

THE AULARIAN



TEDDY HALL'S LIVING WALL

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NEW LIFE FOR
THE OLD
LIBRARY



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INAUGURAL
ACCESS HALL
AREAS



p16

ANNA BOTTING:
IN THE
FOOTSTEPS
OF MY FATHER



BELOW:

Entrants to last year's Hall Photography Competition: (from top) Zhenbo Gao (2014, DPhil Organic Chemistry), Alistair Reed (2010, Medicine), Harris Vince (2014, Engineering Science)



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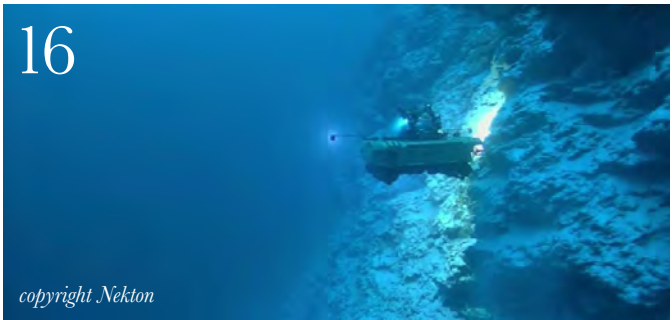
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FROM THE DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

Publishing *The Aularian* is a wonderful reminder of the depth of talent, and breadth of activity, the Hall enables and enjoys.

It is remarkable to think our community of 700 undergraduates and graduates produces such an array of writers, artists, poets, musicians and athletes.

Much of the inclusive, all-embracing ethos of the Hall is thanks to you, the Aularian Community. You both curated, and continue to enable, this special environment.

As a student body you moulded the Hall culture to be one in which academic excellence and the enriching pursuit of interests and hobbies work harmoniously together.

Now, as alumni, you provide support that gives today's students the best possible opportunities. Often your support is made through generous gifts and our thanks go to the 1,101 Aularians who supported the Hall's record-breaking fundraising year. Donations are used to enhance the student experience and our infographics (opposite) highlight a few examples of the impact your gifts have.

As Principal Willis leads the Governing Body in a strategic review that will shape our work for the coming years, we know that the characteristics of academic excellence, inclusiveness and Hall Spirit need to be preserved and enriched.

We plan with the backdrop of continued uncertainty and your solidarity remains more essential than ever.

Our community of 10,000 Aularians are spread over 109 countries. Recent events in Tokyo, New York, Singapore and across the UK provide opportunities to be reacquainted with old friends and make new ones. For those of you who are unable to join us at an event, the Hall's social media channels and the website provide an opportunity to stay connected with Hall news and in June the Hall ran its first-ever global Giving Day.

Our thanks go to the many Aularians who give their time and energy to make these events happen, most notably the St Edmund Hall Association. May I express special thanks to Richard Finch (1976, Modern Languages) who steps down after 38 years of dedicated service organising the London Dinner.

Thank you to all of you who support the Hall and enable talented, energetic and committed students to excel and advance our extraordinary Hall Spirit.

Gareth Simpson
Fellow & Director of Development



How your gifts enriched the student experience...

25% of undergraduate students received a means-tested bursary

28 Masterclass awards were provided to support the pursuit of non-academic coaching and training

24 graduates received a scholarship

14 Blues and **14 Half Blues** – the most of any Oxford College and **64%** were awarded to women

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFTS



Supported by your gifts, the College Library...

processed **5,759** loans and **5,184** renewals

added **1,468** books to the collection

had a daily average of **150** users with over **90%** of students regularly using the library

Thanks to your gifts, our Access and Outreach team...

showed approximately **2,300** prospective applicants round the Hall as part of an Open Day or school visit

visited **90** schools to speak to more than **3,000** prospective students (of which **80%** were in the state sector)



Thank you for your support...

£5,062,974 was donated to the Hall in 2017/18, the most on record

13% of contactable Aularians made a gift to the Hall last year

561 alumni spoke to students in the March telethon. Well over **50%** of people then chose to make a further donation following the conversation

69 Aularians have signed up to the Floreat Aula Legacy Society, bringing the total to **302** members

1762 alumni, students and Friends of the Hall attend a Hall event

Over **16,100** follow the Hall on social media



THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT...

The Matt Greenwood Scholarship

The Matt Greenwood Scholarship was established in 2017 by the students, staff, alumni and friends of the Hall in memory of Matt Greenwood (2013, Engineering), who loved to travel and sadly passed away while a student at the Hall. Dr James O'Donovan (2017, DPhil Education) was the first recipient of the Scholarship in 2018 and has written this report about how he used the award.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing Matt personally, but from what I have heard about him from friends and family, he sounds like an amazing young man who was taken too soon, too young.

Having recently lost my close friend Gareth at the age of 27 from the same illness as Matt, I wanted to do something to jointly commemorate both of their memories. Both men were active, generous and adventurous.

Therefore, I have used the award to establish a series of primary ear-care training programmes across low and middle income countries (LMICs) and to resource poor areas of the world in partnership with the World Health Organisation. Hearing loss affects, approximately, 6% of the world's population, and the burden of the disease falls disproportionately on LMICs. Hearing loss, especially in childhood, can have a serious negative impact on the life of an individual and they are often ostracised, hidden away, shunned and fail to reach their full potential.

With the help of the award, I travelled to Uganda in September 2018 and spent three months living in a remote rural village in the Mukono District. The money helped fund my return flight to Uganda and I was keen that the remainder of the scholarship was put to use actively establishing the ear-care programme, procuring low-cost otoscopes, antibiotic ear drops and ensuring the project was able to run for the next 12 months. I will be seeking further donations to ensure the project can be supported for a further 24 months following this initial period, until the Mukono District Health Office are able to take full ownership. I will also be

travelling to Alaska and Sierra Leone later in the year to help establish further ear-care training programmes.

In speaking with Matt's parents we have made provisional plans for me to take some of Matt's ashes to Uganda and to write for Matt's blog: www.goodmorningsunshine.uk

Thank you once again for this opportunity and for allowing me to do something to benefit the greater good of mankind in Matt's memory.



“Having recently lost my close friend Gareth at the age of 27 from the same illness as Matt, I wanted to do something to jointly commemorate both of their memories.”

University Challenge



In April, Teddy Hall celebrated its best-ever University Challenge performance, reaching the final against Edinburgh. It was a nail-biting conclusion to this year's competition, which saw the lead switch several times and ended with Edinburgh clinching the victory 155 to 140 points.

Marceline Bresson (2017, Economics and Management), Lizzie Fry (2015, Geography), Freddy Leo (2016, History) and Agastya Pisharody (2017, Materials Science) received huge support from students, alumni and staff at the College, who avidly followed their progress.

St Edmund Hall's Principal, Professor Kathy Willis said: “Congratulations to Agastya, Marceline, Freddy and Lizzie. The Hall has been revelling in their achievements and we are deeply proud of them. Although Freddy has attracted the majority of the media attention, thanks to his lightning-quick buzzing, the depth of knowledge across the team has been truly impressive, especially when you remember that they had an average age of just 19 at the time of filming. It has also been fantastic to have a gender-balanced team, which isn't all that common for University Challenge teams. I know they all put in a huge amount of work and preparation in order to become such a formidable team (I'm not sure anyone else in the Hall would like to play against them in a College quiz night!).”

St Edmund Hall put in some very strong performances throughout this year's competition. They beat the University of York 240-105 in the first round; then, with almost exactly the same score, won against Clare College, Cambridge 245-105. In the quarter-final matches, they beat Emmanuel College, Cambridge by 190-55 and Bristol University 150-130. They reached the final by winning against Darwin College, Cambridge 165-140.

Teddy Hall's previous best performance on University Challenge had been when the team of 1983 were defeated at the semi-finals stage. “To reach the finals of University Challenge is a huge achievement; the first time in the College's history,” added Professor Willis. “All of the Teddy Hall community has enjoyed cheering them on and although the final unfortunately didn't quite go our way, we have celebrated the team's wonderful display of Hall spirit throughout the contest.”

“University Challenge was an unforgettable experience and I couldn't have asked for a better team to go through it with. When I showed up to try out, I didn't expect to make the team, let alone be a part of Teddy Hall history by reaching the final!” - Agastya Pisharody

“The whole experience kind of baffled me – I didn't know what University Challenge really was until I made it onto the team so it was all very unexpected! Freddy, Agastya and Lizzie are amazing people but I also want to attract some attention to Mike Atkinson (2015, PPE) who was there with us the whole time while preparing for the finals as our reserve.” - Marceline Bresson



Celebrating 40 years of Co-Education

This forthcoming academic year marks 40 years of co-education at Teddy Hall. We are celebrating this anniversary with a series of initiatives and events. Including, the launch of an online exhibition entitled '21st Century Hall', a formal dinner in Hall to bring the generations together and a series of Teddy Talks.

1988

Sue Anderson (1987, MPhil English) becomes the first female MCR President.

"The admission of the first women to SEH was a smooth and almost painless procedure."
Bridget (1979, Geography)

1979



'The First Ladies'

Ann Taylor appointed as the first female Tutorial Fellow.

1980

"Life at the Hall was certainly a roller-coaster of attitudes, although pretty even handed - a prize for both Mr and Mrs obnoxious was awarded annually - but it was also a riot of colour, fun? and sometimes just a riot. I loved every minute of it. Thank you, SEH."

1981

Judith (1981, English)

Save the Date

To mark the 40th anniversary of co-education please save the date for a celebratory formal dinner in Hall on **Friday 27 March 2020.**

1990

"Arriving as a tutor in 1990, I found the Hall to be a lively and engaging community, although perhaps still with the cultural legacy of its single-sex origins. Today, the increasing diversity of student backgrounds, interests and outlooks combines with the traditional welcoming atmosphere to make this a truly fun place to teach."

Professor Robert Whittaker (Vice-Principal & Professor of Biogeography)

1991

Madeleine Pill (1989, Geography) becomes the first female JCR President.

2006

Teddy Hall women's crew first to go Head of the River



"I don't think that any of us will ever forget rowing past the boathouse to deafening cheers of HALLLL!"

Kerrie (2004, Modern Languages)

2015

Celebrated the matriculation of the 3000th woman at the Hall.



Professor Katherine Willis CBE

appointed as the Hall's first female Principal.

2018



2019

Launched the online exhibition '21st Century Hall' to showcase our dynamic community (see page. 10)



21ST CENTURY HALL: AN ONLINE EXHIBITION

In 2015, the Hall celebrated the matriculation of the 3,000th woman by curating the 'Women Inspire' exhibition, from which 20 portraits still hang in the Wolfson Hall. To complement this, last summer we asked for nominations for a new online exhibition, 21st Century Hall Faces. We wanted to show the dynamic and diverse community of people that have been part of the Hall over the past 19 years. The exhibition focuses on alumni who, we feel, have made a significant contribution to the Hall, their community, society at large or in an unusual or extraordinary hobby or achievement.

Please visit www.seh.ox.ac.uk/21stcenturyhallfaces for full bios on all the alumni highlighted in this article. This exhibition will be ongoing, so if there is anyone you would like to nominate for consideration, please do get in touch providing their name, association to the Hall and a short paragraph on their achievements and personal qualities.

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Sakaria Ali
(2017, Master of Public Policy)

I gained a First Class Honours International Health BSc from the University of Leeds before completing my medical degree at the University of York. After this, I did my postgraduate medical training in London and I currently work as a Paediatrician at Great Ormond Street hospital. Alongside my clinical work I have maintained a mix of public policy work and humanitarian work that has taken me to East Africa and the Middle East. More recently, I have been involved in optimising public services by integrating technology in the NHS. I also sit on a number of charity boards as a trustee.



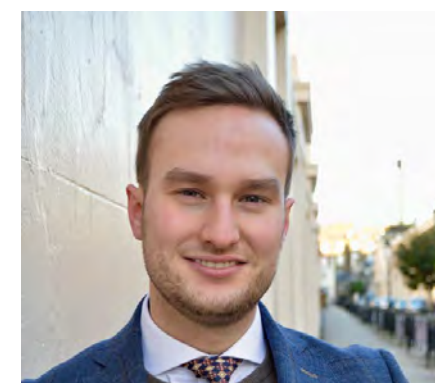
Montana Butsch
(2002, MSc Educational Studies)

Since leaving the Hall I came back to Chicago to start up Chicago Training Center (CTC). CTC was my personal thank you to the City of Chicago and a bucket-list item of mine. I oversaw the development of that agency for 11 years and then left to pursue my Executive MBA. My current project is the start-up spotivity (www.spotivity.com) which aims to help all teenagers and parents find meaningful after-school activities, while also providing administrative support.



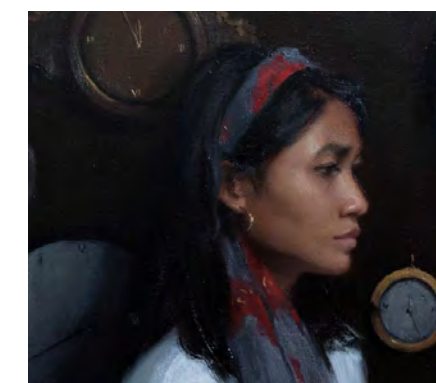
Pip Coore
(2014, MSt Legal Research & DPhil Law)

I am currently completing the DPhil in Law at Teddy Hall under the supervision of Professor Jonathan Herring and Dr Charles Foster. My research area is Elder Law, which includes equity, trusts and succession law. In 2017, I worked as the Senior Associate to the Honourable Justice Edelman in the High Court of Australia. In 2018, I was called to the Bar. As a Barrister, my practice will have a particular focus on equity, trusts and succession law.



Alexander Gebhard
(2016, MPhil Politics: European Politics & Society)

Although I arrived at the Hall as a politics student, I left the Hall having decided to dedicate myself to full-time singing. This rather unexpected turn of events would not have been possible without the fantastic support I was given during my time at Teddy Hall. On the back of this, I have now gained a scholarship to study classical singing at the Royal Academy of Music in London. This is but the first step of what will hopefully turn into a long and varied career as a professional opera and concert singer.



Mel Gurney
(2011, Fine Art)

After leaving Teddy Hall in 2014 with a Fine Art degree, I began working in London installing sculptures into derelict spaces. This kick-started my journey in urban planning and I subsequently completed a Masters in International Real Estate and Planning at UCL. I am now a Chartered Town Planner, specialising in the cultural, heritage and creative sector, advising a wide range of internationally-renowned institutions. This role enables me to work on installing bigger sculptures within the built environment.



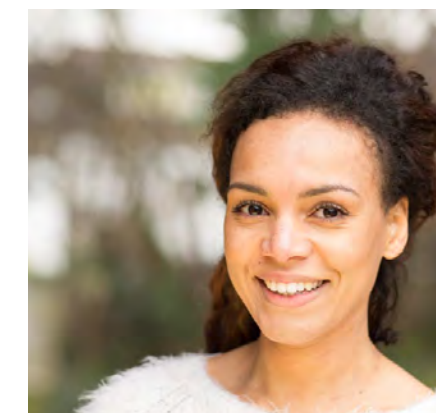
Jessica Hatcher
(2001, Modern Languages)

After leaving Oxford, I moved to London for a job in public relations. Five years elapsed before I saw my by-line in a newspaper. I wrote fiction (unpublished), performance poetry (unperformed, thankfully) and celebrity news and gossip (my bread and butter for a year). Eventually, after a successful reporting trip to Kenya, I moved to Nairobi to begin a career as a foreign correspondent. By 2017, I had moved from Nairobi to North Wales, and started a family, while I shifted my focus to the inequity and unfairness that affect women closer to home in the UK.



Jessica Leitch
(2002, Engineering Science)

Since Leaving Teddy Hall I completed a DPhil as part of the Life Sciences Interface Doctoral Training Centre. My research investigated the biomechanics of running related injuries. I was awarded Knowledge Transfer Funding to investigate the possibility of setting-up a private running gait analysis service at The Oxford Gait Lab. The project was successful and in 2011, Run3D was launched. Run3D Limited develops 3D gait analysis systems for treating and preventing running related injuries. We franchise the technology to physiotherapists, podiatrists and musculoskeletal specialists who use it to treat their patients.



Catherine White
(2016, MSt Women's Studies)

Since graduating in September, I have just finished my first professional acting job, playing Miss Osborne in Laura Wade's new play *The Watsons* at Chichester Festival Theatre. I'm now able to combine my passion for gender equality and activism through my work with the United Nations and my love for performing, hopefully working on stories that bring women to light in a different way and make the world a slightly better (or at least more joyful) place.

NEW LIFE FOR THE OLD LIBRARY

Since last summer the sedate, quiet and austere calm which normally reigns in Teddy Hall's seventeenth-century Old Library has been replaced by the noise and industry of a large-scale building renovation programme. The project is now complete and an exciting new chapter in the life of the Library has begun.



The 4,800 books in the collection were put into storage during the work but have now been safely returned by a team of specialist antiquarian book movers from the Bodleian.

There were a few hitches. At the last minute we discovered the holders for three of the shelves had gone astray. I had to send an urgent appeal to other college librarians for 12 small nineteenth-century pieces of metal ('tonks' is the term of art I discovered).

The books are now back on the shelves, where some of them have lived, in the same order and position, since the Library was built. Indeed, if you have ever taken a tour of the Library, you might imagine it to have been unchanged for centuries. In fact, the space has undergone several transformations and restorations; notably in 1920 when it first became the 'Old' Library and modern books were removed to form the basis of the undergraduate borrowing collection or the extension of the building in 1932 when the purchase

of a small strip of land from New College allowed what had previously been the false frontage of the northern end of Library and Chapel to be filled in.

It's also easy to forget that the Old Library was once new, and not only new but modern, even in some sense hi-tech. When it was built in the 1680s it was the first library in Oxford outside the Bodleian to be built with book cases against the wall, one of the first to have a gallery and, unlike college libraries which were

"It's also easy to forget that the Old Library was once new, and not only new but modern, even in some sense hi-tech."

restricted to Fellows, open to all members of all the Hall.

The renovation builds on this heritage and, as with the original construction of the Library, has been made possible by the generous help of alumni and Friends of the Hall. Modern environmental controls and new lighting are being installed to provide better conditions to preserve and protect the books. The woodwork and fittings have been cleaned and restored. All of this effort will enable the Library and its collections to play a larger part in the life of the Hall, in its intellectual work and in its outreach.

A key part of the project has been the installation of a new display cabinet which will allow us to show off some of the treasures of the collection. Its very first use was to celebrate the 80th birthday of Emeritus Fellow (and former Vice-Principal) Professor John Knight — we mounted a display of his own distinguished works on China and development economics alongside volumes from the collection including our eighteenth-century edition of Adam Smith and a descriptive account of China from 1688.

The renovation is also a continuation of the opening-up of our special collections, begun by the cataloguing project (2013–2018) which put details of all the Old Library's books on the University's online catalogue SOLO, making them visible to scholars across the world. All of this work will enable the Library and its collections to play a larger part in the life of the Hall, in its intellectual work and in outreach.

James Haworth, Librarian

Thank you to our alumni and Friends of the Hall who funded this project.



TEDDY HALL OPENS ITS DOORS FOR ACCESS HALL AREAS

In May, the College opened its doors for the inaugural Access Hall Areas event, which saw the Hall welcome over 1000 visitors, young and old, many of which many of whom had not had an opportunity to participate in activities within an Oxford College before.

One of the most popular draws of the weekend was the opportunity to climb the Library tower as part of the College tour route, where visitors enjoyed views over the Queen's Lane site from the windows of our Library Fellows' office. For those more interested in exploring the subterranean areas of the College, tours of the Crypt were equally popular.

The weekend showcased a great variety of musical skill. Guests enjoyed atmospheric guitar and bagpipe performances and an organ and harpsichord recital. The College choir sang on both days of the event and welcomed visitors to join them for "Come and Sing!" sessions.

There was a varied programme of 'Teddy Talks'. These were accessible 15 minute research talks given by our academics and postgraduate students. Topics ranged from Peace Processes and Political Inclusion, to Fusion Reactors, to the History of the Hall.

Visitors of all ages enjoyed hands-on activities in the Old Dining Hall. From using a historic printing press to having a go at 'Brain Games' led by neuroscience students. We welcomed student volunteers from *Oxford Hands-on Science* who ran a whole range of interactive experiments for children, from learning about how the digestive system works to creating mini explosions!

There were performances in the graveyard from Oxford University Pole Sports Society led by Teddy Hall postgraduate student Robin De Meyer, as well as a reprise of the Annunciation & Visitation play which was originally performed as part of the Medieval Mystery Cycle at the College. The Librarians, James and Sophie, opened up the Old Library to showcase

an exhibition featuring some of the recent creative writing produced in Teddy Hall alongside works by Aularians from 1680 to the present. Also on display were literary works from the collections and some of the rarest books we possess.

We welcomed around 740 visitors into the newly refurbished Old Library during the weekend.

We hope to build on the success of this event and open the Hall's doors to the public again soon.



A full photo gallery and videos of the Teddy Talks are available on our website: www.seh.ox.ac.uk/aha

Oxford Hands-on Science in the Old Dining Hall



Oxford Hands-on Science in the Old Dining Hall



Trying out the historic printing press in the Old Dining Hall



Exhibition prepared by the Hall's librarians in the Old Library



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MY FATHER

Anna Botting matriculated in 1986 reading Geography at the Hall. She is now a Sky News presenter and speaks here of following in the footsteps of her father, Aularian Douglas Botting (1954, English).



Dreaded robber crabs at camp

It was the sound of scuttling that kept me awake. The robber crabs, circling the tent, their claws scratching at the canvas all night, as I batted them away.

Wild camping I had done before, but this was wildlife camping, on a coral atoll in a remote part of the Indian Ocean, a giant tortoise a foot away, sleeping in the heat, as if expired.

65 years ago, staring at a map of Africa, desperate to find an unknown island to explore, my father Douglas Botting (1954, English), put a pin on the Island of Socotra, a mysterious mountain land, a dot on the map where the Arabian Sea meets the Indian Ocean off the Horn of Africa. Two years later, in 1956, on sabbatical from St Edmund Hall, he led an Oxford University scientific expedition to Socotra and wrote his first book, *Island of the Dragon's Blood*, still in print today.

I got a call from work this year, which my father would have loved, had he still been here. Would I like to join a scientific expedition to explore the deep sea, with scientists from Oxford University, off a remote island in the Indian Ocean? And, to cap it, attempt to broadcast the first live television programme from a submersible in the deep. It was a dry boat, I was told, with shared cabins, living at sea, must pack light. Not put off, I said yes, obviously. Foreign sends at Sky News are invariably exhausting and sometimes dangerous affairs: war coverage from Mosul; Baghdad; Tripoli; natural disasters, like the Japanese

tsunami. This sounded too good to be true.

And at first it was. It was freezing in Bremerhaven in Northern Germany, my first stop, as the ship was prepared. My father, author of several books on WW2, would have loved the drive past a German U-boat, now restored as a floating museum, a reminder the port was one of the main bases for the German navy. Our ship, *Ocean Zephyr*, would sail through Suez, past Yemen and Somalia (and Socotra), where a mobile arms team would deliver weapons to deter pirates, en route to Aldabra – the coral atoll which was to be our home.

I'd had a childhood watching Jacques Cousteau and in preparation, saw his first film 'The Silent World', also dated 1956, where the great underwater explorer travelled to Aldabra and rode the Giant Tortoises like small donkeys, scuba dived to see the tropical coral and threw explosives into the shallows to identify the fish.

Thankfully science has moved on. Identifying marine life, to get a baseline in the face of climate change, was also one of the main aims of our trip, as we joined The Nekton Mission's *First Descent*, to explore the Indian Ocean from 5-500 metres around the Seychelles.

Scuba divers don't get much below 30 metres, even Jacques Cousteau's brave team. And it was with humbling pride I became the first to dive deeper in the



Anna with the Aldabra Clean Up Project volunteers, from the University of Oxford and Seychelles

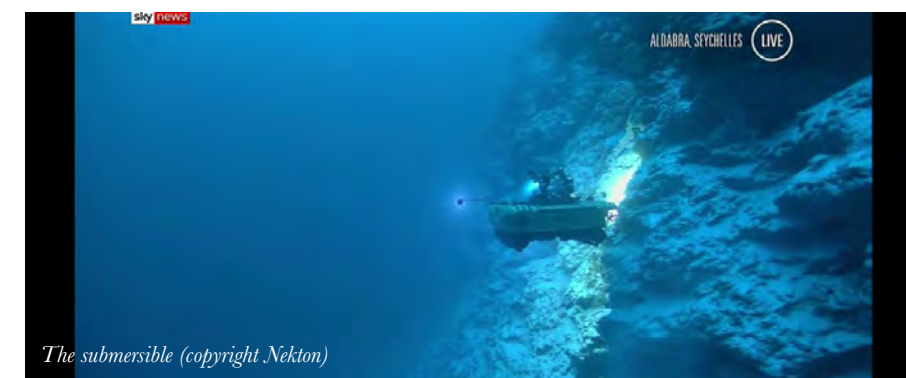
famous seas around Aldabra, for our programme 'Deep Ocean Live' on Sky. In a two-man submersible, we dropped first to the sandy bottom at 70 metres, then off a rocky underwater cliff, finally choosing to broadcast, untethered to the surface, using only light beams in a world first, from 135 metres. The gloom below, a deep brown, was not the midnight blue I'd been expecting. I saw sharks, manta rays, groupers, jacks. It was an alien and intriguing world. Next day my colleague, Mark Austin, broadcast from 257 metres – officially 'the Deep' – which starts at 200 metres down.

A UNESCO World Heritage site since 1982, Aldabra is uninhabited save for a dozen rangers. It is pristine, perfect, protected...and covered in ocean-borne plastic. We filmed as volunteers, from the University of Oxford and the Seychelles, collected some 50,000 flip flops, 25 tonnes of rubbish in total.

My father, an English student and keen ecologist, would have been delighted that *Paradise Lost* has, at least for now, been restored.



Anna in the two-man submersible (copyright Nekton)



The submersible (copyright Nekton)

“Scuba divers don't get much below 30 metres, even Jacques Cousteau's brave team. And it was with humbling pride I became the first to dive deeper in the famous seas around Aldabra”

Opening Medieval Manuscripts



Professor Henrike Lähnemann grew up in three medieval German towns that shaped her interest in medieval literature and religion: Münster, Lüneburg and Nürnberg. Henrike is the Professor of German Medieval and Linguistic Studies and a Professorial Fellow at St Edmund Hall.

Open a 500-year-old manuscript and discover the place where faith and devotion meet art and inspiration. The prayer-book of Medingen in Oxford is a luminous example of female creativity, providing insight into the immense cultural productivity of medieval nuns living in northern Germany. These women read, wrote and sang extensively and led extraordinary lives, not only of the mind, but also of the soul.

Opening a book unfolds a new world. In the case of the pocket-sized prayer-book Oxford, Bodleian Library MS. Lat. liturg. f. 4, it is one of magic and surprises: gold dragons, an orchestra of angels, nuns and biblical figures (see figure 1) populate the margins of 584 packed pages. The black ink is laced with black, red, blue, and gold letters but even more colourful is the text itself, an idiosyncratic mix of flowery medieval Latin and vernacular poetry.

To find the significance of this visual and linguistic firework, it is necessary to trace the manuscript back to its origin and decipher or rather decode its text and decoration, as well as the link between

the two. The Low German dialect is that spoken in Lüneburg, one of the centres of the Hanseatic League, the most important trade area in Europe before the EU. Lüneburg's salt production financed Medingen, the convent in which this prayer-book was written around 1500. Every nun wrote several manuscripts as part of her personal devotion, each of them a jigsaw piece of a different shape and colour, constructing a bigger picture of female piety and agency.

We are extremely lucky that we can reconstruct their physical world in greater detail than perhaps any other medieval community. This is because the convents on the Lüneburg Heath survived as religious institutions through both the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and the Napoleonic Secularisation of the 19th century. The women had a remarkable staying power — and fortunately, they never disposed of any of their possessions: the world's oldest spectacles, for example, were found under the choir stalls of the neighbouring convent Wienhausen. The convents' sewing and writing tools, as well as their breathtaking architecture, all provide a window into the rich spiritual life of the late Middle Ages, into a time when the nuns wrote letters, played the organ, educated girls and looked after a large and prosperous community.

These books reveal to us not only the physical world in which the nuns lived, wrote and read manuscripts, but also the spiritual realm that they aspired toward. It is a world that cannot be seen with

the physical eye. Rather, it has to be grasped with the 'visio spiritualis' (spiritual vision) and 'visio intellectualis' (sense of intellectual understanding). Their monastic training enabled the nuns to look beyond: when the priest raised the bread above the altar, the nuns could truly see the Christ-child being lifted from its cradle, taste the heavenly meal, hear the angels sing and feel the divine vibrations of a whole world dancing with joy.

This macrocosm of late medieval devotion is mirrored within the microcosm of the Oxford prayer-book. The book is meant to be carried around: at a size comparable to about six smartphones (stacked two wide, three high), its sturdy leather-covered boards just about fit into a hand. It had small clasps since it was mainly made up of parchment — an unruly, springy material which reminds us of the shape of the animal it was once part of. It could be read while dressing, walking along the cloisters to the nuns' choir for the Office of the Hours or attending mass. Red lettered instructions served as stage directions for the spectacle of convent life, as a reminder to perform their prayers and meditations with heart, hand and voice. This was particularly important during the parts of the service in which the nuns could not actively participate.

On Easter Sunday, a whole parallel choreography unfolded. While laypeople physically worshipped the cross that the officiating priests carried through church, the nuns up on their choir made a spiritual offering "on the harpstrings of

their soul". After the clergy sang *Victimae paschali laudes*, the congregation answered with the German hymn 'Christ is upstande' which promised that God will be the comforter (*God de wel unse trost syn*, 70v). The scene is imagined in the margin of a later page, where a boy with a flower wreath holds a song bubble containing the opening line of the hymn. Then, the voice of the writing nun calls out in jubilation, commenting on the song in mixed Latin and Low German: O dulce carmen, o mellifluum verbum "God wel vnse trost syn"! *Wen wy den hebben, so enbeghere wy nicht mer, wy behouen ock nicht mer; ergo consolamini in hijs verbis.* (O sweet song, o mellifluous word "God will be our comfort"! If this is the case, we neither want nor need anything else; let us take comfort in these words!)

In the next rubric, the nun is encouraged to embrace Christ in the "arms of her soul" and to greet him as her bridegroom coming to rescue her. Easter became an existential moment when engaging with the true meaning of the liturgy enabled the nun to be part of salvation history. All of this happened through the power of this pocket prayer-book, which came to the Bodleian through a series of sales after antiquarians came to view these devotional manuscripts as objects. However, the tactile quality of this book appealed differently to these collectors than it did to the nuns who wrote it and engaged with it on a daily basis.

And yet, the appeal of the book endures. Sensual experience (no white gloves allowed!) is the clue to recovering a lost world, the real "Sound of Music" of nuns and laypeople singing together, the nuns in their white habits, the Lüneburg crowd in their Sunday best. Their songs of praise happen in a world full of gold, images and moveable parts (201v shows a paper veil covering a gold initial; 131v has a paper clipping of a flower girl pasted over a cut in the parchment (see figure three). Its enduring appeal lives on in the successors of the medieval nuns, namely in the Protestant women of today (see video online, using the link below) who continue to share their passion for their historic buildings and spiritual heritage with the community around them, just as their predecessors did. They even wrote a cookbook with regional recipes *Das Feuer hüten* (in English: *Tending the Hearth*) and continue to welcome visitors into a world full of heavenly experience.

Originally published on www.knowitwall.com

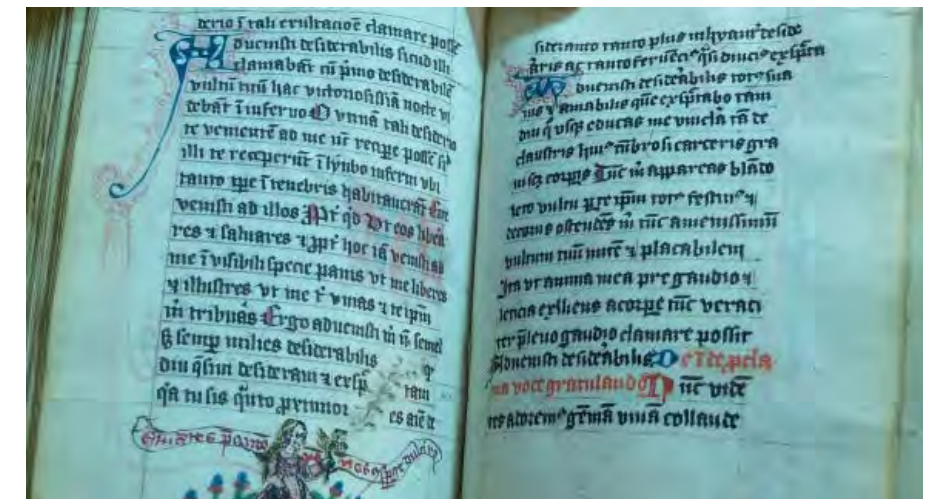
"These books reveal to us not only the physical world in which the nuns lived, wrote and read manuscripts, but also the spiritual realm that they aspired toward."



1 Christ greets his mother Mary after his resurrection in Medingen prayer-book, ca. 1500.



2 Pope Gregory and a singing boy in the margin of Medingen prayer-book, ca. 1500



3 Paper snippet of a girl with a branch glued on, 131v in Medingen prayer-book, ca. 1500.

MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT



Dr Tom Crawford joined the Hall in October 2018 as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics, but he is far from your usual mathematician...

His research investigates where river water goes when it enters the ocean. A simple question, you might first think, but the complexity of the interaction between the lighter freshwater and the heavier saltwater, mixed together by the tides and wind, and pushed 'right' along the coast due to the Earth's rotation, is anything but. The motivation for understanding this process comes from recent attempts to clean-up our oceans. Rivers are the main source of pollution in the ocean, and therefore by understanding where freshwater ends up in the ocean, we can identify the areas most susceptible to pollution and mitigate its effects accordingly.

To better understand this process, Tom conducts experiments in the lab and has conducted fieldwork expeditions to places as far-flung as Antarctica. What the southern-most continent lacks in rivers, it makes up for in meltwater from its plethora of ice sheets. The ultimate process is the same — lighter freshwater being discharged into a heavier saltwater ocean — and as the most remote location on Earth the influence of humans is at its least.

If you thought that a mathematician performing experiments and taking part in fieldwork expeditions was unusual, then you haven't seen anything yet. Tom

is also very active in outreach and public engagement as the author of the award-winning website www.tomrocksmaths.com which looks to entertain, excite and educate about all things maths. The key approach to Tom's work is to make entertaining content that people want to engage with, without necessarily having an active interest in maths. Questions such as 'how many ping-pong balls would it take to raise the Titanic from the ocean floor?' and 'what is the blast radius of an atomic bomb?' pique your attention and curiosity, meaning you have no choice but to click to find out the answer!

Tom is also the creator of the 'Funbers' series which was broadcast on BBC Radio throughout 2018 telling you the 'fun facts you didn't realise you've secretly always wanted to know' about a different number every week. From the beauty of the 'Golden Ratio' to the world's unluckiest number (is it really 13?) via the murderous tale of 'Pythagoras' Constant', Funbers is a source of endless entertainment for all ages and mathematical abilities alike.

And now for the big finale. If you are familiar with Tom's work, you may know where we are heading with this, but if not, strap yourself in for the big reveal. Dr Tom Crawford is the man behind the 'Naked Mathematician' (yes, you did

read that correctly). To try to show that maths isn't as serious as many people believe, to try to engage a new audience with the subject, and just to have fun, Tom regularly gives maths talks in his underwear! His 'Equations Stripped' series on YouTube has reached 250,000 views — that's a quarter of a million people who have engaged with maths who may otherwise have never done so. His recent tour of UK universities saw several thousand students come to a maths lecture of their own accord to learn about fluid dynamics. It may not be to everyone's tastes, but our current methods of trying to engage people with maths are failing, so why not try something new? This is maths, but not as you know it.

You can find all of Tom's work on his award-winning website tomrocksmaths.com and follow him on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram @tomrocksmaths for the latest updates.



Teddy Hall's Living Wall

We are proud to be the first Oxford College to install a Living Wall.

The wall, which measures 39m², includes over a dozen plant varieties: ferns, grasses, hostas are coupled with flowering evergreen perennials to give year-round interest and colour.

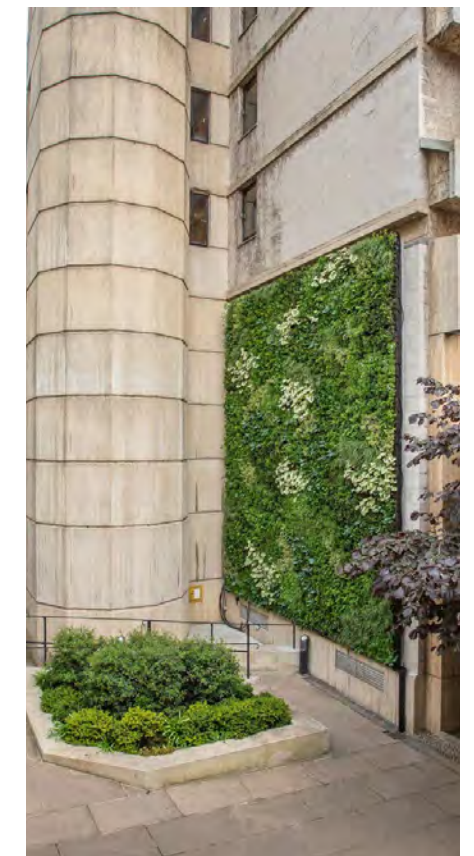
Evidence suggests that green spaces are beneficial for our health and well-being. The rear section of the Hall, where most students are accommodated, currently has no green space. We're looking at how our concrete areas can be transformed into a dynamic environment that inspires students. We also know that environmental sustainability is a key concern for students and the

Hall wants to minimise its impact on the planet. We already have plans to eliminate single-use plastic and reduce our carbon footprint.

We hope the green wall is just the beginning of our journey to 'green the Hall' both in its physical appearance and in its environmental impact.

The Hall would like to thank the anonymous Aularian, and his family, who have fully funded this installation and its future maintenance costs.

Watch the installation of the wall online at www.seh.ox.ac.uk/discover/livingwall



EVENTS SUMMARY

Over the past year Aularians have attended over 35 alumni and student events. We have travelled to cities over the UK and worldwide, including Tokyo, Manchester, London and New York.

In 2019/2020 we plan to offer alumni and friends even more opportunities to reconnect, network and hear about 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 or +44(0) 1865 289180.

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



10th, 20th & 30th Anniversary Dinner for the matriculands of 1988, 1998 and 2008.



34th Annual New York Dinner



40th Anniversary Dinner for the matriculands of 1979



Floreat Aula Legacy Society Weekend



Geddes Lecture with David Aaronovitch



Parents' Garden Party for 2nd, 3rd & 4th year undergraduates and postgraduates

ST EDMUND HALL ASSOCIATION: PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As I enter the third year of my term as the President of the SEHA, I set out in this letter a summary of the progress and activities in what has been a busy year and also some of the priority actions for the coming 12 months.

Firstly, we have welcomed Principal Professor Katherine Willis and we are delighted to hear her fresh ideas and thinking as she tackles a broad range of initiatives. Katherine has already attended the Manchester Lunch, New York Dinner and London Dinner and is looking forward to connecting with Aularians worldwide at other events this year.

St Edmund Hall Association (SEHA)

I flagged last year, that as part of a programme to modernise the SEHA, we were looking for volunteers to help bolster the Association and we have now seen a major change in the make-up of the committee. After providing us with considerable help over many years, several long-standing members have retired and we have seen the arrival of five new members. The result is that we now have a committee comprising 16 alumni, spread across the year groups, including a growing number of female members. Many thanks to these new volunteers who have taken on a wide variety of initiatives, as well as to existing members for their continued help. Particular thanks to retiring member, Sir Jon Shortridge,

who has made a fantastic contribution to the Association over many years.

We still have a few spaces left on the committee for the pre-1974 matriculand groups. If you are interested in volunteering please do get in contact.

We are continuing to build our network of regional and international "Ambassadors". These alumni volunteers provide contact points for the SEHA, as well as helping the College to arrange regional lunches and drinks. With volunteers recently signing up in Edinburgh and Singapore, and after a successful drinks reception in Tokyo hosted by Michael Young (1983, Jurisprudence), we are now focused on other regions of the UK and North America.

Global Events

At the end of January, the London Dinner took place for the second time at 100 Wardour Street. With a record 220 attendees, the event ran smoothly and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We are delighted to say that we have secured the venue for next year on Tuesday 4 February 2020, moving the event out of "dark/dry" January for the first time.

Many thanks to Richard Finch (1976, Modern Languages) who retired in 2018 from his role as organiser of the dinner after 38 years and also to Chris Elston (1976, Engineering Science) who has taken over the organisational role. Chris did a great job at this year's event and in securing next year's date.

As well as the London Dinner, there are lunches and dinners hosted annually around the world. Last year events included regional lunches in Edinburgh, Bath and Manchester as well as the annual New York Dinner.

Helping Students at the Hall

In 2018, we hosted our second Presidents' table event, where I and a number of the SEHA members dined at the Hall with the MCR and JCR Presidents and their fellow officers. We spoke with them to understand how the Association can continue to connect with students and assist them wherever possible. One initiative from these discussions has been the launch of an annual Careers Evening at the College: the inaugural event took place

in October. A panel of alumni, from a broad array of professional backgrounds, spoke to students to provide guidance and assistance on the topic of 'Transition to the Workplace'. We look forward to hosting a similar event early in the Michaelmas term 2019.

Connecting Aularians

Fundamentally our mandate is to connect Aularians together globally with a goal of promoting social wellbeing amongst fellow alumni. We now see a record annual increase in membership from the circa 275 new graduates from the JCR and MCR, boosting our numbers to some 10,000 members of whom 805 we are in contact with – and the geographical diversity is growing very rapidly at the same time. This is not just a growing and diversifying Association, but a thriving one.

Floreat Aula!

David Waring (1987, Geography)

President of the SEHA

✉ aularianconnect@seh.ox.ac.uk



NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM

Emily is a second year undergraduate from Derbyshire, studying Geography.

As always, the members of the Teddy Hall Junior Common Room (JCR) have been busy demonstrating their diverse talents across a range of disciplines. Recent terms have seen a particular focus on charitable events, sports (as always) and music — read on to find out more!

CHARITIES

The JCR collaborated with the MCR to put on the annual Charity Formal, raising money for the MCR's chosen charity, Bone Cancer Research Trust and the JCR's chosen charity, Dig Deep. It was a successful evening, raising £376 for the charities. The Environment and Ethics rep, Natalie Beadle, was instrumental in the organisation of this event. Natalie has also been running a series of additional events, such as charity club nights and exercise classes in order to raise more money for Dig Deep, a charity which aims to provide clean drinking water, safe toilets and hygiene training in rural Kenya.

The JCR repeated last year's charity BBQ at Summer Vills in Trinity Term to raise money for the Bone Cancer Research Trust. This event is being held in memory of undergraduate Matt Greenwood (2013, Engineering Science), who sadly passed away in December of 2016.

In the 6th week of Hilary there was a JCR-only formal dinner, where undergraduates Nathan Brown, Hughie Shepherd-Cross and Shayon Mukherjee performed to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. The theme of the evening was Valentine's Day and the JCR would like to thank the Chef for preparing such a special meal and Hayley in the bar for the incredible cocktail menu she devised. Altogether, the evening raised £300 for charity! I'd also like to thank Emily Milan (JCR Charities Officer) and Rebecca Jurdon for being such a great team to work with while organising this event.

SPORTS

Huge congratulations must be extended to SEHWAF, who finished at the top of their league in Women's Football Cuppers, and came away with an impressive third place in the coveted Hassan's Cup. Led by co-captains Josephine Levy and Ambre Bertrand, this is the most successful SEHWAF performance to date — well done ladies!

Many of our other teams have been equally successful. SEHRFC retained their Cuppers title and SEH Darts took Cuppers by storm in Hilary term to bring home the win, led by Captain Rafe Studholme. SEHBC also put in a strong performance at Torpids, with M3 moving up into fixed divisions, and M1 bringing home blades. It was another great Summer Vills and full report is on page 28.

MUSIC

The music scene at Teddy continues to grow, with more lunchtime concerts, a choir tour to Pontigny and Paris and the re-launch of the Teddy Hall Music Society. The society hosted a very successful Ceilidh in the Wolfson Hall, to round off

5th week and dance away any 5th week blues. Whilst the Music Society is open to all members of the College, its relaunch was orchestrated by JCR members with Toby Whitehead as President.

Arts and Culture reps Julia Jones and Rafe Studholme have initiated 'Music Mondays', an open mic event that takes place regularly in the college bar. This has proved extremely popular and is the perfect platform for our musical members to share their talents!

Finally, choral exhibitions have been introduced at Teddy Hall. In the 6th week of Hilary Term the choral exhibitors and scholars performed in a Liederabend in the Principal's Drawing Room. The choir also performed at Access Hall Areas over the May bank holiday. This was a College-wide event, allowing the public to enjoy the choir's performances as much as we do (read more about Access Hall Areas on pages 14 and 15).



The MCR hosted a Ceilidh in the Wolfson Hall



NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

Ronnie is a 3rd year DPhil student from Perth, Scotland, studying Earth Sciences.

It is always difficult trying to summarise what life at the Hall has been like over the past year, as what I have included is a fraction of what could actually be described. The companionship and camaraderie of MCR members, whether that be supporting the Hall at Ifley, offering help to friends for midnight deadlines in the computer room, or just taking a break and playing a game of Catan in the MCR with tea, cannot be put into words but can only be felt. As a student who studied elsewhere for my undergraduate degree, the immediate warmth of community I felt upon arriving at the Hall was an initial surprise, but a most welcome one which I took to immediately. For Teddy Hall and its MCR has to be, above all else, a home away from home.

MICHAELMAS AND HILARY

We began Michaelmas Term with record attendance during Freshers' Week and ended Hilary Term with the booze cupboard stocks having 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. Middle Common Room (MCR) Steward Frederik Soerensen put together a series of "tastings", including a Michaelmas rum tasting and a Hilary whisky tasting. In keeping with that trend, as the MCR's token Scotsman, I was wheeled out to do the traditional Address to the Haggis, followed by a wee dram or two. Hannah Sharpe, MCR Steward, put a classier twist on our annual 'Cakes and Cocktails' party by throwing a 1920s speakeasy party. Whilst on a more abstemious note, the MCR Welfare team of Agata Rumianek and Charlie Clarke-Williams put together a range of events throughout term, from ice-skating to high tea. The graduate academic seminars, where members have an opportunity to present their research, were organised by our Academic Rep Samuel Lippl and Prof David Priestland, who generously provides a lovely home-cooked meal on

a termly basis. This year has also seen our graduate student journal, *Ex Aula* swamped with applications, with Editor Siân Brooke posting the best articles on the MCR website.

FITZWILLIAM CAMBRIDGE EXCHANGE

For the first time in many years, we re-established contact with our sister college in Cambridge, Fitzwilliam College, and arranged an exchange. On a rather cold and wet January evening, our new friends from Fitz arrived at the Hall just in time for a sumptuous formal dinner, before embarking on a tour of Oxford over the next 24 hours. Fitzwilliam then reciprocated the offer and in February thirty MCR members visited "The Other Place", with dinner at Fitzwilliam and a tour of the city. Cambridge had obviously pulled out all the stops to try and impress us, as, in contrast to their visit, the weather was particularly warm and sunny, resulting in shorts being worn and ice-cream consumed by St John's Chapel. My sincere thanks to my opposite number at Fitz, MCR President Pavao Santak, for such an enjoyable visit and all those who helped facilitate visitors during both legs of the exchange.

SPORT

Participation of members in College and University sport continued to be significant. In rowing, the MCR contributed 19 members across the boat crews at Torpids, with the MCR's

Doug Chesterton and Tom Schwantje also competing in — and winning — the Lightweight Blue's Boat Race against Cambridge. MCR members Yasemin Zurke and Jenny Jones also won their Varsity matches in Hockey and Real Tennis, along with Tim Donnison and Cas Widdershoven at Ice Hockey. In Trinity Term, the MCR contributed members to Rugby, Cricket, Basketball and Croquet Cuppers.

EQUALITIES WEEK

For a third year, the Teddy Hall Equalities Week, led by the MCR's Christina Zou, was held with a range of talks, discussions and events taking place. A particular highlight for the Hall was the inaugural "Teddy Hall does Diwali", a celebration of the Hindu Festival of Light. Organised by MCR member Mayur Saxena and the University's Hindu Chaplaincy, over one hundred students from across the University came together in the Jarvis Doctorow Hall for a traditional evening of Diwali celebration.

TRINITY

This term the MCR has been involved in organising and participating in the College's Access Hall Areas event over the May bank holiday weekend, an extension of the Hall's Research Expos of 2015 and 2017 (read more about Access Hall Areas on pages 14 and 15). We also held the MCR's annual Garden Party and Trinity Dinner.



ARTS & CULTURE

THE GHOSTS OF AULARIANS PAST

This past Michaelmas Term I was lucky enough to have been appointed as the inaugural Writer in Residence at Teddy Hall. This saw me return to live in Hall some 30-odd years after having come up to read PPE in 1982.

I've been back to the Hall many times since then, but never to live, never to immerse myself again in college life, and never with this brief: to inspire and assist the writing of others in college, whether undergraduates, graduates, staff or Fellows, and to find my own inspiration for a novel in the marvellous edifice that is Teddy Hall: bricks, mortar, history and people.

How did I find the Hall itself after so many years? Warm, welcoming, vibrant and fun just as it had been the first time round. The difference now was that the SCR opened up to me, a kind of living, breathing polymathic organisation (bedecked in fine modern art) where I found myself discussing what could go wrong in nuclear reactors one day, quantitative easing and its associated costs and benefits another day, and the love poetry of medieval German nuns the next.

Every week I gave multiple tutorials on writing, editing and the business side of publishing to the brave, creative souls who offered up a stunning array of their work to me.

I gave a talk to the PPE annual dinner where I was inspired by my memories and the vision before me to conjure up an ode to PPEists.

And I gave a talk with the fascinating neuroscientists of the Centre for the Creative Brain on the origins of inspiration.

And, I'm delighted to say that the Hall did work its magic on me and inspired me to start my new novel. The first in the St Edmund Hall Trilogy: 66,000 words down and counting.

It was the history, the sense of continuity, the ghosts of those who walked these

paths before me that inspired me. When you are an undergraduate you are of necessity concerned with navigating your own way into the future. There is less room for ghosts and the weight of history. Returning decades later, shorn of that glorious possessiveness where you think the moment and the Hall belong to you, could have been melancholic had not the Hall spirit worked its charms. Had there not been this sense of continuity. With that comes the ability to enter into the minds of those who have trodden the path before, real and imagined, and to invoke their story. Ideas and inspiration are part of the architecture. It was a rare privilege to return.

Linda Davies (1982, PPE)

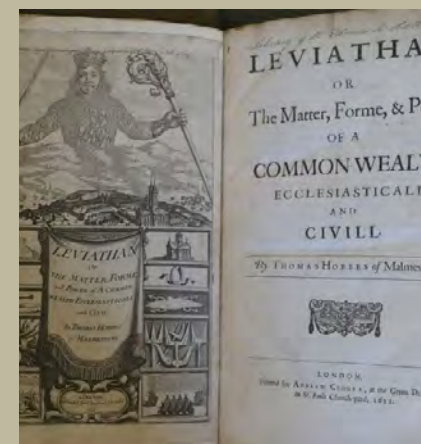
“I'm delighted to say that the Hall did work its magic on me and inspired me to start my new novel. The first in the St Edmund Hall Trilogy: 66,000 words down and counting.”



Creative Writing Workshop run by Linda at the Access Hall Areas event

THE ST EDMUND HALL BLOG

Launched in December the Teddy Hall Blog (www.seh.ox.ac.uk/blog) highlights the breadth and depth of our research expertise and illuminates the Hall's rich history, treasures and curiosities. Did you know, for example, that Eleanor Roosevelt came for lunch at Teddy Hall sixty years ago? Or that the windows on the left-hand section of the Chapel were originally just part of a fake façade?



Rousseauville

Professor Karma Nabulsi (Fellow & Tutor in Politics) discusses “The Man”, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and his relevance in Oxford.



Ceri Richards: Supper at Emmaus

Learn about the commission of our striking altarpiece, and the genesis and development of the picture, in a post by Professor Jonathan Yates (Tutor in Materials Science).



History of Neoliberalism

Professor David Priestland (Professor of Modern History) explains the term and its appeal to him as a historian.

All these and other blog posts can be found online at www.seh.ox.ac.uk/blog and are updated weekly during term time.

TEDDY HALL CHOIR TOUR TO PONTIGNY AND PARIS



This year's Choir Tour saw students, staff and alumni travel to Pontigny, the final resting place of St Edmund of Abingdon. The tour began with a busy day of rehearsals in preparation for the performances of the week and culminated in a spectacular concert in Pontigny Abbey. The choir then travelled from Pontigny to Paris where they performed at the Collège des Bernardins, a college originally founded by Stephen of Lexington, a student of St Edmund at Oxford.

Outside of rehearsals and performances the choir enjoyed wine tasting in a local vineyard in Chablis, where they were treated to an impromptu organ recital in Chablis' Church. They also took the opportunity to sing the *Hymnus de Sancto Edmundo* (with words written by

the 1930s chaplain of the College, Austin Farrer) in front of St Edmund's remains in the Abbey; this can be viewed on the Hall's YouTube channel.

Reflecting on the tour Olivia Payne (2013, Medicine) said ‘We all had an absolutely fantastic time and have improved so much as a choir, as well as solidifying the links between Pontigny, the Collège des Bernardins, and the Hall’.

SPORTS NEWS

ROWING AT THE HALL

This year St Edmund Hall Boat Club has had great success. The highlight for the year is the men achieving a Teddy Hall first: winning blades in both Torpids and Summer Eights and both for the first time in Division 1 (the highest blades ever won)!

The Men's 1st VIII entered BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) regatta in the intermediate 8+ category, winning the C final as the Oxford University A crew.

Summer Eights 2018 saw the two 1st VIIIs have an unlucky week with the Women ending -1 and the Men ending +2 (after an unfortunate collision whilst bumping Magdalen). Despite this, the Club began training in Michaelmas with a renewed fervour, attracting a large number of novices who put in the best performance in Club memory at Christ Church Regatta, with 2 of the 3 crews reaching the Friday of racing. The senior Women's squad entered multiple Isis Winter League head races and the senior Men won their match race against Balliol at the end of the term.

The Torpids regatta had mixed outcome. The highlight for the week was the Men's 1st Torpid capitalising on their success of breaking into Division 1 last year by achieving blades: bumping Magdalen, Jesus, Hertford and Balliol in the process. This is the first Division 1 blades for the 1st VIII since 1993 and leaves them placed 7th in the Division.

SEHBC has plenty to be proud of at university level too, with many rowers becoming trialists this year. Most notably, our Vice President, Olivia Pryer, returning to row for OUWBC, making the blue



boat this year and last year's Men's Captain, Doug Chesterton stroked the OU Lightweight blue boat to victory on the inaugural race on the Championship course.

With all the returning trialists, the Club recorded the most number of bumps (+14) by the Hall since Women's bumps racing began in 1976! It could be argued that this is the most successful Summer Eights the Hall has ever had as a mixed club. Both 1st VIIIs did extremely well: the Women going +2 for the week (finished 6th on the river) with an extremely unlucky row over on the Friday of racing; the Men putting in a dominant performance and winning back-to-back blades, bumping University, Balliol, Wolfson and Wadham (finishing 5th on the river). This is the first Summer Eights blades for the 1st VIII since 1934; the first ever Men's Division 1 blades in Summer Eights and the first time that the Men have won double blades (Torpids and Summer Eights in the same year).

None of this success would be possible without the support of the Friends of St Edmund Hall Boat Club, and I'd like to pass on the thanks and appreciation from the whole club. The support provided by the Friends in the form of the very latest equipment and quality coaching, remains steadfast and could not be sustained

without the continued generosity from Aularians and sponsors.

This year the Men again entered BUCS regatta, this time in the intermediate 4+ category - racing in the recently purchased 'Matt Greenwood'. The Men also received a new 8+ carbon rigged Filippi just before Summer Eights - with some extremely long bumps for the 1st VIII, we are certain that the new boat helped with winning blades. These are just two recent examples of the quality provision from the Friends.

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.

Floreat Aula!

Benjamin Evans (2014, Materials Science) St Edmund Hall Boat Club President 2018-2019

AULARIAN GOLFING SOCIETY — REPORT ON 2018 SEASON

All you ever wanted to know about Aularian golf, including colourful details of the 2018 season and the 2019 fixture list, are to be found on the A.G.S. website: www.aulariangolf.com

The Aularian Golfing Society would be delighted to welcome new members.

Please contact: **Chris Atkinson**
✉ chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com



VICTORY FOR THE OXFORD MEN'S SIDE AT TWICKENHAM!

In December we were joined by thirty Aularians and their guests in two executive boxes to cheer on Oxford at the annual Varsity Matches, including one couple who had spent their first date at the Varsity Match thirty years previously! This year, Oxford's Men's side beat Cambridge 38-16 at Twickenham. Three St Edmund Hall students started the match — Joe Morris (2016, Cell and Systems Biology), Dan Barley (2016, Engineering Science) and Sam Miller (2017, Materials Science) — and they were joined after just eight minutes when Ryan Jones (2017, Engineering Science) came on as a replacement.

It was an exciting day for the Hall, with Joe Morris returning to win his second Blue after being unable to play Varsity rugby last year due to his England U20 commitments. Winger Dan Barley scored two tries, one either side of half-time, and Sam Miller played most of the game but was unfortunately carried off injured late in the match, suffering from whiplash (now fully recovered!).

The Women's match was played on the same day, and was preceded by celebrations featuring former players to mark the 30th anniversary of the Women's Varsity rugby fixture. In a very close game, Oxford lost 5-8, despite piling on the pressure in the later stages of the game. No Teddy Hall players started the match, but Laura Simpson (2017, Medicine) came on for the last 20 minutes.

Dan Barley crossing the line for his first try.
Photo credit: Matthew Impey, Wired Photos



MEN'S RUGBY TEAM CROWNED CUPPERS CHAMPIONS

Earlier this year, the Cuppers final saw the Hall defending their title against a combined Corpus Christi and Somerville team. The Hall walked out in a cloud of very thick red and yellow smoke to a packed stand of supporters bearing the crest and screaming "HALL".

SEHRFC came flying out of the gates, forcing a knock on from kick off. This set the pace for the first half, the Hall's forwards made carry after carry pushing the opposition back. Fresher fly half, David Wilkinson, pulled the strings in attack and eventually unleashed full-back Dan Barley, who beat several defenders with outstanding footwork to dot the ball down. Wilkinson converted to bring the score to 7-0 after 10 minutes of play. The Hall's forwards continued to dominate for the rest of the half. Some nice running off of 10 brought the team into the opposition's half and outside centre, Dr Neal-Smith, made a break down the left wing and carried several men over the line with him to score the second try of the game. The first half finished 15-0 to the Hall.

The second half was less dominant, Corpus Christi and Somerville came flying out of the gates and the Hall men tackled for their lives, but eventually let a try in. The Hall rallied and some simple carries got us back into the opposition's half, where they were penalised for not rolling away from the

tackle. Wilkinson had a successful attempt at goal, bringing the score to 18-7. The opposition were not beaten yet and a series of missed tackles let another try in, bringing the score to 18-12 with 20 minutes to go. Now the Hall's defensive prowess showed, the boys defended no fewer than eight driving mauls in our own 22, a few on the 5m. The opposition got close but didn't manage to dot the ball over because of some truly impressive tackles. The Hall regained the ball eventually and the forwards managed to hold on to the ball until the clock was up and the ball was kicked out.

Supporters stormed the pitch to congratulate the shattered men who had defended for so long. Final score 18-12 to the Hall.

Sam Miller (2017, Materials Science)

"The Hall walked out in a cloud of very thick red and yellow smoke to a packed stand of supporters baring the crest and screaming "HALL"

RECOMMENDED READING

Members of the Hall recommend their favourite recent reads.

Citizen: An American Lyric
Claudia Rankine

Don't be fooled by the title of this book, *Citizen: An American Lyric* — it is neither aimed solely at Americans nor is it the sort of book only poetry enthusiasts and other lovers of "lyric" can enjoy or understand. Claudia Rankine, a poet and professor at Yale, writes a gorgeously heartfelt and carefully positioned meditation on race, personhood, tennis, art, solitude, community, and, more generally, what it feels like to live in any society, particularly if you are a member of a minority group (but not only). Despite being classed as poetry, this book is fully accessible without any experience reading verse — and indeed most of it is written in prose. There are pictures that work alongside the text to make you feel things as you read. There are personal anecdotes and accounts of internationally recognizable sporting and political events. There are moments of laughter and moments of tears. What I love best is how implicated you feel as you read — Rankine's guilt is yours, your guilt is hers — not least because Rankine insists on writing her book in the second person ("you" rather than "I") despite its encompassing a specific woman's account of what it feels like to be black in America. No matter who "you" are, she is talking to you. It is no surprise that this book won all the awards on both sides of the Atlantic when it came out five years ago. Few books grip you like this one does; it plays on all your senses.

Professor Erica McAlpine
(Fellow & Tutor in English Language & Literature)

A State of Freedom
Neel Mukherjee

Neel Mukherjee's *A State of Freedom* has — in the Penguin India edition I was given in Kolkata last Christmas — an image of a large dancing bear on its cover; and it is an extraordinary beast of a novel. Its principal theme is the tension between movement and constraint, between dreams of a better life and the injustices of both class and circumstance, as experienced by a set of interrelated families in contemporary India. This might seem like overfamiliar novelistic territory, but Mukherjee's work has a strange, sublime, and terrible beauty all of its own.

The novel's title, its themes, and the division of the narrative into five unequal sections all rework V. S. Naipaul's (1971 Booker prize-winning) *In a Free State*. Zola's Paris and Joyce's Dublin also animate, or ghost, these pages from beginning to end. But even as he carefully acknowledges the constraining influence of his literary precursors, the novelist establishes for himself a peculiar freedom: the right to roam, and so to show, to tell, and (without ever being 'preachy') to denounce the multiple, enduring injustices of poverty, servitude, and caste. This is a writer with a peculiar ability to write about work, and about violence; and one who understands the force of stylistic restraint. Rather than magic realism, then, or a grand sweeping narrative of post-colonial migration, contestation, or assimilation, *A State of Freedom* offers an exploration of internal dislocation within and across India, by way of the closely observed, intricately woven details of lives lived in the raw.

Mukherjee's exploration of the limits of human resilience, animal endurance, and political action proceeds by way of five sections, each with its own distinctive style. As in life, so in this novel, the significance of life-determining experiences becomes clear very slowly, and/or retroactively. After a brief, unsettling prologue, the story seems to settle into a familiar post-colonial Bombay landscape — home-cooking, a recipe-loving first-person narrator visiting from London, his disgruntled and displaced Bengali parents, their demanding

and quarrelsome servants and so on. But what have either of the women servants to do with the bricklayer whose accidental death had been glimpsed by the father and his son of the opening section, as they drove by in a taxi; is the falling figure the same man as the much-missed, fox-faced brother of the would-be qalandar, whose efforts at making a living for himself and his dancing bear form the centre of the novel's compelling, gruelling third section; and what of the two sisters of the fourth section, afforded different kinds of freedom by revolutionary action, religious conversion, and domestic service? The points of connection and affective relation between characters take their time to move into focus, and the different threads of the lives here narrated never quite resolve into a coherent pattern. The result is both oddly, insistently life-affirming, and shockingly, brutally painful.

"At last": the novel's closing words, ending a long unpunctuated monologue which consciously echoes the last movement of Joyce's *Ulysses*, connote not so much sexual abandon, as the promise of release from the slavery of grinding poverty offered by death. To reveal which of the novel's characters speaks its closing words would be to do an injustice to its careful plotting. For the novelist, even as he leaves a great deal of interpretive freedom to his readers also demands that we do some of the connective, affective work ourselves. In so doing, Mukherjee both exemplifies and explores the structures of privilege, circumstance, and class which sustain our reading lives, while also revealing with angry compassion the enduring reach, significance, and force of the novel as form.

Professor Wes Williams
(Professor of French Literature)

The Eyre Affair
Jasper Fforde

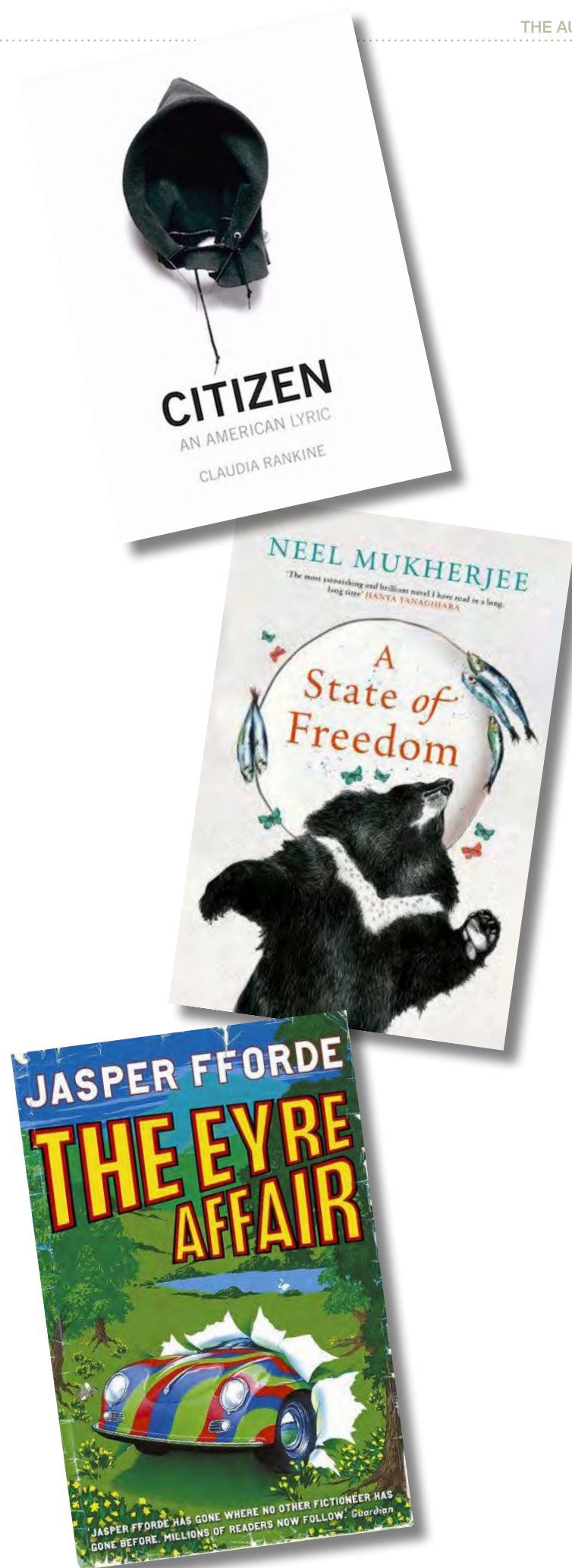
To recommend *The Eyre Affair* is really to offer a gateway drug to the world of literary puns that is Jasper Fforde's collected works. Set in the Swindon LiteraTec office, the plot follows (sometimes literally) Literary Detective Thursday Next as she navigates the pliable boundaries of fiction and reality, time and the laws of physics.

Along with her pet dodo Pickwick, her inventor uncle Mycroft, and work colleagues of varying degrees of usefulness, Thursday must discover who has been stealing and altering great works of fiction. The stakes are raised somewhat when the culprit makes his way into 'Jane Eyre' and threatens to murder the eponymous heroine unless his demands are met, removing her instantly from every copy. The book combines a thoroughly satisfying crime fiction storyline with Fforde's ability to play with language and twist quirks of grammar into plot points.

A particularly fantastic breaking of the fourth wall occurs in a scene where the bookworms, who break down prepositions into punctuation, have a mass panic and begin to 'hyphenate'. Both-the char-acters an-d the-reader-s feel t-he effe-cts.

If you can spot a spelling error instantly in a page of text and you like a good laugh, Jasper Fforde's *Literary Detective* and *Nursery Crime* series are good places to start. Literary in-jokes, ridiculous numbers of explosions, and a love of grammar make these the perfect books for those who like to learn but don't see why they can't have a bit of fun with it.

Sophie Quantrell
(Assistant Librarian)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

If you would like any further information,
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2019

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 14
10TH, 20TH & 30TH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

THURSDAY 19
60TH
ANNIVERSARY
LUNCH

FRIDAY 20
ALUMNI
WEEKEND DRINKS
RECEPTION

SATURDAY 21
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 8
NEW YORK DINNER

DECEMBER

THURSDAY 5
CAROLS IN THE
QUAD

2020

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 4
ST EDMUND HALL
ASSOCIATION
LONDON DINNER

FRIDAY 14
FRESHERS'
PARENTS'
DINNER

MARCH

FRIDAY 20
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

SATURDAY 21
40TH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

FRIDAY 27
DINNER TO
CELEBRATE 40
YEARS OF
CO-EDUCATION



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