

Issue 25, 2014



Oxford to Venice:

Bridge to Bridge bike ride,
July 2014

Into the mix:

Celebrating 40 years of
co-education

Royal Institution:

Reflections on the
Christmas Lectures 2013



6 10 12 16

Contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>3 From Will Hutton</p> <p>4 College news</p> <p>6 Bridge to Bridge bike ride
Farzana Aslam (1991), Jonathan Beckett (2007), Jamie Castell</p> <p>10 Into the mix: celebrating 40 years of co-education at Oxford
Kate Stross (1974), Ellen Cheetham (2012)</p> | <p>12 Of worms and (wo)men: reflections on the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2013
Alison Woollard</p> <p>16 Libraries in the digital age
Lucie Burgess (1993)</p> <p>18 Hertford rugby in Mongolia
John Collis (1989), Richard Foord (2011)</p> <p>20 Dates for your diary</p> |
|---|---|

Call for news

Do you have a story you would like featured in the next issue of *Hertford College News*?

Email us at development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk.

Hertford College News is published by the Members' and Development Office for members and friends of the college. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the official views of Hertford College.

Editor: Claire Blake
Design: www.dougdawson.co.uk
Cover photo: Paul Wilkinson

Produced by:
Members' and Development Office
Hertford College
Oxford OX1 3BW

T: +44 (0) 1865 279428
E: development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk
W: www.hertford.ox.ac.uk

Hertford College is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 1137527

FROM WILL HUTTON

I hope you like the new look *Hertford College News*. We've updated our design but many of the themes we cover will be familiar. We carry on pushing at the boundaries that hold back fair opportunity. Equality and access remain central Hertford values. But for all our pioneering initiatives, I am constantly struck that there is so much more we want to do.

Hertford was one of the first five colleges to introduce co-education at Oxford by admitting women in 1974 (p. 10) – a fact echoed evocatively when Alison Woollard delivered the Royal Institution's Christmas lectures in 2013 (p. 12), only the fifth woman to do so since their inauguration in 1825. We currently have ten female Fellows at Hertford, a quarter of the fellowship, which despite being one of the more balanced gender ratios in Oxford, is still far from where we would like it to be. Student numbers tell an intriguing story: of the current undergraduates, 232 are female and 171 are male, a 58:42 percentage split. Amongst graduates, the ratio is reversed – of our 206 graduates, 121 are male and 85 are female. Does a career in academia pose a less attractive prospect to female students, or is there something else going on?

When it comes to crossing boundaries, the Hertford rugby team took this quite literally as they travelled across continents to become only the second foreign team to play in Mongolia (p. 18). As well as being an unforgettable experience for those who took part, it galvanised an interest in Mongolian affairs at Hertford as the team prepared for the trip, opening up discussions about the global economy and a focus on a part of the world that does not often feature in our news. Perhaps it was Hertford's tradition of supporting the under-dog that led to the team being beaten by the locals in their far-Eastern matches!



Hertford's academic community is also looking to the future: we are currently embarking on an evaluation of the educational and community experience that we provide for graduates. Part of this will involve a review of the support we give to emerging academic talent as they navigate a new world of digital publication and information sharing. Lucie Burgess's article (p. 16) about the British Library touches on some of the themes that our own graduates are facing, from preserving our academic heritage to the importance of curation in an age of digital information dominance.

Our most ambitious venture in recent years is without doubt the decision to cycle 1,100km between Oxford and Venice to raise funds for student support (p. 6). Again, this project emerged from one of Hertford's longstanding convictions: that it must continue to admit the best students, regardless of their financial background. We pioneered the outreach work that is now being carried out across all Oxford and Cambridge colleges, and the bike ride is the next step towards making these access projects bigger and bolder than ever. Hertford is using its history to inform its future, and the funds raised by the bike ride will allow us to build a system of student support that is essential for a new era of tuition fees, ever-increasing competition for places, and uncertain job prospects after graduation. I'll be cycling the full distance, along with dozens of other Hertfordians – and I very much hope you will support us along the way!

COLLEGE NEWS



Terry Hughes (1964-2013)

Terry Hughes, who passed away on 24 October 2013 at the age of 49, was a staunch supporter of Hertford. His tireless enthusiasm and energy was valued enormously by the college, as well as his financial support towards the boat club and student bursaries.

Hertford hosted a celebration of Terry's life in April with 38 of Terry's friends, family and colleagues, as well as Hertford fellows and representatives of the boat club. Over tea, we heard light-hearted stories from Terry's time at Hertford and reminiscences about the many

lives he had touched. Even the weather reflected the mood of the day, with bursts of sunshine tempered by April rain showers.

In tribute to Terry, his old room will be named after him and a plaque installed to remember him. The boat club will also name their annual AGM dinner, when current and past members gather together for a meal in Hall, in Terry's memory.

A memorial fund for Terry has been established to provide bursaries and financial assistance for students in need, as well as continuing his support of the boat club. In addition, Terry's wife Maria will be joining us for the bike ride this summer, cycling the full 704 miles (see pages 6-9). To make a contribution to Terry's memorial fund, or to sponsor Maria on the bike ride, please contact the Development Office.

We welcome our new Director of Development



In January, Hertford welcomed Julia Thaxton as the new Director of Development. She was previously at St John's College, Cambridge, where she was Head of Major

Gifts for their successful £50 million fundraising campaign.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be joining Hertford at such an exciting time. The college, students and alumni have all given me a very warm welcome, and together with Anna, Claire and Helena, I look forward to building ever-stronger relationships with old members."

Hertford talking

Recent speakers at our Hertford Conversations have included Ian McEwan (author) who shared anecdotes from researching his novels, Charlie Mayfield (Chairman of John Lewis partnership) on the advantages of a partnership model, and Ben Summerskill (former CEO of Stonewall) on equality in the twenty first century.



We were also delighted to welcome Tony Hall (Director-General of the BBC) to give the John Donne Lecture in April on the subject of *Living with creativity*. Lord Hall spoke about the challenge of recognising and encouraging creativity in a corporate environment, a topical speech as



the 2016 date for renewal of the BBC's Royal Charter draws closer.

The lecture was supported by an exhibition on John Donne in the Bodleian Library's Proscholium, arranged by Hertford student Alice Rhodes, which included the only surviving poem by Donne in his own handwriting.

All Hertford members are welcome to join us at these conversations; keep an eye on our website for future dates.



It's not all about Hertford's cyclists...

The Oxford University Darts team recently won the 2014 National University Championship, ably supported by two team members from Hertford: Jamie Tong (Assistant SCR Butler) and Jack Shirley (Bar Supervisor)

Congratulations to Zoe Lee (2004) who came 4th in the women's eight at the World Rowing Championships in Chungju.

Frost Included



Stephen Frost (1995) was the first ever Head of Diversity and Inclusion for the Olympic Games at London 2012. His new book *The Inclusion Imperative*

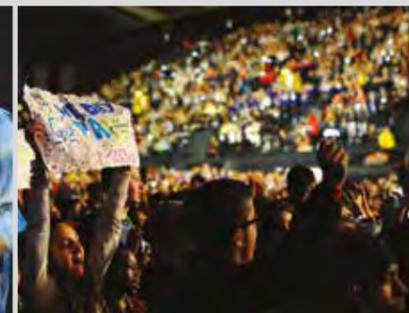
examines how real inclusion creates better business and builds better societies, building on his success in achieving unprecedented workforce inclusion across the 200,000 staff supporting the Olympics.



Top scientists

Two of Hertford's scientists, Professor Dame Kay Davies and Professor Hagan Bayley, were named in the Science Council's Top 100 Scientists list. Kay was recognised for her research into molecular analysis of human genetic disease, particularly the genetic basis of neuromuscular and neurological disorders, and as co-founder of the Oxford Centre of Gene Function, of which she is also the co-Director.

Hagan was praised for his ground breaking research into the structures and properties of biological molecules, especially proteins, and their relationship to biological evolution and disease.



Anthony Harvey

We Day

Marc Kielburger (2000) and his brother Craig are co-founders of the international development and youth empowerment organisation, Free The Children. On 7th March they celebrated We Day, an event to inspire young people to become agents of change. They were joined by Prince Harry, Al Gore, Malala Yousafzai and Hertford's Law Fellow Dr Alison Young, who is also a trustee of the UK branch of the charity.

New Hertford film

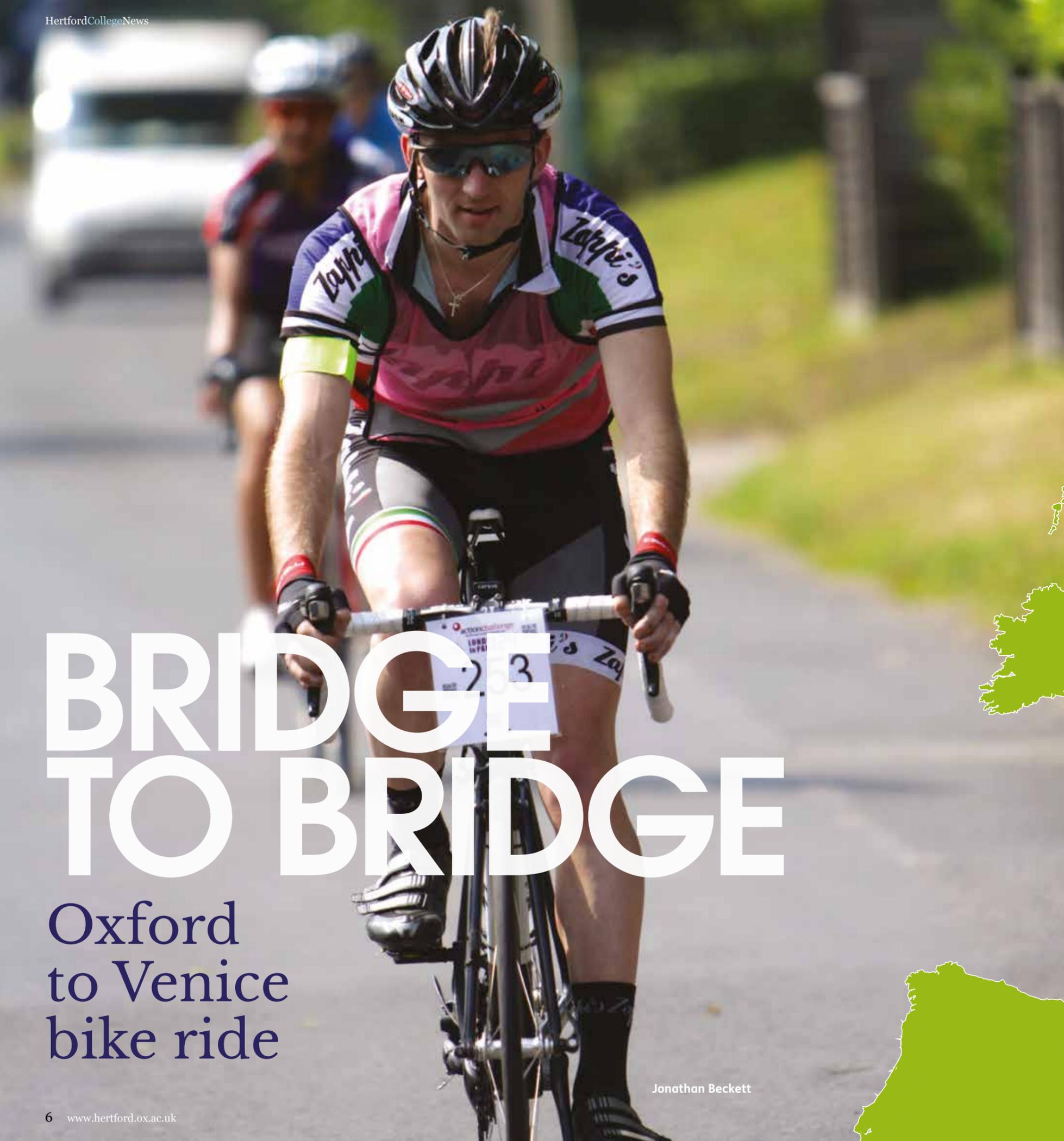
We've been delighted with the response from alumni who have watched our new video on Hertford (tinyurl.com/hertvid). Current students, Fellows and alumni (including Natasha Kaplinsky and a few other familiar faces) all discuss what makes Hertford stand out from the crowd, especially our work on open access.

Our thanks go to Anthony Geffen (CEO and Executive Producer at Atlantic Productions) for his generosity and talent in producing the film for us. Anthony came to the college for Geography tutorials with Professor Andrew Goudie whilst studying at St Benet's Hall.



Law books sponsored

Hertford is extremely grateful to Mayer Brown International LLP for generously sponsoring textbooks for law students for the next five years. Many students find it difficult to purchase all the textbooks that they need for their law course, especially since they often cannot be bought second-hand. Since the start of February over one hundred new books have been ordered for our 23 undergraduate Law students.



BRIDGE TO BRIDGE

Oxford to Venice bike ride

Jonathan Beckett

Who would cycle 1,100km from Oxford to Venice? Hertford would.

True to its reputation for standing out from the pack, Hertford is doing things differently:

- In 1965, we were the first college to proactively encourage applicants from grammar and non fee-paying schools
- In 1974, we were part of the first cohort of five Oxford colleges to become co-educational
- In 2014, we will be the first Oxford college to cycle from Oxford to Venice to raise money for student support

The challenge of a lifetime

This July, Hertford College will be issuing a challenge to cycle 1,100km between Oxford and Venice to raise funds for student support. Venice was chosen as the ultimate destination in order to make the journey from our own Bridge of Sighs to its original namesake, in its centenary year.

We have 32 cyclists signed up already, including our Principal, Will Hutton, who will be cycling the whole route.

A Hertfordian legacy

The whole concept of the bike ride came from Hertford alumnus and generous supporter of the college, Terry Hughes (1982). Terry was the dynamo behind the entire adventure and was the first to sign up for the challenge. Tragically, Terry passed away in October 2013 at the age of 49. His widow Maria will be cycling the entire distance in his place and will be fundraising in Terry's memory.

What you can do

Come and join us! If you're a cyclist, take a look at the route and if you're up for the challenge get in touch. You can sign up for the entire distance or just one of the legs.

If you're not a cyclist, we urge you to sponsor those taking part. You can sponsor an individual cyclist to help them reach their personal goal, or support the bike ride overall. All proceeds will go towards student support.

We will also be seeking corporate sponsorship to help cover the costs of running the event – this will ensure that all of the funds raised go to student support. If you can



Now you've heard about the bike ride, meet some of our cyclists and supporters.

Will Hutton: full route
journalist, political economist – and Hertford's Principal



Jacqui Smith: supporter
former Home Secretary

Krishnan Guru-Murthy: day one
Newsreader for Channel 4 Evening News



Tom Fletcher: stage three
Ambassador to Lebanon

Carol Sennett: supporter
Commissioning Editor for Factual Programmes for the BBC



The Hospices de Beaune: a sight en route for the stage two cyclists

put us in touch with a company that could be a sponsor, please contact the Development Office.

The ultimate goal

Certainly, part of the attraction of this scheme is the bike ride itself: the physical challenge of cycling 1,100km in 11 days; the beautiful scenery of France and Italy; two weeks making new friends and catching up with old. But every one of the cyclists has committed to raising significant sums for student support, and it is the huge impact that this bike ride will make that is the real adventure. If each of our 32 cyclists raises £8,000, that would mean £250,000 going towards student support.

Cycling for student support

It can have escaped no one's notice that financial support for students is becoming an urgent issue. Hertford currently gives out 100 student bursaries a year, and an increasing number of hardship grants. Our graduate scholarships are underfunded: we give out between four and six graduate 'senior scholarships' each year of £5,000, which barely touches the true cost of postgraduate study. For us to be able to attract the very best students, regardless of background, Hertford will need to raise at least £250,000 for student support, with the hope of establishing an endowed fund in the longer term.

Donating to Hertford

Your gift in support of the bike ride will make all the difference. Not only will it give an all-important boost to the cyclists undergoing this extreme challenge, but it will also allow us to continue to admit the best students, no

matter what their financial situation may be. The June 2014 telethon will be encouraging gifts towards the bike ride, and we ask you to support our riders in any way you can. You can sponsor individual cyclists to help them reach their personal goals, or donate to the scheme overall.

DONATE ONLINE:

- via the University donation page (www.giving.ox.ac.uk/hertford_college)
- on Kritical Mass (kriticalmass.com/p/b2bbikeride)
- through JustGiving (www.justgiving.com/hertfordcollege)

You can also follow our progress on our blog: www.bridge2bridge.org

The route

Day One: Saturday 19 July
Oxford to Portsmouth: 100 Years, 100 Miles, 100 People
We're going to have 100 cyclists joining us for the big send off

Stage One: 19 July to 21 July
Oxford to Paris
From dreaming spires to the iconic Eiffel Tower

Stage Two: 22 July to 26 July
Dijon to Annecy
Our experienced cyclists can tackle the optional Semnoz climbs (as featured in 2013 Tour de France)

Stage Three: 27 July to 29 July
Lake Garda to Venice
Skirting the Italian lakes to finish in style with a gondola ride under the Bridge of Sighs



We caught up with three of our cyclists to see how they were preparing for the challenge.



Farzana Aslam (1991)
Principal Lecturer & Associate Director of the Centre for Comparative & Public Law at the University of Hong Kong; Chair of the Board, Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre

Why did you decide to take part?

Farzana: It appealed to me as a challenge. Before I had children my holidays were always adventure holidays, like white water rafting through the Grand Canyon or trekking Macchu Picchu. This was a chance to reconnect with my old self.

What are you most, and least, looking forward to?

Jamie: I'm most looking forward to cycling in the Alps, and to the cold beer that I hope will await me at every stage!

I'm least looking forward to that moment every day when I'll have to pull on sweaty lycra and swing myself back into the saddle.

Jonathan: I don't think there is anything I'm not looking forward to. The part I'm most looking forward to would have to be our day in the Alps near Annecy.

Why is fundraising for Oxford students important to you?

Farzana: I struggled financially through my student years, and almost dropped out for this reason, so I know what a difference support of this nature can make.



Jonathan Beckett (2007)
Research associate in Sir Walter Bodmer's Cancer and Immunogenetics Lab at the Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine



Jamie Castell
Hertford's Career Development Fellow & Outreach Officer; he divides his time between outreach work and research into Romantic poetry, in particular the poetry of William Wordsworth

Jamie: The opportunities offered through studying at Hertford should be accessible to students from all backgrounds. As Outreach Fellow I see how extra funds make a big difference.

Jonathan: Money shouldn't be a deciding factor when you apply to Oxford, people shouldn't be priced out of having a brilliant education.

What is the greatest distance you have cycled previously?

Jonathan: 280 miles in 23 hours and 5 minutes! I was one of the ride leaders for the SCOPE London2Paris24 in 2013.

Farzana: 750 km in 6 days through Southern China.

How are you preparing for the challenge?

Farzana: I've just started getting on my bike after a six-year hiatus. It is proving painful, but I always knew that the initial few weeks of getting back into any training regime was going to be hard (hence the first few months of denial!)

Jamie: A lot of cycling!

What tips would you give to our other cyclists?

Jonathan: Train, train and train some more! Get used to riding for entire days, because every day is a massive distance. Get a good bike fitted too.



Rob Judges Photography/Oxford University Images

Hall portraits: all change

The college is planning an exciting new exhibition in Hall for the academic year 2014-5. 21 photographic portraits of Hertford women will replace the current portraits.

Hertfordians past and present have been invited to nominate sitters, and the names of those selected will be published over the summer.

Our current portraits recognise achievement across a rather narrow sphere: we are keen that the women represented offer a more rounded picture of achievement for current Hertford women and men. We hope to include people whose successes have not been widely recognised as well as those who are more publicly acclaimed.

“It’s a brave and bold move and I hope it will show the young women currently studying there that their achievements deserve just as much celebration – *Claire McGowan (2000)*”

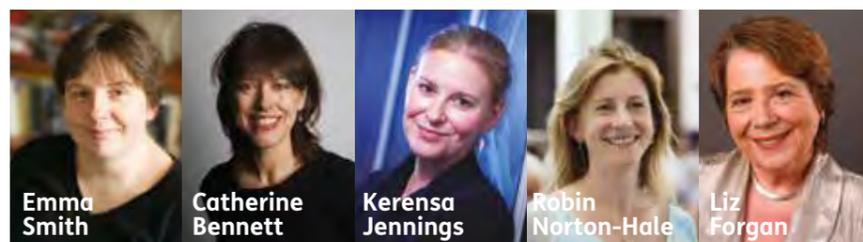
“This is a central and iconic space in the college; these plans make a strong statement that women can fill these walls...I now have new faith and pride in the college, knowing that it plans to recognise the successes of female alumni in such a striking way – *Georgina Green (2000)*”



The five colleges who went co-educational in 1974 (Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St Catherine’s and Wadham) are celebrating the 40th anniversary of mixed education at Oxford throughout 2014. As part of this anniversary, the university will not only applaud the achievements of alumnae in all spheres of life, but also offer insights into some of the challenges that remain for women, both personal and professional.

How much has really changed in the last forty years? We spoke to Hertford members past and present to compare notes.

‘Women in the Arts’ panel debate Thursday 19th June



A series of events on pioneering women has been arranged, with each of the five colleges hosting an event each.

Hertford will be hosting a panel debate on ‘Women in the Arts’ on Thursday 19th June in London. Emma Smith (Fellow and Tutor in English) will chair the discussion with our guests who include:

- Catherine Bennett (1975) *Observer* columnist
- Kerensa Jennings (1989) Head of Strategic Delivery at the BBC
- Robin Norton-Hale (1999) Theatre and opera director, winner of 2011 Olivier Award for Best Opera (*La Bohème*)
- Liz Forgan (St Hugh’s alumna) Former Chair of Arts Council England

This event is open to all Oxford alumni; please visit tinyurl.com/womeninthearts to sign up.



Kate Stross (1974) worked at Ofcom for 8 years from its start up, initially as Commercial Director and then regulating television as Director of Content. She is now a freelance management consultant, non-executive and pension fund trustee.



Ellen Cheetham (2012) is the current JCR Female Welfare Officer.

Kate: When I arrived at Hertford in October 1974 I found myself one of only sixteen women in an intake of around 90 undergraduates. Of course I had not known Hertford as an all-male institution and so was not conscious of any change. Nevertheless, the women were rather a small minority at Hertford and, though it didn’t trouble

me at the time, with the benefit of hindsight I think the limited numbers of women did detract from my experience.

Hertford had decided to mix staircases rather than having all women staircases. I was studying Biochemistry, which was particularly male dominated – across the university as a whole, our year of 48 people included only three women. The combined effect was that it limited contact with other women.

I think as a result I made a few close friendships with other women, which in my experience are the ones which have survived best over the long term. That said, I found the men of Hertford, particularly the second and third years, generally civilised, urbane and friendly.

Ellen: Generally the current undergraduate community’s perception of Hertford is of a place of equality between the sexes, especially when compared to other colleges or universities. However, the fact that gender equality is not at the forefront of most people’s minds does not mean that total parity exists.

Many female undergraduates have suggested that they feel ‘feminism’ is a dirty word and that when they bring up feminist issues they are subject to disparaging looks and comments. Others see feminism as irrelevant now that there is equality before the law.

University level campaigns, such as WomCam and Everyday Sexism, are appreciated by the student body but are low profile compared to other groups such as LGBTQ.



Of worms and

(wo)men:

Reflections on the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2013

Hertford's Dean, Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry, Dr Alison Woollard, was chosen to deliver the Royal Institution's 2013 Christmas Lectures. Alison is only the fifth woman to deliver the lectures, but the third person to come from Hertford – the others being Sir Walter Bodmer and Sir Christopher Zeeman, both former Principals.

The Christmas Lectures, which are as much a fixture in the Christmas television scheduling as the carols from King's College, Cambridge, were inaugurated by Michael Faraday in 1825. Former Lecturers have included Nobel Prize winners, such as William and Lawrence Bragg, and illustrious science communicators such as Sir David Attenborough.

Alison presented a three-part series, filmed in front of a live audience, called *Life Fantastic* which was aired on BBC Four in late December. Below she shares her reflections on the process.

The longest neuron in us is over a metre long, stretching from the base of the spine to the toes; giraffes have neurons in their neck over five metres long



In 1869 Swiss biochemist Friedrich Miescher first isolated a new substance from the nuclei of white blood cells, the first extraction of DNA



Humans are hugely complicated machines composed of around 40 trillion interconnected cells. Each cell is so tiny you could fit about 5,000 average sized human cells on the head of a pin – that's 8 billion pins worth of cells in one person



When I first received the e-mail inviting me to submit a proposal for the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures back in March 2013, my first reaction was to delete it! My rough mental calculations, taking into account my usual day jobs of Principal Investigator, University Lecturer, College Tutor, Dean and Mother of two young children, didn't seem to leave much wriggle room for anything – let alone the vision, working-up and execution of three lectures for teenagers on a broad biological topic.

Over the next few days I found thoughts of the Lectures creeping in, though. It was an honour to have been nominated to speak at an institution as venerable as the Royal Institution, with its rich history of science and engagement, where Michael Faraday introduced the public to electricity

in 1829, Carl Sagan gave a brilliant exploration of space in 1977, and Chris Bishop's "Hi-Tech Trek" delved into the world of Computer Science in 2008.

My proposal was to start the lectures off talking about development – how we all start off as a single cell, the fertilized egg, and to describe the remarkable process by which this single cell is transformed into trillions of cells, all doing the right thing in the right place at the right time; being liver, for example, or brain.

I envisaged two important themes running through all the lectures: firstly, an emphasis on molecular mechanisms, and secondly some insights into how we know all this – both of which I think are absolutely crucial to the engagement process. The lessons that a huge variety of

model organisms, from yeast to zebrafish, can teach us about biological mechanisms are immense – and use of such organisms would allow the introduction of a whole menagerie of entertaining animals throughout the lectures, and in addition allow me to show off my favourite model organism, the nematode *C. elegans*, as a star of the show, my 'hero organism'.

It wasn't until early June that I got the official go-ahead from the Royal Institution. Rather fittingly, I was at Darwin's home, Down House, that day, on our annual outing for biologists and biochemists from Hertford. The phone call came through on the sand walk – the promenade Darwin took each evening to reflect on his day's work and think through ideas. That certainly seemed to augur well for the lectures!

I moved to London, abandoning the family, at the beginning of December when the theatre rehearsals started. Rehearsal is a very odd experience for a seasoned seminar-giver; I had never really rehearsed anything before, and also had never worked with a script. Scientists usually prefer to ad lib around a powerpoint presentation, but that won't work when you are dealing with a large crew, relying on split second timing for demos – and of course the whole 'TV thing'.

The memories of working with such a dedicated team of clever, knowledgeable, funny people (mainly women as it happened – we were dubbed 'the coven') will stay with me for a long time, and the 'can do' attitude was absolutely inspiring. I was really lucky to be able to share the whole experience with my research group, who all appeared in one or other of

the lectures as 'assistants' – the 'Oxford Glams' – as they were known in the production office! It was also fantastic to be able to share the experience with some other scientists, not least Paul Nurse, my old PhD supervisor, who joined me in the first lecture to talk about his Nobel Prize-winning work on cell division.

By the end of the third lecture I was beyond exhausted, although it took a surprising amount of time to 'come down' from the adrenaline trip. I looked forward to the TV transmission dates between Christmas and New Year with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I knew the lectures went down well in the theatre with the wonderful audience, but how would they translate to TV? I needn't have worried, and was totally overwhelmed by the positive response on e-mail, Twitter and even good old-fashioned

letters. Although life is now more or less back to normal, my involvement with the Ri, and Science Communication in general, continues. I'm also planning some involvement with the Cheltenham Science Festival and am looking forward to summer when the Ri Lectures go on tour to Singapore and Japan.

I can really feel the vital importance of effective and engaging science communication – particularly biological science – at a time when Government demands 'impact' and some have issues with the potential implications of research in genetics and molecular biology. And if six-year olds are inspired to send me beautiful pictures of green fluorescent worms then, job done – the next generation of scientists might just be inspired to study developmental biology...

Life Fantastic can be seen at www.rigb.org/christmas-lectures

Photos: page 14 top right and page 15 bottom right © Paul Wilkinson; all other photos © Tim Mitchell



Lucie Burgess



Lucie Burgess, née Whitford, (1993) is Head of Content Strategy, Research and Operations at the British Library, where she has worked since 2007.

Imagine working with 150 million collection items, unconstrained by geography, format or language, from the earliest known European bound book (the remarkable St Cuthbert Gospel) to personal digital archives, like the papers of the evolutionary biologist W.D. Hamilton. This is a day in the life of the British Library, and why it is such a privilege and a passion of mine to work there.

Our purpose is to make our intellectual heritage accessible to everyone – for research, inspiration and enjoyment. We achieve this through the reading room services provided at our iconic building at St. Pancras in London, through a variety of online services, and through a vibrant public programme of exhibitions and events. Half a million researchers used the reading rooms in 2013/14, and we welcomed 11 million unique users to our website, www.bl.uk.

Libraries must continually innovate to remain relevant – what's the point of a library, you might ask, when every human thought is on the web? – and we set out ambitious plans to reinvent the Library in the digital age. I have led our expert curators to set out plans for developing the collection that places an emphasis on connecting, openness and digital as well as the unique, precious heritage collections for which we are so well known.

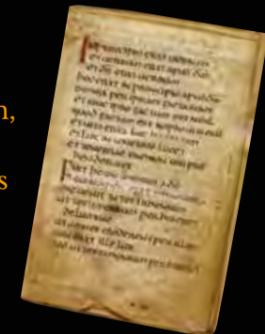
Of course 'heritage' and 'digital' can be connected, and one of the most exciting projects I have led is the British Library's effort to archive e-books, e-journals and websites, preserving our digital heritage for

future generations. The Library, with five other major libraries in the UK and Ireland (the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, the Bodleian, Cambridge University Library and Trinity College Dublin) has held the legal deposit privilege since 1662, which has empowered them to collect a copy of every significant publication in print. However, with an explosion of web content and data, but the lack of a legal framework and technical means to collect it, we risked a huge digital black hole opening up in the 21st century record.

Over the last ten years the libraries campaigned vigorously to extend their legal deposit privilege to digital publishing and, after complex discussions with publishers and government, legislation was passed to this effect on 6th April 2013. I spent

The St Cuthbert Gospel is the oldest intact European book. Made in the late seventh century, the manuscript contains a copy of the Gospel of St John, and was apparently placed in the coffin of St Cuthbert (c. 635–687) when he was re-interred at Lindisfarne in 698.

The British Library bought the book in 2012 for £9 million, the highest price they have ever paid for a book, after a year-long fundraising campaign.



an exhilarating week in a whirlwind of press interviews, including an invitation to BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

The web is fragile, ephemeral and fleeting, with the average life of a web page estimated to be just 75 days; through our archiving of the entire UK web space, a momentous 1.4 billion pages of content and 3.8 million websites, and an enormous collaborative effort, we will preserve it forever.

It's fascinating to see the projects that I participated in coming to fruition and delivering tangible benefits for the public. In 2007 I worked on the strategy and business case for transforming

access to and preservation of the national newspaper collection, which consists of 750 million pages in 59,000 titles from *The Times* to the *Beano*. Thanks to a £33m grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport we are relocating the collection to state-of-the-art low temperature, low-oxygen storage facilities, and 40 million pages are being systematically digitised by our partner DC Thomson Family History. In April this year we will open a new reading room – the Newsroom – at St. Pancras, which will provide integrated access to print, web, TV and radio news collections in contemporary surroundings. The newspaper programme was a significant achievement and a huge team effort and I am proud to have played my small part in it.

One of the most interesting aspects of my role is the diversity of the people I meet, including eminent academics, curators, technologists, researchers, archivists, funders and commercial partners. Recently I met Professor Robert Darnton after the 2013 Panizzi Lectures, and was enthralled by his account of romans-à-clef composed by domestic servants in the royal courts of 18th century Bourbon France. Perhaps the strangest occurrence during my time at the Library was being asked by a reader to direct her to books

printed with blue ink. I was able to cite a copy of Margaret Atwood's *Up in the Tree*, originally published in 1978, and a stalwart of bedtime reading to my three young children. Atwood penned the letters and illustrations by hand using red and blue ink which was considerably less expensive to print at the time.

Libraries everywhere are facing enormous challenges. Visitor engagement, economic impact, transformational digital technologies, e-lending, open access, the need to broaden reach and budgetary pressures are just a few. Perhaps the vastly superior consumer media experience is the biggest competitor to the role of the library in the future. I would like to do something about that. We should cherish our libraries; they are variously our historians, our culture, our celebrations, our community and our future. Those wonderful 150 million collection items belong – to you.

Twitter @LucieCBurgess
Lucie.Burgess@BL.uk

Libraries in the digital age

RUGBY IN MONGOLIA



“ Since the Mongolian Rugby Football Union was established in 2003, rugby has become one of the fastest growing team sports in the country. In winter the temperature can drop to -40°C, and Ulaanbaatar holds the honour of being the coldest capital city in the world, yet rugby training continues regardless ”

In 2013, Hertford College Rugby Club became the first rugby team to officially tour Mongolia in partnership with the Mongolian Rugby Union. They are only the second foreign team ever to play in Mongolia (the Hong Kong Vandals visited in 2012).

John Collis (1989), the tour manager, and Richard Foord (2011), the tour captain, share their experiences with us.

John Collis
The trip continued a long tradition of encouraging cultural and academic links through sport, and provided both hosts and guests with the opportunity to present and promote their cultures in a friendly and uncontroversial framework. Preparation for the trip was cultural as well as physical – the rugby club hosted leading academics and thinkers on Mongolian affairs and held discussion dinners with political scientists and anthropologists.

The tour itself was characterized by good humour and a willingness to go beyond sports and social activities. We held a visit to the Lotus Orphanage,

which was attended by all, and it was remarked afterwards that that was one of the most important parts of the trip. Our record on the pitch was not a success but, in truth, it was the most successful of tours.

The tour is very grateful for the sponsorship of Michael Watt, without whom the trip would not have been possible. Michael is not an alumnus of Hertford College, but was awarded the Order of New Zealand for his philanthropy and has for many years supported scholars from Australia and New Zealand to continue their work at Oxford University.

Richard Foord
We had been in Ulaanbaatar for a couple of hours before John Collis and I were invited to a press conference at the national TV centre. Expecting to be greeted with a couple of guys and a microphone I was slightly thrown off guard at the sight of a room full of journalists; about twenty television cameras; and a similar number of microphones bunched together on a

long table. This press conference was going out live on national television.

One journalist asked the seemingly reductive yet perfectly reasonable and difficult question: ‘How good are Hertford College?’ After trying to explain the intricate workings of the ‘coppers bowl’ competition, John, skilfully pointed to the eight players that have gone on to represent England in Hertford’s history. The fact that most of these caps came at the end of the nineteenth century was trivial and hardly worth mentioning.

The spotlight would remain on us for the duration of our stay: We were to play two matches with a sevens tournament in between, all of which would be played in the national stadium and broadcast live on Mongolian television.

Our first game was a close encounter; with ten minutes remaining Hertford looked favourites for a first tour win, leading 16-14. However, within the final five minutes our opponents broke through on the left flank to record the

“ The rugby, country and people were all unforgettable, and this has really topped off a brilliant first year at university for me ”

winning points. The try was converted for a final score of 21-16.

Our next sporting engagement was the sevens tournament. Our overriding opinion of Mongolian rugby players was that they were skilful, agile, and liked to ship the ball out wide. Naturally they were quite good at sevens. We played with much greater fluidity and composure coming second overall and losing only one match to the eventual winners.

The final match was against the UB Warriors, a club team full of older, more experienced players. The match was an evening kickoff played under floodlights in front of a much fuller crowd, including the English ambassador. The UB Warriors played a much more direct game than the university team, and

asserted their undoubted dominance in the scrum by lifting up our front row. The game ended in a well-earned victory for UB 12-7. Particular mention must go to our front row who faced two formidable Mongolian national wrestlers, yet fought through a full eighty minutes.

We were exhausted, bruised, and disappointed. However for a rugby union that is trying to spread the appeal of the game to a wider audience the tense and exciting matches that Hertford played a part in couldn’t have provided a better advert for this strange, new, and dynamic team game. The disappointment of losing was tempered by the sense that we had been a part of something significant; something adventurous and a little bit strange that had never been done before.

“ It was a truly fantastic experience and without a doubt the most worthwhile and memorable experience for me at university ”



Dates for your diary

2014

Thursday 19 June: **'Women in the Arts' panel debate in London**

Saturday 19 – Wednesday 30 July: **Bridge to Bridge, Oxford to Venice bike ride**

Friday 19 September: **Gaudy for matriculation years 1974-1976**

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 September: **Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Oxford**

Saturday 20 September: **Exhibition of new Hall portraits**

Celebrating 40 years of co-education at Oxford

Saturday 27 September: **Gilbert Club 40th anniversary dinner**

Saturday 4 October: **Bridge of Sighs Commemoration Ball**

The ball is organised by a committee of MCR and JCR students

Bike ride events:

Saturday 19 July: **Oxford starting line party**
Portsmouth finish line party

Monday 21 July: **Reunion dinner in Paris**

Friday 25 July: **Reunion dinner in Annecy**

Tuesday 29 July: **Finale celebration in Venice**

2015

Friday 24 – Sunday 26 April: **Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Europe (Vienna)**



Find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/hertfordcollegealumni
Follow us on twitter [@hertfordcollege](https://twitter.com/hertfordcollege)
Join us on LinkedIn **'Hertford College Alumni'**



Follow the progress of our bike ride:
www.bridge2bridge.org