



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NEWS AND NOTES

UPDATES FROM BALLIOL ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

A SUPPLEMENT TO FLOREAT DOMUS 2026



News and Notes

We are delighted to share news from the Balliol community

We are very grateful to all Old Members who have contributed to this year's *News & Notes*. As ever, the breadth and variety of these contributions offer a vivid picture of the lives, work, and interests of the Balliol community across the world.

This spirit of sharing and reflection is also at the heart of a new initiative we are pleased to introduce this year: an online obituaries page, created to honour and celebrate the lives of Old Members, academics, staff, and friends of Balliol. We hope it will provide a lasting and accessible record of those who have been part of the life of the College. The page can be accessed at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/obituaries, and we look forward to developing it further over time.

Every year, we enjoy reading the stories and updates submitted by you, and it is a privilege to share them with the wider Balliol community. If you have news to share, we would be delighted to hear from you at newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

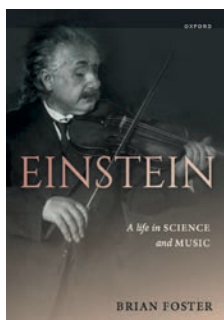
The contributions in these pages reflect the experiences and perspectives of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the College.

Professor Brian Foster, Emeritus Fellow

My book, *Einstein: A Life in Science and Music*, was published by Oxford University Press in February 2026.

The book contains previously unpublished revelations about Einstein's musical activities, as well as his personal life, particularly his romantic involvements. It also contains explanations of his major papers aimed at the general public.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/einstein-a-life-in-science-and-music-9780198794875?cc=pt&lang=en&>



and clasped them with his. His hands were warm. He said, 'Are you still working?' 'I am still a mentor at one of the Durham colleges', I replied, adding, 'I'm 93.' 'You're not!' he exclaimed in surprise, before moving to the next recipient. My son Hugo and I had spoken with others beforehand, and it seemed each had done something remarkable to get invited. I feel my own life has been rather undistinguished, though I have served as a college mentor – a kind of moral or non-academic tutor – since 1974. I still meet regularly with seven third- and fourth-year students studying a wide range of subjects.

I have also been an academic, specialising in theology and religious education. When I retired, I was invited to Russia, where the Orthodox Church, emerging from 70 years of atheist persecution, lacked lay teachers and trainers. My dear wife Penny and I spent six wonderful years in Moscow (1995–2001) during the Yeltsin years. I worked with the Russian Orthodox Church while Penny taught English literature in two Moscow universities. She taught in English, but my work had to be in Russian, so I had to get fluent quickly. I even managed to contribute a joke that later appeared in a weekly

newspaper. Maybe my work in Durham prompted the invitation, but the King knew nothing of my time in Russia.

Richard Wheadon (1951)

On 5 October 2024, Tabitha Mary Anne was born in Guernsey to our youngest son, Tristan, and his wife, Kirsty. She is the first girl to be born into our family in 119 years!

Kenneth Cavander (1952)

Since my last newsletter, my new adaptation of Sophokles' *Antigone* was contracted for production in 2026 by a theatre in Los Angeles. A cast has been assembled, and costumes and sets are being discussed as of this writing. My version will be performed by a cast of seven. I've dispensed with the chorus and repurposed their lines to create a second leading female role – the wife of Kreon. Using clues in the original text, I've written new scenes to heighten the suspense that Sophokles has created as to who will survive, and how. Meanwhile, in the summer of 2025, I was commissioned to adapt my version of *Timon of Athens*, a late and unfinished collaboration by Shakespeare and Thomas Middleton, for a six-part radio drama ('Play on Podcasts'). It first aired in the US in July 2025.

Professor Ian Macdonald (1952)

I turned 96 last year with the result that I participate in fewer events. However, I still make an effort to attend the theatre and an increasing number of funerals and memorial services for dear friends and even former students. On 9 January, I was one of the eulogists at the remembrance for my longtime Balliol friend, Don Rickerd (1953). We had been in touch regularly for 70 years from 1955 when we both came down.

Since there were other eulogists who spoke of his character, talents and accomplishments, I chose to strike a lighter note by recalling a number of shared anecdotes. In particular, I told the story of the trip that we made to

1950s

Robin Minney (1950)

I was invited to take part in the King's visit to Durham Cathedral on 17 April 2025 and to receive the Royal Maundy money. When the King came to me, he put the two purses into my hands

Greece and back in an old London taxi (1934 Austin), which I had bought along with three fellow students for 20 pounds at the end of my first year in Oxford.

The highlight was driving down the main street of the ancient city of Carcassonne in the south of France which was lined with cheering crowds.

As we conjectured, 'how did they know we were coming?', a member of the local constabulary waved us aside with the admonition that the Tour de France was about to pass through.

The return trip was equally memorable when we were joined by our Balliol (American) friend, Steve Stamas, and his bride, Elaine, with whom we were actually sharing part of their honeymoon!

Alan Spencer (1952)

A week or so before the Autumn Budget in November 2025, I got an email from Ford Motor Company, my only employer and now pension payer, to say that legislation was going through with the Budget that would tax as a Benefit in Kind the Ford cars I lease from them (and have done for the last 60 years). Would I please sign here, here and here to agree my responsibility for the tax. I, of course, did so and heard nothing further until some time after the Budget when I got another Ford email saying that the legislation was now published and the effective date is April 2030. I replied that if I am still here and able to drive their excellent cars I'll pay the tax with the biggest smile any Chancellor has ever seen.

Derek Clements (1953)

A pretty uneventful year but then not totally unexpected at 93. In glorious summer weather, I took my third trip up the Llangollen Canal, blessed with almost uninterrupted sunshine. We were fortunate to avoid being marooned by the serious breach of the bank that followed, which sucked three narrowboats down a broken embankment into a nearby field and will close that stretch for at least a year. Luckily, there were no life-threatening injuries.

I always recommend the Llangollen as the route for beginners: it offers two aqueducts (including the soaring Pontcysyllte), two tunnels, and numerous bridges, some lifted by substantial counterbalances similar to

those on the Continent. The journey also recalled my years as an active volunteer and a committee member of the Inland Waterways Association, whose mission was to save Britain's canal network from dereliction. Clearing rubbish from abandoned waterways was arduous work, but it is deeply satisfying to see so many canals now restored, providing both peaceful holidays and environmental benefits for local communities.

The other notable event of the year is that I have finally completed my memoirs and have been amazed to recall how many times I have so narrowly escaped death in one form or another – enough to justify a special appendix of near-misses. Given the many changes of occupation since my time at Balliol, I hope the book will make both an enjoyable and insightful read for future generations of my family.

Never row!

Anthony Sperry (1957)

My year was not brilliant, as I hobbled around with two sticks between medical appointments and events attended. Computer problems added to the mix.

I spent time in journalism with a highlight of my comment on the report of Clive Lewis MP talking in Parliament about water privatisation: 'Thank you, Margaret Thatcher, you have given this country a dreadful legacy,' which gathered over 950 'likes' on Instagram.

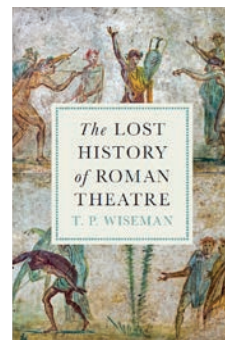
One event I attended was the Battle of Ideas Festival in Westminster, mid-October. The sponsors had made a fortune out of bitcoin. I was invited by my friend, Professor Ulrike Guerot, to join her, she being asked to speak on the subject: 'Is Germany ready for revolution?' (I have a special interest in the topic, having been born in Germany of a German mother, who was excluded from Heidelberg University in 1934 for anti-government activity).

At the party the Friday before, I was introduced to a lawyer. I opened the conversation by saying that the problem I had with lawyers was that they can misrepresent the evidence and distort the legislation. The response I got from the lady was that that was the end of the conversation, and she walked away.

So much for negotiation being the solution to the world's problems!

Professor Peter Wiseman (1957)

Still beavering away at the obsessions that got me into the academic profession in the first place, resulting last year in two big books coming



out simultaneously: *Myth, History and Archaeology* (Brill) and *The Lost History of Roman Theatre* (Princeton U.P.). The publisher tells me that LHRT has been reviewed by *Indulge* magazine – not quite the audience I had in mind, but I'm not complaining!

Geoffrey Cannon (1958)

'We owe to others who we are' wrote Goethe. I am writing essays on this theme. Two celebrate my tutors, Michael Dummett and Charles Taylor, then at All Souls; I will send these to anybody who is interested.

At the millennium I moved to live and work in the Global South, and in Brazil. For 13 years I have been a Senior Research Fellow in the nutrition policy department at the University of São Paulo. We identify whole fresh diets and meals as vital for good health and well-being, and ultra-processed food products as the main dietary cause of ailments affecting most human organ systems.

The US government has now published its 2025-2030 dietary guidelines, headlined 'Eat real food'. These have been influenced by our



Geoffrey Cannon's wife Raquel and son Gabriel

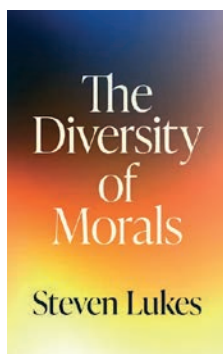
work. At their launch, after a standing ovation, US Health Secretary R.F. Kennedy Jr said: 'The message is clear. If it doesn't come from the ground, or the water, or the air, don't eat it. If it comes wrapped in a package... don't eat it.' But the fullest and most reliable national official food guide remains that issued by the Brazilian government, whose technical content was devised by us, the USP team, with support from the Pan American Health Organization and many health and civil society professionals. The guide in English: www.fao.org/nutrition/education/food-dietary-guidelines/regions/countries/brazil/en/.

I am married to a Brazilian, Raquel Bittar. We have a son, Gabriel, who now is at university training to qualify as an architect.

I have a Wikipedia entry. My email is geoffreycannon1@gmail.com.

Professor Steven Lukes (1958)

My book, *The Diversity of Morals* (Princeton University Press, 2025), was listed as a New Yorker book of the year. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691157191/the-diversity-of-morals>



Malcolm Brahams (1959)

Our local u3a (of which I'm a vice-chair) continues to keep me busy. My Current Affairs Group continues to thrive, and we have recently added a Philosophy Group. Despite the best efforts of the much-missed Alan Montefiore, philosophy was my weakest subject at Balliol so I'm grateful for the chance to revisit it. We just need to add Economics to have the full PPE set, and maybe establish a sub-branch of the Cerberus Society in Hampstead Garden Suburb!

1960s

Timothy Ades (1960)

While at Balliol I met my wife who was at St Hilda's, now a Professor of Art History. I went on to INSEAD and



became a management consultant. I worked for the Prices & Incomes Board and, when it closed, for the Highgate Society. I became a translator-poet. We have three sons (one a composer) and five grandchildren.

Ian Watson (1960)

In October, I was delighted to spend almost a week in Barcelona courtesy of the very hospitable Polytechnic University of Catalunya, to give the keynote speech at their presentation of their annual UPC Science Fiction Award (worth 2,000 Euros plus handsome publication), for a novella written in English, French, Spanish, or Catalan.

UPC has a huge multilingual library of science fiction. The photo shows about a quarter of my own printed presence on the shelves, transferred to the stand for exhibition. I could not help grinning.

The College was sorry to learn that Ian Watson died in April 2026.



Neil McQueen (1961)

Sadly, Stephen Jessel (1961) died. He coxed our freshman eight in 1961–1962 before an illustrious career in journalism. We met up again when he moved to Paris for the BBC and subsequently stayed. We had regular lunches together reminiscing. I shall miss his wit and kindness. See the *Guardian* obituary for Stephen's eventful life.

Dick Morris (1961)

Another quiet year of steady decline! Wife's Alzheimer's continues its inevitable downward course, leading to increasing caring duties, not helped by ideologically driven changes to council provision of support. I await confirmation (or preferably rebuttal) of having achieved a hat-trick of forms of cancer, but to the best of my knowledge, there are no prizes for such an achievement.

Professor John Beckman (1962)

I was granted an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Almería (Andalucía, Spain) on 21 November 2025. Since 2005, I have been the scientific organiser of the 'Jornadas Astronómicas de Almería', a public event in the city to which we bring high-quality speakers every year. The themes are, as is clear from the name, related to astronomy, astrophysics, and space, and among the speakers we have hosted 12 Nobel Laureates and 11 astronauts, as well as other distinguished people in the world of astronomy, such as Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. In the process, we (myself and colleague engineer Pedro San José) have collaborated with the University of Almería and helped them in their work to initiate a Physics faculty this year. (The University of Almería is young, founded in 1995, and specialised in chemical and agricultural engineering). This is, in fact, my third Honorary Doctorate, although it is the first time I have sent the news to Balliol. My first was at the San Simón University, Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1999, and the second at my home university of La Laguna (Tenerife) in 2016.

Eric Bodger (1962)

Eric Bodger has been elected chair of the Winchester District Association of Local Councils, which represents 45 parishes across the district. He is active

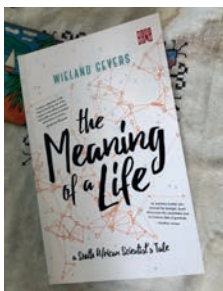
as secretary of the Meon Valley Liberal Democrat branch and is campaigning for the party in city and county elections. He remains in love with Diana, whom he spends time with, in London and on European travels.

John Dalton (1962)

As I fade into obscurity, I am comforted by the thought that my dance to the music of time has been an interesting one. Academic posts in Scotland, Australia, Fiji, and the US have given me a wealth of different experiences. College days remain vividly in my memory. I was fortunate to fall in with some Snell Exhibitioners who made my Balliol experience so much more rewarding. Chance is a fine thing. Now fully retired with music and reading my good companions. I turned 86 yesterday. Battling several ailments but surviving. I take great delight in watching my two granddaughters, Sophia (6) and Joanna (3), developing into very bright, pleasant young persons. They should arrive at Balliol between 2042 and 2045.

Professor Wieland Gevers (1962)

Professor Wieland Gevers has published an autobiography entitled *The Meaning of a Life: A South African Scientist's Tale* (BestRed, 2025. ISBN 978-1-928246-68-8). The story includes the time spent at Balliol as a Rhodes Scholar from 1962 to 1966, completing his MA and DPhil degrees in Biochemistry under Sir Hans Krebs, as well as the fruitful years later in South Africa, notable for the building of a number of institutions such as the Academy of Science of South Africa, the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town.



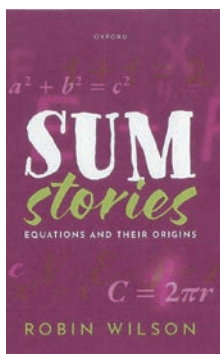
John Moisson (1962)

I have recently been appointed Secretary of the Anthony Powell Society, a charitable literary society made up of members across the world, particularly in the UK and North America, who wish to promote interest in the life and

work of novelist Anthony Powell (1923, Honorary Fellow 1974–2000).

Professor the Hon Robin Wilson (1962)

Over the years I have written and edited over 50 books, mainly on mathematics and its history. In 2025, three new books appeared:



Sum Stories: Equations and their Origins (Oxford University Press). This book presents 18 'stories' featuring famous mathematical equations and their historical development over 4,000 years, from early counting to fractal geometry and the infinite. Richly illustrated, it is written for anyone with an interest in mathematics and its historical development. Associated with its chapters are 18 short films currently being produced by Oxford's Mathematical institute: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4d5ZtfQonW0yqeFK_FirjjmcQFpyye.

Lowell Beineke, Bjarne Toft & Robin Wilson, *Milestones in Graph Theory: A Century of Progress* (Mathematical Association of America). The origins of graph theory can be traced back to recreational puzzles, such as the Königsberg bridges problem, but the subject came into its own in the 20th century and is now part of mainstream mathematics. This accessible volume leads the reader from the milestones of the 1890s, via the solution of the celebrated four-colour problem, to the present day.

Robin Wilson & Steven Balbus (editors), *Oxford's Savilian Professors of Astronomy: The First 400 Years* (Oxford University Press). This professorship is the earliest University-based chair of astronomy in England. A companion to my book on *Oxford's Savilian Professors of Geometry* (OUP, 2022), this volume brings together renowned astronomers and historians of science and chronicles Oxford astronomy from the 17th century to the present day.

Professor Brian Cosgrove (1963)

With the birth (in London) of Miles Walker Cosgrove in November 2023,

we now have three grandchildren: two girls and a boy. All good-looking like their grandparents!

Robin Gilbert (1963)

The third poetry collection of Robin Gilbert *The Urgency of Snails* was published by Graffiti Books (www.graffitibooks.uk/poetry-authors) in May 2025.



John Hamwee (1963)

John Hamwee has published *Matisse – The Women Speak* (Underbarrow Press, 2026).

Peter Ward Jones (1963)

Peter Ward Jones has published *British Choral Singing: A History from Medieval Times to the Present Day* (Boydell Press, 2026).

The College was sorry to learn that Peter Ward Jones died in March 2026.

Professor Charles Burroughs (1964)

After almost a half century in the US, Charles Burroughs accepted the inevitable and became a US citizen. His book, *An Other Raphael: The Artist and Authority*, is in press. A conference in Boston last winter allowed him to reacquire himself with some of the greatest 19th-century architecture in the US, or the world, as well as with Cambridge resident Hubert Murray and his wife, following a freezing walk over the Charles River.

Sandy Gray (1964)

Is it really nearly 62 years since matriculation? It's hard to believe, though the mind is still reasonably active, even if the flesh is starting to fail a bit. Our small group of mostly 1964 scientists (plus one lawyer) has now been Zooming once every 6–8 weeks since starting in the autumn of 2021, amidst all the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our format usually involves discussing at least one predetermined topic of current interest or concern. Last week's (22 January) was a review of the BBC's 2025 Reith Lecture Series, given by the Dutch historian Rutger Bregman late last year entitled 'Moral Revolution'.

Our discussions found much of value in his analyses, but neither he nor we were able to come up with any easy solutions to the state of world disorder in which we find ourselves at present. May greater minds than ours succeed where we didn't. Very sadly, two of our number passed away, both in November 2025 – David Long and Jon Davies. Both will be sorely missed for their lively contributions to our exchanges. The 2025 Balliol Record identifies us, the remaining nine.

Professor Robert Munford (1964)

In 1983, while I was a young physician-scientist at UT-Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, we isolated the animal enzyme that inactivates bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPS; endotoxins) and named it 'acyloxyacyl hydrolase' (AOAH) for how it changes LPS structure. When the DNA sequence of the AOAH gene was determined, we learned that a significant stretch of the enzyme's DNA is also present in surfactant protein B, a major childbirth protein and LPS inhibitor that was discovered by my Balliol physiology tutor, Dr Patrick Phizackerley (Fellow and Tutor in Biological Science 1960–1994). I had known for years that he was a superb tutor; learning that he was also an outstanding scientist made me want to match his high standards and share them with my lab team in the US.

AOAH has far exceeded our expectations: by inactivating LPS produced by bacteria in the intestine, which can 'translocate' from the intestine into the bloodstream, AOAH helps prevent colitis, fatty liver disease, atherosclerosis, pulmonary injury, and the inflammatory disease of the brain known as Alzheimer's Disease, among others.

When I feel sometimes that the work in our lab is more original or useful than I ever imagined possible, I think of Dr Phizackerley and how he helped me and many other Balliol students learn and contribute. Balliol's Phizackerley Scholarship should help keep his dedication and many contributions alive.

Sir Michael Burton (1965)

A special occasion this year was when the Corinne Burton Memorial Trust, founded in memory of my late wife 30 years ago as the only charity supporting art therapy for those suffering from

cancer, was invited by the King and Queen to Buckingham Palace as one of only 50 charities selected, to a reception for charities involved with cancer, and one of only six invited to make a presentation. The King passed by for a photo op, and the Secretary of State Wes Streeting and Sarah Ferguson both stopped and chatted with us. The charity has considerably expanded the number of hospitals we serve. My final term as Judge of the Commercial Court in Abu Dhabi expired, so I am now dependent on occasional appointments as arbitrator and mediator to keep me from my 11 grandchildren. I was also proud to be asked to deliver a eulogy at

the memorial at Charterhouse for the late great Ian Blake (1965).

Bill Drayton (1965)

Bill Drayton was honoured with the Skoll Foundation's Golden Treasure Award in the spring of 2025 at Oxford for pioneering the field of social entrepreneurship with the founding of Ashoka, the leading collection of systems changing social entrepreneurs with over 4,000 fellows working in over 90 countries. Within the community of Ashoka, which he leads, a number of fellows have also received significant awards and recognitions including the Nobel Peace prize.



John Green (1965)

After 17 years of periodic meetings in Scotland, England, France, Malta, and the United States, the overwhelmingly English membership of Balliol's History class of 1965 showed its stalwart qualities for their 60th anniversary reunion by bravely crossing Offa's Dyke for a September 8th to 11th gathering hosted by John Green and his spouse Pam Bingham in his native Pembrokeshire. Health concerns sadly reduced attendance but the available cohort of Ron and Jane Berenbeim, Martin and Denise Cree, Caroline Cumberbatch, Alan and Naomi Fell, Andrew and Dorothy Irving, Alan Knight and Lidia Lozano, Alex Pravda and Lord Angus Stewart made for a respectable quorum.

The welcome night dinner had all the exuberant conversation typical of Balliol feasting. Our stoical group braved Pembrokeshire's traditional cloudy and rainy weather under the well informed guidance of architectural historian Julian Orbach (Magdalen College) with visits to a neolithic dolmen in the Preseli Hills, two examples of 12th century Norman architecture with St David's Cathedral and Manorbier Castle and last but not least, the village of Laugharne where Wales's most celebrated poet Dylan Thomas wrote some of his best known poems and part of his much performed radio play 'Under Milk Wood'. On the final evening, an excellent lecture by Mark Lewis, a local playwright and an authority on Dylan, brought the reunion to its bittersweet close.

True to Balliol's camaraderie, the group would like to hear if any other class has maintained such steadfast connections over six decades.

Phillip Gordon (1965)

Much to our surprise, Norma and I have survived long enough to celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. Sadly, Dan O'Flaherty (1965), a pole holder at our wedding (supporter of the wedding canopy) and a friend from Balliol, has passed on. Our children are thriving and our ten grandchildren appear for the most part to be quite tolerant of us. Equipped with a new knee, I hope to return to the golf course soon with the same wretched but cheerful outcomes as always. I was happy to read about the adventures of the 1981 Erratics in the *Annual Record*, and remember fondly my captaincy of the 1966 Erratics which had much the same objectives as the 1981 team. Fun and good village pubs were paramount, athletic skill was irrelevant, knowledge of the game unneeded, but most important was locating players who could help transport the team to its locations. I continue to be engaged with organisations fighting against the worldwide war to exterminate the Jews.

Michael Paling (1965)

These are strange days in the USA, where I have lived for more than 40 years and have been happy to have dual citizenship in case our President goes even farther off the rails! My UK passport was coming up for renewal, and I sent it to the UK passport office thinking that all would be well. The reply that I received was that I must send them my US passport to prove that I was not using a different name! Needless to say, I refused to do this lest I did not get it back, and consequently my UK citizenship has been revoked and my passport withheld! One cannot hold a conversation with a computer, or I could have told it that it was simple to find me on the internet by putting in my full name, Michael Royle Paling, which results in my name and address etcetera. More strange days. Other than that, all is well here although my age is catching up with me and my older brother died three years ago just shy of 80, and I hope to better that. Thankfully my wife Diane is as sharp as a tack, as one says.

Richard Raeburn (1965)

About to turn 80 and life seems to have passed by unconscionably fast. My fascination with the United States led me to Columbia in the summer of 1968.

I'm certain that Richard Portes (1962) greatly influenced that enthusiasm as well as making the E of PPE thoroughly enjoyable. Since then, I've gained an American wife but worked and lived on the European side of the pond. Three children have taken advantage of dual citizenship and lived for long periods in the US. One son is currently in Washington DC. It is tempting to stress the parallels in today's uncertainties with the chaos of summer 1968 but sadly I fear today is worse; and 1968 worked out all right, didn't it?

Professor Ben White (1965)

My book *Agriculture and the Generation Problem* (Practical Action Publishing, 2020) will soon be published in Burmese, Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese language editions. The e-versions of all these are/will be Open Access.

James Aitken (1966)

Still alive and kicking.

Stuart Baldock (1966)

Well, that was a quick 60 years. And the next?

Ronald Berenbeim (1966)

For more than two decades, the 'Balliol History Boys' biennial reunion has been an eagerly awaited event for those of us who studied Modern History in 1966–1968. John Green (1965) hosted last year's session in Pembrokeshire. The highlight for me was Dylan Thomas country. Thanks to John, I left Wales with a more favourable view than Sir Thomas More proclaimed in *A Man for All Seasons*.

This year, I was invited to join the Board of Children of Vietnam, a non-profit organisation that promotes children's health and educational programs. My last opportunity to be helpful to Vietnam was in 1968 when I left Oxford. My local Draft Board ordered me to report for a physical examination to determine if I was fit to serve in the conflict with which the US

**Professor Brian Tanner (1965)**

On a weekend in July last year, seven of the Balliol physicists who matriculated in 1965 met in Oxford for a Diamond Reunion. David Broadhurst, Rod Dalitz, Roger Douglas, Nick Jelley, Steve McCarthy, Richard Ross and myself were joined by partners and a few close Oxford friends (who qualified as 'honorary Balliol physicists') for an excellent dinner in the Old Senior Common Room. It was a wonderful, informal meeting of a group who became, and have remained, friends. The only formality was a beautifully crafted speech by David, weaving reminiscences of student days with brief comments on our subsequent careers and current activities, culminating in a toast to 'friendship and kindness'. The weekend concluded with a garden party, hosted by Nick and Jane Jelley at their Oxford home.

Our thanks to the College for providing both an outstanding meal and a wonderful ambiance. To the best of my knowledge, all ten of us are alive at the time of writing and we are looking forward to similar festivities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our graduation, with five Firsts and a near miss, in 1968. (One of us burnt his gown to celebrate his 21st birthday and then discovered he had been called for a viva).

was determined to engage. Along with the current White House occupant, I was deemed to be unfit to serve – in my case because of tachycardia, a diagnosis that I had never received before or since. Tachycardia or not, I think that I can be more helpful with this assignment. My second project is as an Advisory Board member of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. This organisation develops programs that respond to an ever-present threat.

Christopher Currie (1966)

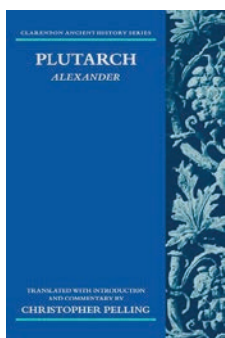
Christopher Currie's most memorable incident in 2025 was meeting Martin Kaufman (1966) in a certain queue on a train to Didcot.

Andrew Moore (1966)

In 2024, I became Chairman of Yealm Community Energy, with three solar farms producing 12,500,000 units of electricity annually, and with profits supporting local communities. So far, over £200,000 has been provided for a range of local projects. Mostly, I use physics learned in my pre-Balliol years.

Professor Christopher Pelling (1966)

I published *Plutarch: Alexander* (Oxford, 2025). I also recorded two audiobooks to go with it, translations of Plutarch's *Alexander* and



Caesar, each accompanied by an afterword. Recording is difficult: you'd never believe how many takes it can need to get out a sentence beginning 'The Thebans showed...!'

Den Childs (1967)

Summer 2025 saw the installation of an 8 kW photovoltaic system on my hangar roof. I did the work myself, calling in friends and family to help only when it was time to manhandle the panels up and into place. Each of the 16 panels is, after all, a substantial 2 m by 1 m, and made of glass. The more dangerous part was scrambling on the hundred-year-old tiles to put the support rails in place, where each dropped bolt had to be retrieved from the gutter, and each cracked tile replaced. The longest and



most difficult part was the paperwork: three sets of approvals, each requiring a thick French dossier, and each one requiring sight of the previous approval. The PV system includes surprisingly heavy 10 kWh batteries, extending the use of our solar power through much of the night, even in winter. It's a pity that my electric car doesn't have an easily selectable low rate of charge to match

the PV output, but even so in summer less than half of the current needed comes from the grid. The cost was about a third of what I might have paid an electrician, and with luck, and less time up a ladder in future, I expect to see it fully paid back in my own lifetime. The physical work was a satisfying diversion from global issues over which I feel I have no control at all, and it will have made a small but personal contribution to combatting climate change. You can contact me on: denchilds@gmail.com.

François Dolbeau (1967)

François Dolbeau has published the following books: *Le plaisir de découvrir. Études de philologie latine (IVe-XIIe siècles)*, texts edited by Benedetta Valtorta (Sismel Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2025), XI-712 pp; and *Légendiers latins du moyen âge: Analyses, usages, possesseurs (Subsidia Hagiographica 102)* (Bruxelles, 2025), 2 vol., XII-880 pp.



Oliver Franklin (1967)

I've spent the last four years thinking seriously about the US's semi-quincentennial and produced a feature length documentary film on the African community in Philadelphia during our founding era. In 1790, the largest free and literate African community in the British Atlantic was in Philadelphia, which was also the empire's largest city after London.

This group raised families, established institutions, and helped enslaved people escape to the North. It's a fascinating story of influence, resilience, and resistance and should be a significant part of the US's national conversation during this commemoration. We're in final negotiations with PBS (our BBC...) to air the film nationally in late May. After 27 years, I've stepped down as the Hon British Consul in Philadelphia. The Duke of Edinburgh paid a visit to wish me well. Incidentally, Balliol was instrumental in getting this present film produced. I engaged the same Bristol-based film crew that produced the film for the 'Balliol and Empire' project.

Here is the film trailer: www.bearhouse.media/becomingamerican.

Martin Kettle (1967)

I have finally deferred to the march of time and have retired from the staff of the Guardian newspaper after 41 years and, I am told, more than 4,000 articles. An occasional freelance career may beckon. For now, it is a pleasure to be off the weekly column treadmill. Great to see Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011, Honorary Fellow) at my leaving party.

Geoff Brown (1968)

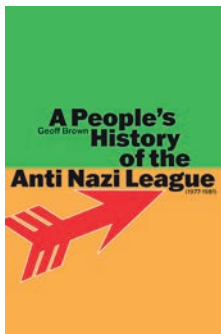
Still living in Manchester and still active politically. I have worked as a historian since finishing teaching and working as a union official.

My first book, *A People's History of the Anti Nazi League 1977-81* (Bookmarks, 2025), has now been published.

The Anti Nazi League was one of the most vibrant, imaginative and successful mass movements in post-war Britain, and is of particular importance today with the growth of the far right. Using interviews and contemporary sources, the book covers anti-racism and anti-fascism before the Anti Nazi League (ANL); how the ANL was established as a united front; its relationship with its sister organisation, Rock against Racism; the origins and impact of the April 1978 Carnival against the Nazis, which turned the ANL into a mass organisation; how it organised its members in schools, colleges, workplaces, unions, challenging every manifestation of a fascist presence. This included the campaign to reduce the fascist profile in the media; 'the Battle of Brick Lane', which successfully took on the National Front in London's East End, where it had its strongest base; the struggle to win significant Jewish support; and the 1979 general election which saw the National Front's 300 candidates perform so badly that it broke up into four mutually hostile groups.

Professor Terrell Carver (1968)

I am continuing full-time at the University of Bristol, working on the new skills-based curriculum in political theory and also speaking professionally in Brazil, Canada, China, Korea and



the USA, where I attended a 60th high school reunion in Idaho. As co-general editor of *Contemporary Political Theory*, I celebrated a 15-year tenure and curated *Feminist Theory: Two Conversations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).

Professor William Outhwaite (1968)

I co-edited with Larry Ray *The Elgar Companion to Jürgen Habermas* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025): www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/the-elgar-companion-to-juergen-habermas-9781803923703.html.

Professor David Ulph (1968)

In October 2025, my term of office as a Commissioner of the Scottish Fiscal Commission – the Scottish analogue of the Office for Budget Responsibility – came to an end. This concluded a very interesting and challenging period trying to forecast the short- and long-term fiscal challenges facing the Scottish Government and Parliament. At the same time, I was appointed as a member of the Economy and Enterprise Committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, which considers the wider economic challenges facing Scotland. I remain a member of the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal. In December 2025, I was appointed as a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society (FREcon) for my contribution to economics. I continue to be active in various areas of research.

Peter Gavan (1969)

A Welshman (Mark Parkinson), an Englishman (Peter Taylor) and a Scotsman (Peter Gavan) sat one October morning last year under the chestnut tree outside the Balliol JCR full of wit and wisdom from (im)mature advancing years despite the unavailability of pints of beer or even tea to mark 56 years since our matriculation. No sign of tantrum trotskysts, hairy hippies, godsquad goodies or free err...social



intercourse. Not even an updated VN war protest or Radcliffe occupation. However, inspired by an Oxford education well-funded by his local authority (those were the days!), the Scotsman picked up some conkers to attempt to grow... BALLIOL BONSAI. Update next year. Hopefully.

Rhion Jones (1969)

Happily continuing to fulfil my role as the public consultation guru (www.consultationguru.co.uk), but increasingly incensed by continuing poor practice, and frustrated by Citizens' Assembly advocates who still fail to recognise that their roles are mostly consultative rather than decision-making. My response has been to publish a Four Functions Framework which, when I am feeling optimistic, I believe could fundamentally improve public consultations in the UK. Only rarely, when feeling less positive, might I concede that it may only be seriously noted by genuine specialists... and Balliol men and women with an interest in public affairs.

The Hon Bob Rae (1969)

After five and a half busy years as Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations – the last year of which I was President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – I have stepped down from my latest career and returned with Arlene to Toronto. My first public gig was a visit to my grandson Solomon's Grade 5 class at Perth Avenue Public School (in Canada, 'public school' actually means a public education that is free), where I talked about sustainable development and where the UN fits into global governance. Lots of questions ('Do you ever get stage fright?' – answer: yes; 'If something is against international law,



why doesn't someone go to jail?' – long answer). We have all our six grandchildren in Toronto, so this is a wonderful return home. I have been named the Visitor of Massey College, whose benefactor Vincent Massey is also a proud benefactor of Balliol. Duties to be defined. I am doing some teaching (slowly at first, more later) at the University of Toronto and also at Queen's University in Kingston. I have started a Substack, and am still doing some public speaking, TV, radio, and podcasts. Feels more like a 'reirement' than a 'retirement'.

Professor Timothy Weiskel (1969)

The remarkable achievements of the Balliol and Empire Project and the Oxford and Empire Network have encouraged the creation of an online portal called *The Camera and Colonialism* (<https://tinyurl.com/35umr48x>)

This playlist enables users to share, investigate, discuss and contribute to the rich information embedded within colonial photographs from all around the world.

Until recently, students of colonialism focused their research upon written documents – letters, diaries, newspapers and miscellaneous verbal texts. In the digital age, however, vast new, non-verbal resources of images, prints and photographs can now be examined with technologies never previously available.

Although historically the camera was frequently deployed as an instrument of colonial domination, in the long run its impact on colonialism was far more subtle, profound and, ultimately, subversive.

The reason for this is simple: although photographs can endure for decades, their significance can shift very quickly – often quite dramatically – depending on who views them and how they choose to use them. Thus, cameras and photographs came to play substantially different roles in different phases of global history. The same photographs that were originally intended to convey dignity or illustrate authority came to be perceived as symbols of arrogance and abusive power. Employed initially to strengthen colonial rule, ironically, the camera ultimately killed colonialism.

As future users download the *The Camera and Colonialism* playlist, the 'meaning' of the photographs will

continue to evolve as new viewers identify information in old images that was previously unnoticed or simply ignored.

More about my work: <https://wp.me/p2iDSG-LrU>.

1970s

Peter Cookson (1970)

Completed a part time PhD on 'The Acoustic and Psychoacoustic Characteristics of Barbershop Singing' some 50 years since my original PhD on 'The Ultimate Strength of Concrete Box Girders'. Different fields of research and a big difference in the availability of computers, but both applying the Engineering Science degree I was taught at Balliol all those years ago.

Professor Dennis Goldford (1970)

Having retired in June 2024, I am now writing a weekly column called 'Let's Talk Politics' for the Iowa Writers Collaborative. Its location is dennisgoldford.substack.com and deals with various aspects of American national politics.

David Jones (1970)

The eighth edition of *Principles of Administrative Law* will be published by Thomson Reuters this spring – 40 years after the first edition.

I had a knee replacement last June to go with my shoulder replacement two years ago – these after-market replacement parts are marvellous!

HE Philip McDonagh (1970)

The Taoiseach has asked our university centre to help develop a structured dialogue with churches, faith groups, and non-confessional organisations. In 2026, Dedalus Press will publish *Estuary*, a new collection of poems; I will serve as President of the Classical Association of Ireland; and I have started a PhD entitled 'Speculum gentium: Thucydides and the future of global politics'.

The accompanying photo was taken



at the European Parliament in Brussels on 3 December 2025. It shows me (in the red tie), chairing an interfaith panel. Starting from my left, the panellists represent the Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Shia, Sunni, and Christian communities of Ireland. Immediately following the discussion, we were invited to meet the Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for the dialogue with churches, faith communities, and non-confessional groups.

Professor Richard Salter (1970)

I am still in practice at the Commercial Bar, still volunteering in the Oxford Law Faculty as a Visiting Professor of Financial Law, and still (at least until my 75th birthday next October) sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge in the Commercial Court.

Last year (2025) was my year of office as Treasurer (i.e. President) of my Inn of Court, the Inner Temple. I turned the Treasurer's office into an annexe to my chambers and worked from there. I also tried to make it a more than usually musical year, with performances at each of the Inn's formal dinners. In April, I produced a performance (directed by Julia Burbach) of Act III of *Parsifal* in the Temple Church.

During the year, I made goodwill trips to Malaysia and Singapore (both of which have flourishing IT alumni associations) and to the Commonwealth Law Association conference in Malta. Unfortunately, a planned trip to Washington for the American Inns of Court Association's Celebration of Excellence last autumn was cancelled because of the US budget shutdown.

The last half of my year as Treasurer overlapped with the first half of my wife, Ginny's, year of office as Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company (and ex officio President of the City of London Law Society). It has been a busy



but very enjoyable time for us as each other's consort. In November, we held a joint dinner in Inner Temple Hall for our two societies (picture shown).

Andrew Foster (1971)

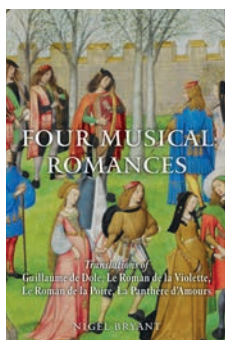
Andrew Foster has taken on the role of Sub-Librarian for Chichester Cathedral Library, a voluntary post with many responsibilities, no money, and no power. This has added to displacement activities that hinder publication of substantial work on Archbishop Richard Neile and the dioceses of early modern England and Wales. But it is fun and worthwhile!

Simon Walker (1971)

I am happily settled in Nelson, New Zealand, although for summer I return to the northern hemisphere (near Poitiers, with occasional forays across the channel). In November, I attended a local production of *The Messiah* directed by fellow Nelson resident Jason Balla (1983) who managed to sneak in a reference to Handel's librettist, Charles Jennens (1716), coming from Balliol, 'a very fine College indeed'.

Nigel Bryant (1972)

Nigel Bryant continues to research and translate medieval French. Most recently published *Four Musical Romances*: translations of Guillaume de Dole, *Le Roman de la Violette*, *Le Roman de la Poire*, *La Panthere d'Amours*



Violet), *Le Roman de la Poire* (*The Romance of the Pear*) and *Le Dit de la Panthere* (*The Panther of Love*), four innovative 13th-century romances that raise absorbing questions about how romances were performed, incorporating songs as a central part of the storytelling. <https://boydellandbrewer.com/book/four-musical-romances-9781843847106/>

Neil Record (1972)

I retired from chairing my firm, Record plc, when I turned 70 in 2023. To replace the loss, I have become a founder Trustee of an Oxford-based academic free-speech organisation called the Pharos Foundation. It aims to support young academics in the humanities whose interests are sufficiently unfashionable that they struggle to get post-doc positions. I am just getting started as Trustee with another similar group in the sciences. I am also funding scholarships through the Record Scholarship Trust for academically able children who lack the parental means to send them to academic private secondary schools. I am generally very unhappy with the state of secondary and tertiary education in the UK, and these activities are very small efforts to push back. Apart from that, I am active in opposing net zero policies, in trying to reform public sector pensions, and writing a fortnightly column in the *Daily Telegraph's* money section.

Richard Shaw (1972)

The highlight of 2025 was the wedding of our daughter, Victoria, to Jory Dawidowicz in Brooklyn, New York on 25 October.

Our summer was brightened by the company of five Pathfinders. We enjoyed fishing, pistol shooting, high school football, and other local activities while rekindling the spirit of Balliol in person.

We were also happy to welcome an earlier-generation Pathfinder, Paul Flather (1973) for a brief but delightful visit.

Graham Beamson (1973)

For several years I have been setting up a small rolling-roof observatory and telescope with a spectroscope in my garden and carrying out amateur astronomical spectroscopy on stars, galaxies, nebulae and the Sun. I have been contributing to an international campaign using spectroscopy to



monitor the behaviour of the binary star VV Cephei, and recently I gave a talk to the Liverpool Astronomical Society describing some of my activities.

Professor David d'Avray (1973)

New book: *Debating Papal History*, c. 250-c.1300 (Cambridge University Press, 2025).

Alan Goodwin (1973)

I married Ros Carne (a Somervillian) on 12 September 2025. John Davis (1972) was my Best Man.

Brian Groom (1973)

My late-flowering career as a history author has continued. My third book, *These Isles: A People's History of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*, was



published on 26 February 2026 by HarperNorth. This follows *Northerners: A History, from the Ice Age to the Present Day* (2022), which became a national bestseller, and *Made in Manchester: A People's History of the City that Shaped the Modern World* (2024). <https://tinyurl.com/3uz7z7ux>

Paul Taylor (1973)

I wasn't made for retirement. After 40 years on the road as a Reuters correspondent and editor, I now live full-time in Saint-Remy-de-Provence, France, with my wife, Catherine, who teaches French to expats. I write a column on European politics and geopolitics for the European edition of *The Guardian* and am a Senior Visiting Fellow at the European Policy Centre

in Brussels, where I helped set up the European Defence and Security Project in 2024. The aim is to help mobilise the industrial, human, financial and political resources needed for the defence of Europe in these unstable times. In 2025, I chaired roundtables in Paris, Brussels and Berlin on mobilising private finance for defence, and co-organised an event on lessons from Ukraine on integrating innovation faster into our defences. I studied how the automotive sector could help accelerate Europe's defence industry. I co-authored several reports including: 'Quick March! Ten Steps for a European Defence Surge,' (www.epc.eu/publication/Quick-march-Ten-steps-for-a-European-defence-surge-60e0c8/) and 'Building on the EU-UK Relationship; a Strategic Defence and Security Partnership for a shared European Continent' (<https://tinyurl.com/2kkebee8>), which was launched at the House of Commons in December. That still left time for plenty of fun with our three grandchildren (a fourth is on the way), and an annual (secular) pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne off my native Northumbrian coast.

Professor Ian Duncan (1974)

I am happy to say that I was elected as the 78th President of the Society of Actuaries, the US-based International Actuarial Society in 2025. I assume the presidency in October 2026. I continue to teach actuarial statistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Martin Edwards (1974)

I published my 24th crime novel, *Miss Winter in the Library with a Knife* in September and the next, *Fever Island*, will appear this September. This year also sees a major exhibition at the British Library featuring Agatha Christie, and I'll be co-editing the book of the exhibition with the lead curator; the Library will also publish *The Classic Crime Companion* to accompany its series of Crime Classics, for which I am the consultant.

Damian Green (1974)

Damian Green has become Chair of the Social Care Foundation, a think tank devoted to making the case for social care to be higher up the political agenda than it usually is.

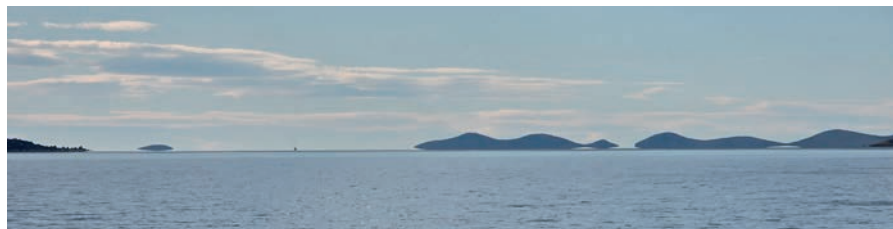
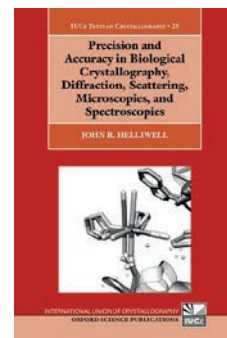
Tim Hardy (1974)

Awarded Diploma and AIDA Medal by the Association Internationale de Droits des Assurances (International Insurance Law Association) based in Switzerland for the work of creating in 2011 the AIDA Climate and Catastrophic Events Working Party concerned with the insurance, financial, legal and regulatory responses to the increasing challenges of climate change. This has involved convening, chairing and delivering for AIDA 27 events and activities across five continents over fourteen years, engaging over 500 academic and practising lawyers and insurance professionals from over fifty countries. After stepping down from the Board, I continue to act as an advocate and ambassador for Stagertext, the UK-based charity delivering access to the arts by pioneering captioning live and streamed theatre and other cultural events. 2025 saw Stagertext celebrate its 25th anniversary with the announcement of new technology to extend the range, and reduce the cost, of bringing captioning and events to much wider audiences than ever before. I continue to offer personal

mentoring support to those at all levels across a range of sectors working in the City of London affected by hearing and other disabilities. In each sphere, all too apparent is the gulf and delay between successfully raising awareness and achieving substantive lasting personal, corporate and institutional behavioural change. Progress is akin to navigation of a Snakes and Ladders board. Tangible advances, punctuated by disappointing setbacks.

Professor John Helliwell (1974)

I have published *Precision and Accuracy in Biological Crystallography, Diffraction, Scattering, Microscopies, and Spectroscopies* (Oxford University Press, 2025), which is part of the International Union of Crystallography Texts on Crystallography series. <https://tinyurl.com/mtnjj486>



Richard Pardy (1974)

2025 began with the successful return of the last of my step-grandfather's medals to his country of origin, Western Australia (WA). He had won the VC during the Boer War and was the only WA recipient sent there before WA became part of the Australian Federation in 1901. His name was Lt Col Frederick William Bell.

In March, I spent two and a half weeks exploring the Dordogne and Quercy, and then in June I went to Australia to see my friend Miles Burgess (1974), and his wife, Ann, who I hadn't seen for 47 years. It was through the good offices of Balliol last year that, at his request, we got back in touch. It turned out that 11 June was the wrong day to fly to Sydney via Doha but following a sharp right at the Iraqi border early 12 June and refuelling at Cairo, we arrived a mere eleven hours late!

It was a pleasure to attend the annual Balliol Society meeting in September and an unexpectedly great honour to find myself on High Table for the first time in my life.

My other trip was to Split in Croatia in October, where I spent a very pleasant eight-day cruise travelling north to Zadar and back. On my way south, I saw a sea mirage, which meant that some of the islands to the south appeared to float above the sea. Is this the first observation of levitation by Balliol?

Giles Vardey (1974)

Tempus fugit: we held a 50th anniversary celebration on 29 March for the winning Isis crew, 50 years to the day after we beat Goldie by 9 1/2 lengths in 1975. We were the first Isis crew to win in nine years. Five of us went on to be winning Oxford Blues when we beat Cambridge ten years in a row from 1976 to 1986.

Given recent results, I have been trying to help the OUBC get back to winning ways...the new club set up should help.

I remain mindful of the Balliol BC motto: 'Never row!'

Robert Waller (1974)

Published 'Ashfield 1977' in Iain Dale (ed.) *British By-Elections* (Biteback, 2025). Forthcoming in 2026: 'Stonewall Jackson' in *The Generals* (Hodder & Stoughton)

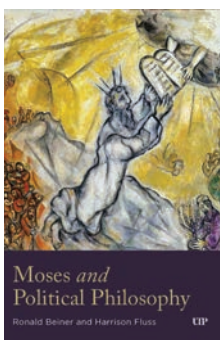
and '1912' in *US Presidential Elections* (Biteback). I am still active as a private tutor, including preparing candidates for Oxford entrance.

**Michael Bartlet (1975)**

Reader at SOAS, London, teaching Public Law and Mediation to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Professor Ronald Beiner (1975)

I'm happy to report that I've had two books published this fall. The first, co-authored with Harrison Fluss, is *Moses and Political Philosophy*, published by University of Toronto Press. The second is *Radical Right Ideologues in the Age of Trump: Heralds of Nihilism*, published by Routledge in their book series, *Routledge Studies in Fascism and the Far Right*.



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The Revd Dr Michael Cullinan (1975)

Another quiet year, celebrating 30 years as a priest. No papal audience this

year, but I was in St Peter's Square for the Mass proclaiming St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. I gave a talk at a maths conference in Cambridge held in memory of my PhD supervisor. I also visited Spain for the first time, seeing Madrid, Salamanca, and Avila, 53 years after 'O' level Spanish – something of which survives!

Peter Martin (1975)

A year of considerable change with divorce – my third! – from my current wife (also my third, if that makes sense), and the upheaval that usually entails. It has led me to refine my 'Die with Zero' plans, though.

I'm still based in gorgeous West Cork, but now close to Rosscarbery.

I have two non-exec positions with a French spinal surgery medtech company, and a Spanish medtech company specialising in wearables that monitor ECGs. (If anyone wants a non-exec who will almost always vote against rises and awards for executive management unless they are extraordinarily well deserved, let me know.)

The latest stop on my long journey slightly centrewards, that commenced many years ago at Balliol with my membership of the Communist Party of Great Britain, is membership of Ireland's Social Democrats. We were delighted to play a part in the recent election of Catherine Connolly as President of Ireland. I was thrilled to become an Irish citizen this year, and therefore to once more be an EU Citizen. I still resent the ignorance and lies of the Balliol alumni (there was more than one) that helped lead the UK down the disastrous path to Brexit.

Peter Andrews (1976)

During 2025, I was elected Chair of Kingston Chess Club, which won a remarkable eight trophies in the 2024-25 season under the dynamic leadership of Messrs Foley (1974) and Moss (1975). I stepped back from the chairmanship of Bank of England Cricket Club as it rebranded to West Wimbledon Cricket Club, becoming the Deputy Chair of the new community-focused club, and liberated from the cares of office, hit my first six for a decade. I was pre-elected President of the South Oxfordshire Amateurs Cricket Club for 2027.

After over 40 years in Tooting, I moved to Cheam.

**Ian Fletcher (1976)**

My 29th year in Taiwan. Still walking, still working.

Professor David Gellner (1976)

I retired as Professor of Social Anthropology and Fellow of All Souls at the end of September 2024, three years before the compulsory retirement age, but only one year before what it had, for a long time, been prior to recent incremental increases. Mine was the longest tenure of the chair – sixteen years – of any of my predecessors, excepting only the illustrious Edward Evans-Pritchard. My retirement was celebrated with a large dinner in All Souls attended by colleagues, family, friends, and former students. In 2024, I was also elected a Fellow of the British Academy. I am now enjoying the fact that I have, in the words of my former teacher Nick Allen, 'moved up into a permanent sabbatical'.

**James Ogilvie (1976)**

Enjoying my non-exec Directorships with the Woodland Trust, Walking Scotland and Corrou Estate, as well as managing two woodlands in the northeast of England and caring for my (96-year-old) mother. Spending time

with my children and grandchildren is a pleasurable learning event, as is the occasional meet up with Balliol alumni – experiences in many ways not dissimilar...

Stuart Palmer (1976)

Like most amateur musicians, I have been scribbling down bits of music for as long as I can remember. A few compositions reached the performance stage (in the context of church services) and a few recordings were made, but nothing formal ever became of my writings.

In my retirement, now having a little more time on my hands than during my busy working life, I have sought guidance from one of Scotland's leading composers, Phillip Cooke, Professor of Composition at the University of Aberdeen. I have gained some valuable insights which have enabled me to 'tidy up' many of my earlier works, provided me with the encouragement to pen some new ones, and given me the confidence to publish them in the hope that they may enrich the Christian musical journey of others.

There is now a website (stuartpalmercomposer.scot) from which scores can be downloaded free of charge, and where recordings of some of the works can be found. Most recently, I commissioned the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir to record one of my mass settings, and three other anthems. These recordings are now also available on my website.

Professor Tom Schwartz (1976)

My first grandson was born on 10 March 2025. He has the wonderful name of 'Leonel Lykos Kirschke-Grebe', but we are calling him 'Leo'.

It was love at first sight, and I can now understand why so many friends have told me how wonderful it is to be a grandparent. I may not live to see it, but I am hoping that Leo will matriculate in the Balliol class of 2046.

Charles Tannock (1976)

In October 2025, I was awarded the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator in

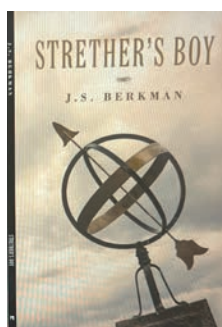
the rank of Commander (Comendador) by the President of Portugal for long-standing services to Portugal and its overseas diaspora.

Ross Belson (1977)

I have been appointed an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. I am also undertaking contracts with Routledge for a six-volume edition of Lord Dalhousie's unpublished diaries, letters and minutes while Governor-General of India (2029) and with the University of Edinburgh for an online edition of letters to Lord and Lady Dalhousie in India from their daughters in Scotland (2027).

Jim Berkman (1977)

I've just published my fourth novel, the third in the trilogy inspired by *The Ambassadors* by Henry James: *Strether's Boy*. It and its two companion novels (*In the Presence of Chad Himself* and *The Product of Woollett*) have been highly praised by authors Gregory Maguire of *Wicked* and Man Booker Prize winner John Banville.



Professor Andrew Black (1977)

Leaving Oxford in 1981, I fled to the USA, driven out by Margaret Thatcher's assault on British higher education. I have three children by Gloria Marshall (m. 1981, d. 2009) – in California, Virginia, and Florida – and three grandchildren. I taught and researched computation at University of Washington, Harvard College, Oregon Graduate Institute, and Portland State (PSU). I also worked for seven years at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC).

I have published around 100 peer-reviewed papers, some even read



– or at least cited. My DPhil argued against adding exception handling in programming languages and enjoyed a brief revival in the 1990s, when C++ nevertheless embraced exceptions. After three decades in distributed systems, I returned to programming language design in 2010, co-founding an IFIP group and spending a decade creating Grace, a language for teaching novices that my colleagues and I used successfully in introductory courses.

I became Emeritus in 2020, after a dispiriting term of remote teaching during COVID-19. A disastrous home remodel then made me a reluctant full-time contractor until we finally moved into our rebuilt house in 2025, sold the old one, cleared our debts, and resumed retirement and travel. I continue to cycle avidly – a lifelong passion that brought me fun, fitness, friends, and my second wife, Patty Freeman: we married in 2013. I now also braze frames and restore vintage bicycles. Most summers I host one or two Balliol Pathfinders in Oregon, marvelling at how Balliol's magic bridges the generations. Old Members visiting Portland, Oregon: please contact me through the Development Office.

Phil Boydell (1977)

It has been 40 years since I sat any kind examination, but retirement allowed me to gain a new qualification, and I'm now the proud holder of a Swiss permis Bi. Even though only valid for 10km between Vevey and Chamby, I fulfilled a childhood dream (hatched in 1967 on reading Cecil J Allen's *Swiss Travel Wonderland*) to drive a Swiss train. All Old Members welcome for a private



tour of the Blonay-Chamby museum railway. I didn't imagine my career would end in retail, but I'm also in charge of the gift shop.

Thanks to COVID-19, bridge swung significantly from face-to-face to online, and thus I play once again, after a 45-year hiatus, in the Wessex League with two Balliol contemporaries.

One advantage of playing online is that I can't repeat an error of callow undergraduate days, and insult elderly opposition for slow handling of the cards, only for them to produce from under the table a left hand with no fingers.

I discovered that startups were more fun than declining multinationals, and advised DePoly SA in their quest to turn PET to monomers through photocatalyzed hydrolysis. Next year looks like I will be working more on e-cargobikes with Schematic SA.

In December, I was elevated to grandparenthood with the birth of Louis Philip Read... a name to conjure with.

David Christie (1977)

This year came to a close with the now traditional performances of *Nine Lessons and Carols* in Fischingen Abbey and in Greifensee, where I again conducted an ad hoc choir, with my wife singing soprano. Despite various types of 'flu' making the rounds, we lost no one for the performances!

I worked 80% this year as a contractor and will reduce to 60% in 2026. I now also receive state pensions from both Belgium and the UK which help with the household bills.

Last year, I wrote that we should be able to move into our new barrier-free 'tiny house' in the summer of 2025. The timing was, as ever in building projects, the most flexible part of the whole thing. We finally moved in officially in November after several months of parallel renovation of the former flats and moving box by box in homeopathic doses. Almost everything is finished.

We very much enjoyed the Gaudy in March 2025. It was great to catch up with old friends both in College and on our journey back and forth.

Professor Nick Couldry (1977)

Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in July 2025 and awarded the Dallas Smythe Award by the Union of Democracy Communications.

Neil Johnston (1977)

Moved to Lanester last year, further up the Brittany coast and closer to the sea, a larger town and public transport! Going for French citizenship this year. Space for visitors!

George Levy (1977)

I now have a lovely granddaughter called Phoebe. I'm keeping busy with the following: singing in the church choir, renovating a house, acting as a charity trustee, and developing applied numerical software. Since I don't live far away, I have also attended several seminars/events at Balliol and the Physics Department.

Paul Shrimpton (1977)

In 2024, I was invited to contribute to the *Positio super Ecclesiae Doctoratu*, the document compiled to make the case for St John Henry Newman to be made a Doctor of the Universal Church. I wrote one of the seventeen articles summarising his eminent teaching, in my case his teaching on education. In writing it, I was able to draw on more than three decades of research on Newman's theory of and practice in education.

I was present in St Peter's Square on 1 November 2025 when Newman was proclaimed the 38th Doctor of the Church during a papal Mass. Four days before that, Pope Leo declared Newman a 'co-patron of the Church's educational mission' along with St Thomas Aquinas. It is not inconceivable that my contribution to the *Positio* helped pave the way for this declaration.

These two events happily coincided with the release of my latest contribution to Newman studies, *The Most Dangerous Man in England: Newman and the Laity* (Word on Fire Academic, 2025).

I am currently in my 40th (and possibly last) year of teaching at Magdalen College School, Oxford.

The Revd Canon Dr Jeremy Morris (1978)

When I stepped down from being Master of Trinity Hall in 2021, I went on to take up the role of National Ecumenical Advisor to the Church of England. This was really rewarding work, and took me all over Europe, both western and eastern, as well as to Africa. Highlights were accompanying the former Archbishop of Canterbury

to Ukraine (twice), Rome (several times), the Caucasus, Romania and Moldova. I published *A People's Church: A History of the Church of England* in 2022. But now I am retired in Cambridge, though still teaching and writing, with three grownup children in the wings. Some recent Balliol deaths have been very sad. One retired bishop said to me that your sixties should be nicknamed 'Sniper's Alley'.

Professor Philip Maini (1979)

I published *Mathematical Biology: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2025): <https://tinyurl.com/yfsvewwm>.

I was chosen for the following: 'The Bodleian Libraries and British Journal of Photography (BJP) have unveiled *Catalysts*, a new portrait series celebrating Oxford University's leading innovators whose work is reshaping health, society, and the environment worldwide. The initiative will add 19 photographic portraits to the Bodleian's permanent collection, expanding and diversifying its historic iconography while capturing the breadth and real-world impact of Oxford's research.' <https://tinyurl.com/2s382mky>.

Stephanie Norgate (1979)

In 2021, Bloodaxe Books published my third collection of poetry, *The Conversation*. In 2025, my novel *Hartisborne* was published and is available on



Amazon or to order through Waterstone's. The novel is a very fictionalised version of Selborne, where I grew up, and features a fictional naturalist, loosely based on elements of 18th-century naturalist Gilbert White's life (may his shade forgive me). *Hartisborne* has a split time frame – 1963 and 1763 – and is a love letter to nature and the life-saving quality of reading. Readers seem to be enjoying it which is wonderful – I wanted *Hartisborne* to be a place of escape. I've enjoyed giving some poetry and novel readings through the year. I'm a full-time writer now, though I continue to work for the Royal Literary Fund, delivering the Writing Toolkit

(an essay writing workshop, free to schools if any teachers are reading) to sixth formers for a few days a year. At the end of 2025, I indulged in membership of The London Library, reminiscent of research days spent in the Upper and Lower Reading Rooms in the Bodleian and am working on more poems and another novel. My children have followed their parents into the arts – Francesca is an artist and Ben is a musician – very proud of them managing it in these difficult times.

1980s

Peter Andrews (1980)

Next year will mark 40 years of continuous service in the NHS, which will probably mark a suitable point to finally retire. In the meantime, I am gradually winding down a rewarding career in nephrology and transplantation, replacing clinical work with other interests. I continue a busy medicolegal practice and work as a censor at the Royal College of Physicians. In addition, I have recently been appointed a Trustee of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons and at the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine. So, my wife's fears that I will be getting under her feet seem likely to be misplaced!

Bruce Belson (1980)

I've been living in the rainforest of Far North Queensland since 2003, working on software for distributed and edge computing. Both my children are now undergraduates. I returned to university part-time in 2017 and in 2025, completed a PhD on 'Asynchronous programming using C++ coroutines in embedded and edge computing'.

Matthew Hamlyn (1980)

I greatly enjoyed attending the 1977–1981 Gaudy in March 2025. In other Balliol news, following requests from Gary Gibbon and Claire Gilbert (both 1984), and some digging around in my 'archives' (AKA boxes), I found a complete script and cast list for the 1985 Balliol pantomime, which I had a hand in creating, and in which they both starred, along with others who have also gone on to fame and possibly fortune. Their secret is safe

with me. The text is an interesting spotlight on what was in the news and what we thought would raise a cheap – actually a very cheap – laugh from a reasonably well-irrigated audience. But, like Sherlock Holmes's Giant Rat of Sumatra, the full text may be a story for which the world is not yet ready. Perhaps I should donate it to the Balliol Archives?

Philip Kolvin (1980)

This year I was appointed a Visiting Professor at the University of Westminster's Centre for Law, Society and Popular Culture. I was also appointed as a Patron of the UK Crowd Management Association.

Gaynor Sutton (1980)

Gaynor Sutton (nee Andrews) is now ordained, serving as Curate at Holy Trinity, Caister-on-Sea, and as a hospice chaplain.

Derek Wax (1980)

The second series of our eco-thriller *The Rig*, produced by my company Wild Mercury, landed on Amazon Prime in 2025, along with our three-part mini series *Fear*. Our factual drama mini series *The Sixth Commandment* (BBC One, 2024) received an International Emmy for Timothy Spall as Best Actor. I am continuing to enjoy developing and producing TV drama.

Matthew Lynn (1981)

I have started a new column in the *Washington Post*: www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/12/01/nasdaq-texas-business-dallas/.

That is alongside the existing column in the *Daily Telegraph*: www.telegraph.co.uk/authors/m/ma-me/matthew-lynn/.

Professor Jonathan Ostry (1981)

I have had a busy year of teaching, research, and policy engagement, splitting my time between the University of Toronto, which is my base as Professor of Economics, Global Affairs and Public Policy, and Washington DC, where our family home has been for the past 38 years. I teach economics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, focusing on issues related to economic growth and economic inequality (especially the nexus between the two, and how the latter influences

the former). My recent research has focused on political economic issues, including how to design economic reforms in a politically sustainable way – for instance, how politicians can avoid electoral backlashes when implementing policies that increase prosperity, such as productivity-enhancing reforms, or when pursuing efforts to reduce carbon emissions (green regulations). In 2025, I have been invited to make presentations on these issues to various international forums, including the G7 and the G20, and continued to publish op-eds in the major international newspapers covering these topics. My spouse recently retired from the IMF after a three-decade career there (the same institution I retired from a few years back). Our son Daniel continues to enjoy living in London with his partner, working at the Bank of England where he landed following his PhD at Cambridge. Joshua, our younger son, expects to finish his PhD this year and will be on the job market thereafter, if all goes according to plan.

Andrew Taber (1981)

I am living in Argentine Patagonia, where we are currently beleaguered by forest fires with limited hopes for rain in the coming days. The fires will burn out eventually, but tragic to see the expanses of native forest lost.

I left employment at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, in Rome, a few years back to move south. This followed stints at various NGOs and international organisations dedicated to wildlife, mountain and forest research, conservation and sustainable development. Part time, I continue to support various conservation and climate change initiatives in different bits of the world – most recently in Central Asia.

Excited to be starting a new project – pro bono – with local biologists to examine the successes and failures of four decades of conservation work on the endangered Giant Chacoan peccary of the Gran Chaco. This species had only been discovered alive in the 1970s, and I led the first intensive study of this critter ten years later. It is still hanging on, but hopefully, looking back will provide some wisdom for going forward.

The good news is the local wines are getting better and better, and there

is even a local single malt – which wiser palates than mine describe as of interest. Thinking back fondly to my time at Balliol, and good friends made.

Jonathan Vernon (1981)

Over the past year, I've been dividing my time between swim coaching, local public life, writing, and printmaking. I'm currently developing a major creative project rooted in personal archives and social history, drawing in part on diaries written fifty years ago. Alongside this, I coach competitive age-group swimmers as a senior club coach at Mid-Sussex Marlins, serve as a Green Party town councillor, and remain closely involved in environmental and tree-heritage work, including the Woodland Trust's Lost Woods Project. I also produce lino prints inspired by Hadrian's Wall.



Mimi Bick (1982)

Towards the end of a diverse career encompassing multiple roles in education and philosophy – within both the Chilean national system and international education and consultancy – I was unexpectedly scouted as a senior model. This unplanned turn led me to acquire an entirely new set of skills and to discover genuine enjoyment in an industry populated by talented, thoughtful, and creative individuals, many of whom possess generous hearts and progressive ideas.

More recently, I spent time working in Barcelona and London, which provided a welcome opportunity to reconnect with people from earlier chapters of my life. Among them was my dear friend from Holywell Manor, Hazel Mills (1982). Despite it having been fifteen years since we last met,

our reunion felt as though no time had passed at all.

From a professional perspective, the undisputed highlight of this journey – and arguably of my career as a whole – was being flown to Rome for a casting at the historic Atelier Valentino. There, I met the seamstresses, was measured from head to toe, and walked for the Creative Director, Alessandro Michele and his team in a magnificent hall overlooking Piazza Magnanelli. The experience was so dreamlike that I almost forgot I was attending a casting. Remarkably, the following day I was selected to participate in Alessandro Michele's first Haute Couture show in Paris the following month.

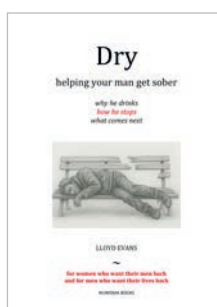
It has truly been an extraordinary journey. For those interested in reconnecting or viewing selected highlights, I can be found on Instagram at @gringa_mimi_photos.

Jeremy Cohn (1982)

Another year in the shadow of Israel's fight to live in safety and dignity, in the region and in the big wide world. When not engaged with that enterprise, I am watching contemporaries fall like flies to the temptation of retirement. If I had a burning desire to go fishing or spend more time with my stamps, I might feel tempted, but, otherwise, it seems a shame to curse a marriage of nearly forty years by adding lunch to better and worse. Our baby had her first baby this year – at least as beautiful and enchanting as all of her cousins.

Lloyd Evans (1982)

I've published a new non-fiction book which will interest parents, paediatricians, philologists, and grammar pedants. It's a record of my son's amusing and thoughtful sayings as he grew up. *How My Son Learned To Speak: A child's discovery of language* (Numisma Books, 2023) is available on Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/3vdk6pwa>



I also published DRY, which tackles the overuse of alcohol in the context of relationships. Men are twice as likely to overdrink as women, and most boozy men have a wife or a girlfriend who wants them to quit. But she can't find

the right advice. The book offers practical tips about adopting the drinker's mindset and using his mental habits to alter his behaviour – without him noticing. The techniques are based on a simple observation about the roles played by men and women.

A man's role is to make decisions.

A woman's role is to make him believe they were his. <https://tinyurl.com/2v4yputa>

Robert Fraser (1982)

Almost retired now, and having the delight of our eldest daughter Anna's wedding at Callow Hall in Derbyshire in February.

Professor David Kinloch (1982)

In June 2025, I published a short lyric play entitled *Esther* (Blue Diode Publishing, 2025) about the Scottish Renaissance calligrapher, Esther Inglis.

Andrew Marshall (1982)

I am the Chief Communications Officer for World Resources Institute, a climate and environment organisation. I live in Washington DC, which has been a challenging place for an organisation like ours, but family life is comfortable and happy for us. My wife Elizabeth and I have an 11-year-old daughter, who is a joy. We are very involved in our local Episcopal church. We are lucky enough to host Pathfinders every year which helps us stay in touch with College life. Come and say hello if you are in the US.

Mary Newman (1982)

I'm really leaning in to retired life: I'm embracing lines and wrinkles, wearing odd colours, enjoying an obsession with Bronze Age beliefs, hosting get-togethers for warring relatives, and helping organise fundraisers for a church I don't even attend. At this rate, I'll have had a hip replacement, go right wing, and be on a cruise by the time I'm 70.

To offset any such tendencies, I've continued to maintain a fairly incontinent attitude to travel and am soon off to the Philippines to scuba dive and backpack.

Dunstan Vavasour (1982)

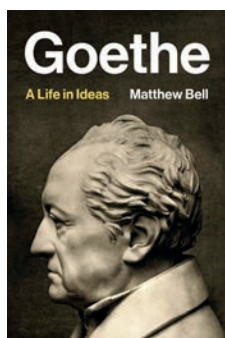
I finished work at the end of March 2025. Looking back, almost all the systems I had a part in creating have now been decommissioned. That is the way of life. I started learning bell

ringing after Queen Elizabeth died in order to be able to ring for the King on his coronation day. It's now a regular part of my life, and I'm most of the way to being qualified as a ringing teacher. The number of octogenarian ringers I know suggests it should be available on NHS prescription.

Professor Matthew Bell (1983)

At long last my intellectual biography of Goethe has arrived: *Goethe: A Life in Ideas* (Princeton University Press).

Reviewers have been very nice about it so far. It was even chosen as a New Statesman book of the year for 2025 by Ian Bostridge. All very weird and wonderful.



Kym Bills (1983)

Since my last report a couple of years ago, I have continued my post-retirement research on the use of aviation investigation methodologies used by 12 leading government authorities that have kindly supplied me with written and interview data. Along the way, I have uncovered some serious issues in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety compliance database which, unfortunately, remain despite my behind-the-scenes efforts since 2023. A summary and analysis of these was published in a Q1 Transport Policy journal article (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2026.02.001>).

As honorary Secretary, I am assisting a subcommittee of government accident investigators to seek updates to ICAO's human and organisational factors (HOF) material in relation to accident investigation, with progress presented at the International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) annual conference in October 2025 and reported in ISASI's Technical Papers. A summary of my overall research will be published in the Q1 *Journal of Safety Research* by March 2026 under the title 'Aviation Accident Investigation Analysis Methodologies used by 12 Government Safety Investigation Authorities'.

Thomas Cabot (1983)

I am still working at Ketchup Productions (17 years now!), editing, designing, and producing books for a variety of publishers across the trade. I am also currently collaborating long-term on a project, the Film Atlas (www.filmatlas.com), edited by James Layton, under the aegis of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) and the George Eastman Museum (Rochester, NY). The Atlas is an encyclopaedic online resource, a dynamic reference, research, and teaching tool that will aim to be a comprehensive visual guide to every motion picture film format, soundtrack and colour process ever invented, from the dawn of cinema to the present!

In print, I was particularly proud, earlier this year, to edit, design and produce a beautiful new survey of Art Nouveau architecture, by leading authority Paul Greenhalgh, a big chunky thing, lavishly illustrated (definitely not hyperbole in this case!) with groundbreaking new colour photography by Pete Huggins, published in September 2025 by HENI Publishing (www.heni.com/shop/books/art-nouveau-the-architecture-of-modern-life).

One daughter in her final year reading History/History of Art at Manchester University, and her younger sibling just starting out at Brighton University, studying for a BA in Illustration.

Paul Fox (1983)

Moved to South Devon in 2024 and am now enjoying semi-retirement as an NHS Non-Executive Director and Treasurer of the Liberal Democrat History Group.

Professor Paul Franks (1983)

I moved to the US in 2011, when I joined the faculty at Yale University in Philosophy and Jewish Studies. I have been Robert F. and Patricia Ross Weis Professor since 2021, and Chair of the Philosophy Department since 2023. We live in New York, and I am often in Oxford, where my wife, Hindy Najman,



is Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture. Our daughter is at law school, and our son is a singer and songwriter. Since my last leave was in 2020, which decidedly did not go as planned, I am looking forward eagerly to leave in 2026-27, some of which I expect to spend in the UK. Several book projects await completion, and I am glad to report that one project that was nearly derailed by COVID-19, *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Philosophy*, edited by myself and Yitzhak Melamed, is due to be published in 2026.

Andrew Gilmour (1983)

After nearly 38 years of working abroad (mostly with the UN), I finally moved back to the UK in the past year, dividing my time between London and Scotland. I recently published a book, the first ever written on this topic (it will certainly not be the last), called *The Burning Question: Climate and Conflict – why does it matter?* I am currently involved in a number of NGOs, boards and causes relating to human rights, peace and the environment, and I write and speak about several of them. I also recently joined the board of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Charles Hopkinson-Woolley (1983)

In September 2025, I was appointed Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. I am still working full time as a Managing Director at Invesco Private Markets, am a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, and a Trustee of the Foundation for Liver Research.

Luke Hughes (1983)

I lead a deeply historically grounded 'leadership roleplaying' game set during the Second World War. It was released in April 2025 and is rated 'Very Positive' on Steam. In January 2026, we will introduce a new addition that may be of interest to a Balliol audience, namely one covering the UK paratroopers'



seizure and defence of Pegasus Bridge during the D-Day Normandy landings.

Two-minute trailer link: https://store.steampowered.com/app/887490/Burden_of_Command/.

Professor Brian Lewis (1983)

I have begun a two-year term as President of the North American Conference on British Studies, North America's biggest and oldest organisation for historians of the United Kingdom and the British Empire.

Professor Murray Pittock (1983)

Among the most interesting parts of this year's news has been engaging with the development of the EU Framework Programme 10, especially supporting colleagues on the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities Board in securing an indicative €7 billion for 'Society' (Pillar II). I am now working on improving the awareness of, and data on, the creative and cultural industries within 'Innovation' (Pillar III), which has a €39 billion budget. Crucial discussions are set to be finalised during the Irish Presidency in the latter part of the year.

Closer to home, I am pleased to be involved in the steering committee for the new Scottish Chapter of the British and Irish Chamber of Commerce; to be acting as ambassador for the £12 million appeal for Robert Burns's farm at Ellisland; and to be a minority stakeholder in the new Museums in the Metaverse-inspired spinout. I was awarded the honorary degree of D.Litt. by Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, in recognition of my work as a 'leading historian, academic, and public intellectual'.

In January, I received the Glasgow Medal of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow for contributions as a scholar and public intellectual.

Professor Christine Synnowich (1983)

A personal highlight of last year was my tenure as an Oliver Smithies Visiting Research Lecturer at Balliol in Trinity term. The College kindly provided accommodation for David Bakhurst (1983) and me in a splendid flat on the top of The King's Mound, the former Master's residence overlooking the field where David had captained the Cricket First Eleven back in the day. It was lovely to be at Balliol again, conduct

research in stimulating conditions, reconnect with friends and family, and explore our favourite haunts. Particularly special was to see old and new friends in the audience for my Smithies lecture, 'Dreaming Spires and Colonial Nightmares: Cultural Heritage, Human Flourishing and Social Justice'. I also gave a talk to the Cerberus Society on 'Why Your Property Isn't Really Yours' – what a treat to engage with Balliol's terrific PPE students. Many thanks to the Master and Fellows for their warm hospitality throughout my stay. The Smithies position brought back such happy Balliol memories and reminded me how fortunate I was to have started my career at the College all those years ago.

HE Donald Bobiash (1984)

In 2025 I completed my last year as Canada's Executive Director at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila – a tremendous experience. I will always cherish the warmth and kindness of the Filipino people. As an ADB Executive Director, I travelled throughout the region and saw first-hand what works (and what doesn't) in development.

During my time at the ADB, especially enjoyable were visits to the South Pacific, including tiny Niue (population 1,800) and the Cook Islands, which were first visited by Captain Cook in 1773. (There was also a famous chain of fish and chips restaurants named in his honour in Canada).



Another highlight of the year was addressing the Singapore Association of Rhodes Scholars, upon the invitation of my Balliol Rhodes Scholar friend Raymond Lim (1984). Raymond, and Singapore, are inspirations to us all.

I have now returned to Canada and officially retired from the Canadian Foreign Service after 36 years. There is no greater honour, nor more rewarding career, than representing your country internationally. For this opportunity I am grateful.

A passion for international relations and trade has led me to establish a consulting firm called Oxford Plains Global. It is named after a one-room prairie school that used to be located near our family farm in Zelma, Saskatchewan. Onwards and upwards.

Claire Gilbert (1984)

I'm honoured to have been made a Visiting Professor of King's College London, and a Lay Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

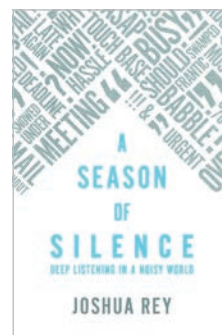
Professor Dilip Menon (1984)

I have been elected a Member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa for my research over the past decade and a half on epistemologies of the Global South and oceanic histories, after I moved to the University of Witwatersrand from Delhi as the Mellon Chair in Indian Studies.



The Revd Joshua Rey (1985)

I am still Vicar of Roehampton, a wonderful and challenging inner urban estate parish in South West London, leading a slowly growing parish church aspiring to offer logos as an alternative to chaos. *A Season of Silence: Deep Listening in a Noisy World* came out this year in Canterbury Press (www.seasonofsilence.org) – couch to 5K for silent prayer.



Michelle Cale (1986)

Still married to Duncan Greatwood (1986). Still living in Palo Alto, California (25 years already). We are now 'empty nesters', though both our daughters live locally. In December 2025, we hosted the backyard wedding of our elder daughter, Katherine (a Jesus College alumna), to Brannon (a DPhil student at Reuben College). Making sure those Oxford ties stay strong! I finally completed my COVID-19-era master's degree from the University of Edinburgh in April 2025, achieving a distinction. I continue to plug away at my Birmingham history project. I have also taken up drawing and turn out to have some aptitude for it. Otherwise, not much to report: good health, enjoyable travels, strong friendships, and the recent addition of Joy, a senior rescue dog, to the family.

Shanker Singham (1986)

Shanker Singham is pleased to report his latest book, *International Trade, Regulation and the Global Economy: The Impact of Anti-Competitive Market Distortions* (www.routledge.com/International-Trade-Regulation-and-the-Global-Economy-The-Impact-of-Anti-Competitive-Market-Distortions/Singham/p/book/9781032944166) published by Routledge in August. Shanker's expertise concerning the impact of distortive practices by governments impacting competition and trade continues to be sought after internationally. In December, Shanker testified at the US Judiciary Committee hearing, 'Anti-American Antitrust: How Foreign Governments Target U.S. Businesses' (www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhxiLCvgfpE) as an expert witness.

Daniel Talbot (1986)

I am proud to have joined my wife in being published in the *Viz Profanisaurus* compendium, *Turtleshead Revisited* (Diamond, 2024). Curiously enough, the only profanities you'll hear in our household issue from the budgie, who, sitting in his corner, will mutter all day, 'Woke nonsense! Peek-a-boo! Gestapo khazi! I know – he doesn't know what he's saying. It's just that he wonders 'what the cheeping hell has happened to this country in the last thirty years!'

Fran Alexander (1987)

I now live in Montreal and became a Canadian citizen in May 2025.

Professor Amit Chaudhuri (1987)

My fourth and fifth novels, *A New World* and *The Immortals*, have been reissued by the New York Review Books (NYRB) Classics imprint in January this year, with new introductions by Pankaj Mishra and Edwin Frank. NYRB has also published, in the US and the UK, a new book of essays, *Incompleteness: New and Selected Essays*. I will also be delivering the F.W. Bateson Memorial Lecture in February at Corpus Christi: www.ccc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events-and-reunions/bateson-lecture-2026.

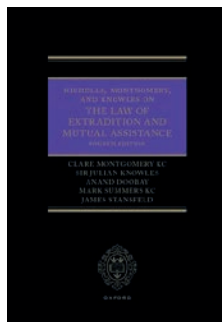
Finally, my ninth novel, *Château Rouge*, is to be published in July in the UK by Faber, by NYRB in the US, and by Westland Books in India in August: www.nyrb.com/products/chateau-rouge.

Professor Michele Gamburd (1987)

Published "Migration Craziness!" *Financial Turbulence and Transnational Families in Sri Lanka* in *General Anthropology* 32, no. 2:15–20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gena.70004>.

Sir Julian Knowles (1987)

In December 2025, the fourth edition of my co-authored book, *The Law of Extradition and Mutual Assistance*, was published by Oxford University Press.

**Dan Tarshish (1987)**

I retired early from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in 2021, and since then have returned to my mathematical



roots. I cofounded Cosimmetry with a wonderful crowd of super clever people from DSTL, Deep Mind, QinetiQ and other parts of the technology world. We build bespoke system mapping software tools to assist with decision making in deep uncertainty. As well as dealing with challenging subjects like construction safety, antisocial behaviour, and drugs in prisons, it has also led to a cameo appearance (episode 4, if you really want to know) on Debbie Haynes' *The Wargame* podcast – my 15 seconds of fame. I'm a trustee for two charities: the Oppo Foundation, which supports injured veterans, and The Henry Jackson Society global affairs think tank. I am very involved in the Oxford Jewish Community, reciting Torah and leading some of the services at the Richmond Road synagogue. Music is still a huge part of my life, but more as a listener than a performer. Perhaps most surprisingly of all, for those who remember my predominantly catatonic state in the late 1980s, I'm running long distances, from marathons to ancient trails such the Ridgeway and Hadrian's Wall.

Joe Carey (1988)

Sadly, we lost the amazingly successful and stunning 'Champ' rabbit last year, but his progeny lives on. Like his son in 2024, his grandson followed up in style in December 2025, winning the Ingram gold cup for best in show at the National Chinchilla Adult Stock Show. Our third consecutive win and five overall, which pushes us into joint first place for the most wins in its 115-year history.

Some nice baby chins coming through for the spring stock shows, although getting to the shows further north is challenging. May have to invest in a camper van...



Peter Saacke (1988)

Having completed a PGCE last year, I started a permanent position teaching mathematics at Central Foundation Boys' School in central London. A different world from investment management, but I am really enjoying it.

Simon Dradri (1989)

I am formerly retired from my work with the UN World Food Programme. I now live in Oxfordshire with my wife Joy and son Ayiko. It has been delightful to visit the familiar grounds of Balliol College, and to attend insightful programmes including the University's Meeting Minds and Sheldonian Series lectures.

Gareth Johnston (1989)

I was honoured to receive a Tolerantia Award from the European Alliance Against Homophobia. The citation referenced my work as the first LGBTQ+ Champion for the Northern Ireland Civil Service as well as my roles as Chair of The Rainbow Project in Northern Ireland and in inclusive faith communities. Sitting at the awards dinner beside someone who had been seriously injured and whose life had been threatened for her work on women's rights and LGBTQ+ inclusion put my contribution in perspective, but it was heartening to have the chance to reflect on the progress that has been made here.

**Jane-Frances Kelly (1989)**

In my final year at Balliol, I applied to do a PGCE, but wasn't accepted, so went off and did other things, which I enjoyed immensely. But it was always in the back of my mind that I might return to teaching in my fifties (which were very far away). So, this year I'm studying to be a high school English teacher, which will put a fourth university degree in my pocket (ridiculous). I regarded my fertile years

as something to get through without incident (and succeeded), so my first teaching placement was a shock to the nervous system. Once it calmed down, I had a ball.

Amazingly, Australia has an A-level equivalent option that follows Oxford's English Course II content closely, so my first degree is finally useful rather than just a source of delight and nostalgia. I hope to teach literature, history, philosophy and politics too. I re-fledge at the end of 2026, and will work part-time, combining teaching with board roles. One of the compensations of this underpaid and demanding profession is that it is a nine-month-a-year job, so longer visits to Britain will be possible (particularly in our summer holidays when Scotland is lovely, cold and dark).

Sebastian Lawson (1989)

I have started a two-year master's in Middle Eastern Studies with Intensive Arabic at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Returning to full-time study has been more challenging than I anticipated, but in a thoroughly enjoyable way. The next year will be a daily struggle with Arabic hollow verbs and defective plurals, with a summer school in Jordan hopefully offering some light relief. Reflecting the main reason for my return to higher education, I will be gracing UK TV screens in the autumn as part of the SOAS University Challenge team!

Paul Lee (1989)

As of September, I have been appointed Chair of the UK Endorsement Board, the body charged with deciding on the adoption of IFRS financial reporting standards, and with engaging with the IASB on their development.

Giles Naylor (1989)

The world of digital payments continues to keep me occupied, and in the summer of 2025, I was promoted to Assistant General Counsel at Mastercard with global legal responsibility for the core card network and merchant acceptance, digital payments, and the emerging field of AI-based agentic commerce. That keeps me busy, but when I'm not doing that, I'm with my family, and in 2025 that involved a proud moment watching daughter Rachael graduate with a BA in Ancient and Modern History (from Queen's – Balliol, you let a good one go!)

1990s

Sasha Abramsky (1990)

I took PPE at Balliol from 1990 to 1993 and have lived in the US since then as a political journalist, book author and, for the past twenty years, a lecturer in writing at the University of California, Davis.

I am a long-time columnist and feature writer for the *Nation* magazine, and write for many other publications as well, including the *Guardian*.

My eleventh book is out next month. It is titled *American Carnage: How Trump, Musk, and DOGE Butchered the US Government* (<https://orbooks.com/catalog/american-carnage/>). It follows 11 federal workers, across 8 agencies, for the first five months of 2025, as their lives are turned upside down. I believe it is the first reportage-based book out on the DOGE purges and their impacts. The official pub date is January 20th (1st anniversary of the inauguration), though OR Books has actually been shipping books to purchasers for the past couple weeks.

Richard Cayzer (1990)

I am humbled and grateful to serve the public through the National Crime Agency. My responsibilities are aligned to my previous career (programme facilitation of AI implementation and economic crime compliance for the banking sector).

Robin Francis (1990)

In 2024, I left Keronite and co-founded a spin-out tech start-up from Imperial College London called M-Spin, which develops advanced materials for the energy sector. It's nice to be properly back in the clean-tech and start-up world, even if the commute to London isn't!

From a personal perspective, we are still very happy and settled in Cambridge. Unbelievably (to me), we now have one teenager, with more incoming...

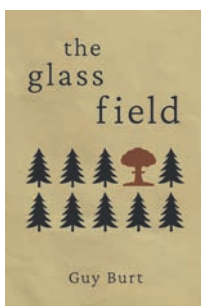
Charlotte Higgins (1990)

My book *Ukrainian Lessons: Art in a Time of War* will be published by Jonathan Cape on 20 August. A mixture of reportage, memoir and criticism, it draws on three years of reporting trips to Ukraine, where I've been writing about events using culture as a lens – from artists' responses to the war to

questions of identity, language, history and decolonisation. Though it draws on my work for the *Guardian*, the book is more essayistic than journalistic. Preorders (<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Ukrainian-Lessons-by-Higgins-Charlotte/9781787335974>) via the usual means are always very much appreciated! Oh, and in 2025, I launched a podcast with Mary Beard: *Instant Classics* (<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/instant-classics/id1831429397>), about classical history, culture, and literature. Topics so far include speculating on which emperor Donald Trump most resembles, to Boudica's rampage through south-east England, and our Odyssey book club.

Guy Burt (1991)

It's been over 30 years since I last put teenagers in a bunker, but I have finally got back on the horse. *The Glass Field* was published in May, and is a quiet, hopefully unsettling novel, set in 1986. It's very unlike my television work and its main themes – nuclear anxiety, grief under pressure, what to do when the world feels like it's breaking around you – were not intended to feel quite as relevant as perhaps they currently do; so apologies in advance for that. There's a bit more about it at www.guyburt.com. In other news, I now live in Valencia, which I like very much indeed, although you can't get a good late-night kebab.



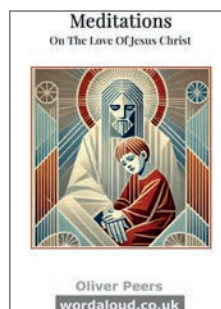
Kathrin Luddecke (1991)

My translation of original German scholarship into English was published in *The Roman Republic and Political Culture*, edited by Amy Russell and Hans Beck and published by Cambridge University Press (www.cambridge.org/core/books/roman-republic-and-political-culture/39755442ACA78B8E2FB5DB084F09E1C0). Robert Morstein-Marx's review in the TLS notes: 'The translation by Kathrin Lüddecke is excellent and, given the technical nature of the task, heroic.' Not something that's been said of my work before!

Oliver Peers (1991)

My good news for the start of 2026 is that I have been declared cancer-free,

this following a bit of an ordeal for much of 2025. I do not recommend chemo/radiotherapy – it is tough. But it beats the alternative. That said, I put a book out. It's a devotional text, entitled *Meditations On The Love Of Jesus Christ*. Links are on my website (wordaloud.co.uk). And there's a follow up I hope to have ready within the next month.



Following upon the therapy, my overwhelming thought is that every single second of life is such a gift and I am truly grateful. Literally every sensation, from drenching rain to shivering cold, in other words the whole spectrum of English weather, is precious. I am so thankful for the kindness of all those working at the cancer hospital in Liverpool. They give so much. It's humbling to be not very well and to have such good people supporting and making you better.

Binnie Goh (1992)

This summer I hung up my political anorak and left the Electoral Commission. I am now General Counsel at the Information Commissioner's Office.

Henrik Klagges (1992)

TNG, the company I thought up and then co-founded in 2001 together with other adventurers, celebrated its 25th birthday! If we count all 916 regular employees, the dozens of interns and GPU-resident Artificial Intelligences, we're almost at 10^3 souls. It has been a jolly good run from a single room-office to operations now in 11 countries. Apropos AIs: our new Chimera LLMs, which we constructed based on DeepSeek parent models, were wildly successful on platforms like OpenRouter, processing up to 20 billion tokens per day. This led a16z to rank TNG as the '#8 key open source player'

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1 Happy 25th birthday, TNG - coding since January 1st 2001! 🎉
2
3 achievements_unlocked = [
4   "official_name": "The Next Generation",
5   "unofficial_name": "The Nerf Group",
6   "fulltime_herds": 916,
7   "shd_ratio": "~50%",
8   "countries": ["at", "au", "bg", "ch", "de", "ee", "es", "gb", "hu", "nl", "us"],
9   "current_annual_revenue": "$10M",
10  "total_revenue_all_years": "$1B+",
11  "chimera_ai_tokens_processed": "2 trillion",
12  "upcoming_event": "Big Techday 26" # May 22 🍷
13 ]
14 print("To infinity and beyond! 🚀")

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in December 2025, surpassing even Google. So we had a pretty good year after all, but us humans should take note that growth in personnel slowed down, while growth in AIs accelerated. Besides work, the K5 spent a lot of time on the water: I learned wing foiling, which really has beautifully intertwined aero- and hydrodynamics, while the sons plan to – and will – outjump me with their kites. On snow, the two bigger children are already skiing faster than Anke and me, but that's life as it should be. To the years!

Frederick Ch'en (1993)

I am currently based in Tokyo, Japan, having initially been seconded from London for three years in 2010. Fifteen years have passed quickly, and since 2020, I have served as Office Managing Partner of the Tokyo office of the international law firm Hogan Lovells, as well as APAC Lead for Life Sciences. My core practice is intellectual property law (especially pharmaceutical patent litigation), although my work has expanded to cover the breadth of Life Sciences. As a former biochemist (DPhil co-supervised by Professor Denis Noble CBE FRS (Professorial Fellow 1984–2004, Emeritus Fellow)), I have been fortunate to be able to combine science, cultural interpretation and law as part of the provision of legal services.

In 2025, Hogan Lovells' Tokyo office celebrated its 35th anniversary, the client reception for which was an especially memorable experience (see photo). Recently, I have had the pleasure of interacting with Dr Ewan Nettleton (1991), Iain Fratter (1993) and Rosie Bailey (1997), as well as welcoming several Pathfinders over the years when their adventures have brought them to Japan. I would be delighted to meet anyone from Balliol visiting Tokyo or, indeed, wanting to explore a legal career in an international law firm.





John Gillespie (1993)

I've done a thing worthy of sharing with the Balliol community. Last year in my current guise as a Gestalt psychotherapist, I authored a book *Therapy for Perverts, Weirdos and Crazy Cat People: A Lived Experience Introduction to Gestalt Therapy*. My book upholds the Balliol tradition of effortlessly superior writing about drug and alcohol delinquency along the route to becoming a person.

Professor Greg Challis (1994)

Most unexpectedly, I was awarded the Kitasato Microbial Chemistry Medal during a visit to Japan last autumn.

The Kitasato Microbial Chemistry Medal is an annual award presented by the Kitasato Institute and Kitasato University in Japan since 1973 in recognition of outstanding research in the field of microbial chemistry.

This award recognises the pioneering efforts of my research group in the exploitation of microbial genomics



Greg Challis receiving the Kitasato Microbial Chemistry Medal in Professor Ōmura's office

for the discovery of novel bioactive metabolites, resulting in the discovery of numerous novel natural products and new biosynthetic enzymes.

I was presented with the award while participating as an invited speaker in a symposium celebrating the 90th birthday of the Japanese Nobel Laureate Satoshi Ōmura (and the 10th anniversary of the award of his Nobel Prize).

The medal is highly regarded in the field and has been awarded to prominent international scientists for their significant contributions, including K. Barry Sharpless (twice a winner of the Chemistry Nobel Prize), Albert Eschenmoser (recipient of the Wolf Prize in Chemistry), and Max Tishler (former President of Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories).

Professor Dr Anke Höffler (1994)

In 2025, I was elected to be a member of the Leopoldina, the German National Academy of Sciences (equivalent to the Royal Society).



Certificate presentation with Leopoldina President Professor Dr Betinna Rockenbach (left) and Leopoldina Secretary General Franziska Hornig (right)



Claire Smith (1994)

I was delighted and honoured to receive the joint British-Indonesian Ambassadors' 75th Anniversary Peace Award in 2025, for my contribution to bilateral cooperation towards peace. The award commemorated the 75th anniversary of Indonesia-UK diplomatic relations. I have studied and worked in Southeast Asia since 1997. I first visited the region thanks to the Wilson-Wilson Trust Fellowship from Balliol, which enabled me to travel to Lao PDR, where I ended up staying for two years working with the UN. After graduate school at Columbia, where I took part in research work in Cambodia, I moved to Indonesia in 2001 to work on social development with the World Bank (alongside fellow 1994 Balliol alumna Andrea Woodhouse, whose Indonesian mum first inspired me to visit her fascinating country). I later returned to the UK to complete a PhD at the LSE on the politics of peacebuilding in Indonesia. Since 2011, I have taught and researched Southeast Asian politics, conflict and peace studies at the University of York. If you find yourself in North Yorkshire, do please get in touch.

Laetitia Rutherford (1994)

While continuing to act as Literary Agent at Watson, Little, I am now in year two of a part-time PhD at the London School of Film, Media and Design, University of West London. I received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for a project exploring the transition from print to digital media starting with the 1986 strikes. Very much enjoying the expanded portfolio, including research, writing, and teaching, alongside my commercial work in publishing.

Athar Yawar (1994)

To my surprise, I am married. Her name is Steffi, and she is very nice.

Professor Rose-Marie Antoine (1995)

I am now the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

**David Hodgkinson (1995)**

In September 2024, I joined Heather Rhodes at Highgrove Education as Director of Students. We are an online school, offering GCSEs and A Levels across the globe. Heather and I recently visited India to celebrate a new venture delivering teaching for a new school in Saifai, where our teachers will teach the classes online for students in that school. Highgrove is thriving and developing a new approach to education: it is a great privilege to lead a team of dedicated Heads of Department as we develop that approach. Many of our students would struggle with mainstream education, for one reason or another, but thrive on our offering and apply successfully to top universities. I am also a volunteer safeguarding trainer for OSCP and now Chair of Governors for Woodeaton School. On a lighter note, I have rediscovered my childhood love of being on the water

and am enjoying sailing at Dorchester and Farmoor with my daughter, Sophie, who likes to point out that she gained her seamanship qualification in about 18 months aged 11, while it took me until I was 48! I managed to get there about two weeks before her, much to her annoyance.

Martin Sandbu (1995)

Greatly enjoyed a Balliol Society reunion for 1995 matriculants last year – wonderful to see old friends in the Oxford September sunshine. Everyone seems to have mellowed into their better selves! In the wider world, things are only getting darker but professionally fascinating from my continued perch as an FT columnist. 'Fascinating', too, is the joy of now having an official teenager in the home.

Gerald Clancy (1996)

Enjoying life as a GP partner in rural Oxfordshire. I was elected as Vice-Chair of the Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee in early 2024 and appointed as Non-Executive Director of Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire Local Medical Committees Ltd a few months later. Ruairi hit three years of age in May 2025 and is keeping us entertained and on our toes. He's looking forward to starting school in September 2026. We hope to introduce him to some of his many Celtic cousins in the west of Ireland in spring 2026.

Ben Lynch (1996)

As you all know, the 16th edition of *MacGillivray on Insurance Law* was published in 2025. I can say with some confidence that you will enjoy it just as much as the 15th edition.

Mark Opstad (1996)

I have been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. The choir I founded in Toulouse is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. La Maîtrise



de Toulouse is the choir school of the Toulouse Conservatoire and anyone interested can see and read about it here: www.maitrisedetoulouse.fr.

Highlights of the year will be Bach's *Saint John Passion* with the baroque orchestra *Les Passions* and a concert with the *Orchestre du Capitole* commemorating the 50th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's death with his *Saint Nicolas* cantata on 6 December. We will also be recording our 9th album. I was delighted to come across the present senior Organ Scholar of Balliol studying the organ at the Toulouse Conservatoire last year. Small world!

Professor Simon Clarke (1997)

I continue to work at the Asian University for Women, in Chittagong, Bangladesh, teaching philosophy to students from around the region. Last year, I was made full Professor of Philosophy, which was a great honour.

Geoff Cowling (1997)

In June 2025, I became the National Practice Leader for Energy, Utilities and Resources for Navacord. Navacord has grown to be the second largest insurance broker in Canada in recent years.

Allison Hoffman (1997)

I've returned to the UK after 15 years covering politics in Washington, DC, taking up a role of Executive Editor of POLITICO UK.

Mira Gratier (1997)

After leaving Brussels for Balliol in 1997, I surprised even myself by moving back in 2021. For the first time in my adult life, I've now spent more than four years continuously at the same address and seem to be developing a taste for familiar things. I continue to spend most of my time working on issues related to humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness, with a recent focus on anticipating climate-related risks. I work as an independent consultant, building on my experience living and working in a range of sub-Saharan African countries, and I'm always energised by opportunities to engage directly with governments, civil society and communities on adapting to tomorrow's challenges. (Though remote working also has its benefits – mostly measured in terms of the

survival rate of houseplants). I've also enjoyed developing partnerships with the private sector and social enterprises and spent a year learning more about the corporate world at a Belgian business school. I'd love to connect with any Old Members who would be willing to help me explore how my skills could meaningfully support ESG risk management, sustainable finance, or social impact investment.

Shashi Jayakumar (1997)

Shashi Jayakumar, who completed a DPhil in History, was appointed Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba in April 2025.

Eleena Misra KC (1997)

I was honoured to be made a Bencher of Middle Temple, further to my election in June 2025, at a lovely ceremony in November 2025 when I got to take my seat at the High Table, 'give an account' of myself, and become Master Misra witnessed by family and various dear Balliol friends. This was a tonic after losing my dear brother-in-law to lymphoma in September 2025. Life continues apace at the Bar, but it is our daughters who keep Richard Bretton (1997) and I the most occupied and indeed the most entertained. Grateful for what I have in a world so striven by geopolitical tension, in my last year as Chair of the Law Reform Committee I will be keenly focussing on the Rule of Law.

Mark Bell (1998)

Dr Bell and his wife Dr Bianca Bell extended their visit during the Bodleian Advisory Board meeting in order to have dinner in College with



fellow historians and members of the SCR. He is delighted to report that food quality continues to improve and conversation remains first class.

Justin Brierley (1998)

In 2023, I established a media production company Think Faith and published an award-winning book and podcast series, *The Surprising Rebirth Of Belief In God*, which has had over two million downloads. At the start of 2026, I launched a new video discussion show, *Uncommon Ground*, filmed at Yarnton Manor, Oxford. The first episode features Professor Richard Dawkins and former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, debating God and science (pictured). Available at <https://justinbrierley.com/>. A highlight of the past year was the marriage of our oldest son Noah to Phoebe, making me and Lucy (Trinity 1998) feel very old but very grateful!



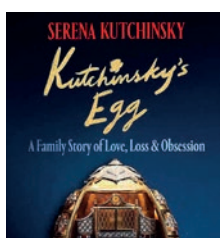
Serena Kutchinsky (1998)

I wanted to share the news that my first book, *Kutchinsky's Egg*, was published by Simon &

Schuster on 26 March (hardback, £20).

The book is a memoir that tells the story of my father, the master jeweller Paul Kutchinsky, and his obsession with creating the world's largest jewelled egg. Forged from 15 kilograms of pure gold and encrusted with 20,000 rare pink diamonds, the egg stood two feet tall and took a team of master craftsmen more than 7,000 hours to make.

It should have been his greatest triumph. Instead, when no buyer could be found, it became the catalyst for



his undoing. Our hundred-year-old family business collapsed, my parents' marriage fell apart, and the egg itself vanished.

A decade later, my father died. For the past 30 years, I have been trying to understand why he risked everything to make the egg, tracing its extraordinary journey and searching for clues in the most unexpected of places. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kutchinskys-Egg-Family-Story-Obsession/dp/1398532843>

Professor Kwangseuk Kyhm (1998)

My daughter, Sojin Kyhm, an ordinary teenage girl, loves art and science. Recently, her painting was sold at an art exhibition!



Ruth Brown (1999)

I have spent the past year and a half working on a very enjoyable Oxford-Cambridge collaboration in the form of a joint project with my good friend and translation partner David Ward (Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1971), who some Balliol diplomats will know well from their postings to Bonn and Berlin. We provided the English translations for the newly re-opened permanent exhibition on post-war German history at Haus der Geschichte in Bonn. It's full of fascinating and moving personal stories woven into the larger tapestry of history, and it was a great pleasure to work together with such a talented and accomplished translator to give the English voice to these important accounts of the past.

Katrina Manson (1999)

My book *Project Maven: A Marine Colonel, His Team, and the Dawn of AI Warfare* was published in March this year. It tells the dramatic story of the US military's efforts to develop and deploy algorithms to battlefields in hot wars around the world and reveals examples of AI target identification that went right – and went wrong. It charts the rise of Palantir and the conversion of Amazon, Microsoft and Google to developing AI tools for war, despite igniting controversy and protests. As the second Trump administration pours money into military AI and autonomy while the UN Secretary-General clamours for a ban on killer robots, the book investigates whether AI will improve accuracy and save lives or if a fundamentally unreliable black-box technology will unleash mistakes and atrocities at scale.

**Professor Veronica Rodríguez-Blanco (1999)**

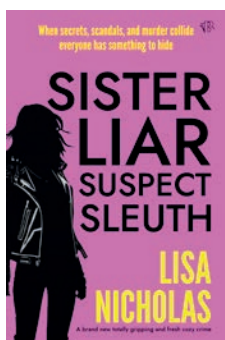
I am delighted to let you know that my book, *Responsibility for Negligence in Ethics and Law: Aspiration, Perspective and Civic Maturity*, has appeared in OUP: <https://academic.oup.com/book/59802>.

Hana Ross (1999)

I took and passed Grade 6 Theory in June. I have no idea why I chose to do this. I sing regularly with the Kodaly Choir of London. Do come and join us! <https://kodalychoiroflondon.org/>

2000s**Lisa Nicholas (2000)**

I had two crime novels published in 2025. *Sister, Liar, Suspect, Sleuth* was published in March, with the sequel, *Mother, Rebel, Misfit, Sleuth*, following in June. I



continue to live in deep, dark, rural Lancashire, writing novels, short stories, and magazine features, and I received a Master's degree with distinction in Creative Writing from Lancaster University in December.

Professor Dr Patricia Schartau (2000)

After 25 truly wonderful years in the UK, I returned to Germany in September 2025 to begin my new role as Chair and Professor of Primary Care at the Centre of Primary Care, University Hospital Regensburg, University of Regensburg, Bavaria.

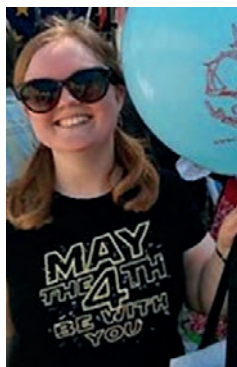
If you are in the area or anywhere in Bavaria, I would love to catch up – do feel free to reach out (patricia.schartau@gmail.com).

Ali Chetwynd (2001)

After nine years teaching at the American University of Iraq Sulaimani, Ali Chetwynd moved to a new job at the American University in Bulgaria.

Rose Stanley (2001)

Rose has now been working as a Lawyer Linguist in the English Translation Unit of the Court of Justice in Luxembourg for nearly 15 (!!!) years.



Although German and Luxembourgish continue to elude her, she has managed to add Polish, Romanian, and Slovenian to her Rolodex of languages, and was lucky enough to get to go to Slovenia for two weeks at the beginning of 2025 to do an intensive Slovenian language course at Ljubljana University's Winter Language School. She also continues to indulge her passion for music – for the past two years, in addition to singing, she has been writing and recording her own songs. There are two stand-out moments from the past year: in May she put on a live concert, performing seven of her songs to mark the release of her debut EP, and in December she released a Christmas single called 'I Put the Crisis Back in Christmas'. She is planning to release an album later this year.



Her Father's Voice, Dublin Theatre Festival 2025

Tom Lane (2002)

2025 was a busy year for me both professionally and personally. Our baby daughter, Úna, was born in September and our two-year-old son, Ronan, was delighted to become a new big brother! Several stage productions featuring my music enjoyed national and international tours, including Mufutau Yusuf's *Impasse*, which was performed in Cork, Manchester, Vienna, and Panama City and will travel to New York and San Francisco in 2026. *Story of a Day/Scéal Lae*, a bilingual English/Irish play with music for young audiences was performed in Ottawa Children's Festival and Galway International Arts Festival and continues to tour Ireland in 2026. My largest scale composition of the year was for *Her Father's Voice*. This theatre work by Shane O'Reilly about the impact of Cochlear Implants on Deaf Culture incorporated a major operatic section for five soloists and an instrumental ensemble which was performed alongside a newly created video piece. The world premiere of *Her Father's Voice* was presented as part of Dublin Theatre Festival in October 2025.

Markus Bihler (2004)

In July, our family grew again with the arrival of our second son, Siel. Ari has taken to being an older brother with



ease. We have now been based in Cape Town for two years, with time in London and New York during the year. Professionally, I have focused on chair and non-executive board roles across public and private businesses, including hedge funds, often during periods of transition such as scaling, ownership changes, and restructuring. In parallel, I have taken on an adjunct professor role in finance at the University of Cape Town, chair the Hoffman Institute in South Africa, and kept up mountain biking races. Angelina has spent the past few years in tech and defence, including roles at Palantir and Anduril, and still picks up her tennis racket.

Nikola Casule (2004)

After a decade working as a strategist in the climate change and conservation sector, I've partnered with former colleagues to found a startup consultancy – Campaign Republic – specialising in strategy and communications work for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Professor Dermot Green (2004)

I was promoted to full Professor of Theoretical Physics and Chemistry at Queen's University Belfast. I was awarded the 2025 'Promising Scientist Prize' by the Centre de Mécanique Ondulatoire Appliquée (CMOA) for outstanding contributions to atomic and molecular physics and quantum chemistry; the prize was presented by the pre-eminent Professor Rodney Bartlett (pioneer of coupled-cluster theory) at a banquet in Le Sénat, Paris.

The Revd Dr Harri Williams (2004)

Having spent 15 years in parochial ministry, I was appointed in the summer of 2025 to serve as Principal of St Stephen's House, Oxford. The college, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2026, is a theological college training men and women for the ordained ministry within the Church of England. It also offers theological education in a wide range of spheres to clergy and laity alike. I'd be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to visit the college which is situated off the Cowley/Iffley Road.

Lucy King (2005)

I was promoted to Coexistence Director two years ago for our research charity, Save the Elephants, and this year is my



20th year working for STE based in Kenya. I have developed a portfolio of community coexistence projects that we now support across 20 countries in Africa to help rural communities live better with elephants. We have published a 200-page *Human-Elephant Coexistence Toolbox* book, translated into five languages, which is packed with 80 different tools and strategies to increase coexistence. 2025 was incredibly challenging for us in the conservation sector, with the dramatic loss of US funding in January to almost all conservation programs across Africa. We had to deploy our limited reserves from our Elephant Crisis Fund to fill some of the financial gaps for the most critically at-risk elephant populations to try to keep them safe as US funding for parks and NGOs collapsed overnight. We also went on the road across America and the UK to showcase the film, *A Life Among Elephants*, about our extraordinary founder, Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton (Oriel 1961). Sadly, Iain passed away in December 2025, which was a huge loss to our STE team. We are planning several memorial events for him in 2026 to honour his memory and the work he has done to save Africa's elephants. Thanks for supporting our cause if you can. It's tough for conservation right now and our planet needs all the help it can get. www.savetheelephants.org

Professor Meghan Sullivan (2005)

Meghan Sullivan, who completed a BPhil in Philosophy, currently serves as Wilsey Professor of Philosophy and founding director of the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good. In December 2025, she was awarded a \$50 million grant from the Lilly

Endowment to lead a major project on how faith communities are engaging with powerful AI.

Keith Tse (2005)

Since the completion of my PhD (Linguistics) at the University of York, I am now working as a data scientist in the UK with a wide network of clients all over the world. I also attended the Balliol Society annual event in September 2025, which marked the 20-year anniversary of our matriculation. It was great to see and catch up with many people in my year, especially my coursemates (Literae Humaniores).



Lorna Wellings (2005)

We welcomed our baby, Ruadh Alexander Allan, in October 2025. We've lived near Edinburgh for ten years now. My email is lornawellings@gmail.com if any old friends are passing this way or would like to get in touch.





Daniel Carden (2006)

Lives in Madrid, more specifically Brunete, a commuter town outside. Fully home-based statistical programming. The humble servant within a triumvirate matriarchy. Two daughters: Mila (2) and Sara (6).

Ronnie Collinson (2007)

This is a belated but very happy notice that I married Anne Renée Hill (now Collinson) on 6 July 2024 at St Andrew the Great, Cambridge – the church where we met and which we continue to be happy members of. It was a wonderful day, and we are very grateful to our church family for making everything work (including bringing most of the food) – not counting our vicar, there were no professionals involved in the entire day. We are also very thankful to friends and family who travelled from across the country and from other countries. Our hope is that our marriage will point beyond itself, be a blessing to others, and reflect the loving, self-sacrificial relationship between Jesus and his church (Ephesians 5:22-33).



Kate Kettle (2007)

Our daughter Hester is now one, and Henry and I are expecting a second baby girl in the spring. We live up in Summertown in North Oxford and are always keen to see Old Members when they are visiting Oxford, so do look us up. I have started a new job in Venture Capital – connecting high-net-worth individuals and family offices with investment opportunities in and around the Oxford ecosystem. If anyone in the Balliol network is keen to learn more, please do get in touch: kkettle@oxcp.com

Aleksandar Petrović (2007)

On 28 April 2025, Majda Squalli-Houssaini and I were married in a civil ceremony in Basel, Switzerland. We celebrated with family and friends at Villa Wenkenhof in Riehen, blending British, Moroccan, and Serbian traditions in a joyful, eclectic gathering.



Professor Steven Rayan (2007)

I continue to serve as Director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA) and as a faculty member in Mathematics at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), achieving the rank of Full Professor in 2022. That same year, I published a paper on new forms of quantum matter in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS). That paper was announced as the runner-up for the 2023 Cozzarelli Prize (Physical and Mathematical Sciences Class) of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, and was one of only 12 papers (across the six classes) highlighted by the prize committee from over 3200 papers published in the journal in 2022.

In November 2025, I was inducted into the College of the Royal Society of Canada for my contributions to mathematics and quantum science. I am leading a number of academic-industry collaborations around quantum computing and represent Saskatchewan in the Canada-France Quantum Alliance (CAFQA). Finally, I am serving currently as the (Interim) Vice-Dean of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work in the College of Arts and Science here at USask. I am enjoying interacting with my colleagues in new ways as I learn about their work and figure out how to best support them.

Joanne Clarke (2008) and Max Deacon (2008)

Joanne Clarke and Max Deacon (both read History) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Persephone Snow, in September 2025.

Professor Edward Grefenstette (2008)

I continue to enjoy my work at Google DeepMind, where I lead a growing team on producing core capabilities for autonomous agents, which aim to supplement and support humans. I also help manage a broader research organisation spanning AI for medicine, AI for education, novel assistant technologies, and a number of more fundamental machine learning topic areas. My last PhD student at UCL is graduating in 2026, so I will be hanging up my PhD supervisor hat for the foreseeable future. I've spent far too much of 2025 in a plane, and am aiming to do much less of this in the coming year (as far as work travel is concerned,



at least). On the personal front, I am still enjoying the quiet suburban life Richmond has to offer, with my wife Renie and our kids (Marcie and Corentin). I have resumed practicing karate with my daughter, and when I'm not working or spending time with my family, I am trying to find pockets of time to get better at golf (a slow and unpredictable process).

Daniel Alphonsus (2009)

From Balliol I trudged the well-worn path to wonkery and SPADdom, though in Sri Lanka rather than Whitehall. Following a stint at the Kennedy School, I then reincarnated as private sector functionary, leading Alibaba's South Asian subsidiary's expansion into fintech. I am now back in Sri Lanka, where I've just started the island's first subscription based digital newspaper, *The Examiner*.

The Revd Father François-Xavier Colin (2009)

A priest since 2019 for the Diocese of Versailles in France, I joined the diplomatic service of the Holy See in August 2025. I am now posted in Bangkok, where I serve at the Apostolic Nunciature (embassy of the Holy See), whose territory encompasses Thailand, Cambodia and, as Apostolic Delegation, Laos.

Professor Ronan Lyons (2009)

I'm very happy to share that, in 2025, I was promoted to Professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin and was also made a Fellow of the college on Trinity Monday. Also, after a very long gestation, my work on US housing markets since 1890 is now published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Christopher Miller (2009)

Enni and I are very happy to announce the birth of our son, Nolan Alvar Miller, in February 2025.

2010s

Richard Dumbill (2010)

We are happy to announce that on 18 December 2025, Molly Dickinson (2008) and I (2010) welcomed a baby girl, Felicity Mary Dumbill, into the world.

Kiri Ghataorhe Johnson (2010)

My husband David and I are extremely happy to announce the birth of our first child. We welcomed our darling baby boy, Jai, in late October 2025.

Romilo Knežević (2010)

My book, *Nikolai Berdyaev and the Third Kind of Non-Being: Probing the Abyss of Being*, was published by the International Centre for Orthodox Studies from Niš, Serbia. After my *Homo Theurgos: Freedom According to John Zizioulas and Nikolai Berdyaev* (Les Editions du Cerf, Paris 2020), which was my amplified doctoral thesis of 2016, this is my second book in English.

Emilie Oberlis (2010)

Emilie Oberlis and her husband Michael Lobie are thrilled to announce the birth of their second son, Alexandre, on 24 November 2025. Big brother Louis is very excited and always wants to hug his new little brother, while Misty (their cat) is mostly indifferent to this new addition to the family!

Ada Coghren-Brewster (2011)

Jack and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our son, Felix, in July 2025. He is keeping us very busy.

Christopher Jones (2012)

We had our first baby: Alexandra Rose Warnick born on 14 October 2025. Her mum is Eleanor Warnick (St Anne's 2010).

Marcelina Gilka (2013) and George Horgon (2013)

We met at Balliol while both studying Master's courses and are now delighted to announce that our son, Raphaël, arrived just before Christmas. We hope



to visit Balliol soon and show him where our family's story began!

Victor Porras (2013) and Tanya Milne (2014)

Victor Porras and Tanya Milne are delighted to share that their first child, Saskia, was born in April 2025.

Nana Amoah (2014)

I am honoured to share that I have been appointed as Acting Deputy CEO (Administration) of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana.

I am deeply moved by this opportunity to serve my native country after 20+ years of working across corporate America at organisations including Google, Facebook, WhatsApp and Meta. The alignment and timing could not be more fitting. Earlier this year, I transitioned from the corporate sector to start building something new. Something that is rooted in my passion for responsible innovation and its impact on society. In the middle of that journey, I received the call to serve my nation. The call to bring my experiences forward, to serve and contribute to Ghana and in turn Africa's continued growth in technology and digital transformation.

I look forward to working with the GIFEC team, the government and the good people of Ghana to advance our vision for universal access to technology and digital inclusion.

My sincere thanks to God, to His Excellency the President of Ghana, to the Honourable Minister of Communications, Digital Technology and Innovations, to the Secretary of the President, to the CEO (Administrator) of GIFEC, and to my family and loved ones for their unwavering support and belief in me. Onwards!

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7403707881587474433/.

Press release: www.myjoyonline.com/gifec-welcomes-nana-akyaa-amoah-amissah-as-new-acting-deputy-ceo/.

Charlie Garner (2014)

I'm delighted to share that Dr Meg Smith and I were married in December 2025 on a lovely sunny winter's day surrounded by friends and family. We are currently sharing our time between



Staffordshire and Oxford, where we have just bought a house in Headington, and very much looking forward to our life together!

Wenmiao Yu (2015)

My new podcast, *Low to Grow* (www.lowtogrow.com), launched earlier this year. I started it as my entrepreneurship journey building Oxford spinout Quantum Dice ran alongside my mental health awakening. I am excited to share this with the Balliol community as it is a resource for young professionals who want to learn from inspirational individuals that have turned tough times into opportunities for growth.

One episode to note – *The Entrepreneur's Marathon: Finding Balance, Freedom and Funding* – is with Erika Brodnock MBE, and can be accessed on Spotify.

Knowing the experience and wisdom within the Balliol alumni community, if anyone has a personal story that they wish to share, I would be delighted to hear from them. I'm happy to connect through [@lowtogrowpodcast](https://www.instagram.com/lowtogrowpodcast) on Instagram and



Substack (<https://lowtogrowpodcast.substack.com/>), where I share a newsletter on my reflections on mental health and entrepreneurship.

Julia DeVoy (2016)

Julia DeVoy, who completed her MBA at Balliol, serves as Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Students at Boston College, Lynch School of Education and Human Development. Also a Harvard University and Boston College alumna, she develops and pioneers transdisciplinary innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives informed by her Oxford MBA experience.

Graduating from Saïd Business School with the Dean's Prize for highest GPA in her class, DeVoy's design-driven innovations include her 2017 International Oxford University GOTO Award-winning business project, which used stochastic modelling to address freshwater scarcity.

In 2019, she co-founded Design for Impact (DFI), an inter-institutional partnership among Boston College, Clemson University, Virginia Tech, and North Carolina State University, now joined by Wentworth Tech. DFI fosters interdisciplinary learning by integrating diverse disciplinary languages to solve real-world problems.

Under DeVoy's leadership, Design for Impact has earned global recognition, winning Stanford University's International Longevity Design Challenge (Team SPORE) and the Royal Society of Arts International Student Design Challenge (Team Wheelable). These successes also catalysed entrepreneurial ventures such as Vitaliti, focused on environmental health, and MLV, a global educational program for young innovators. DeVoy and DFI co-founders recently published 'Design for Impact, an



Intercollegiate, Interdisciplinary Human-centered Design Program' in the *International Journal of Engineering Education*, (2024), 40 (6), pp. 1283–1312 (www.ijee.ie/latestissues/Vol40-6/04_ijee4503.pdf).

A lifelong learner (PhD, Developmental Psychology; MTS, World Religions & Ethics; MBA, Innovation & Strategy), she is currently completing a Master of Legal Studies (MLS) in Cybersecurity. Through initiatives like the Aftermath Learning Lab and ERA First-Year Program, DeVoy advances authentic ethical leadership and inclusive design for positive global impact.

Design for Impact Summit 2024: www.bc.edu/bc-web/sites/bc-news/articles/2024/fall/design-for-impact-summit-at-boston-college.html.

Shuyu Lin (2016)

I started a small Oxford-based business in 2025 called Potatote. We make high-quality cotton tote bags featuring original, hand-drawn Oxford scenes – some of my favourite corners that make the city feel like a dream. After I graduated Oxford, I missed my time and friends here so much, but I couldn't find something that truly matched those memories. I really hope that Potatote is a love letter that Oxford sends out to us and travel around the world with us and eventually, it will bring us back to this beautiful city. Please check out our work here: <https://potatote.co.uk/>.



Felix Simon (2016)

No big news here. I am still working in Oxford as a Research Fellow in AI, Information and News at the University's Reuters Institute for

the Study of Journalism within the Department of Politics and International Relations, and as a Research Associate at the Oxford Internet Institute. I was also elected as a Junior Research Fellow in Politics at Corpus Christi College in October, which is good fun (although it doesn't have quite the size of Balliol, of course). Two projects I led last year studied how people across countries use AI, especially to inform themselves, how much they trust it, and what they think of AI in various contexts. A third focused more on questions of epistemic and democratic health and what we really know about AI's use around elections – and more work on both is on the way. I am always keen to talk to others who work or think on these topics, especially within the tech sector. So if you'd like to say hello, I can be contacted through www.felixsimon.net.

Rebecca Collins (2017)

In 2025, I was selected as a Frank Knox Fellow to study for the Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. During my time at Harvard, I am keen to explore public policy interventions that help create a fairer and more equitable society, informed by both academic study and practical engagement with policy challenges.



Joakim Bohlin (2018)

As I am writing this (in October 2025), I have just returned to work after an initial parental leave for my daughter, Viola, born in August. Her older brother, Hugo, was born in 2023 and was just old enough to attend my 2024 DPhil graduation. I am now employed at Chalmers University of Technology as part of a Swedish national infrastructure for scientific visualisation (InfraVis).

Kumeren Govender (2018)

I am pleased to share a chapter written with colleagues for the World Bank, focused on building critical infrastructure needed for systems to respond to emergencies and shocks. Chapter: <https://lnkd.in/e8d3uefr>
Full book: <https://lnkd.in/ePRGiU2e>.

Carol Jones (2018)

2025 was another busy year! In addition to graduating with a DPhil in Music Composition, I was appointed Lecturer in Music at Falmouth University. Here I teach composition and media composition, as well as continue researching how to turn sounds from British temperate rainforests into music.

As a composer, 2025 continued to be jam-packed. My string trio *bulawayo railway* was released on Black Oak Ensemble's album *Dance of the Night Sky*. The album received great reviews, including a five-star review in *BBC Music Magazine*. *The light thief*, written for orchestra, had its second outing with Sinfonia Smith Square as part of their immersive *The Night Sky* concert, and *praise ye the lord*, written for choir and organ, continues to receive good reviews, including in *Laudate Magazine*.

I'm also continuing to present, with 2025's highlight being moderating the London Philharmonic Orchestra's pre-concert talk, *Harmony with Distant Planets*, with composer Robert Laidlow and astronomer David Kipping at the Royal Festival Hall.



Emily Meekel (2019)

I have just moved from Japan, Kyoto, to Birmingham, UK, to continue my research in materials chemistry as an independent Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham, supported by the Career Development Fellowship from the Royal Society. In addition, my husband and I will be welcoming a baby boy at the end of May!

Katie Tyner (2019)

Katie Tyner, Associate Vice President at The Cohen Group, had her article published in *Comparative Political Studies* Volume 58, Issue 10 this past fall: 'The Succession Effect: Change Over Time in Women's Political Leadership Styles in New Zealand.' The publication has also been included in a senior-level seminar syllabus this year at Wesleyan University.

2020s

Bayly Winder (2020)

I am running as a Democrat for Congress in New Jersey's 2nd District in the 2026 midterm elections. I previously served as an Advisor to USAID Administrator Samantha Power and have also worked at the State Department and advised the FBI. Campaign website: <https://winderforcongress.com/>.



Keeping in touch

Thank you very much to everyone who sent in *News and Notes*. We have been delighted by the response this year.

We are always pleased to hear what Old Members of Balliol are doing. You can send us any news, at any time during the year by email (development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or by post (Development Office, Balliol College, Oxford OX1 3BJ). If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of *News and Notes*, please email it to newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk or send it by post to the Development Office as above: deadline end of January 2027. If you would like to change how Balliol communicates with you or how you receive any of our publications, please contact the Development Office as above or manage your preferences online at www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol.

