambridge, played elite level ice hockey in the US and Sweden.

Jinsen Lu represented Oxford on several athletics teams, including pole vault on the Men's blues team in the Varsity Match. Jinsen also played on the men's second team for pole vault and high jump at Varsity, Inter-Varsity Field Events and Relays (VFEAR), and the BUCS and BT Outdoor Athletics Championships.


"St Cross students are really showing their sporting prowess as well as their academic ability at the moment."

Anne-Sophie Guernon played on the University's second women's basketball team which won the league and Varsity Game against Cambridge this year; **Guopeng Chen** played on the second men's volleyball team this year as a libero, which also won the Varsity Match against Cambridge; and **Sofia Mouchti** played on the women's second Waterpolo team which also took the Varsity match.

Tim Baxter reported that the St Cross/Wolfson Men's Football Team won the MCR Division I league this year, which is a great achievement as they have not won the 1st division league for at least five years – if not much longer.

Hamza Jnane, along with students from Kellog College, created a joint mixed basketball team for students from Kellog and St Cross. They took part in a mixed-team league, with inter-college games during Michaelmas and Hilary terms, winning seven games and losing five, and participated in the Cuppers with a one win, one loss record.

And running across the finish line were **Gulnar Abdullayeva** who ran the Oxford Town and Gown 10Km Race in May, and **Indrajeet Sahu** who ran the Oxford Half-Marathon in October 2021.

Master of St Cross, Carole Souter, expressed her pride in the College's athletes over the 2021/22 academic year: "St Cross students are really showing their sporting prowess as well as their academic ability at the moment." 



Several St Crossers were in the first women's boat which retained the Head of the River in March.

CAROLE SOUTER

BY SHIRLEY MORGAN

“There is no doubt that being together, sharing meals, sitting in the sun in the quad, working in the Library, playing sports, are core elements of the life of any Oxford College. But these last few weeks have reminded us that there is also something much more – a community of spirit which binds us all and leads individuals to reach out to one another in difficult times.”

An extract from The Master’s Blog, April 2020:
Trinity Term 2020: Week 0: The Covid-19 Issue.



When Carole Souter CBE joined St Cross as Master six years ago, one of her key focuses was on building the College community and deepening relationships with alumni and friends. So, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit and lockdown descended in March 2020 it brought a challenging conundrum: How do you maintain a spirit of community when all of its members are isolated away from each other?

Perhaps as testament to the success of her pre-pandemic work, this was a challenge that St Cross College was able to meet despite the national restrictions.

“When lockdown happened, some students went home with six-hours’ notice; staff were required to work from home and there were around 80 students remaining in College accommodation,” Carole recalls. “Many would say it was a terrible time, but the circumstances brought out the best in people. I’m proud of how fast the College turned around, doing everything we could to provide community. We were able to offer practical support, reassuring students ‘not to worry. We’ll look after it,’ organising storage, offering financial help where needed.”

Carole’s blog – where she wrote about College goings-on, news and day-to-day life – was also a vital means of maintaining communications and community.

Carole added: “The absolutely worst thing was knowing that we were not able to give our students the experience they had hoped and planned for; in terms of physically being here in Oxford. People were studying remotely, which could have felt very isolating, but our team worked incredibly hard to make sure the whole community knew they could be in touch with us. The College community was fantastic and I just don’t know how to express how strongly grateful I am.”

After successfully leading St Cross College through a global pandemic for the last two years, Carole retired at the end of September 2022.

This is her second attempt at retirement. Carole began her career in the Civil Service and has worked in the Departments of Health, Social Security and the Cabinet Office. Before joining St Cross in 2016, Carole was Chief Executive of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund from 2003-2016, overseeing the distribution of £400m a year to projects making a lasting difference to people and heritage across the UK. When retiring from the fund in 2016 she had not expected the immediate clamour for her to step into a new position.

“I’d announced my retirement from the Heritage Lottery Fund and suddenly there were so many phone calls from head-hunters,” Carole laughs. “I hadn’t thought about taking

on another role, but as I spoke with the team who were recruiting, I was pulled in by all the things they said about St Cross. A graduate college with a focus on equality, diversity, engagement, providing a great environment that is supportive, stimulating and offers a multidisciplinary approach... For me it got more and more interesting.

"I was an undergraduate here and know that Oxford gets under your skin very quickly! I felt that the College was looking to build on its existing great strengths by engaging alumni and supporters."

Carole has always been active in the charitable sector, currently serving as Interim Chair of Historic Royal Palaces and a Trustee of the Horniman Museum, Oxford Preservations Trust, and the London Emergencies Trust. She has chaired the Board of Visitors at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and is a Lay Canon of Salisbury Cathedral. She was awarded the CBE in 2011 for services to conservation.

Her achievements since joining St Cross as Master in 2016, have been significant and impactful. She chaired the Conference of Colleges Equality and Diversity Forum

from 2016-2021 and then became Chair of the Conference of Colleges Welfare Forum.

As well as nurturing the St Cross College community, Carole has grown its scholarship provision and seen the establishment of their endowed scholarship fund and pioneering Graduate Access Awards and Community Bursaries.

"It is the people that I will miss. Sitting at lunch, looking round the table and thinking, 'here are half a dozen people talking with newly arrived students from all over the world.'"

She said: "We want the best students to come to us and so it is incredibly important for us to keep looking at ways of providing financial support and opportunities for students. Wonderfully, we have now got the beginnings of an endowment scholarship fund. Building that up for the future will be a key task for the College."

"If members of the College all come from a similar sort of background then that is not a truly diverse community. It's incredibly important for me that the College is a place for people, whatever their starting place in life. My vision is that money should not be a problem for anyone studying here."


Keeping up the tradition that the head of College meets all 250 new students when they arrive each year, she worked to make sure that these encounters wouldn't be fleeting or superficial.

"I met three to four students at a time for half an hour so that they could have a proper conversation with me and start friendship groups with the people sharing the session," Carole said. "It worked well and gave graduate students an opportunity to meet other people from completely different disciplines in a safe social informal setting."

"I also spent a lot of time just sitting in places where students and Fellows were, being visible and emphasising that the whole team at St Cross wanted to hear from them."

Creating and improving spaces for students and fellows to connect is of paramount importance to St Cross College. The West Wing building will be closed over the 2022/23 academic year, with the exception of the library, to allow replacement of some elements following manufacturing issues.

"Finding the perfect solution has been one of the key things I've been involved with," Carole said. "The West Wing is a transformational building for the College and this project will ensure the community will be able to enjoy its wonderful spaces for many years to come."

She said: "It is the people that I will miss. Sitting at lunch, looking round the table and thinking, 'here are half a dozen people talking with newly arrived students from all over the world.' The students and Fellows are making, and will go on to make, a significant impact on the world and St Cross College enables that extraordinary mix of talents and backgrounds to swap ideas and make life-long connections. It has been a wonderful privilege to be a part of that." 



Shortly before Carole retired as Master, she was appointed as Interim Chair of Historic Royal Palaces by HM The Queen.

JOHN TRANTER

BY SHIRLEY MORGAN

When members of John Tranter's cycling club engaged in banter over whether those with a heavier build were at an advantage when riding downhill compared to their lighter framed peers, he knew just where to go to find the definitive answer – a lunch table at St Cross College.



Since becoming Bursar of St Cross in September 2014, John has become known among College Bursars as the go-to tech guy.

“To be honest, the archaeologists and church history experts weren’t terribly helpful,” John laughed over a light-hearted lunchtime chat. “But it was enlightening to hear the astrophysicists’ perspectives.”

But in sharing this anecdote John Tranter, St Cross College Bursar and Fellow by Special Election, gives insight into one of the things that makes the College so special.

“This networking between such diverse individuals and specialisms is very relevant.” He adds, “At St Cross you are coming to a College that is egalitarian and has a flat structure. There are no high tables or a special Fellows’ secret common room: all members can mix together freely. At lunchtimes we have long tables where staff, students, Fellows eat together and rub shoulders with people who are brilliant. When you have a student that is doing particle physics who get talking to a Professor of Philosophy, something incredible happens.”

As John prepares to retire from the role of Bursar in September, he observes that one of the key changes he has noticed in his eight-year tenure has been a growing confidence within the College about its strengths and its relationships with other colleges and the University.

“Over time St Cross has found its place. We are seeing more and more students putting the College as their first choice because they have heard about it and specifically want to come here. My colleague, Carole (The Master) has been primarily responsible for that. One of her main contributions is that key ability to build relationships and credibility.”

John describes his path to St Cross College as having a “strange trajectory.” Holding a BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Bath University, he worked for many years in telecommunications, most notably holding a number of senior management roles during 20 years at Vodafone.

“When I joined the mobile phone industry in 1989 it was in its early stages and it rapidly became this rollercoaster journey creating a whole new global industry,” he said. “It was a very exciting time and, when you look back, it was pretty exhausting. For me, the industry became less exciting as it matured and mobile technology became like any other utility company. I found myself wanting to do something more interesting and worthwhile.”

John moved into the charity sector in 2009 to work for St Aldates Church, Oxford, which he and his family attended. St Aldates is one of the largest churches in the Church of England and he worked there as Operations Director for five years. It was in this role that he first began crossing paths with one of the Oxford colleges.

The church was situated next door to Pembroke College and neighbourly issues around parking led to talks with the college Bursar, giving John an insight into how Oxford colleges work. So when head-hunters approached him about the role of Bursar at St Cross, he was excited to accept the challenge and was appointed in September 2014.

He said: “There is no straight career path to the role of a college bursar but it was a good transition from the corporate world and pastoral church setting where the skills I had developed from those aspects of my career could be put to good use.

“Having been someone from a high-tech background, amongst the other College Bursars I certainly became known as the go-to tech guy. I suppose in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king!”

Though he is modest in downplaying his extensive talents, it is clear that John’s background came in handy when the College was hit by a cyber-attack in January 2020. The attack left systems severely damaged, with phones and wifi connections out of operation.

“I was able to interact with the University’s central SWAT team of uber nerds,” John quips lightly. “The whole situation was a huge challenge but my

technical background probably did help me to understand the issues and translate the more intricate details to my colleagues from other backgrounds. I’ve been able to take the lead on quite a lot of technical matters during my time here.”

While the College was still recovering from the cyberattack, it was impacted by another devastating virus – this time the Covid-19 global pandemic and national lockdown.

“The community that is offered at the College really is a home from home. St Cross is really a delightful and fascinating place.”

“We had no culture of working from home, no equipment immediately available,” John says. “The whole thing was a massive challenge. There was a lot of improvisation and adjusting to Teams and Zoom meetings. It was remarkable how effectively the staff team pulled together.”

The last several years have seen John involved in overseeing the West Wing building project. The building, which opened in March 2017, has provided St Cross with accommodation, a new library and useful communal spaces for events and other activities. However, due to the deterioration of some elements, the building has been temporarily closed in order to undertake vital repairs.

“It was a terrible shock to get to the end of the project [in 2017] and find another set of problems which nobody could have predicted. But yet again we have come through this and are now at a point where the restoration project is beginning and we are confident that students will be able to enjoy this amazing building again soon.”

It is a lot to be hit with in a relatively short space of time: a cyber-attack, pandemic, and building issues. But this is where the new confidence within St Cross as well as the strong intercollegiate relationships have truly come into play.

John has found the support of the Bursarial Network – a strong network of Oxford College bursars – invaluable.

“People are very generous in their support,” he says. “You’ll find an answer for just about every situation. I’ve become a fairly well-known name amongst that network, starting out as the ‘new boy’ and now being an old hat mentoring the new boys.”


Despite his passion for the place and the people of St Cross College, John feels it is the right time to leave.

The weekend before his retirement from St Cross will mark 40 years of marriage to his wife, Carin, who is “very much looking forward to me stopping for the first time in 40 years.”

He says: “It’s been an amazing privilege being a part of the St Cross community but this will be a ‘proper retirement.’ I plan to take on a small portfolio of charity trusteeships and, while being conscious that it is very easy to take on too much, I’m going to take time to find things that I’m truly passionate about.”

A keen cyclist and the Chairman of Cycling UK Wantage (a local branch of the UK’s national cyclists’ organisation) covering Wantage and the surrounding towns and villages, John is also looking forward to indulging his music hobby and finding more time to engage in the singing and guitar playing he loves.

He says that the thing he will miss most about St Cross is being surrounded by brilliant people. “It has made me up my game,” he added. “Also the community that is offered at the College really is a home from home. St Cross is really a delightful and fascinating place.”

John is confident that he is leaving the College in safe hands with Wilf Stephenson (ex-Treasurer of Oriol College) stepping in as Interim Bursar. 

COLLEGE NEWS

With the departure of the Master and Bursar, plus the West Wing remediation's – 2022 has been a year of big changes at St Cross. All our members continue to do remarkable, inspiring things.

WEST WING REMEDIATION

Contractor Morgan Sindall started work on Monday, 8 August. The removal of the Glass Reinforced Concrete (GRC) and the installation of the new aluminium surrounds to the building's windows is expected to last until September 2023.



Dame Sally Mapstone, Dame Marina Warner and Sir David Warrell

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Professor Dame Sally Mapstone CBE, an Honorary Fellow and alumna of St Cross College, and currently the Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of St Andrews in Scotland, has been made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her extraordinary services to higher education.

Professor Dame Marina Sarah Warner CBE FBA, an Honorary Fellow, was awarded Companion of Honour (CH) for her services to the humanities.

Professor Sir David Warrell, an Honorary Fellow, was appointed Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, recognising his research of deadly tropical diseases such as snakebites, rabies and severe malaria, which has saved the lives of thousands of people around the world.

INTERIM MASTER

Professor Rana Mitter OBE FBA became Interim Master of St Cross College from October 2022 for a period of up to a year. The Governing Body of St Cross agreed Professor Mitter's interim position after the announcement that Mrs Carole Souter CBE would stand down at the end of September 2022 after six years in post.

INTERIM BURSAR

Wilf Stephenson became Interim Bursar commencing 1 October, 2022 and will serve until the role is permanently filled. John Tranter, having served as St Cross College Bursar since 2014, fully retired in September, and plans to do lots of cycling and playing guitar.

8TH LORNA CASSELTON MEMORIAL

LECTURE: Could the introduction of genetically enhanced elephants to the Arctic help reverse climate change? Professor George Church (Harvard University) spoke on "New Technologies to Enhance Endangered Species and Ecosystems via Diverse/Extinct DNA" to an audience of over 150 attendees from across the globe in May 2022.

In early 2022, the late **Peter Mackridge**, St Cross Emeritus Fellow and Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek, was awarded honorary Greek citizenship for his services to Greek studies, shortly before his passing.



Reverend Professor Sir **Diarmaid MacCulloch**, Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College, has been granted an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by the University of Edinburgh. The honorary degree acknowledges Professor MacCulloch's decades of acclaimed research into the history of the church.

Professor Sir **Andrew Pollard** was awarded the highest honour in Paediatrics – the James Spence Medal for 2022 for outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in paediatrics and child health. Sir Andy, who was Chief Investigator for the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine was also featured in BBC Two's new documentary, '**AstraZeneca: A Vaccine for the World?**', which explores the development and distribution.



The Reverend Dr **George Westhaver** was presented with the Dunstan Award for Prayer and the Religious Life by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, honouring his outstanding service as Principal of Pusey House since 2013 and for keeping up the witness of the Church to the World before and through the pandemic.

Dr **Mallica Kumbera Landrus**, a St Cross Fellow by Special Election, Professor for the History of Art in India and head of the Department of Eastern Art at the Ashmolean Museum, has curated an exhibition featuring the work of Ali Kazim, one of Pakistan's leading artists – as part of Kazim's tenure as the University of Oxford's first South Asian Artist-in-Residence and marking the 75th anniversary of the creation of Pakistan.

St Cross Junior Research Fellow Dr **Tim Lichtenberg** has been awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Winton Award for Early Achievement in Geophysics for his work on understanding the growth and evolution of rocky planets.

St Cross student **Tamsyn Clark** (DPhil Engineering Science, 2018) has been awarded the British Association of Surgical Oncology (BASO) Raven prize for her oral presentation entitled 'Preclinical safety and feasibility of in situ Isolated Normothermic Liver Chemoperfusion (INLiC)' during the 2021 virtual BASO Annual Scientific Conference.

Professor **Matthew Snape**, St Cross Member of Common Room and Professor in Paediatrics and Vaccinology, led a study on mixing different Covid-19 vaccines, which reported results supporting flexible second dose options following Oxford-AstraZeneca or Pfizer-BioNTech jabs.

St Cross Junior Research Fellow Dr **Andrew Creagh** has been awarded a prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Healthcare Technologies Award for early-career researchers.

St Cross Junior Research Fellow Dr **Betty Raman** is the lead researcher of a study investigating a potential treatment for the fatigue and muscle weakness experienced by many patients who have recovered from Covid-19 but still suffer long-term effects from the virus.

A special lectureship and award have been set up in honour of St Cross former Fellow Professor **Grace Wahba** by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) - one of the largest statistical societies in the US. The Wahba Award and Lecture recognise Professor Wahba's monumental contributions to statistics and science.

Emeritus Fellow Professor **Dan Olteanu** has been awarded the 2022 Test of Time Award by the International Conference on Database Theory (ICDT) recognizing a paper presented 10 years prior at the ICDT conference that has best met the "test of time" and had the highest impact in terms of research, methodology, conceptual contribution, or transfer to practice over the past decade.



Fellow Dr **Ho-Yin Mak**, Associate Professor in Management Science, has been elected a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute – the UK’s national institute for data, science and AI. His research interests cover operations research, data science and operations management.

Student **Tristan Alphey** (DPhil History, 2020) has been elected an Early Career Member of the Royal Historical Society.

Postdoctoral Associate Dr **Keren Papier**, Nutritional Epidemiologist within the Nuffield Department of Population Health, co-authored a new paper focused on the link between unprocessed red and processed meat consumption and the risk of ischemic heart disease (IHD). The study has been published in the Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition.

Student **Katherine McCreery** (MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, 2020) has been jointly awarded the Outstanding Achievement Prize on her master’s programme.

Fellow Professor **Sibel Erduran** has been elected a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) thanks to her distinguished and sustained research achievements.



HAPP: ST CROSS CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICS

In June 2022, HAPP held its first in-person event since the start of the pandemic, a one-day conference on “The Nature of Light”; In February 2022, Dr Mario Livio gave an online lecture on ‘Brilliant Blunders - Mistakes by Great Physicists That Changed Our Understanding of the Universe’; In November 2021, a discussion panel on “Searching for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence Across a Century” was held, and In July 2021, NASA Chief Scientist Dr Jim Green lectured on “The Martian - Science Fiction and Science Fact”.

RECOGNITION OF DISTINCTION

2021

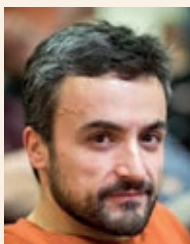
Matthew Snape,
Professor of Paediatrics and Vaccinology

Matthew’s principal areas of research relate to vaccines against meningococcal, pneumococcal, influenza, RSV and Ebola virus disease.



Dr Dimitris Papanikolaou,
Professor of Modern Greek and
Comparative Cultural Studies

Dimitris’s research focuses on the ways Modern Greek literature opens a dialogue with other cultural forms (especially Greek popular culture) as well as other cultures and literature; and also on queer theory, the history of Greek queer cultures, and the difference they can make in people’s lives and social movements.



2022

Daniel Wilson,
Professor of Disease Genomics

Danny’s research aims to understand how genetics can explain differences in the severity of infection between people. His group at the Big Data Institute develops tools for analysing human and microbial genomes.



Francis Leneghan,
Professor of Old English

Francis’s research is split between Old English poetry (especially Beowulf) and the much larger but relatively understudied corpus of Old English prose, including but not limited to works associated with King Alfred.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Laura Sauls (MPhil Development Studies, 2007) has accepted an Assistant Professor position in Global Affairs at George Mason University in Virginia (USA). Laura recently completed a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Sheffield in the Department of Geography.

Riddhi Sohan Dasgupta (MSc Comparative Social Policy, 2007) has joined the law firm Frost Brown Todd LLC as a partner in its Washington, DC office and in the past year has addressed the Parliaments of Romania, Hungary, and Guatemala about national security and international trade.

Raghu Karnad (MSc Contemporary India, 2008), an acclaimed writer and journalist, has been selected as a 2022 Fellow at The New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. From September until May 2023, Raghu will be working on a narrative account of the wartime internment of Japanese civilians in Delhi's Old Fort.

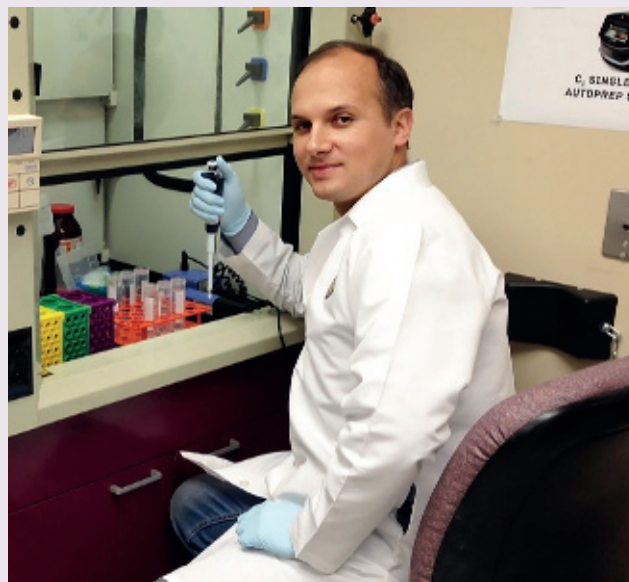


Dr Selena Milanovic (DPhil Engineering, 2017) was invited by the Government and Royal Family of Saudi Arabia to visit the Kingdom where she joined panel discussions with members of the Shura Council and Prince Turki Al Faisal Al-Saud. Selena has also been selected by Forbes Italy among the Under 30 talents in Science for 2022.

Dr **Kevin W. H. Tai** (MSc in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition 2017) has been appointed Assistant Professor of English Language Education at the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Carlo Inverardi-Ferri (DPhil Geography and the Environment, 2012) has been awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London.

Helena Meyer-Berg (DPhil Medical Sciences, 2017) has been awarded the Excellence in Research Award by the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT) for her DPhil research.



Dr **Rostyslav (Rosty) Semikov** (MSc Global Health Science, 2007), who founded the charity Peace and Development Foundation has started fundraising for medical supplies, shelter and transportation for refugees from Ukraine.

Alumna and social sciences researcher at the Oxford Vaccine Group, **Samantha Vanderslott** (MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, 2008) has co-authored a new study exploring how childhood vaccination policies vary across the world and outlining a comprehensive database analysis of mandatory childhood vaccination policies in 149 countries across five WHO regions.

Zhanet Zaharieva (DPhil Materials Science, 2018) co-founded Quantum Dice – the University of Oxford Spinout, which has raised £2 million in pre-seed funding to innovate the security of encryption keys.

Professor **Anne Haour** (DPhil Archaeology, 1998) has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy in recognition of her 'outstanding contributions to the social sciences, humanities, and the arts'. Anne is a Professor in the Arts and Archaeology of Africa at the University of East Anglia.

Dr **Marina Pérez de Arcos** (DPhil International Relations, 2012) has been awarded the 2021 Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt Foundation Research Award for her research on the 'father-son'-like bond between German politician and statesman Willy Brandt and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González.

RECENT BOOKS

*From how we interpret history, to soil management for healthy vineyards, to queer politics in Turkey – books recently published by College members highlight a **cross-pollination** of expertise!*

Risk, Recovery, and Empowerment: The Kazakhstan Bank Restructure Case Study

Written by alumna Marcia-Elizabeth C. Favale, aka Favale-Tarter, (EMBA, 2010).

Queer Politics in Contemporary Turkey

Written by alumnus Paul Gordon Kramer (MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies, 2008).

“Die Zukunft der Außenpolitik ist feministisch” (The Future of Foreign Policy is Feminist)

Written by alumna Kristina Lunn (MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy, 2014).



Healthy Soils for Healthy Vines: Soil Management for Productive Vineyards

Written by Former Fellow Robert White, Emeritus Professor of Soil Science at the University of Melbourne, and awarded the International Organisation of Vine and Wine's OIV Prize - Prix de l'OIV 2021, in the category 'Vitiviniculture Durable' – (Sustainable Vitiviniculture).

Lakes and Empires in Macedonian History: Contesting the Waters

Co-authored by Member of Common Room and Professor of Balkan History James Pettifer and Miranda Vickers.

Mammoths and Neanderthals in the Thames Valley Excavations at Stanton Harcourt Oxfordshire

Co-authored by Emeritus Fellow and former Dean of Degrees Dr Katharine Scott and Dr Christine Buckingham.



What is History, Now?

St Cross Fellows Dan Hicks, Professor of Contemporary Archaeology, and Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, have contributed chapters to this landmark new book addressing how we interpret history today.

The Future of Diplomacy After COVID-19: Multilateralism and the Global Pandemic

Written by several authors, including Indonesian diplomat and St Cross alumnus Vahd Nabyal A. Mulachela (PGDip Diplomatic Studies, 2008).

Global Taiwanese: Asian Skilled Labour Migrants in a Changing World

Written by alumna Professor Fiona Moore (DPhil Social and Cultural Anthropology, 1997).



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all of our friends and supporters who are current or lifetime members of the 1965 Club – our way of recognising those who have chosen to give and support St Cross.

CURRENT 1965 CLUB MEMBERS – RECOGNISING THOSE THAT GAVE TO ST CROSS BETWEEN 1 AUGUST, 2020 – 31 JULY, 2022

ALUMNI DONORS BY MATRICULATION DECADE

1960s	William Honey	Daniel Mikkelsen	Spiro Ganas	2010s
Simon Hunt	Martin Jones	Yogesh Patel	Anupum Khaitan	Casper Gregers Bangert
	Mary Morse	Jessica Sack	Anastassia Loukina	Dominic Behar
1970s	Karen O'Brien	Anne Vandenabeele	Christiana Lundholm	Shelley Gao
Stephen Bass	1990s	Robin Wells	Gihan Marasingha	Graham Harding
Simon Bonvoisin	Mark Avagliano	Douglas Wigdor	John McLaughlin	Toshiharu Hishinuma
James Dodd	Timothy Biggs	2000s	Jasper Morgan	Ellen Johnson
Edward Furgol	Richard Brett	Bill Ackerman	Vladimir Mukanaev	Danielle Damren Lurie
Mary Lloyd	Katarina Burnett	Andrew Amend	Alexander Rayner	Victor Piotrowicz
Ed Macalister-Smith	Rebecca Golbert	Neeraj Bhala	David Rogers	Nigel Thomas
1980s	William Gott	Cheron Byfield	Kuotong Soo	Abigail Tompkins
Andrea Dimbleby	John Hendry	Samidh Chakrabarti	Mengbing Xi	Sandro Wiggerich
Michael Durkin	Raphael Ingelbien	Bronwen Everill	Weijun Xu	Alice Yarker
Katharine Gearing	Aly Kassam-Remtulla	Chris Ferguson		Liyan Zeng
				Moss Zhao

FELLOWS, MEMBERS OF COMMON ROOM, AND FRIENDS OF ST CROSS

Jere L. Bacharach	Victoria Cox	Susan Hockey	Judith Ledger	Anthony Phillips	Uehiro Foundation on
Peter Benton	Jessica Crawford	Masud Husain	Alan Lowne	Dick* & Cathy Repp	Ethics and Education
Malgorzata Bialokoz	Alasdair Crawford	Harold Jaffe	Richard Makepeace	Emilie Savage-Smith	Ruth van Heyningen*
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Richard Briant	Ben Fenby	Wendy James	Robert McLatchie	Zora Shinn	Grace Wahba
Dennis Britton	Margret Frenz	Alan Jones*	Rana Mitter	Derek Siveter	Peter Ward Jones
Richard J. Brook	Estrella Garcia-Bellido	Mark Jones	Charles Mould	Carole Souter	Paul Whyte
Capital Group	Andrew Goudie	John Kingman	Beatrix Nagyova	Keith Suter	Julia Wigg
Mary Chamberland	Helena Hamerow	Crawford Kingsnorth	Frank Norman	Glenn Swafford	Jim Williamson
Lanna Cheng	Derek Harrison	George Kuipers	Peter O'Neill	Simon Swain	Brian Woolnough
Alan Coates	Tom Hassall				<i>*indicates deceased</i>

THANKS ALSO TO OUR LIFETIME 1965 CLUB MEMBERS

Glenda Abramson	David Browning	Anthony Geffen	Mark Jones	Dick Repp*	Anne Vandenabeele
Antonio Alvarez &	James Busuttill	Andrew Goudie	Alan Jones*	Donald Richards*	Martin Vessey
Catelijne Coopmans	Hung Cheng	Derek Harrison	Humphrey Ko	Emilie Savage-Smith	David Warrell
Jere L. Bacharach	Lanna Cheng	Susan Hockey	Mary Lloyd	Kate Scott	Robin Wells
Peter Benton	Tonia Cope-Bowley	Tony Hope	Peter Mackridge*	David Scrymgeour	Douglas Wigdor
Jennifer Bonsell	Alasdair Crawford	Caroline Howard-	Bob McLatchie	Kuotong Soo	Sandro Wiggerich
Richard Brett	James Dodd	Jones & Neil Kensit	Charles Mould	Tom Soper	Jim Williamson
Richard Briant	Ralf Donner	Harold Jaffe & Mary	John Moussouris	Glenn Swafford	Brian Woolnough
Dennis Britton	Michael Durkin	Chamberland	Timothy Pound	Alan Taylor	Fritz Zimmermann
Richard Brook	Spencer Frasher	Wendy James	Rosemary Preiskel	Bernard Tinker*	<i>*indicates deceased</i>
Helen Brown	Edward Furgol				

We would also like to extend our thanks to donors who choose to remain anonymous and those who have pledged legacy gifts.

In Remembrance

PETER MACKRIDGE

Professor Peter Mackridge, an Emeritus Fellow of St Cross, passed away in June 2022 at the age of 76.

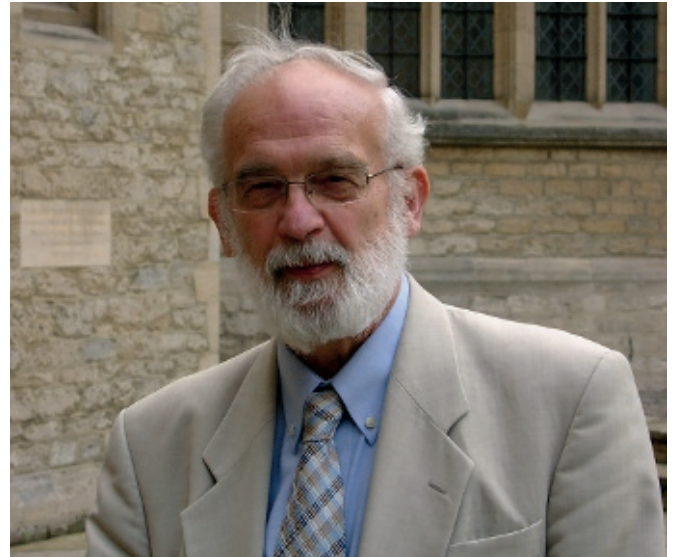
Peter was Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek, for many years Dean of Degrees at St Cross and a long-time supporter of the College.

Peter joined Oxford as a Lecturer in Modern Greek in 1981. His research covered various aspects of Greek language, literature, and cultural history since AD 1100, though he specialised in the period since 1750, including the history of the language, language ideologies, and the history of Greek cultural nationalism. He wrote many books and articles – including ‘Language and National identity in Greece’ – and was a respected editor.

Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Athens in 2008 and an honorary professorship by the University of the Peloponnese in 2017. In March 2022 he was made an honorary Greek citizen in gratitude for 50 years of service to Greek culture.

“For 50 years, I have considered Greece my second home,” Peter said then, and St Cross members will recall that devotion to Greek culture – not least the evenings of impromptu singing and dancing around the College’s piano.

Peter’s death is a big loss to St Cross College, and our condolences go out to his wife, Jackie, and to all his family and friends.



RICHARD REPP

Former Master and Honorary Fellow of St Cross, Dr Richard (Dick) Cooper Repp, passed away in November 2021 at the age of 85.

Dick Repp played a significant role in the development of St Cross. As the third Master, he served from 1987 to 2003 and pursued a conscious policy of expanding student numbers. He was always interested in, and very supportive of, colleagues and students and many will remember him with great affection.

During his stewardship a major expansion of the College’s buildings on its St Giles site took place. In 1991 the construction of a new south wing began. On the completion of the new Hall, kitchens, basement rooms and student accommodation, the room used as Hall since 1981 was converted into the Saugman Common Room. A new meeting room, the St Cross Room, was also provided. The new buildings were completed for the beginning of 1993. It is now impossible to imagine the College without them.

Dr Repp was a University Lecturer in Turkish History from 1965 to 2003, Senior Proctor in 1979, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor between 1994 and 2003, which gave him a much-respected voice throughout Oxford.

A memorial service was held in College in September 2022. Dick will be much missed by his many friends at St Cross and in Oxford.

ALAN JONES

Founding Fellow, and First Vice-Master, Professor Alan Jones passed away in September 2021 at the age of 88.

Professor Jones played a significant part in the College's early days. As a Founding Fellow and the College's first Vice-Master, he developed the College's links with the University and with other colleges, and was part of the committee tasked with negotiating the College's move from its original St Cross site to its current home on St Giles. He was invited to join a number of intercollegiate committees and was later elected to the post of University Assessor.

Professor Jones was Professor of Classical Arabic, and taught Arabic, Turkish, and Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford from 1957-2000. He was widely known for his expertise in the Arabic language and for his work on the Qur'an. A specialist in early Arabic literature, he was the author of a number of books of translations, as well as commentaries on pre-Islamic poetry. A Festschrift, *Islamic Reflections, Arabic Musings*, was published in his honour in 2004. His translation of the Qur'an was published in 2007.



DONALD SIDNEY RICHARDS

Emeritus Fellow, and former Dean of Degrees, Donald Sidney Richards, passed away in November 2021 at the age of 86.

Donald Richards was a Fellow of St Cross from 1967 to 2000 and University Lecturer in Arabic for forty years between 1960 and 2000. His research interests were the history and historiography of the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods.

A specialist in Arabic history, he was the author of a number of books of translations, among which were 'The Rare and Excellent History of Saladin, translation of Ibn Shaddad,' and 'The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athir for the Crusading Period,' parts One, Two and Three.



LESLEY FORBES

Lesley Forbes (Harding), a Fellow of St Cross, passed away in March 2020 at the age of 76, after many years of living with cancer.

Lesley became a Fellow of the College during her time as Keeper of Oriental Collections at the Bodleian Library (1999-2008). Prior to moving to Oxford, she was Curator of the Sudan collections at the University of Durham Library and before that worked at the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Lesley worked alongside Glenda Abramson, Peter Benton, Hung Cheng, Tim Pound and the St Cross Archivist, Emilee Savage Smith, sorting, organising and cataloguing the College Archives, from 2010 onwards, focusing initially on materials for the celebration in 2015 of the 50th anniversary of the College's foundation. This 'Archives Group' worked every Tuesday, and their efforts continued well past the celebration.

As part of this work, Lesley updated the database for all College records relating to the Art Collections and realised that more needed to be done to ensure that the Collection was appropriately managed and cared for. She was appointed Art Registrar and elected a Fellow by Special Election in 2015. She continued in this role, working alongside the Master's PA, Lesley Sanderson, and succeeded in introducing systems and processes which will stand the College in good stead for many years to come.

Carole Souter reflected on 'how much Lesley did to help us manage our art collection... how much she valued her connection with the College [and] her stoicism in the face of a very long illness. She was a caring College advisor, and a good friend, whose quiet warmth will be much missed.'

A memorial service was held in College in July 2022.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see our events page for further information and booking details:
www.stx.ox.ac.uk/events.

2022

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT

Wednesday, 7 December,
16:00 – 18:00
St Cross College

WINTER DRINKS

Thursday, 15 December,
18:30 – 20:30
St Cross College

2023

1965 CLUB EVENING

Friday, 17 February,
19:00 – 22:00
St Cross College
By invitation only

FRED'S LUNCH

Saturday, 11 March,
12:30 – 15:00
St Cross College

ENCAENIA & PRIZEGIVING

Wednesday, 21 June,
18:00 – 21:30
St Cross College
By invitation only

MEETING MINDS

22-24 September 2023
Oxford

HELLO FROM YOUR DEVELOPMENT & EXTERNAL RELATIONS TEAM



Annabelle Saunders

Acting Head of Engagement & External Relations

Annabelle leads the College's engagement activities including alumni relations, stewardship and communications. Do be in touch to find out more about supporting St Cross and ways you can get involved.

engagement.manager@stx.ox.ac.uk



Jason MacGregor

Communications Officer

Jason coordinates and develops the College website, social media presence, and publications including Crossword Magazine and The Record. Please contact Jason with any College-related news.

communications@stx.ox.ac.uk



James Brazier

Development & Alumni Relations Officer

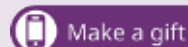
James oversees the St Cross alumni and supporters' events programme, managing and organising events both in the UK and overseas. You are welcome to contact him to find out more about what's on.

alumni.events@stx.ox.ac.uk

Once a St Crosser, always a St Crosser

We love to hear from you so please do keep in touch with us and reach out to the team with your news! You can update your contact details online via the QR code to ensure you're receiving the most relevant information and invitations to events happening near you.

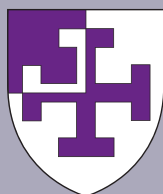
Please do consider a gift to St Cross. All donations irrespective of size are very gratefully received and enable us to continue to develop and grow as a College, attracting the most talented students irrespective of background. To find out more about making a gift to St Cross and our fundraising priorities, please visit www.stx.ox.ac.uk/supporters.



www.development.ox.ac.uk/st-cross-college



St Cross Ball 'Jardin de lumières' credit: Khadijah Ali & Cornelia Chen



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