



# THE AULARIAN



*The Perilous Pursuit of a Python by Tessa Farmer (1997, Fine Art)*

*Credit: New Art Gallery Walsall*

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KEY  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
DURING KEITH'S  
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WHO IS  
ST EDMUND?



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RECOGNISING  
ENDOMETRIOSIS



**BELOW:**

Entries to last year's Hall Photography Competition: (from top) Karl Dudman (2016, MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance), Luke Maw (Schools Liaison Officer), Sheena Patel (2011, Medicine)



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



My Principalship started just as the financial crisis of 2008 took effect. It was a time of great uncertainty, followed quickly by reductions in government funding for higher education.

In an institution without a completely firm endowment and little flexibility in its *modus operandi* this was a difficult period. However, I was told the Hall was looking for change and so we embarked on such! We took a determined route to financial stability and fiscal responsibility over internal budget control. We married this to an increased ambition for fundraising, not only to support the now – teaching, student bursaries and scholarships, buildings and facilities – but also for our future in terms of increasing the endowment, underpinning Fellowships and so sustaining the disciplines taught. We have, mainly through the generosity of Aularians and friends, been able to double the endowment, to endow tutorial Fellowships in a good number of disciplines as well as to provide increased student support. The latter has become an urgent need given the fees now

applied to an undergraduate education and hence the concomitant problems for graduate students doing Masters and DPhils. We have been successful in this, but there will be a need for continuation of such support if talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds – attracted through our schools outreach and access programmes – are to be convinced that Oxford and the Hall really are for them.

Graduate education – the MCR has grown in numbers and in confidence and character. The Teddy Hall MCR contains students from over 60 nationalities and reflects Oxford's status as one of the very best research universities in the world. Helping graduate students come to Oxford – and to the Hall – from all over the world and from all backgrounds in their home countries, has been the reason for the growth of our scholarship support. I have maintained my science research whilst Principal and another strategic achievement has been to fund Research Fellowships and Career Development Fellowships so that young, mid and senior career researchers have a home in the Hall and strengthen the

intellectual experience and teaching of our undergraduates.

The buildings and estate infrastructure of the Hall is its biggest challenge. The overall issue cannot be solved in any one Principal's tenure. Given our mix of buildings, from the medieval to the 21st century, there will always be something to do! What we have done is to enhance the appearance of the Queen's Lane site with new garden buildings, a refurbished quad, enhancements in other areas and soon to be started refurbishments of the Old Library and Old Dining Hall. Our biggest issue is our lack of student accommodation and the need to refurbish what we have. Most Oxford colleges can now offer students accommodation throughout their studies. Many Hall students have to live out and this is becoming an increasingly stressful position for them. We have added more accommodation at our Norham site with the purchase, via Aularian giving and legacies, of another house and we will soon complete the refurbishment of that house and 26 Norham Gardens and the garden flats. All floors of Besse will



*We have continued to enhance the appearance of the Queen's Lane site with new garden buildings*



*Professor Keith Gull and The Rt Hon The Lord Patten of Barnes CH, Chancellor of the University and Visitor at St Edmund Hall*

“To be the best we need to ensure that we attract the best students, no matter what their background in terms of geographic origin, wealth, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender.”

soon have been refurbished. Our ability to apply legacy monies as well as direct fundraising to these projects comes specifically from the fiscal responsibility mentioned earlier. No legacy monies now contribute to our annual running budget and so are only applied to long-term support of teaching, student support or infrastructure. We now have a strategic long-term plan for our estate – the major issue will be the capacity to fund it over the next 20 years.

The core business of the Hall is, of course, teaching, learning and research. To this end I have, no doubt to the consternation of a few students, always held full Principal's Collections, seeing all students in the Hall every year. This is a major commitment but it provides one of the most penetrating insights in to the diversity of the Oxford student body and their teaching and learning. Moreover, these collections illustrate the diverse talent within the Hall, from artistic endeavours, writing, music and drama to all types of sport. Last year close to a third of our students gained a First and 25 a Full Blue and 24 a Half Blue! Such sporting achievements are absolutely mirrored in artistic and societal endeavours.

To be the best we need to ensure that we attract the best students, no matter what their background in terms of geographic origin, wealth, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender. Supporting diversity has been a theme I have

championed during my scientific career and have been pleased to continue this at the Hall. I am pleased that there is now recognition in the Hall, and within the Aularian community, that over a third of our alumni are women. Through events such as the 3000 Women project led by my wife, Dianne, we have been able to celebrate this and I am extremely proud that the Wolfson Dining Hall has 20 portraits of alumnae representative of this section of the Aularian community. I am proud of the work done within the Hall, particularly by our students who have led many recent initiatives to celebrate and encourage diversity within the Hall – from applications to support of individuals and groups whilst here.

Dianne and I have wanted to create a welcoming atmosphere for students, staff and alumni. Hall staff provide superb food and hospitality, day in, day out and also at hundreds of special alumni events. Enabling and assisting this reputation for a warm welcome, in and beyond Oxford, has been a great pleasure. I specifically wanted to make the Hall more open and known to the many alumni. We have met a huge number of this talented and diverse community and the many individuals in it have been very welcoming to us. We have made good friends and there has been much understanding of the project I undertook here. I want to thank all Aularians for your past, present and future support of the Hall and, in particular, of my tenure as Principal.

I hope that our paths will continue to cross as I remain in Oxford with lots of post-'retirement' projects – one of which began in early May with the arrival of a black Labrador puppy – orchestrated by Dianne! It's about getting exercise or something!?

“I want to thank all Aularians for your past, present and future support of the Hall and, in particular, of my tenure as Principal.”

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING KEITH'S PRINCIPALSHIP

*Over the past nine years, Principal Professor Keith Gull has overseen a great variety of initiatives, events, and projects that reflect his passion for developing the whole Hall. Below are just a few examples of these.*



*Principal Professor Keith Gull and Dr Dianne Gull*

**MASTERCLASS AWARDS**  
Over 200 Masterclass Awards have been presented to current students during Keith's tenure. The Masterclass fund enables students to pursue advanced training in extra-curricular activities in which they excel, facilitating further development and achievement for both individuals and College clubs. The activities vary hugely — from rowing to surfing to carpentry to music and theatre — and they reflect the Hall's diverse and talented student body.

**AWARD-WINNING CHURCHYARD PROJECT**  
Renovation of the Churchyard of St Peter-in-the-East was completed in 2017 to create much improved facilities for the gardener, including a greenhouse, office, storage space, and a redesigned bicycle parking area. This project was awarded a certificate in the Environmental and Landscape Enhancement category at the 2017 Oxford Preservation Trust Awards. Generously supported by alumni, this project required the permission of the Queen!



*Keith has attended over 250 events during his Principalship*

**INTERNATIONAL LINKS**  
Keith has helped the College create strong international links, such as funded academic and student exchanges with Chinese universities, a residency for visiting African academics and an endowed student exchange within the University of North Carolina.

**ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**  
Keith has attended over 250 alumni events in the last ten years, in addition to engaging with a large number of individual Aularians both in the UK and internationally. Events include networking opportunities, formal black tie dinners, regional lunches, sporting and artistic events.

**WOMEN INSPIRE**

In 2015 the 3000th woman matriculated at the Hall. Keith wanted to honour this occasion with a series of events throughout the year, underpinned by a specially commissioned display of portraits of twenty inspirational Hall women. Keith worked extensively on this project with Dianne and the Development Office. The twenty portraits now hang in the Wolfson Hall.



*Women Inspire: celebrating the matriculation of the 3000th woman*



**OLD LIBRARY**

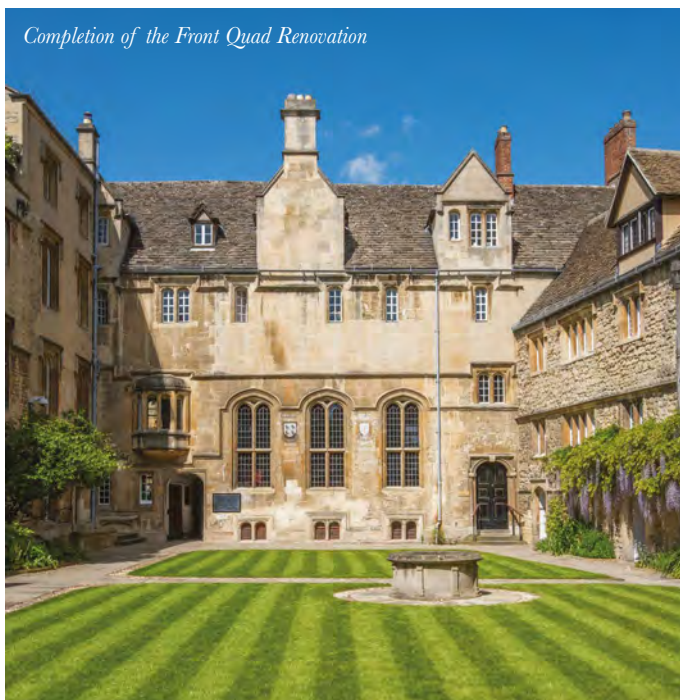
During Keith's time at the Hall, fundraising for the Old Library refurbishment and cataloguing of books has successfully been secured and these projects are now underway.

**GROWTH IN GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Keith's interest in graduate education has led to a doubling in MCR numbers during his tenure, to over 300 students.



*Keith at a 40th Anniversary Dinner*



*Completion of the Front Quad Renovation*

**NORHAM GARDENS**

In 2015, and with thanks to alumni giving, the Hall was able to purchase 24 Norham Gardens and increase the amount of student accommodation we can offer. Alongside this, funding also enabled a major refurbishment of 26 Norham Gardens to create high-quality student accommodation with modern en-suite rooms and communal spaces.

**FRONT QUAD RENOVATION**

In 2016 work on the College's iconic Front Quad was completed. The project was set in place in order to replace and upgrade electric and IT cabling and the gas main. The uneven flagstones are also a thing of the past!



## Update from the Development & Alumni Relations Office

Did you know that the Aularian network is made up of over 10,000 people in 107 countries? It's a wonderfully diverse community, not only in its age range (which spans those who came up in the 1930s through to present day) but in the variety of careers, skills, passions and interests of its individual members. You can celebrate being part of a group that includes writers, comedians, CEOs, members of the Bar, those staying at home to look after families, seven MPs (on both sides of the House), teachers, financiers, NGO workers, news presenters, academics, tech pioneers... the list goes on and on.

Amongst this diversity, I hope, common ground is found in Aularian friendship, a lifelong association with the College, and our shared 'Hall Spirit'. We certainly witnessed this in abundance at the annual New York Dinner in November and the St Edmund Hall Association London Dinner in January, which enjoyed another record number of attendees. Many Aularians attend one of the 40 events we organise each year and, increasingly, we are hosting these outside of Oxford, both across the UK and in key cities around the world. Naturally we cannot reach all of you directly, so please do let us know if you are willing to organise drinks or a dinner in your city for local Aularians. This can be as simple as booking a room at a bar and asking our team to email all of the alumni in your area.

Within today's student body Hall Spirit is certainly alive and well, with over 24 clubs and societies supported by the gifts you make to the Hall's Annual Fund. Music at the Hall has a real energy and, later this year, the Director of Music will lead a Choir Tour to Pontigny (the resting place of St Edmund). Musical activities at the Hall are funded by Aularians (see page 20). Your gifts to the Masterclass Awards (page 21) are supporting talented students to advance a wide range of passions to an exceptional standard. Our sports men and women continue to show their dominance, and in the past year we have been holders of men's cricket

Cuppers and rugby Cuppers and Alice Roberts (2016, Physics & Philosophy) and Iain Maindale (2017, MBA) competed in the Boat Race.

Besides enabling Hall Spirit, your philanthropy is increasingly important in supporting talented students to join the Hall. Student fees and the cost of living in Oxford are very obviously increasing the financial pressures on students. Last year we awarded £125,000 of direct funding to students who demonstrated financial need. Without your gifts this would not have been possible, and we know demand will increase if we are to continue to be open and accessible to students from a range of economic backgrounds.

Our thanks go to the 1,080 Aularians who made donations to the Hall last year and over 200 Aularians who have chosen to remember the Hall in their Will. The Hall relies on the Aularian community and whilst many suggest that a billionaire philanthropist or a large charitable foundation would be better placed to support the College, the reality is that it is you, Aularians, who best understand the impact the Hall makes on the lives of young men and women and the importance of preserving our spirit, diversity and quality of teaching.

As Principal Gull ends his time with the Hall I must recognise the enormous contribution Keith and Dianne have made to the Aularian community and in

advancing the Hall's fundraising. Aularians have donated £17m during Keith's Principalship, and he has personally attended over 250 Aularian events on five continents, many with Dianne. In recognition, we have launched 'The Keith Gull Fund' which will be used by future Principals to offer direct support to students' academic ambitions, charitable endeavours, and general welfare, reflecting Keith's ethos during his Principalship. Our thanks and best wishes go to Keith and Dianne.

The team and I are delighted to support the Aularian community, and we welcome your thoughts on how to build increased unity. We look forward to seeing many more of you at events in Oxford and around the world. Thank you for your support — you are enabling talented, energetic and committed students to benefit from our unique Hall experience.

*Floreat Aula!*

**Gareth Simpson**

Director of Development

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONORS TO THE HALL

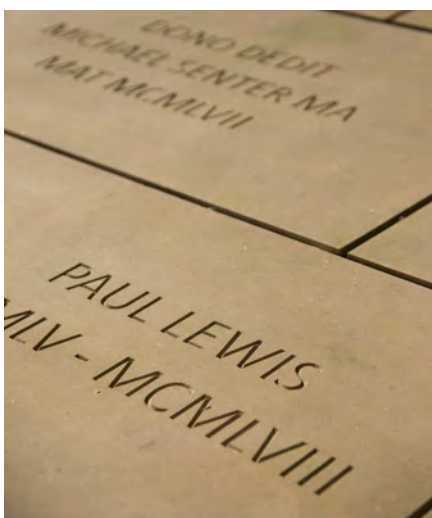
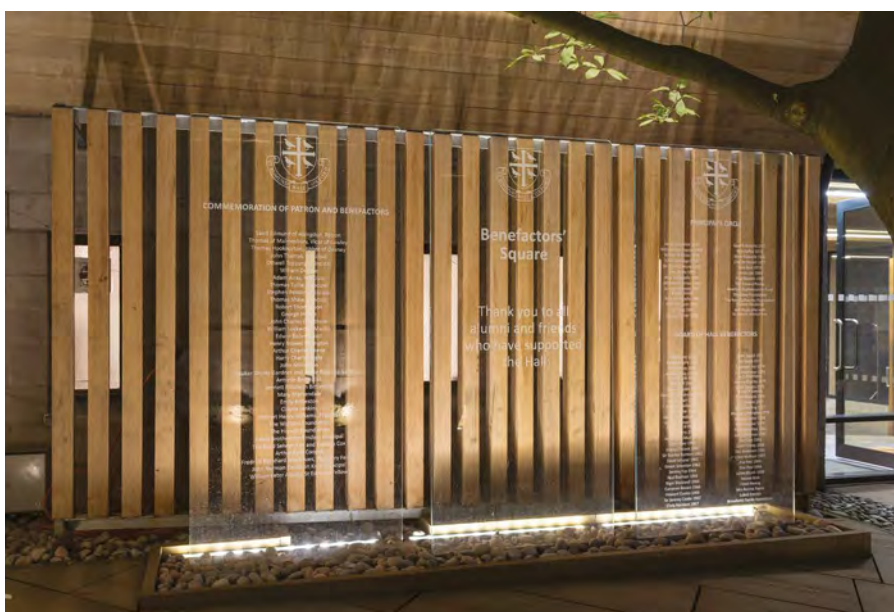
*In order to recognise the generosity of alumni and friends to the Hall, we are delighted to have created the Benefactors' Square – a new paved space situated in the quiet area by the magnolia tree behind the chapel.*

In this area, there are several etched glass boards, which are lit up beautifully in the evening. One of the boards commemorates historic patrons and benefactors, as listed in the prayer read before St Edmund's Feast. This begins with Thomas of Malmesbury, Vicar of Cowley, who in 1272 granted the site of the Front Quadrangle to Oseney Abbey.

There is also a board dedicated to current major benefactors to the Hall, who are members of the Principal's Circle and the Board of Hall Benefactors due to their significant commitment to the Hall in their lifetime.

Finally, yet importantly, the paving slabs in the square are engraved with the names of those alumni and friends who originally purchased a stone in the Front Quad prior to the refurbishment in 2015.

We hope alumni and friends enjoy this new space when they next visit the Hall.



# TESSA FARMER

## THE ORIGIN OF THE FAIRIES



Portrait taken by Matthew Welby

*I was taken by the fairies almost two decades ago. In 1997, I arrived at Teddy Hall to read Fine Art at the Ruskin. I wanted to be a painter. Instead I became obsessed by a malevolent species of tiny, winged, skeletal humanoids intent on world domination.*

Our first year of the course was underpinned by drawing and life-drawing classes, as well as human anatomy, which was traditionally integral to an artist's training. In order to portray the human figure accurately an artist needs to understand it, to develop 'x-ray vision' as it were. We started from the inside out, observing and drawing a human skeleton. Guided by artists Brian Catling, Sarah Simblet and Eleanor Crook we progressed to musculature, and once a week visited the Medical School to draw the Ruskin's very own cadaver. Partially skinned, limbs part amputated, his skin was greyish and wax-like. This first encounter with a dead body, one that didn't really look human any more, was a discombobulating experience. Yet despite my initial squeamishness and the smell, which overpowered the Vicks pasted under my nose (we had been warned), this was to become an inspiring and invigorating opportunity.

In the second year I was working with natural materials, making interventions in green spaces in the city. When walking in Magdalen Deer Park one day I decided to build a human skeleton for a seat carved into a tree trunk. I constructed a smallish, rather crude grinning skeleton from

bark and twigs, positioned it, hid, and delighted in the surprised and bemused reactions of passers-by. Driven by an urge to perfect the technique, I built a life-size skeleton that made sporadic semi-formed appearances in Teddy Hall's Front Quad and in my housemate Anna's bed. Over the summer I startled my older brother with a foetus-like winged skeleton I had 'found' in our garden inside a red tulip. Soon the skeletons had shrunk to seven centimetres tall, sprouted wings made of leaf skeletons, and had become clearly mischievous, possibly sinister fairies. Having only known Cicely Mary Barker's benign Flower Fairies as a child, I was delighted to find out that historical fairies were indeed sinister creatures, associated with demons and the dead. I wondered if this mob had broken out of the Pitt Rivers Museum, via the Museum of Natural History.

By the time I returned to the Ruskin several years later to study for an MFA, the fairies already had me in their clutches.

Constructed from plant roots, and sporting fly wings, they now stood just ten millimetres tall. I trawled the summer streets for insect carcasses, and once again fascination overrode repulsion. My

growing knowledge of entomology saw the fairies evolve at breakneck speed, eschewing brute force and employing increasingly complex weaponry; insect stingers, hedgehog spine spears and biological pathways such as mimicry and parasitism, seized from the natural world, have all been used to rule and enslave insects, birds and mammals. In 2007 I was artist in residence at London's Natural History Museum, and over the years I have followed the fairies worldwide, as far afield as Tasmania where they directed a huge swarm of angry honeybees to take down a brush tailed possum.

I am occasionally disconcerted by their unchallenged ambition, but mostly I remain enthralled by the fairies and their evolving life history. I am forever in debt to the natural world and the ever fascinating, too often overlooked worlds beneath our feet that inspire such awe and wonder.

“Over the summer I startled my older brother with a foetus-like winged skeleton I had ‘found’ in our garden inside a red tulip.”

*Little Savages, 2007*  
(credit Sean Daniels)



*Captive Bumblebee, 2010*

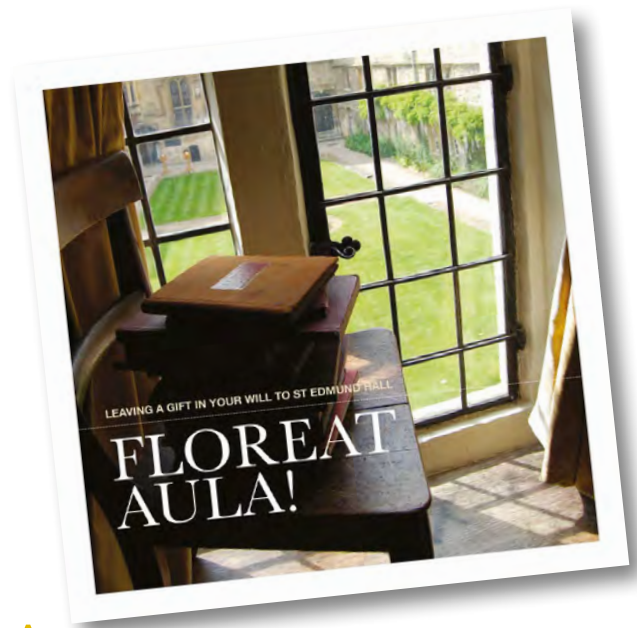
*The Hunt, 2012*



*The Depraved Pursuit of a Possum, 2013*



*The Perilous Pursuit of a Python (detail), 2013*  
(credit New Art Gallery Walsall)



The Floreat Aula Legacy Society brochure

# THE FLOREAT AULA LEGACY SOCIETY

*The history of the Hall and much of its development can be traced to those generous Aularians who chose to remember the Hall in their will. In 1631 the first of these benefactions was by Principal John Rawlinson (1610-31) who bequeathed £6 for a series of divinity lectures.*

Today Aularians continue this generous tradition of remembering the Hall in their will and over the past three years alone bequests have totalled over £3.5 million supporting student bursaries, scholarships, prizes, accommodation and academic posts. However modest, legacies go a significant way to maintaining and developing the Hall's reputation as a first-class teaching institution and we are truly grateful to all Aularians who choose to recognise the Hall in their will. Those who plan to remember the Hall are invited to join the Floreat Aula Legacy Society.

Jake White (2016, BCL) has been the most recent beneficiary of the William Asbrey BCL Studentship which was made possible thanks to a generous eponymous bequest.

*"Receiving my offer to study for the BCL at Oxford has been the proudest achievement of my life so far. However, there was a considerable shortfall in the funds I had available to embark on further study and without the William Asbrey BCL Studentship studying for the BCL would not have been possible. The BCL has surpassed all expectations and I am grateful for the William Asbrey BCL Studentship for allowing me to have this experience."*

Other recent legacies have secured key teaching positions, supported music at the Hall (which you can read more about on page 20) and funded the Frank di Rienzo Masterclass Award for Drama (page 21).

If you would like guidance or information on leaving a gift to the Hall in your will please contact **Sally Brooks** in the Development and Alumni Relations Office who can offer advice on wording, explain the potential tax benefits, and let you know the long-term objectives of the Hall to help ensure that your wishes can be carried out effectively.



There are 230 FALS members with matriculation years ranging from 1942 to 2008



£500,000

was raised from legacies last year



*Guests at the FALS Weekend visited the Broad Press, the historic printing workshop of the Bodleian with Henrike Lähnemann*



*Guests at the FALS Weekend attend Evensong*

The Floreat Aula Legacy Society recognises and thanks every Aularian who has generously decided to make a provision to the Hall in their will. Members span six decades, from those who matriculated in 1942 to 2008, and receive invitations to special events, most notably the **Floreat Aula Legacy Society Weekend**.

The next biennial Floreat Aula Legacy Society Weekend will be held on Friday 29 March 2019. The weekend is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Aularians and to experience some of 'hidden Oxford'. The last event – in March 2017 – included private guided tours of the Ashmolean, 'Hidden Oxford'

and the Broad Press (the historic printing workshop of the Bodleian), as well as talks on the Eurozone Debt Crisis and visits to the Hall's historic Crypt, and a similar programme of events can be assured for 2019. If you have included the Hall in your will – or are interested in doing so – please let the Development Office know – we would be delighted to extend a warm invitation to the Floreat Aula Weekend.



*"My time at Oxford went by in a blur of sweaty bops and essay crises so it's perhaps only in retrospect that I can appreciate what a privilege it was to have been an undergraduate at Teddy Hall. I'd love to be able to help ensure that future generations of students have access to the same wonderful opportunities.*

*I'm a novelist and as anyone in the creative industries knows, it can be hard to predict your income from year to year. Sometimes you're more in need of a charitable donation than able to give one! Planned giving is a great way to honour your commitment to the Hall if you can't write a cheque in the moment.*

*It goes without saying that it's never too early to write a will and it would be lovely to see some new faces at the Floreat Aula dinners!"*

**Chris Manby**  
(1990, Experimental Psychology)

*Photograph credit: Michael Pilkington*

# MEET THE HALL'S JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

*We are pleased to introduce you to the following new Junior Research Fellows at the Hall. Many of these positions are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Aularian community. If you would like further information about any of these posts it can be found on the Hall website.*



**Dr Benjamin Fairfax**  
*William R. Miller Junior Research Fellow*

Ben provides tutoring in cancer therapeutics with a focus on immunology. He is a Group Leader at the Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine and an Honorary Consultant Medical Oncologist at the Churchill Hospital. Ben's research is interested in the genetic and epigenetic determinants of variation in human immunity with a particular emphasis on identifying factors that regulate the response to checkpoint inhibitor therapy.

His work and that of his group is primarily supported by the Wellcome Trust. Ben studied preclinical medicine

in London, intercalating a BSc and PhD at UCL prior to completing his clinical training in Oxford. Ben graduated in 2006 and has completed specialist training in Oxford in Medical Oncology. Prior to setting up his own group he was also a Wellcome MB PhD postdoctoral Fellow with Professor Julian Knight at the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics.



**Dr Will Homoky**  
*SEH Open Junior Research Fellow Earth Sciences*

Will is a geochemist who is interested in biogeochemical links between oceans and climate. He explores the nature and significance of 'trace-elements' that are washed from the continents and cycled within oceans.

*"A tiny amount of the metal iron dissolved in seawater determines the extent to which phytoplankton can grow in much of the ocean. Such biological dependencies upon trace elements like iron, impact the amount of carbon dioxide that is absorbed by the ocean and removed from the atmosphere, where it critically influences Earth's temperature, but the*

*size and complexity of these effects are not yet well understood."*

Will seeks to learn how these biologically essential trace elements are exchanged between rocks, minerals and the ocean, and where and how much these exchanges occur.

Presently, he is exploring the use of short-lived radioisotopes in combination with underwater sampling technology to track and quantify trace element inputs from different types of ocean environment, from shallow coasts to deep basins, ice sheets and underwater volcanic ridges.



**Dr Mandy Izadi**  
*Broadbent Junior Research Fellow American History*

Mandy completed her doctorate at Oxford in 2016, having previously received her BA at New York University.

Mandy's scholarship sits at the intersection of indigenous history, environmental history, and African American history. Her current project investigates the history of North America's Southeast and the Greater

Caribbean from the mid-eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century.



**Dr Emre Korkmaz**  
SEH Open Junior Research Fellow  
International Development

Eren is a post-doctoral researcher at the Oxford Department of International Development and a British Academy, Newton International Fellow.

He is a political scientist and his current work focuses on the participation of Turkey-origin migrants in the public sphere via trade unions and explores this in a comparative perspective, drawing on the German, Dutch and UK cases.

In addition to his research profile, he has extensive work experience in the field on

the labour-market integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Eren completed his PhD in International Relations at Istanbul University, Faculty of Political Science. He submitted his MA in Turkish Studies at Sabancı University, Istanbul, which compared three transnational solidarity campaigns of trade unions from Turkey.



**Dr Ricardo Pérez-de la Fuente**  
Junior Research Fellow & Museum  
Research Fellow at the Oxford  
University Museum of Natural History  
Paleobiology

Ricardo's research is focused on the palaeobiology of fossil arthropods, namely insects and arachnids.

Although founded on morphology and systematics, his works aim at extracting

palaeoecological, palaeoethological, palaeobiogeographical, and taphonomic data. Special emphasis is put on the study of amber inclusions, particularly those from the Cretaceous, one of the most important periods for the diversification of terrestrial arthropods linked with the angiosperm radiation.



**Dr Robert Power**  
SEH Open Junior Research Fellow  
Statistical Genetics

Rob is a Sir Henry Wellcome postdoctoral fellow at the Big Data Institute (Oxford) and the Africa Health Research Institute (UCL/Durban). Rob received his PhD in statistical genetics from the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, where his work focused on understanding the aetiology of psychiatric disorders. After his PhD, Rob switched focus to infectious disease, in particular HIV, and moved to the Wellcome Trust Africa Centre for Population Health (now the Africa Health Research Institute).

Rob's main research interest is the application of statistical tools to the viral genomes in order to identify the underlying genetic variants that control infectiousness and transmission.

Genomics offers a powerful tool to rapidly understand the biology of viral transmission and identify drug/vaccine targets, which is particularly useful in the response to emerging viral epidemics.



**Dr Tom White**  
SEH Open Junior Research Fellow &  
Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow  
English (Late Medieval and Early  
Tudor Literature)

Tom's interests are in medieval and early modern studies; the material text and history of media and critical theory. He is currently finishing a monograph on late medieval manuscripts and their treatment from the medieval period to the modern day. 'Potential Lives: the matter and materials of late medieval

manuscripts' explores the figurative, interpretive and theoretical possibilities of manuscript study, with a particular focus on the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, vernacular romance, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, *The Book of Sir John Mandeville*, and Thomas Hoccleve's *Series*. Drawing on contemporary theory, this project also looks to position manuscript studies within the developing field of the history and ecology of media.



# Who is St Edmund?

*This is Will Donaldson's fifth academic year as the Hall's Chaplain. Will splits his time between Teddy Hall and St Aldate's Church, where he is Director of Pastoral Care. Will's role within Teddy Hall is broadly split in two halves: as the Chaplain he leads and supports the Chapel community, and as Co-Senior Welfare Officer, alongside the college Nurse, he is available to see anybody in the college community for pastoral support – students, staff or Fellows.*

## Why did you choose to research and write about St Edmund?

I was inspired because of my connection to our College, which carries his name, and because he is our patron and one of our original Fellows. He was such an influential medieval figure who had a significant impact on church and state life at the time. Also I discovered that interest in St Edmund went well beyond our College. There are churches and organisations globally which have an intense interest in St Edmund and in keeping his legacy alive, not least in Pontigny, France, where his tomb has rested for hundreds of years.

## So then it seems like his legacy is far-reaching and that his influence really spreads out globally?

I think that's right, though I wouldn't want to exaggerate that. One of the things I discovered was that, despite being such an important character in his time, his life and influence have often been understated. Not a lot of people in the wider world know much about St Edmund and he is certainly not up there with most well-known medieval saints. I think he deserves to be.

## What did you find out about him?

My monograph, named *'The Servant Heart: Exploring the life and Legacy of St Edmund of Abingdon'* (Grove Books, 2018, £3.95), is split into three sections. The first is a historical survey of his life.

He was born in Abingdon, around 1175, and educated in Oxford. His initial period at the Hall came when he taught Greek Philosophy, Mathematics and Dialectics. He then took a break to continue his education in Paris before becoming ordained and returning to the Hall to teach theology in the early 13th century. During the reign of Henry III Edmund took up a parish post in Wiltshire, where he became a priest for a number of years (1222-1234). At the same time he was the Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral. Because he was doing so well in both roles he was picked out by the Pope himself to become the Archbishop of Canterbury, a role he took on in 1234 until his death six years later.

During that time he provided strong leadership to the church, challenging areas of church life which had lost their way or become materialistic. But he also had a role in state affairs, speaking truth to power and calling for Henry III to obey the agreements of the Magna Carta. Now, it was only around 50 years earlier that one of his predecessors — Archbishop Thomas Becket — had also spoken truth to power. Henry II disliked having an Archbishop who touched his conscience and St Thomas was murdered for speaking out. It was a dangerous time to

stand up for one's views and we have to admire the courage of St Edmund for his fearlessness in his sense of duty and for upholding righteousness and justice — just as Christ had called us to do.

The second part of my monograph is an exploration of Edmund's character, personality and spirituality, while the third section talks more about his ongoing legacy — something which can be seen not only in educational excellence and an ongoing commitment to investing in young people, but also in showing social justice and compassion, as we know these were strong components of his life and ministry.

Another area of his ongoing legacy is the way in which he continues to shape churches and the church ministry. He was a model preacher, pastor, leader and shepherd of his flock. He was dearly loved by those around him, and I think people valued him so much because of how he took care of people, especially those without a voice or those who were in need. There are many churches that continue to be inspired by this. Also, his spirituality, faith and prayerfulness are key elements to his legacy, as are his enjoyment and love of worship and the Eucharist. He was devoted to Christ and was deeply sincere in how he worked out his discipleship. This continues to inspire people today.





*Statue of St Edmund in the Churchyard created by alumnus Rodney Munday (1967, English)*

“He was a model preacher, pastor, leader and shepherd of his flock. He was dearly loved by those around him, and I think people valued him so much because of how he took care of people, especially those without a voice or those who were in need.”

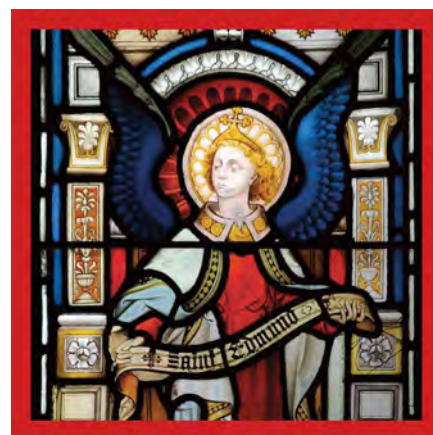
#### **What do we know about his weaknesses?**

Most of what we know about St Edmund comes from people who were his greatest fans, expressed in the hagiography. You might say this is a nice weakness to have, but he was over-generous and often gave his money away. There's evidence to suggest that this got him into debt problems on some occasions, and had to turn to friends to bail him out, some of whom would rebuke him about this.

Another could be perceived as his austerity. The wonderful statue in the Churchyard (created by alumnus Rodney Munday, 1967) is really quite stark, showing him to be thin and plainly-dressed. He was one of the most powerful men in the realm in the medieval hierarchy, and yet he maintained simplicity and austerity. This could be perceived as a weakness in that it prevented him from enjoying the wonders and riches of God's good Creation.

#### **What would Edmund think of the modern-day Hall?**

I think he would have been really strong on the Hall's community spirit. He would have been pleased to see staff going the extra miles for their students, and especially for those who are vulnerable or who need extra support.



*Stained glass in the chapel depicting an angel bearing St Edmund's name*

“He was one of the most powerful men in the realm in the medieval hierarchy, and yet he maintained simplicity and austerity.”

# UNDERSTANDING ENDOMETRIOSIS



*Professor Krina Zondervan is Professor of Reproductive & Genomic Epidemiology and Deputy Head of the Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health (NDWRH) at the University of Oxford. She first came to the Hall in 1993 as an Erasmus exchange student from the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, (MSc Biomedical Sciences) and subsequently read for a DPhil in the epidemiology of women's health at the Hall, and an MSc in Genetic Epidemiology (Erasmus University, the Netherlands). Several fellowships and international placements later, she is now Co-Director of the Oxford Endometriosis CaRe Centre based at NDWRH/the Women's Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital and the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics.*

I have long been fascinated by research into women's health conditions, in particular benign conditions that are very prevalent but under-recognised and under-researched.

Endometriosis is one such condition, affecting an estimated 1.6 million women in the UK alone in their reproductive years and 176 million worldwide. It occurs when tissue resembling endometrium (the lining of the womb) starts to grow outside the womb. Endometriosis is mainly found in the pelvis where it can affect the ovaries, Fallopian tubes, bowel and bladder.

Women commonly suffer from symptoms such as painful periods, abdominal pain, painful intercourse and infertility. Having a laparoscopy (keyhole surgery) is the only way to diagnose the condition. Lack of awareness of the disease and the need for surgery to establish a diagnosis leads to an average diagnostic delay of 7-8 years in the UK and elsewhere. Treatments are limited to hormonal treatments with many side-effects and complex surgical removal of disease which often needs to be repeated, and sometimes hysterectomy.

Endometriosis is as common as asthma and type 2 diabetes, and carries a similar health care cost burden, yet it is hugely under-recognised. Research into the condition has been under-funded. For

example, in a week-long feature series of articles in 2015 ([bit.ly/1KI3aw6](https://bit.ly/1KI3aw6)), The Guardian highlighted that for every patient with type 2 diabetes the National Institutes of Health in the US spend about \$35 dollars/year on research funding; for endometriosis this is less than \$1. This is likely one of the main reasons so little is known on what causes the disease and how best to treat it.

Together with Professor Christian Becker, consultant gynaecologist, I established the Oxford Endometriosis CaRe Centre in 2012 as a partnership between the University of Oxford and the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Centre, based in the Women's Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital, sees and treats more women with endometriosis than any other unit in the UK. In 2014, the Centre was accredited by the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE). The Centre's key mission is to combine this high-quality patient care with world-class research into the condition. Its staff now count more than 20 principal investigators, research staff, and students, and it is one of the largest centres worldwide dedicated to researching the condition.

Research at the Centre has two central aims: 1) to identify non-invasive means of diagnosing the disease (e.g. biomarkers assessed through a blood

test), allowing much earlier diagnosis and treatment; 2) to inform the development of novel (non-hormonal) treatments and better targeting of such treatments to specific patient groups ('stratified/personalised medicine'). To this end, the Centre's research is highly collaborative and multidisciplinary, spanning basic science (e.g. genetics, cell biology) into the causes and characteristics of endometriosis, clinical studies investigating treatments and their effect on women, and translational research to move basic scientific findings into programmes for the development of non-invasive diagnostic tests and novel treatments, in collaboration with industry. An example: we know there is a strong genetic component to endometriosis. Using epidemiological approaches, our work is aimed at identifying genetic variants that influence a woman's risk of endometriosis, how these variants affect molecular pathways, and how environmental risk factors influence these processes. We are currently leading a large international collaboration of 21 global centres contributing genetic data on more than 60,000 women with endometriosis, and we anticipate publishing the results later this year.



The Centre has been at the forefront of promoting internationally collaborative, high quality, reproducible research through leadership of the Endometriosis Phenotyping and Biobanking Harmonisation Project (EPHect) under the auspices of the World Endometriosis Research Foundation (WERF). WERF EPHect is an initiative involving 34 endometriosis research centres worldwide to develop standardised data and biological sample collection tools in research: [www.endometriosisfoundation.org/ephect](http://www.endometriosisfoundation.org/ephect). These tools are already implemented in 18 centres, including Oxford Endometriosis CaRe. Our premise is that only through collaboration can we make real progress in understanding endometriosis, and ultimately provide better methods of diagnosis and treatment.



“Endometriosis is as common as asthma and type 2 diabetes, and carries a similar health care cost burden, yet it is hugely under-recognised.”

More information can be found at:  
[www.wrh.ox.ac.uk/research/endometriosis](http://www.wrh.ox.ac.uk/research/endometriosis)

# INTRODUCING THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



*Christopher Bucknall, conductor and harpsichordist, joined the College in 2017. He is a rising star both on the concert platform and in the opera house, sharing his passion for bringing music from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries alive.*

It has been a wonderfully busy and diverse first year in my post as Director of Music at the Hall.

My predecessor Chris Watson set up and consolidated a strong programme of activities and my role has been to develop these in to an even more ambitious programme for the future. I have been very fortunate to be aided in this by a large number of incredibly supportive College staff, Fellows and students.

The Hall Choir is growing in numbers and now comprises over 20 members – the largest it has been for a number of years. The singing is fantastic and besides the weekly Sunday Evensong, the choir has continued to place itself in the heart of College life by performing at an incredibly broad variety of events in the year. These range from Carols in the Quad and Grace for the St Edmund's Feast, to joint services with Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge (our twin College) and memorial services and weddings for loved members of the Hall community.

We are benefiting hugely from six Choral Scholars (of which three are Freshers), and the Hall's new Organ Scholar, Hagen Papenburg has settled in well. We are planning various large-scale events for the choir including a tour to Pontigny, Paris and Canterbury in the Autumn. In addition to the Chapel music, I'm developing a series of events to ensure we have regular performances in the Hall. Our Tuesday lunchtime student recitals have proved again to be a great success, providing students with a regular platform for

performance. It has revealed to me yet again the depth of talent we have in our student body, particular highlights were the Freshers' concert and some stunning performances by members of the MCR. I also invited Elizabeth Burgess (a superb piano accompanist and coach) to give Hall students a performance masterclass to help them in their presentation of performance. This proved incredibly popular.

I have been busy developing ways of raising the College's profile within the rest of the city and University. This has seen us sharing our superb facilities with various University ensembles, including visiting performances by the Bate Players and the Oxford University Symphonic Band. In early January, the Hall will be the focal point for a week of intensive rehearsals with professional players from Instruments of Time & Truth (Oxford's

professional Baroque orchestra) coaching the student instrumentalists of the Bate Players in Concerti Grossi by Corelli, Handel and Geminiani. I am also in the process of devising an evening concert series of Baroque concerts in the Chapel that will invite guest musicians to both perform a public concert and conduct 'masterclasses' for students from across the collegiate University.

Outside of Hall life, I have been extremely busy both conducting and playing the harpsichord on the concert platform, in the opera house and in the recording studio. Since taking up my post, I have conducted performances around the UK (most recently with The English Concert in the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester), Europe and Asia and am just about to begin rehearsals of Handel's comic opera, *Partenope* for Iford Arts near Bath.



*The St Edmund Hall Choir rehearsing*

# MASTERCLASS AWARDS

*The Masterclass Awards, funded through alumni giving as part of the Annual Fund, provide students who already excel at an extra-curricular activity with the opportunity to refine their talent with specialised coaching.*

**RACHEL DAVIES**  
(2013, MEDICINE)



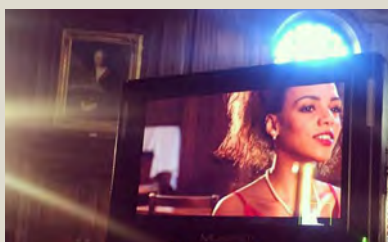
I would like to start this report by saying thank you for the opportunity I have been given which allows me access to quality running coaching. This is especially important to me as I started running a few years ago to help me cope with a chronic mental health condition. I had just returned from a period of intermittence due to said issue and I knew how important it was for me to keep running. This led to my decision to train for the London marathon.

I have run previous marathons, but I have always been affected by injury due to over training and ineffective training. The coaching gave me the opportunity to see my mistakes and to produce a personal training plan that offered flexibility when I felt an injury brewing. I gained a lot of speed relatively quickly and learnt that strategy is the best way to train and working on alternating hard, medium and easy days enabled me to rest and recover, but also maximise my training.

This improvement in training and speed meant I succeeded in gaining a place on the Varsity Marathon Squad for the third time. Without the personal coaching I would never have been able to achieve this. I am hopeful and optimistic that I will be able to clock a good time for the London marathon this year and hopefully a PB – which would be great for myself and also for the Oxford team.

I am genuinely grateful for this opportunity and also for the chance to see what I am really capable of.

**CATHERINE WHITE**  
(2016, MST WOMEN'S STUDIES)  
was awarded the Frank di Rienzo  
Masterclass Award in Drama and  
Theatre



The generous backing of this award has enabled me to commit to my training as an actor and to exceed my own expectations. I was thrilled to be offered a place at the Oxford School of Drama. The Masterclass Fund allowed me to grasp with both hands the opportunity of training at such a prestigious institution and also instilled in me the confidence that someone had believed in me enough to support my training. This has enabled me to flourish and, at only half way through my training, I am the only person from my year group selected to represent the school at the Carleton Hobbs radio competition.

The award has also reminded me of the importance of a community such as that of Teddy Hall. To have the opportunity to further my development as an actor is not only a dream, but a responsibility and one I take incredibly seriously. As a state school-educated mixed race woman who was lucky enough to be educated at an institution such as Oxford and to go on to train at OSD, I am fully aware that I could serve as a role model for others around me. As such I hope to continue to provide regular updates on how my training progresses and return to College and mentor those who are also thinking about pursuing acting professionally, particularly if they, like me, are not from a background which would typically allow for this as a possibility.

Therefore, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the di Rienzo family for their past and on going support. I will never forget it.

**ALEXANDER GEBHARD**  
(2016, MPHIL EUROPEAN  
POLITICS AND SOCIETY)



I am extremely grateful for the financial support I received from the Hall through the Masterclass Scheme. The award enabled me to pay for singing lessons with the renowned tenor Ryland Davies, professor of voice at the Royal Academy of Music. Every 2-3 weeks I would travel to his private studio where we would work on vocal technique and a wide range of repertoire. Thanks to this exceptional training I have been able to perform in numerous recitals, concerts, and operas. For example, I sang the Mozart Requiem tenor solo for Exeter Chapel Choir; gave a Schuman recital at the Hall and a Schubert recital for St Anne's College Music Week. On the opera stage, I performed the role of 'Don Basilio' in a production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*; the main role in Stravinsky's *Renard* for New Chamber Opera Studio; the role of 'Brother' in Maxwell-Davies' *The Hogboon* with Karina Canellakis in the Luxembourg Philharmonie; the double role 'Giovenetto/Alcade' for New Chamber Opera; and debuted at the London Grimeborn Opera Festival in the contemporary opera *Collision*.

These various experiences have all strengthened my resolve to become a professional singer. In fact, I have been offered a scholarship to join the Royal Academy in September 2018 to study on their MA Performance course. Again, I am deeply grateful to have received the Masterclass Award, without which I would not have been able to pursue these fantastic opportunities.

# EVENTS SUMMARY

Over the past year Aularians have attended over 40 alumni and student events in the UK and worldwide. The Principal has travelled to cities such as New York, Bath, San Francisco, Manchester and Rome.

In 2018/2019 we plan to offer alumni and friends even more opportunities to reconnect, network and hear of developments at the Hall. Please do visit the website to see what events we have coming up in the next year.

To book an event or to share photos of an event you have hosted, please contact our Alumni Relations Manager, Kate Townsend at [kate.townsend@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@seh.ox.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1865 289180.

Photos from our events can be found online at [flickr.com/StEdmundHall](https://www.flickr.com/photos/StEdmundHall)



*Parents' Dinner for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year undergraduates*



*50th Anniversary Dinner*



*60th Anniversary Lunch*



*33rd Annual New York Dinner*



*10th, 20th & 30th Anniversary Dinner*



*Carols in the Quad*

## ST EDMUND HALL ASSOCIATION:

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Aularian,

This is my second annual communication with you and marks the end of my first year as President of the St Edmund Hall Association. Last year I outlined our mandate to modernise the Association and referred to several initiatives that the committee and I intended to roll out over the subsequent 12 months.

I am pleased to report a busy year for the Association in which Aularians have attended many successful events held around the world. We are implementing or in the process of launching several changes – all contributing to the theme of modernisation but seeking, as promised, to ensure we preserve both the things that work well and the ethos and spirit of the Aularians. Some of the highlights of the last year are listed below.

#### The St Edmund Hall Association London Dinner

After over 20 years of successful dinners at the Royal Overseas League, we took the decision for a refresh of venue as well as to increase capacity and change the format a bit. An all-time record of 230 alumni attended the dinner at the end of January (moved a week later than previous years to cater for those on post-Christmas health programmes!) at the world-renowned music venue, 100 Wardour St in Soho (formerly the Marquee Club, where the Stones played regularly in the 1960s). We had a long waiting list and had to close applications, so apologies for those not able to attend – we had increased the capacity by one-third but still were not able to cater for everyone. A live Aularian band (led by Rosie Shann and all, matriculating in 2007) played after dinner and, despite

“I am pleased to report a busy year for the Association in which Aularians have attended many successful events held around the world.”

some teething problems on port distribution (a heinous crime, for which apologies), a large contingent stayed on after dinner to continue the party. Demographically we had the most balanced distribution of young(er) and old(er) attendees ever.

#### How Can I Help?

We launched this theme last year in an attempt to show Aularians that there are ways of reconnecting with the Hall and giving back that don't necessarily involve money. Time offered sharing work and even life experience and skills is a great example of this. In order to understand what the students want, rather than impose a vision of what we think they want, I hosted a President's Dinner in November where I took a number of Aularian volunteers to the College and we had an evening to listen to the MCR and JCR Presidents and their fellow elected officers. What we learned was very instructive and several initiatives have come out of this one event, one example being a Careers Workshop. Students are keen to be able to hear from alumni, not just on specific career paths (where actually the internet and University offer masses of info) but more practical advice on entering the workplace, adjusting to this and developing a career. To that end, we have assembled a group of alumni volunteers to run a workshop next term at the College. We will be putting more of these events together in the future and will ask for volunteers.

#### Communication

I referred to the modernisation of our communications as well. Fear not a deluge of spam email to increase the communication from this current solitary annual letter (although, we will send select emails); but, instead, we are now rolling out an upgraded association webpage as part of an overhaul of the College website and we will provide more information on initiatives including 'How Can I Help?' as the programme develops.

Also, in the same vein, I need to put out an urgent cry for help on two fronts. We are a small committee and in reality the

active leadership of the Aularians centrally for over 10,000 alumni is run by fewer than 10 people (all of whom also have day jobs). If we are to maintain the events we have today and indeed increase the activity and modernise, we need more help. So, How Can YOU Help?

1. We need volunteers to sit on the Association — with a maximum of two meetings a year, a few telephone conference calls (last an hour maximum) and some voluntary specific tasks to spread the load. Your participation would make a massive difference for a small commitment of time and it is, trust me, wonderful to reconnect with the College and rewarding.
2. As above, we would love to hear from anyone willing to act as a point of contact in major cities around the world to help coordinate a more global communications and events programme.

Contact me on  
[aularianconnect@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:aularianconnect@seh.ox.ac.uk)

Finally, I wish to reserve the last comments for Professor Keith Gull, who retires as Principal later this year, and his wife Dianne. Aularians gave them a rousing send off at the London Dinner, as I am sure many others will be able to do at events over the coming months. I do however, on behalf of all Aularians, want to say a huge thank you to Keith and Dianne for everything they have done for the Hall over the past years, which has been immense and also to wish them all the very best for the future.

*Floreat Aula!*

**David Waring**  
(1987, Geography)



# NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM

*Will Mason is a second year undergraduate student from the USA studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics.*

Once again, Teddy Hall students have demonstrated their diverse interests and talents, excelling in a variety of disciplines while fostering an incredible sense of community.

### TEDDY HALL BALL

The Ball Committee, led by Ella Penny, worked tirelessly to plan the Teddy Hall Ball which took place in April with over 700 guests attending on the night. The theme was Chroma, which is Ancient Greek for colour, and decorations dazzled. Various sponsors contributed to make the night possible but none more exciting than the food sponsor (Nando's!). From dance machines, to food stalls, incredible performances to exceptional music acts, the night was unforgettable and truly representative of Hall Spirit!

### WELFARE

The welfare reps Mike Atkinson and Sophie Dangerfield have been working hard to make sure everyone's welfare concerns are addressed. This term in fifth week there were lots of welfare events to get everyone through the middle of term. JCR members were offered massages, free food with JCR teas and film nights to chill out and get away from work for a while. Throughout the week they could also pidge handmade cards to others, with the cards donated by Sophie Thomas. As always peer support drop-in sessions were held for students who might want someone to talk to confidentially about anything and everything.

### MUSIC

Music at Teddy Hall is going from strength to strength. Our instrumental scholars have been giving a series of well-attended concerts on Tuesday lunchtimes. The Hall is well represented in University groups with 5 members of the OU Wind Orchestra, including 4 invited on the USA tour last December who were very grateful for the £1900 funding from the College.

Aularians were also involved in the performance of Mahler 5 given by the University's flagship Orchestra, with Bradley Young performing the famous Horn Obligato. The Chapel Choir has had the opportunity to perform in an intercollegiate service in the University Church as well as a trip to Cambridge to perform with our sister college.

### CHARITIES

The JCR is incredibly proud of Molly Ross, who ran this year's London Marathon to raise money for Oxfam. In support, the JCR donated £400 to her campaign.

Many Teddy Hallers are also very invested in providing aid and assistance to the homeless and rough sleeper population around Oxford through the On Your Doorstep campaign. Alex Kumar, now the leader of the campaign, has been instrumental in helping those in need, particularly during the cold spells that have hit in Hilary this year.

### JCR BUSINESS

This year saw the second annual JCR and MCR Equalities Week. Building on Tom Dyer's initiative from 2016, this year's week saw panels on Positive Masculinity, Decolonising the Curriculum, as well as mindfulness workshops, a talk from a Dutch hip-hop artist, and an international food fair. There was a noticeable shift this year in that students from other colleges attended the events, and we hope to push this week to be recognised around Oxford as well as at Teddy Hall.

Avid fans of The Chase, the JCR has voted this year to make Bradley Walsh an honorary member of the JCR (for providing countless hours of entertainment and education). Unfortunately, Mr Walsh did not respond to our letter informing him of his membership in the JCR.



*OU Wind Orchestra East Coast tour to the US. From left: Anna Fletcher (2015), Simon Upton (2017), Bradley Young (2016), Leo Lerner (MCR, 2017)*





## NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

*Kusal is a fourth year DPhil student from Sri Lanka studying Health Economics. This is his third year on the MCR Committee, having previously served as Sports Rep and Steward, where alongside Thomas Kittel, he organised social events.*

### FRESHERS' WEEK

The calendar for this academic year kicked off with a range of events planned. To say that this year's freshers were enthusiastic would be an understatement with attendance reaching record levels, highlighted by our freshers BBQ which had over 100 attendees, something unheard of not just in the Teddy Hall MCR but across postgraduate common rooms in Oxford. The period also saw the first joint MCR and JCR BOP in recent times, something we hope to continue in the future. The success of Freshers' Week was both a testament to the hard work of the committee and the support from College staff. A special mention should be given to the Freshers' Week working group established at the end of last year.

### MICHAELMAS AND HILARY

Record events attendance continued in to Michaelmas and Hilary and the booze cupboard stocks reached record lows. Highlights included the Halloween party, hosted in the St Peter-in-the-East graveyard, and the Christmas Dinner, where Chef John McGeever and his team put on a fantastic five-course meal. Hilary term saw token Scotsman Ronnie Guthrie lead the organisation of the Burns Night supper, complete with an address to the Haggis. Siân Brooke brought a classier twist to the traditional Cakes and Cocktails party by introducing a 1950s theme and NSE Rep Hannah Sharpe organised a pop art themed Arty Party displaying the artistic talents of members.

On the academic front the graduate academic seminars were organised by our Academic Rep Tereza Pusca and Prof David Priestland, who generously provides a lovely home-cooked meal on a termly basis where members have an opportunity to present their research. This year has also seen our graduate student journal, *Ex Aula*, founded by members Tim Donnison and Trent Taylor, continue to thrive. It presents a unique opportunity for graduate students to share their research with a non-specialised audience.

### EQUALITIES WEEK

The Teddy Hall Equalities Week was held for a second year with talks, debates and panel discussions, with organisation led on the MCR's side by inaugural Equalities Officer Linde Wester. The week was capped off by the first culturally-themed formal, organised by MCR BME Rep Cherrelle Dacon, where Chef John put together a mouthwatering Caribbean themed menu.

### AULA NARRAT

In an attempt to further increase interactions between MCR and SCR members, one of this year's Pontigny Scholar Václav Janeček successfully initiated 'Aula Narrat', a joint talk series with an underlying theme of turning failures into success. The inaugural talk saw members share stories on how they overcame adversities in both their academic career and life in general.

### SPORT

Participation of members in College and University sport continued to be significant. More than 10 members were involved in Varsity games. Three MCR members were involved in the final 11 of last year's Cuppers-winning cricket team, three made it into the football Cuppers squad and two in the rugby Cuppers squad. We also kept up the tradition of contributing large numbers to the Boat Club, having 10 members in the four crews entered for Torpids.

### WHAT'S TO COME?

Trinity played host to the Teddy Hall Ball, in addition to our regular dose of events, including the annual Garden Party and Trinity Dinner.

While I have tried my best to outline what the MCR is about, there are many things that are not included in our termly calendar that make Teddy Hall a truly unique place. The camaraderie shown when supporting each other in sport and extracurriculars, the supporting conversations we have with one another in the midst of deadlines, the countless hours spent gossiping and planning how we'll take over the world, the countless memories we've made and lost in blurry Oxford nights out, and most importantly the friendships we've made that will hopefully last beyond our time at the Hall. For me, as an international student coming to the UK, I heard countless speeches in my Freshers' Week about how your College will be your second home. Teddy Hall and the MCR has exceeded all of those expectations — for no other place has felt more like home, and no other group of people have felt more like family.



*The Committee at the Christmas Dinner*

# WRITING AT THE HALL

## MEET THE POET

Teddy Hall's Meet the Poet reading series is a new and lively addition to our strong line-up of creative-writing related groups and events here at the Hall. Each term, a major poet from Great Britain (or occasionally beyond!) comes to the College to give a reading from his or her work and to answer questions from the audience about poetry and the writing life. The Scottish poet Kathleen Jamie was our inaugural guest this year. She gave a wonderful reading in November to a full house in the Old Dining Hall; the audience included lots of students and alumni, as well as poetry lovers from other Oxford colleges and the local community.

In keeping with the Scottish theme, our second poet was the inimitable Robin Robertson, who gave a dramatic reading from his new narrative poem *The Long Take*. His visit to the College coincided with blizzard conditions, but the snow did not stop intrepid fans. The Old Dining Hall was full, and it was once again a warm and cheerful evening. The American poet Maureen McLane was our last poet of the year; her Trinity term reading will take place in June.

**Erica McAlpine, Associate Professor,  
A C Cooper Fellow and Tutor in English**

*“The Old Dining Hall was full, and it was once again a warm and cheerful evening.”*



*Erica McAlpine at the inaugural Meet the Poet events*



## ST EDMUND HALL: A COLLEGE LIKE NO OTHER

*We are pleased to announce that later this year Teddy Hall will be publishing a beautifully illustrated book which will stand as a portrait of St Edmund Hall and a lively celebration of its past and present.*

We will produce a rich overview of Hall life – the intriguing history of a medieval Hall and its transformation into a distinguished college within the University of Oxford. It will record the stories of place, people, communities and events. The book will be a shared project where the writings of many Hall personalities come together to illustrate the diverse aspects of college life, both academic and social, through all periods of the Hall's existence.

This will be the first such celebration of life at the Hall and a treasure for Aularians and friends. We are rightly proud of the Hall's claim of being special, distinctive and distinguished place in Oxford. We look forward to capturing that distinctive ethos – often termed 'Hall Spirit' – in the book and we hope you will support this venture with contributions and subscriptions.

**Please visit the website for more details on how to order your copy.**

## A GALLERY

*Each year, the Gallery Committee provide a theme in order to give the finished collection a sense of unity, but also to inspire contributors to create new work.*

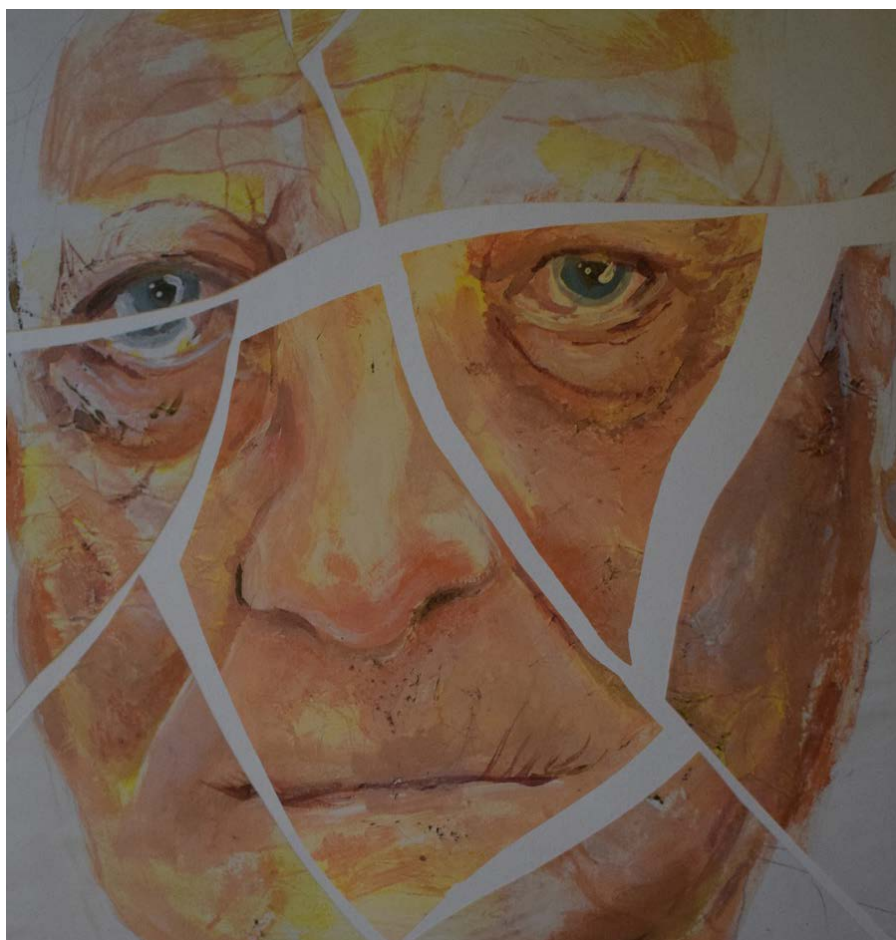
The theme aims to attract work from as many people and disciplines as possible, with the hope that other subjects as well as fine art and language students will submit their work. Past themes have the 'Body', 'Drafts' and 'Mutations'.

After a discussion about what has come to be expected from the *Gallery* we landed on 'Bounds'. Now in its fourth year, its creation and publication has become an established part of the Hall's annual creative output, and we thought that by asking contributors to think about the boundaries that their works could adhere to, push to take on new meanings, or flagrantly disregard, would help members of Teddy Hall produce original and exciting work.

This year has, as always, seen a healthy amount of submissions, and the committee is consistently amazed at the quality of the work we receive. The team (Meg Harrington, Alexander Bridge, Alex Matraxia, Katie Dent, Cazzie Winterton and Amelia Gabaldoni) are currently busy editing work with contributors and designing this year's book.

The Launch Night will take place on Friday 8th June at 7pm in the Old Dining Hall. There will be musical performances from current students, readings from this year's collection, and refreshments. Copies of this year's book will be available to peruse and purchase.

**Amelia Gabaldoni (2015, English)**



*Artwork by Amelia Gabaldoni*



*Artwork by Jessica Heywood*

*A Gallery* is made possible by donations from alumni and friends to the Amalgamated Clubs Fund at Teddy Hall.

# SPORTING NEWS

## AULARIAN GOLFING SOCIETY – REPORT ON 2017 SEASON

An annual report in *The Aularian* is becoming less relevant these days as technology, and the AGS committee's willingness to embrace it, have resulted in our own dedicated website. All you ever wanted to know about Aularian golf, including the 2018 fixture list, is contained therein and curious golfers are invited to visit the site — [www.aulariangolf.com](http://www.aulariangolf.com) — and encouraged to consider joining one of the Hall's most active alumni associations.

For those who are already actively involved and like to see a record of their accomplishments on the printed page, please read on.

MONTH	FIXTURE	VENUE	RESULT/COMMENT
March	Match v St John's	Royal Mid-Surrey (cantab)	Runners-up again! Late withdrawals and on-course injuries didn't help.  Thanks, as ever, to host Brian Amor.
April	OU Alumni Tnmt.	Frilford Heath	It seems April is too early in the year for the Hall team to flourish. 2018 will be different!
	Spring meeting	The Berkshire	Host Gerald Barber set up another fine day and Jerry Gray won the Atkinson Trophy.
May	Match v Fitzwilliam	Wimbledon Park	Due to a rival golf/wine-tasting tour, lack of Aularians forced a change of format in favour of a combined Stableford Competition.
June	Match v Corpus	Huntercombe	Match cancelled to allow CCC to celebrate their 500th Jubilee!
August	A.G.M	Studley Wood	15 members played and dined in Hall. Congratulations to debutant, Nigel Banks, winner of the Aularian Jigger.
Sept	Autumn Meeting	The Richmond	A glorious day arranged by Dash-worth who also retained the Richmond trophy.
October	Match v Catz, Pemb & Worc	Studley Wood	Second again but another enjoyable encounter with the genial enemy.
November	Finale Meeting	Denham	Congratulations to Arwyn Hughes the inaugural winner of the Collers Cup* after a close-run contest with Hon Sec & Dash

**AGS would be delighted to WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Please contact: **Chris Atkinson**  
 ☎ 01280 814523 or  
 ✉ [chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com)

\* The Collers Cup : At the start of the 2017 season, John 'Collers' Collingwood (1959) presented the Society with a magnificent silver cup to be played for during the course of the year. It is awarded, on the occasion of the 'Finale' Meeting, to the member who scores the highest aggregate number of Stableford points over two of the Society's four annual meetings, namely: The Spring Meeting at The Berkshire; The AGM at Studley Wood; The Autumn Meeting at The Richmond, and, The Finale at Denham. With our sincere thanks to Collers it is hoped that the award will encourage more members to play in more fixtures during the season.

### VARSLITY MATCH

Alumni and friends once again joined the Principal in two executive boxes at Twickenham Stadium for the annual Varsity matches in December. In total five Teddy Hall students took to the pitch on the day. Sophie Behan (2014, Engineering Science) captained the women's team and was joined by fellow students, Laura Simpson (2017, Medicine) and Joanna Male (2016, Earth Science). Lisiata Fifita (2017, MBA) played in the men's match and was joined by Dan Barley (2016, Engineering Science) who was amongst the replacements.

It was disappointing for Oxford with both Cambridge men's and women's sides taking the Varsity trophies. The men's fixture saw Cambridge resist a late Oxford fightback to retain the trophy with a 20-10 win and in the earlier women's match Cambridge won 24-0. Alumni and friends will be back again next year to show support. If you would be interested in attending please contact [kate.townsend@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@seh.ox.ac.uk).



## VICTORY FOR THE HALL IN RUGBY CUPPERS FINAL!

It was a closely fought battle between Teddy Hall and St Peter's College in the final of the rugby Cuppers in April. The match ending in extra time with a drop-kick by Tom Dyer (2014, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry). Final Score Teddy Hall 20-17 St Peter's. A full report is available on the website.



## FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND HALL BOAT CLUB

I am delighted to report that St Edmund Hall Boat Club continues to go from strength to strength. Since our bulletin in last year's issue of *The Aularian*, the Boat Club has enjoyed a period of remarkable success across all squads. The impact consolidates the Hall's position as one of the pre-eminent colleges in which to row in the University.

The club got off to a flying start in Summer Eights 2017 with the Women's 1st VIII surging into 7th position of Division 1. The crew announced themselves as one of the fastest crews on the Isis and achieved the prestigious honour of blades in the process with bumps on Balliol, St John's, Hertford and Magdalen. The Women were one of only two crews to secure blades in a competitive field comprising 6 divisions and a total of 78 crews in the regatta. Quite some achievement!

Progress has continued to endure well into the 17/18 academic year. The Friends are warmed to hear that participation in the sport continues to grow, with 70 rowers enrolling across performance and development squads in Michaelmas term. This strength and depth has placed the Hall in good stead, none more so than the Men's squad who have regularly fielded four crews throughout the season.

The increased competition is welcome. The Men's 1st VIII returned to Division 1 of Torpids Regatta in March, the first time the crew has done so since 1997. In the

same month the crew also participated in the esteemed Head of the River Race on the Tideway, a first for the club in a number of years. Only Christ Church recorded a fractionally faster time across the 6.8km course from the University.

The most magnificent news is perhaps reserved for the contribution of our crew roster to this year's University squads. It has been rewarding to see that six Hall rowers represented Oxford at this year's boat races, including one rower in each of the four blue boats racing Cambridge. Alice Roberts returned to row in the women's boat race for a second successive year whilst Iain Mandale (also President of Oxford University Boat Club) participated in the men's race. In the lightweight boat races, Christina Turner narrowly lost out to Cambridge in the lightweight women's event whilst Dhaval Desai coxed Oxford in their similarly marginal loss in the lightweight men's event. Olivia Pryer (OUWBC) and George Spill (also President OULRC) had seats in the reserve races.

The energy and enthusiasm surrounding the club at this time is infectious. Our purpose is to ensure that present and future generations of Hall students continue to enjoy the very best opportunities to participate in the sport during their time at Oxford. The support provided by the Friends in the form of the very latest equipment and quality coaching provision, remains steadfast and could not be sustained without

“It has been rewarding to see that six Hall rowers represented Oxford at this year's boat races, including one rower in each of the four blue boats racing Cambridge.”

the continued generosity from former Aularians and sponsors. The acquisition of a new state of the art Janousek 4+ boat called, 'The Matt Greenwood', is a fine example of the type of quality provision provided by the Friends to help enable future students to achieve great things.

The Friends of St Edmund Hall Boat Club are always pleased to hear from any former rowers or alumni of the Hall. We warmly invite new members to join our community throughout the year and keep up to date with the Boat Club's various exploits in return for a modest annual donation to safeguard the club's future. Should you wish to get involved and support our club through this exciting chapter in its history, please do get in touch with us at [fosehbc@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fosehbc@seh.ox.ac.uk).

**Joe MacKay (2012, Fine Art)**

# RECOMMENDED READING

*Members of the Hall recommend their favourite recent reads.*

**Martin Luther: An Open Letter on Translating**  
*Translated by Howard Jones*

Translations can bring out the best and the worst in a text. My book recommendation is of a text which in German has been an old favourite of mine, Martin Luther's spirited defence of the way he translated the Bible. It is a set text for translation studies and German linguistics, I had taught it multiple times – and it hit me completely by surprise when I read the brilliant new translation by Howard Jones. His elegant English blows out the cobwebs and gets across the wit, rhetoric and sheer cheek of it, taking on 'Dr Snotty-Nose' (a critic of Luther's) and the other 'papal jack-asses' with highly entertaining examples of their bad translation practice and laying down principles of interpretation that still ring true today. Fully accessible online in multiple formats on [www.editions.mml.ox.ac.uk/editions/sendbrief](http://www.editions.mml.ox.ac.uk/editions/sendbrief) or available in the Taylorian for £3.

**Professor Henrike Lähnemann**  
Professor of Medieval German Literature and Linguistics

**Very Far Away from Anywhere Else**  
*Ursula K. Le Guin*

The memories and obituaries of famed author Ursula K. Le Guin that circulated in international news following her death in February praised her work as a writer of science fiction, fantasy and essays. Less well known is her 89-page novella, *Very Far Away From Anywhere Else*, which is the closest thing to a perfect book I have ever read. It tells the story of a resolutely intellectual high school student named Owen and his friendship with a musician. I have seen it categorised as a 'coming of age' story, but in offering a story that is complete, original, and real, it makes the 'coming of age' story look like a dated genre by comparison. Owen doesn't want a car: he wants to go to university, and has to figure out how to tell his father. What he wants to learn is how to be the driver of his own life. In a tale written as though recorded out loud into a tape recorder, Owen tells the story of how he chooses not to be ruled by peer pressure, hormones, or wealth. Instead, he learns how to travel through a more exciting life, one shared with ideas and people.

In this book, humour and wisdom are often the same thing. The quick-fire dialogue nearly ignites the pages with humour that stays fresh on every reading. The book is a single thread, and as such, a beautiful composition: every narrative loop ultimately links back to the whole; there are no loose ends. In Owen's words, "We had some really strange conversations, with her explaining what these composers were trying to do and me trying to explain what consciousness was; but it was surprising how often the two completely different things came together and turned out to be related. The neat thing about ideas is the way they keep doing that."

**Dr Emily A. Winkler**  
John Cowdrey Junior Research Fellow in History



### A Long Long Way Sebastian Barry

There is nothing in my academic background (degree in biochemistry, PhD in sociology) that qualifies me as a book reviewer... But I do read. A lot. I was torn between *The Narrow Road to the Far North*, by Richard Flanagan, and *A Long Long Way*, by Sebastian Barry. Both books are about war. The former won the Man Booker and is now very well known whereas the latter was only shortlisted for the same prize. I've chosen the latter. The story in *The Narrow Road* is multi-stranded and concerns all aspects of the life of an Australian surgeon, both before and after his capture, who survived the notorious Japanese prisoner of war camps in Burma. The Barry book has a much shorter timeframe, really just the four years of the 1914-18 war. The main character, Willie, is the teenage son of an Irish policeman living in Dublin. At the outbreak of war he volunteers to join an Irish regiment and is sent out, after some basic training, to the trenches.

Barry's account of the war, as seen through Willie's eyes is truly amazing. His prose is spare and lean; he belongs to the 'less is more' school of writing.

He does not shrink from depicting the realities of life in the trenches but neither does he dwell unduly on the true awfulness of that life and the consequences suffered by the men who fought there. Some of the things he describes, such as the first gas attack with the green clouds drifting lazily over the ground towards the trenches, towards the unknowing soldiers, have a surreal beauty which then contrasts with the trail of survivors – blinded, lungs half destroyed – walking in single file, each man with his hand on the shoulder of the man in front towards the first aid posts.

Enjoyable? Probably not the right word, but it is absolutely riveting – one of the best and most thought-provoking books I have read in a long while. And it was recommended to me by a Teddy Hall alumnus I met at a 60 year reunion lunch.

**Dr Dianne Gull**

### The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot

This is a book about a woman who made a huge contribution to science and medicine and achieved immortality. In 1951, The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore was one of only a few hospitals to treat poor African-Americans, and Henrietta Lacks, a mother of five, was diagnosed with a large, malignant tumor on her cervix. Biopsy samples from such patients were extraordinarily difficult to grow and cells quickly died. However, the cancerous cells from Henrietta Lacks' tumour proliferated easily and indefinitely. These remarkable cells were widely distributed to other laboratories throughout the world and named HeLa cells. Sadly, Henrietta Lacks died aged 31, but HeLa cells became the most commonly used human cell type in biomedical research. They have been used to study cancer, basic aspects of cell biology and to test drugs. They proved central to the development of polio vaccines and other BioTech medicines.

This book charts the scientific developments made possible by HeLa cells in a language understandable to all and contrasts this success, and at times, wealth creation, with the condition of the Lacks family. The book is as much a story of a poor African-American family as it is a story of the underpinnings of a revolution in medicine.

The book also maps changing societal expectations and standards of bioethics of tissue donations. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* shows how more could have been done to recognise, protect and honour the contribution of Henrietta Lacks and her cells.

Finally, a key strand running through the book is the tragedy of racial segregation in the USA and, in particular, the continuing segregation of US healthcare provision. This narrative defines a time, a life, and honours a very special woman.

**Professor Keith Gull**  
Principal



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

If you would like any further information,  
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Alumni Relations Manager.

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## 2018

### JUNE

TUESDAY 19  
LONDON  
SUMMER  
DRINKS

SATURDAY 30  
BATH LUNCH

### SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 15  
10<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
DINNER

THURSDAY 20  
60<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
LUNCH

SATURDAY 22  
50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
DINNER

### OCTOBER

SATURDAY 6  
EDINBURGH  
LUNCH

FRIDAY 19  
PARENTS'  
DINNER

### NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 3  
MANCHESTER  
LUNCH

FRIDAY 16  
NEW YORK  
DINNER

### DECEMBER

THURSDAY 6  
VARSIITY  
MATCH

## 2019

### JANUARY

TBC  
SEHA LONDON  
DINNER

### FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 15  
FRESHERS'  
PARENTS'  
DINNER

### MARCH

SATURDAY 23  
40<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
DINNER

FRIDAY 29  
FLOREAT AULA  
LEGACY  
SOCIETY



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