I should like to warmly welcome you to this edition of Floreat which I hope you will enjoy reading. The College is always proud that we welcome students and alumni from all over the world. This edition has a particular focus on Asia where Magdalen has long-standing links, dating right back to Sir Thomas Roe (1593) England’s first Ambassador to Mughal India in the early 17th century. One of our current Ambassadors, His Excellency Sebastian Wood (1979), British Ambassador to China, returned to College last year with a Chinese film crew to shoot a documentary exploring British life for a Chinese audience, and a number of articles in this magazine explore Magdalen’s other links to China and Asia.

We are delighted to have contributions from Members as diverse as Sir Vernon Ellis (1966) Chairman of the British Council writing on the Council’s ongoing work in Asia, Vikram Mehta (1972) talking about the energy challenges currently facing India and Gabrielle Jaffe (2005) describing life as a *Time Out* journalist in Beijing.

This year is the 110th Anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarship, which Magdalen has been involved with at an early stage. Founded in 1903, Rhodes is the oldest and perhaps most prestigious international graduate scholarship program in the world. Indeed the first US Rhodes Scholar to Oxford, William Fleet, came up to Magdalen in 1904 and Magdalen has a Fellowship in economics funded through the generosity of his niece Julia Fleet. Magdalen is proud to have several hundred Rhodes Scholars amongst its alumni; indeed we look forward to welcoming over 50 Magdalen Rhodes Scholars and their guests back to the College in September. We are also celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Marshall Scholarship and in this edition of Floreat we examine the impact that both these Scholarships and their Scholars have had at Magdalen.

The magazine also contains a fascinating recollection of C.S. Lewis from one of his former students, Donald Whittle (1943). Lewis was a Fellow here from 1925 to 1954 and later this year we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of his death. On 22nd November there will be an unveiling of a memorial stone to Lewis in Poets’ Corner at Westminster Abbey and on the following day we are hosting an afternoon of lectures in College to include Lewis Scholar, Lord Williams of Oystermouth, former Archbishop of Canterbury and current Master of our sister college in Cambridge. I hope you will be able to join us for this occasion.

Elsewhere in Floreat we bring you news and updates from various areas of the College and its alumni community. I hope from reading this magazine you see that Magdalen is a college fully engaged with the world at large. Today, more than ever, Magdalen is in a global competition for the brightest students and the best academics from across the world, and given our international outlook and heritage, we believe ourselves well placed to continue to attract the best.

Floreat Magdalena!
David Clary
Sir Vernon Ellis (1966) is Chairman of the British Council. Here he talks about the British Council’s work in Asia.

Through the years there have been a number of Magdalen members with a connection to the British Council. There were, for example, two Chairmen before me: Sir David Kelly (1910), from 1955 to 1959, and Lord Edward Bridges (1911), immediately after, from 1959 to 1967. Lord Renton of Mount Harry (1950) was Vice Chairman from 1992 to 1997; Sir Eugen Millington-Drake (1908) was our Chief Representative in what was then called ‘Spanish America’, back in the 1940s; and I was particularly fascinated to find that Thomas Boase, who was the President of Magdalen when I went up, was based in our Cairo office from 1943 to 1945. Our current Director in Morocco, Martin Rose (1973), is also a member of Magdalen.

I became Chairman of the British Council in 2010. Since then, I have had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the world to see the work of the British Council first-hand. This is one of the aspects of the role that I enjoy the most.

For nearly 80 years the British Council has been building trust for the UK around the world. This is at the heart of what we do. Trust underpins the development of good relations between societies and nations: relationships which are vital, not only for political influence and security but also for trade and investment. Through the UK’s three great cultural assets of English, education and the arts, we bring people together from all over the world and, on behalf of the UK, we work to earn their trust and that of their communities. Being able to make friends and build trust with countries in Asia has never been more important to the UK.

The British Council has a presence in 110 countries and territories. We have a physical presence in 15 countries in East Asia and seven countries in South Asia. These two regions alone generated almost a third of our total £739m turnover in 2011-12. Since I became Chairman, I have visited China (on two occasions), Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand. My first visit to China in my British Council role was back in November 2010, as part of the Prime Minister’s delegation to the country.
Thailand, India (on three occasions) and Pakistan. There is so much I could say about my visits, and all the exciting opportunities in this important part of the world. But I will take just one country, China, and use this to exemplify how we build mutual understanding and trust.

My first visit to China in my British Council role was back in November 2010, as part of the Prime Minister’s delegation to the country. This was a great opportunity for me to see the British Council in action and also for the Prime Minister and other ministers to see it at first hand.

Large scale delegations such as this can achieve three things in the short term. They make a statement about the seriousness of the UK’s engagement, they provide a platform for leader-to-leader statements in public and dialogue in private, and they can provide a stimulus to the completion of accords and trade agreements. All these things are valuable and they provide most of the headlines.

But, after the headlines, what will endure? That will depend on the depth of understanding and trust between the two countries. Longer term this will flow as much from the social, cultural and educational links between the two countries as it does from the political and trade discussions. This visit provided an opportunity for some of these links to be highlighted and some new ones launched. I was proud that the British Council was at the heart of all of them.

The case for cultural relations as a method of engagement with China is exceptionally strong. Suddenly and dramatically, we have had to recognise China’s pivotal role in the global economy. China’s rise has been extraordinary. It builds on a continuous 4,000 year history of cultural and economic leadership of which the Chinese are very proud. Yet, it has also emerged from 100 years of humiliation from foreign nations followed by 30 years of an extreme form of communism. Since then, the dismantling of state control over many aspects of life has allowed enterprise to flourish and labour to migrate to where the work is. But this has produced huge social pressures and problems. Is it surprising that there is nervousness about letting go?

Looking ahead, China has declared that it is determined to go beyond low-cost manufacturing for export as the primary growth driver. It wants to build a knowledge economy and create a climate of innovation and creativity. But there are challenges here in a system which seeks to control and mediate access to innovation. These will reduce as trust increases.

The Chinese government also recognises the urgency of addressing some of the pressing domestic social issues. And they are pragmatic in looking for international models which can work for China, without threatening the political order. In this context, international engagement, individual-to-individual and institution-to-institution, is fundamental to building relationships that will engender trust and understanding.

During this visit, I was able to see different strands of this engagement at work – in the arts, in governance and in society and education. Each of them involved the British Council as the key enabler.

Exactly two years later, I visited China again. I was still struck by the challenge we face in trying to make an impact in a country with over 1.3 billion people, but I believe that we are meeting this challenge.

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reach through digital media. Two years after the launch, it was great to go back to China and to have the opportunity to personally see and experience some of the festival showcases.

One of them was the joint British Museum/V&A/National Museum of China show – Passion for Porcelain. This tells a fascinating story of the interplay between China and Europe and the two-way transfers of technology, design, culture and trade. A similar interplay was on display in a cutting edge show using fashion films. Fashion today reflects, as porcelain did in the 16th and 17th centuries, a wonderful fusion of design, cultural connections and resonances across the world, in taste, branding and trade.

I had an insight into a different sort of reach when at 7.30 on Saturday morning, we went to see 887 (just one short of the luckiest number in China) examinees turned up at an exam centre for their IELTS English language test. Over half a million students take this in 42 British Council centres across China each year. This requires a team of 180 full time staff, almost 3,000 examiners and supervisors and military precision in execution.

A different sort of reach again was illustrated by a visit to a three-day training session, Skills for Social Entrepreneurs. Since 2009, nearly 1,000 social entrepreneurs have attended the core training. The need for social enterprises and other civil society organisations is well recognised by the Chinese authorities, given the steep decline in the old welfare system administered through State Owned Enterprises. Nevertheless, they often are regarded with some suspicion, as possible conduits for dissent.

Two countries, the UK and China. Such different societies, such different recent histories. Yet some surprising common problems and perspectives, and of course some deep cultural resonances. There is much still to build on, and it is important that we do so. Not just in Beijing and the big cities in the East, but right across this huge country.

The British Council is now working in over 40 cities across China.
Vikram Mehta (1972) recently retired as Chairman of Shell India after 24 years working for the company. He talks of the economic growth and sustainable development of India over the last two decades.

I graduated from Magdalen in 1975 and aside from an initial short stint with the Indian Civil Service, my whole career has been in the oil and gas industry, most notably 18 years spent as the Chairman of the Shell Group in India, and I am now the Chairman of the Indian affiliate of the US think tank Brookings Institution.

It has been an exciting career for several reasons but two in particular stand out. I returned to India in 1994 around the time the Indian economy shifted direction to its current state of growth. I was witness therefore to its journey from dirigiste state control to economic liberalism. Sound economics and good politics seldom make for comfortable bedfellows in a parliamentary democracy but this is particularly true in the energy sector, as this is an area where economic decisions almost inevitably have a political fallout. As the head of a large energy multinational company I had the opportunity to contribute to the policy discussions on how to balance both. I was also professionally fortunate to have a chance to influence the debate over sustainability. The nexus between economic growth, energy demand and environmental degradation was unhealthily strong, but lack of political interest meant that little had been done about it until the 1990s, when global warming hit the headlines and energy and environment got pushed up the policy agenda. Senior leadership of all energy companies got pulled in to help the Government balance the accelerating demands of a fossil-fuel-based economy with the compulsions of sustainable development.

India’s energy problem can be captured in three key points. Demand is surging, supply is struggling to keep pace and the environment is under stress. When I returned from Oxford in 1978 India was importing 25% of its fuel requirements: today the ratios have flipped and it imports 75%. Forest cover has been denuded, water aquifers have depleted and the smog in metropolitan India is all-encompassing. The challenge has been to tackle these hard truths while maintaining political equilibrium. This is not an easy challenge given the de facto permanence of coalition Governments in the federal centre and the unending cycle of elections in the constituent States, which has hindered the development of a holistic and integrated energy policy. Private energy companies have not found it easy to operate in an environment that is de jure deregulated but de facto administered. This disjunct has led to an uneven playing field and intrusive bureaucratic oversight. In spite of that these companies have notched up notable successes. The largest offshore gas find was made by a private Indian conglomerate; the most significant recent onshore oil discovery by an independent multinational; Shell India built one of the first two liquefied natural gas regasification terminals, and it also leveraged the human resource talent to set up the first cutting edge research and development and global technology centres in the country.

That India will remain dependent on fossil fuels for decades is indubitable. Its energy system is built around coal, oil and gas. Hydro, nuclear and renewables are growing fast but from a low base and they account for a small proportion of energy consumption. That India must wean itself off fossil fuels is equally obvious. The journey from where India is today to where it needs to be in the future will be long and challenging. I hope that India will draw upon the scholarship and genius of Oxford, either directly through partnerships between the University and comparable institutions of excellence in India, or indirectly through talented alumni. In this context the importance of the forthcoming Indira Gandhi Centre for Sustainable Development at Somerville College can hardly be exaggerated.
ENGINNEERING WITH ORIGAMI

Magdalen’s first Fellow from mainland China, Dr Zhong You, describes his research into structural engineering using the ancient oriental art of origami.

I came to Magdalen in 1998 and became a tutor in Engineering Science. According to A History of Magdalen College, I am the first Fellow from mainland China and I am proud to be so.

My research is in structural engineering, focusing on a family of unconventional structures known as the deployable structures. This type of structure can be found in everything that is capable of large shape changes: from common household items such as umbrellas and foldable chairs, to solar panels on a spacecraft, and retractable roofs.

My most recent work concerns the modelling and design of origami structures, which are formed by utilising the ancient oriental art of origami to create structures with superior structural properties. I solved the problem of how to fold a rigid shopping bag, a challenge set by a few leading mathematicians in the field. I also worked on tubes, composite panels and curved shells capable of absorbing large amounts of energy when subjected to an impact. This led to the development of crash boxes to protect the main frame of a vehicle in the event of a low-speed collision, panels consisting of an origami core that are blast resistant, and curved shells that can form a mobile shelter.

These structures can be made from environmentally-friendly materials at low cost and exhibit much higher energy absorption ability in comparison with the conventional ones of comparable weight.

In keeping with engineering tradition at Magdalen, I have also ventured into medical devices, in particular, the aortic stents and cerebral flow diverters that are used in the treatment of aneurysms. These structures are packaged in advance and delivered to the blood vessels via minimum invasive surgery in order to isolate aneurysms.

Dr Zhong You demonstrating one of his origami structures.

My research has attracted attention from both the academic community and the general public. It has been reported in national media such as the BBC, the Financial Times and science magazines including Eureka, Science (332, 1376-77) and Nature (472, 8). In 2005, I participated in the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition. Subsequently, my exhibition entitled ‘Motion Structures’ was selected as a showcase of British science and engineering at the Science Day Exhibition at Buckingham Palace.

In short, my research is in a non-conventional but thriving area of structural engineering with great potential due to practical demands. Being a pioneer in some of the topics, I am in good position to explore these opportunities.
College Archivist Robin Darwall-Smith gives an account of Magdalen’s two Japanese princes.

Two members of the Japanese royal family were students at Magdalen during the 20th century: HIH Prince Chichibu (1926) and HIH Prince Tomohito of Mikasa (1968).

Prince Chichibu was the younger son of the Emperor Yoshihito, and younger brother of the Emperor Hirohito, and came up to Magdalen in October 1926, in the Presidency of Sir Herbert Warren. One would have expected a confirmed lion-hunter like Warren to be delighted to welcome another royal student, but his papers, recently deposited with Magdalen, suggest that he took some persuading. In particular, it had first been mooted that the Prince should go to Balliol, and Warren was unhappy at feeling that Magdalen was seen as second-best.

The Prince did come up to Magdalen in October 1926, intending to spend a year here. Unfortunately, in December 1926 his father died, and the Prince had to join the Imperial family in a long period of mourning, during which it was deemed inappropriate that he should resume his studies. He therefore never returned to the College.

Nevertheless, his one term in Magdalen made a deep impression on Prince Chichibu. He lived in College (in the same rooms Edward VIII had occupied), and tried to involve himself in College life, even taking up rowing. He undoubtedly found Oxford a refreshing contrast from the formality of Japanese court life, and some have wondered whether senior courtiers may have used the period of official mourning as an excuse to prevent the Prince from becoming too westernised.

To the end of his days, he kept the furniture in his studies in his town and country residences exactly as he had found it in his rooms in Magdalen. He also presented Magdalen with two striking gifts. One, made in the tradition of noble students presenting pieces of plate to the College, was a silver san-san-kudo, a special set of cups from which a bride and groom would drink sake on their wedding day, and the other a splendid suit of Japanese armour (now on loan to the Ashmolean Museum).

In 1940 Prince Chichibu was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and was a sick man for the rest of his life, taking no active role in the Second World War. He died in 1953. His widow, Princess Chichibu, however, lived until 1995. A keen anglophile (she was born in England where her father had been serving as a diplomat), she became Honorary Patron of the Japan-British Society, and played a leading role in re-establishing Japanese relations with Britain after the war, especially between the Japanese and British Royal families. She first visited Magdalen in 1962, and came back to her husband’s College more than once, keeping in regular contact with the College for the rest of her life.

Prince Tomohito was the son of Prince Mikasa, the youngest brother of Prince Chichibu and the Emperor Hirohito, so that he was a nephew of Prince Chichibu and a cousin of the present Emperor Akihito. He chose to come to Magdalen in 1968 on account of his uncle’s coming here. He intended to study for a diploma in Economics, but then changed to study Far Eastern International Relations. He likewise followed his uncle’s example in taking up rowing, although he went one better than him in being made a member of the First Eight.

In late life, Prince Tomohito took a great interest in supporting welfare rights for the disabled and promoting sports. He gained a reputation for being one of the more outspoken members of the Imperial family, and also stood out from his relatives by growing a beard, for which he was nicknamed “the Bearded Prince”. In his later years, however, Prince Tomohito suffered from poor health. He was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1991, and in 2007 admitted that he was fighting alcoholism. He died in 2012.
Dr Michael Allingham, Emeritus Fellow in Economics, writes of his former student, the King of Bhutan.

His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck (2000), the fifth Druk Gyalpo (or Dragon King) of Bhutan, first donned the Raven Crown at the age of 26 when his father abdicated in his favour. Jigme, as he was simply known when at Magdalen, was with us for two years, having tutorials in Constitutional History (with the President), and in English and Economics (with Fellows). He has been a good friend to Magdalen ever since, inviting his tutors and undergraduate friends to Bhutan after he graduated, and again to his wedding last year, and bringing his bride to the President’s Lodgings for dinner a few weeks later. After becoming entranced by seeing The Importance of Being Earnest (penned by that well-known Magdalen dramatist) in Oxford he recreated it with his rather bewildered entourage in Bhutan, where ‘bunburying’ soon entered the court argot.

King Jigme combines the roles of traditionalist and moderniser in ways which would amaze in the West, yet seem natural in his Himalayan fastness. He is introducing democracy, but with a parliament which can only meet when the astrologers have found an auspicious day (his wedding was timed in similar fashion). The move to democracy bemuses his people: “Doesn’t our king love us any more?”, they ask. He will walk for eight hours to visit his subjects, roads being few in Bhutan – which answers that question more eloquently than words ever could. King Jigme is actively developing his father’s concept of Gross National Happiness, with a little help from his Magdalen friends.

Sir Thomas Roe (1593) spent three years as ambassador to the Indian court of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir in Agra from 1615-18.

Sir Thomas Roe matriculated as a commoner at Magdalen aged 12 (which although below average age was not then exceptional) and left after four years without taking a degree. After Magdalen he entered Middle Temple, and was appointed an esquire of the body to Queen Elizabeth I and MP for Tamworth. In 1615 at the East India Company’s invitation he became England’s first ambassador to Mughal India, acting as both King James I’s representative and a commercial agent. He became a favourite of Jahangir, and his journal became a valuable source of information about Jahangir’s reign. His arrival at the Mughal court is commemorated in a mural in St Stephen’s Hall, Westminster as ‘laying the foundations of British influence in India’. He became MP for Oxford in 1640 and died in 1644.

Sir Reginald Johnston grew up in Edinburgh and read History at Magdalen from 1894-8. From Magdalen he joined the Hong Kong Colonial Service where he learned Cantonese. After 14 years in the coastal city of Weihaiwei, he was appointed English tutor to the 13-year-old Puyi, the Xuantong emperor who had abdicated in 1912 but who continued to live in the Imperial Palace as a non-sovereign monarch with his retinue.

Johnston was one of the few foreigners in history to be allowed inside the inner court of the Qing Dynasty. Puyi was expelled from the Forbidden City by warlord troops in 1924, and after another stint in Weihaiwei Johnston returned to the UK in 1930 as Chair of Chinese at London’s School of Oriental Studies. In 1934 he published Twilight in the Forbidden City about his time in the Forbidden City, which was later dramatised in the 1987 Bertolucci film The Last Emperor, in which he was portrayed by Peter O’Toole. He died in 1938 in Edinburgh.
Marsh Marshall (1978) describes being part of a transformative economic policy delegation to China while a student at Magdalen.

When the definitive history of China’s post-Mao economic transformation is written, one might be surprised to learn of Magdalen’s significant contribution at the outset. Following the 1976 deaths of Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai, China’s political transition effectively ended in December 1978 with the emergence of its new leader, Deng Xiaoping. What is not perhaps well known to most Magdalen members is that several months after Deng’s ascendance to power, Magdalen’s new President, Keith Griffin, led a six-member team of Oxford and Cambridge economists and social scientists to Beijing to engage in discussions on economic reforms with Deng Xiaoping himself.

As a post-graduate economist and MCR member working on my D.Phil thesis on China’s economy, under the supervision of President Griffin, I was fortunate to be included in this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. I well remember the day that President Griffin summoned me from my rooms in St. Swithun’s to the President’s Lodgings to say, “I think your concerns about procuring original source data for your D.Phil thesis may be allayed.” Sure enough, several months later, in the summer of 1979, I found myself staying with President Griffin in the old Peking Hotel off Tiananmen Square (at the time the only hotel in Beijing for foreign visitors). After several anxious days of waiting and wondering, we were summoned late at night to a meeting in the bowels of the Great Hall of the People, where quite to my amazement, the diminutive yet charismatic new leader of China was standing in the foyer waiting to greet our six-member team. President Griffin and Queen Elizabeth House (the Oxford Department of International Development) scholar Neville Maxwell then engaged in a two-hour exchange of ideas and policies with Deng in a small meeting room. As I was furiously taking notes on the discussion, the most memorable moment for me was Deng’s reaction to a particular suggestion from President Griffin about accelerating certain price reforms. Perhaps signifying his somewhat less than wholehearted support for that particular economic policy prescription, Deng leaned over his padded chair and loudly spat into the beautifully decorated spittoon on the floor between his chair and President Griffin’s chair.

China was just emerging from the Great leap Forward and Cultural Revolution years of ideologically driven policy.

Marsh Marshall, back row second from left.

With the well-publicised endorsement of China’s new leader, our small delegation received immediate permission to conduct field surveys and data collection in three different regions of China, including in poor villages where household members displayed evident signs of malnutrition. China was just emerging from the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution years of ideologically driven policy that had caused enormous suffering throughout the country. Deng Xiaoping, to his great credit, enabled our team to take an empirical approach to our research, and strongly encouraged us to share our results with our sponsoring hosts, the Chinese Academy of Social Science. In each region we visited, the Provincial Governor hosted a splendid dinner for our delegation, a nightly routine that continued throughout our historic trip, even as data-collection and survey research took us to county and village levels.

After our late summer return to Oxford, we soon completed our economic analyses, and subsequently shared our results with China’s newly rehabilitated economic leaders, as Deng Xiaoping had requested. In our discussions with Deng, President Griffin had raised concerns about worsening regional inequality as agricultural workers migrated to the coastal cities to form a growing pool of low-cost labour for the emerging export-focused factories in China’s Enterprise Zones. Deng Xiaoping and his advisors soon received President Griffin’s analysis of this important issue – yet we never learned details of its explicit impact on economic policy. It is tempting to conclude however that the delegation’s economic policy insights, which mainly favored market-based reforms, were well-correlated with China’s meteoric economic growth in subsequent decades. As for causation, perhaps this conclusion is best left for historians to determine.
The President, David Clary, recounts the fascinating stories of two of Magdalen’s Chinese alumni.

Magdalen’s links with Asia go back a long way. This was brought home to me not long after I started as President when I had a visit from Rayson Huang (1944) and Ti Li Loo (1943). They were born in China and both came to Magdalen for the DPhil in Chemistry during the uncertain times of the Second World War. They were supervised by Sir Robert Robinson, then our Waynflete Professor of Chemistry and subsequently a Nobel Prize Winner. At that time they were the only Chinese students in Oxford – a big difference from today.

As an undergraduate student Rayson Huang was caught up with Japanese invasions first in Shanghai and then Hong Kong. He eventually managed to pass through the Japanese lines into China hiding a reference letter from a teacher in his shoe. There he met a British cultural attaché who used the letter to help Rayson win a Rhodes scholarship enabling him to study at Oxford. After surviving dangerous journeys across the Himalayas to India and then by sea to England he arrived at Magdalen in 1944 and was offered a place by President Henry Tizard. After Magdalen, Rayson taught Chemistry at the University of Malaya in Singapore, was appointed Vice-Chancellor at the Nanyang University in Singapore and then became the first Chinese Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. He retired in 1994 and returned to the UK to live with his son.

In the early 1940s, the clinical action of penicillin was famously discovered at Oxford by Magdalen’s Howard Florey (1922) and Ti Li Loo was one of the first to work on its chemistry. He then had an outstanding career in cancer research at top laboratories in the USA. He discovered how the important drugs methotrexate and mercaptopurine behave in the body, and collaborated closely with the pioneers of chemotherapy whose contributions were highlighted in the Pulitzer Prize-winning The Emperor of All Maladies: a Biography of Cancer written by our own Siddhartha Mukherjee (1993).

I was very sad to hear that Ti Li Loo died at the age of 89 shortly after our meeting at Magdalen.

In November I visited Hong Kong and Shanghai to see our members there. These cities have changed beyond recognition since the dark days of the Second World War. Our links in those places are certainly thriving but we should look back to Rayson Huang and Ti Li Loo who were pioneers in more ways than one.

Tom Lester (1959) describes how his contemporary Sir Robin Mountfield (1958) influenced the revival of the British car industry through Japanese manufacturers.

Thirty years ago, the once-great British car industry was heading for the knacker’s yard, the victim of poor management, under-investment and union intransigence. Robin Mountfield (1958), then the young head of the Department of Industry’s Vehicles Division, was determined to make a difference. As a historian, he drew on the Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902 when Britain supplied battleships to the Japanese navy. With the crucial backing of Margaret Thatcher’s government, Mountfield and his team persuaded Nissan to build its new car plant and European bridgehead near Sunderland, in the depressed north-east of England – near where the battleships were built.

It offered ample skilled labour and easy access to the sea, but the cultural barriers made it a two-way process. After a punishing 29 visits to Tokyo, Mountfield had convinced Japanese managers that their methods would be effective in the UK. He also had to persuade suspicious Geordies, long used to industrial conflict, to accept their new management styles and disciplines. Nissan soon found it could rely on local staff and suppliers, and its success encouraged other Japanese firms to follow suit. Mountfield earned his knighthood. He died in 2011.
Gabrielle Jaffe (2005) moved to China in 2010 to work on Time Out Beijing and is now its deputy editor.

I came to China, I admit, simply for the job opportunity. The year I graduated – 2008 – wasn’t exactly the easiest time to find interesting employment and after a year-long Masters course in journalism at City University, followed by short freelance stints at companies such as BBC Magazines, I was delighted to be offered a full-time job at Time Out Beijing.

I was never meant to be in China for more than a year, but Beijing had its way of charming me. One year became three and now I am locked in a fulfilling, if sometimes tempestuous, relationship with this city.

There are days when I want to leave, for example, during the smog ‘apocalypse’ this January, when pollution levels in Beijing soared to over 40 times the level recommended by the World Health Organisation; or the evening that I pulled out 500 yuan from my bank only to realise the notes were fake; or, more regularly, the moments when I doubt that I will ever master Mandarin – this language where one small slip of intonation can leave you demanding of a perfect stranger, “Please kiss me”, instead of saying to them, “Please can I ask you...”. Yet every time I boil over with frustration, some serendipitous sight helps me fall back in love: watching the cats scamper across the roof of my traditional courtyard home; seeing pyjama-clad neighbours play mah-jong with each other in the street; spotting elderly couples happily ballroom dancing next to a busy main road, oblivious to the traffic.

This city – like my feelings for it – is a ragbag of contradictions. World-beating architects such as Zaha Hadid are invited to make Beijing their playground and the colossi they dream up are erected in a matter of months; yet there are still people living on my street who must use the public toilets because they lack private ones at home. On my walk to work, in a matter of minutes, I might pass both a customised hot-pink Ferrari and a peasant riding his horse and vegetable-laden cart.

In my job at Time Out, now as deputy editor, I also work in something of a contradictory environment. On the one hand, we do not operate by the same rules as local media; we do not publish government directives and we politely remind people at press conferences that we do not accept ‘hong bao’ – those little red envelopes stuffed with cash to ‘thank’ reporters who have taken the time to attend. Yet we still publish under the same censorship system.

When Bob Dylan came to Beijing, we ran a piece on our website about him leaving out from his line-up some of his more famous protest songs, including Blowin’ in the Wind and The Times They Are a-Changin’; then, somebody on high had a quiet word with somebody, who had a louder word with our editor, and the story had to be taken down.

Thankfully a freelance career on the side has given me the chance to cover subjects I would not be able to at Time Out. I have interviewed the artist dissident Ai Weiwei for Shortlist magazine, written about film censorship for The LA Times, and reported on petitions and protests for The Times.

Three years on, it is clear that my decision to come to China was a good career move, but it has given me much more than just that. My time in Beijing has given me the opportunity to mix with, and learn from, inspiring people from different backgrounds, with different perspectives; to experience a new culture rich in sometimes eccentric but always fascinating traditions; and to conquer challenges I never thought I would be able to face.
BRAIN WORLD CUP

Following on from his success as captain of the winning Magdalen University Challenge team in 2011, Matthew Chan (2007) writes of his experiences on an all-Magdalen team representing Oxford at the Brain World Cup in Japan.

What links a blue and a white triangle, Herodotus, 6,650km, and a crocodile?

In July last year, four members of the College – Matthew Chan (2007), James McComish (2008), Hugh Binnie (2010) and Chris Savory (2010) – had the good fortune to represent Oxford on the Japanese game show “Brain World Cup.” Broadcast on Fuji TV, the program was billed as a contest of minds between leading international universities, facilitated by a small army of translators. Questions were, as far as possible, non-verbal, relying instead on graphic and aural prompts. All sixteen teams, from Australia, France, Germany, India, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, the USA, Japan and the UK, were to compete at the same time, with eliminations at the end of every round. University Challenge this was not.

Performing well in the first round of lateral thinking exercises, we survived the first elimination of eight teams, and scraped through the frenzied buzzer race of the next round to reach the semi-finals, along with Manchester, Tokyo, and Kyoto. We puzzled over a geometric paper-cutting challenge for some thirty minutes before finally coming to the correct solution, and then won the race to assemble a giant magnetic map of Africa. Facing Tokyo in the final round, which required contestants to make connections between four images displayed in succession, the contest came down to the very last question. Hikaru Adachi unfortunately buzzed prematurely, giving the incorrect, but perfectly reasonable, answer of Pythagoras after a Greek bust appeared. Combining the crocodile with the distance, Oxford captain Matthew Chan gave the Nile as his tentative answer. Following an expectant silence, we found ourselves the winners of US$10,000, and, more importantly, the 2012 Brain World Cup.

THE HONG KONG SCHOLARSHIP

In 2012 one of Magdalen’s old members very generously endowed a scholarship available to students who are permanent residents of Hong Kong and are citizens of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). The Scholarship provides up to £26,250 per year as a contribution to fees and a stipend to cover living expenses, allowing the successful candidate to take an undergraduate degree, or graduate course, at Magdalen for a maximum of four years. Preference is given to students wishing to study Law or PPE and the expectation is that the recipient of the Scholarship will return to Hong Kong or the PRC on completion of their studies.

Magdalen is competing on a global stage and we continue to attract the brightest and best from across the world. Over the past ten years alumni have donated over £9m to establish one of the most generously endowed student support funds at any Oxbridge college, allowing us to attract students from all social and economic backgrounds from across the UK and abroad. In addition to this Hong Kong Scholarship, the College has recently been notified of a US$4.4m bequest from the late Leon (1938) and Iris Beghian, which will endow a number of graduate scholarships, helping meet an increasingly urgent priority. We continue to be humbled and grateful for the generosity of our old members which directly supports this and future generations of talented students at Magdalen.
This year the Magdalen Players selected Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia* for their summer Garden Show. The production was staged in the picturesque setting of the President’s Garden, the perfect location for a play focused on the relationship between past and present and the certainty of knowledge. The show ran from 15th – 18th May 2013, and included a special black tie gala performance with drinks and canapés which was a sold-out success.

A YEAR AT MAGDALEN


Law Dinner at the House of Commons. 18th July 2013.

Archaeological Dig on Longwall Quad. December 2012.


A Celebration of the Choir at Magdalen College. 22nd June 2013.


Lewis filming by the Cloisters.
MAGDALEN’S MARSHALL SCHolars


Founded by a 1953 Act of Parliament, the Marshall Scholarship, which is named in honour of soldier-statesman George C. Marshall, commemorates the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan and expresses the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts. Prince Charles currently serves as the honorary patron of the Association of Marshall Scholars.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2013, the Marshall Scholarship – which funds up to three years of study at any university in the United Kingdom – has been particularly beneficial to the Magdalen College community.

Magdalen Marshall Scholars include:
- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer (1959)
- Magdalen Honorary Fellow Harold Koh (1975), former Chief Legal Adviser at the US Department of State and Sterling Professor of International Law and Dean Emeritus at Yale Law School
- Michael Klarman (1984), Harvard Law School Constitutional Law scholar, and author of From the Closet to the Altar: Courts, Backlash, and the Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage
- Niko Canner (1994), Founder of management consulting firm Katzenbach Partners
- Angela Duckworth (1994), creator of the Grit score for personality traits
- Bryan Leach (2000), CEO of Ibotta, a mobile phone application that has had 35 million offers viewed since its 2012 launch
- Krishanti Vignarajah (2002), Senior Advisor to the US Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Nides
- Zachary Kaufman (2002), Founder, President, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Friends of the Kigali Public Library – Rwanda’s first public library and the country’s national library – and editor of Social Entrepreneurship in the Age of Atrocities
- PG Sittenfeld (2007), at 27 years old, the youngest person ever elected to the Cincinnati City Council

Richard Rive

Fellow Librarian Dr Christine Ferdinand talks about South African writer and Magdalen Rhodes Scholar Richard Rive (1971).

One of our most intriguing alumni is Richard Rive, the South African novelist and short-story writer. Born in 1930 to an African-American father and ‘coloured’ mother, Rive grew up in working-class Cape Town (Rive’s Buckingham Palace, District Six discusses the community before and after the forced removals of the 1970s). His early education and teacher training was in South Africa.

Later, encouraged by Bill Johnson (Fellow 1965-95) among others, Rive came to Magdalen after his Columbia University MA to complete his DPhil on another South African author, Olive Schreiner. Rive was proud of his time at Oxford, and remembered Magdalen in his will: after his murder in 1989, the College received an important part of his library. Aside from his own novels and a sub-library of works by and about Olive Schreiner, most of the books now in Magdalen’s Richard Rive collection are presentation copies.

These many signed books are a testimony to Rive’s international reputation and to the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries. Notable among them is the well-known American writer Langston Hughes (1902–67), who was introduced to Rive’s work in 1954, when he helped judge the South African Drum magazine’s third international short-story competition. Rive won the prize for his short story “The Bench”. The two entered into a long correspondence after that, which included Hughes’s gift of his The Weary Blues signed “Especially for Richard Rive – my first book” and dated “New York, July 24, 1954”. They met nearly ten years later and that event is commemorated in a copy of Ask Your Mana, “Inscribed especially for Richard Rive, on our first meeting... London, August, 1963.”
2013 marks the 110th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarships. Archives Assistant Sean Rippington writes about Magdalen’s Rhodes Scholars over the years.

Magdalen has been inextricably linked with the Rhodes Trust throughout its history – only Balliol can boast more than the 635 Rhodes Scholars that have passed through the College.

Hoping to develop both the character and intellect of future leaders, Cecil Rhodes chose Oxford University as the home for his Scholarships, in the belief that Oxford colleges offered the best environment for personal and academic improvement. Herbert Warren, then President of Magdalen, was involved at an early stage. He lobbied for the establishment of Rhodes Professorships at the University, and although the Trust briefly funded a University Lecturer in Pathology, his idea was dropped.

In the mistaken belief that Kaiser Wilhelm II had made instruction in English a compulsory part of German education, Rhodes included provisions for five German scholarships in order to reciprocate the Kaiser’s good will. Magdalen’s experience with German Scholars was mixed. President Warren reacted angrily when the first intake arrived several weeks after the start of term. The Germans themselves complained that their Scholarships did not cover the cost of living at expensive colleges like Magdalen. Despite difficult beginnings, matters improved over time. Arguably the most notable German Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen was the Expressionist poet Ernst Stadler (1906), who retains a high reputation despite his early death. Although Rhodes had hoped that his Scholarships might develop ‘an understanding between the three great powers that will render war impossible’, the German Rhodes Scholarships were reallocated in 1914.

In 1905 William Thayer (1905) noted that a typical American Rhodes Scholar ‘retires in to the [American Club] where he reads American papers, discusses American politics, and might, indeed, just as well be back in America’. Over the years Magdalen’s American Rhodes Scholars have included film director Terrence Malick (1966), politicians such as Russ Feingold (1975) and Wesley Clark (1966), two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof (1981) and Nobel Prize-winning economist Andrew Spence (1981). Magdalen also provided a home for the first female African American Rhodes Scholar, Karen Stevenson (1979).

Magdalen’s Australian Rhodes Scholars were provided with a tough act to follow by Cecil Madigan (1911) who interrupted his Oxford studies to take part in an Antarctic expedition and fight in the First World War, returning in 1919 to take a First in Natural Sciences. Since then Magdalen’s Australian Rhodes Scholars have continued to excel in science, with two Nobel Laureates in Physiology and Medicine; John Eccles (1925) and Sir Howard Florey (1922). Florey also holds the distinction of being the only Rhodes Scholar with a memorial in Westminster Abbey.

Magdalen’s Canadian contingent have helped fulfil Rhodes’ ambition that his Scholars might become world leaders, as John Turner (1949) became Prime Minister of Canada in 1984 after serving in several Cabinet positions.

New Zealanders too have held high office, such as Baron Arthur Porritt (1923) who served as the 11th Governor-General of New Zealand from 1967-1972. New Zealand also provided the Rhodes Scholar who perhaps remained most closely associated with Magdalen: Robert Burchfield (1949), who became a Fellow of Magdalen and Lecturer in English, before working with Magdalen Librarian C.T. Onions on The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology.

The 110th Anniversary offers the opportunity for Rhodes Scholars of all ages and nationalities to return to Oxford and reflect upon their experiences. Magdalen is bound to be highly represented at all the anniversary events, and with eight Rhodes Scholars entering Magdalen in 2012, is likely to maintain its close associations with Rhodes House well into the future.

To celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarships we are holding a dinner in college for our Rhodes Scholars and their guests on the evening of 18th September 2013. If you would like further information, please contact the Development Office on +44(0)1865 276082 or email development.office@magd.ox.ac.uk.
Montek Singh Ahluwalia (1964) is currently Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and was the first Director of the Independent Evaluation Office at the IMF, as well as being an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen. Here he talks about his experiences as a Magdalen Rhodes Scholar in the 1960s.

When I applied for a Rhodes Scholarship in 1963 I was not particularly hopeful of success. With only two scholarships for all of India, the selection process was intensely competitive. My conviction that I did not have much of a chance must have made me appear completely relaxed, which is often a decisive advantage in an interview.

My first task was to choose a college. I chose Magdalen largely for non-academic reasons. The view of Magdalen Tower best captured my visual expectation of an Oxford college and the fact that it also had a deer park and was on the banks of the Cherwell seemed to settle the matter.

My first impression of Magdalen was hugely favourable. I was warmly received at the Porters’ Lodge and shown to my rooms in Cloisters. There was a spacious sitting room overlooking the New Building, a small bedroom, and an alcove containing a wooden stand with a basin and a large ceramic jug. I was told the jug would be brought in freshly filled with hot water every morning by a very dedicated “scout” who also voluntarily polished “the gentlemen’s” shoes for good measure. Coming from India, and therefore used to having domestic servants, I took no notice of this practice. It was only when an American Rhodes Scholar told me that he found this feudal practice too embarrassing and had taken to hiding his shoes to avoid it, that I came to realize that Oxford in the mid-1960s had yet to abandon practices associated with privilege.

Academically, I found my time at Oxford both challenging and rewarding. The tutorial system, allowing a highly personalised one-on-one interaction between the student and the tutor, was truly valuable. The experience varied, depending on the tutor, but on the whole it allowed us to explore issues more freely and especially encouraged independent thinking. Discussions with Keith Griffin, who taught Development Economics and later became President of Magdalen, often veered beyond the narrow confines of the subject to other more interesting issues.

The vast choice of lectures that one could attend, with no compulsion to attend any, was a real luxury compared with Delhi University, where all lectures were compulsory. It encouraged us to attend lectures other than those strictly tailored to the exams. I recall attending lectures by Sir Roy Harrod, Sir John Hicks and AJP Taylor, not because the subjects were particularly interesting but simply because they were iconic Oxford dons. It was perhaps a form of academic tourism, but it did help encourage us to savour the academic reputation of the University and even strive to live up to it.

Having debated in Delhi, I was naturally attracted to the Union and spent much time participating in Oxford Union debates. When friends told me I had a good chance of being elected President of the Union, I agonized over whether it would be a major distraction from academic pursuits. I turned to Ken Tite, my tutor in Magdalen, for his advice on whether I should pursue the Presidency of the Union or devote myself to trying for a First. Ken, exemplifying the Oxford ideal of effortless superiority, gently suggested that I could do both! I was greatly encouraged and was delighted later to have proved him right, with a congratulatory First in the bargain.

I enjoyed my years at Magdalen enormously and they certainly gave me confidence to take on new challenges. I also made many friends with whom I stayed in contact. One cannot ask for more from a University.
AN INDIAN RHODES SCHOLAR’S INSIGHT

Vrinda Bhandari (2012) is reading for the BCL at Magdalen. She writes of her experience as a current Rhodes Scholar.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS?
The Rhodes Scholarship is well known in India, especially so in academic circles. The law school I went to (National Law School of India University, Bangalore) has a rich tradition of producing Rhodes Scholars and it was there that I got a sense of the prestige associated with being designated as a Rhodes Scholar.

HOW COMPETITIVE WAS IT TO WIN A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP?
The selection process for the Indian Rhodes Scholars is very rigorous. Around 500 applicants apply for five places and unlike other countries; we do not have any district/State quota. The first round is the written application. Based on this, regional short-lists are made, with interviews being held in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata. The second round comprises a 20-minute interview with the Secretary of the Rhodes Trust and three to four panellists. This leads to a further shortlist and in my year, 19 applicants were selected to go to Mumbai for the final interview.

My interview was very challenging and I was questioned extensively on my area of interest (access to justice), the work I had done, the state of the Indian legal system and my sporting achievements, with the results being declared on the same day. I felt extremely privileged to win the Scholarship, especially since all the applicants were very talented and deserving.

WHAT WERE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF MAGDALEN?
I do not think words can adequately describe my first impressions of Magdalen. I was awestruck by the sheer beauty of Magdalen, its size and magnificence and the history surrounding the College. My first two weeks passed in a blur with the MCR arranging a range of Freshers’ activities and sporting events, and the College arranging various academic and library inductions, all of which culminated with Matriculation. I still remember walking down Addison’s Walk to go to Hall and stopping to stare at the deer or the Bell Tower and pinching myself to make sure that this was not a dream and that I was actually studying in such a beautiful place.

HOW DID YOU EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER EXPERIENCE AT MAGDALEN COMPARE WITH WHAT YOU HAD EXPERIENCED PREVIOUSLY?
Magdalen has a stellar reputation for producing some of the best lawyers in the Commonwealth and after coming here, I can understand why. It stems from having an institutional ethos of excellence, dedication, collaboration and support. This manifests itself in different ways; whether in the presence of eminent academics, the high calibre of students accepted and even the ever-friendly MCR and Welfare Committees. Seemingly small matters such as library and travel grants and Blues awards have gone a long way in facilitating my studies and providing me with the requisite support. Furthermore, events like the High Table Dinner or visiting the Old Library at the President’s Lodgings have made me feel proud to be part of such a rich Magdalen tradition and have been central to making my experience thoroughly enjoyable, distinct and memorable.

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A RHODES SCHOLAR AT MAGDALEN WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE?
I think being a Rhodes Scholar from Magdalen will prove very helpful in the future in my professional life, whether I decide to work in government or at the Bar. Both Magdalen and Rhodes command a lot of respect in India and I hope to use the alumni networks to establish professional contacts with people working broadly on legal sector reform, social justice and policy issues. On the personal front, during my short stay at Magdalen, I have already made some amazing friends and hope to remain in contact with them for the rest of my life.

I do not think words can adequately describe my first impressions of Magdalen. I was awestruck by the sheer beauty of Magdalen, its size and magnificence and the history surrounding the College.
Claire Shepherd, the Head Gardener, describes life in the gardening team at Magdalen.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN YOUR TEAM AND WHAT ARE THEIR ROLES?
The team is made up of seven: a Head Gardener, a Deputy Head, four qualified gardeners and an apprentice. Mix these together and you have a dynamic and skilled work force!

WHAT IS THE REMIT OF YOUR TEAM’S WORK?
Our main responsibilities are to maintain, improve and protect the historical grounds and environment. The grounds are made up of different areas: the formal gardens, the Walks (including the Fellows’ Garden, Deer Park and Fritillary Meadow), Holywell Ford, the smaller outlying gardens, and the Lasker Rose Garden. Each area requires a different approach, different skills and knowledge. Working in the gardens and grounds at Magdalen is a diverse and challenging experience.

DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY
We start the day at 8am, take half an hour’s lunch and finish the day at 4.30pm. The work varies depending on the time of year, for instance in the summer Monday is normally taken up with mowing and edging the College lawns which equate to over 9,000m². The lawns are mown using several different types of mower. The finer grass is cut with cylinder mowers and the rest is mown with rotary mowers. It takes the whole department a day to complete this task. The summer months also keep the department busy with weeding, pruning, hedge cutting, strimming and general maintenance tasks.

Summer is also the time when the College deer have their fawns. It is the responsibility of the department to keep an eye on the deer herd and make sure that all is well. It has been
known for fawns to slip through the fence and end up in need of rescuing and returning to their mothers in the park.

Autumn brings the task of tidying away for winter, for example leaf raking, cutting down and dividing perennials, forking over beds and pruning roses. Autumn is an important time for lawn maintenance, scarifying, aerating and fertilizing – if this is not done now then next season’s turf will suffer. The amount of work required will depend on the summer’s events and weather conditions. It is also a time to reflect on the success of the summer, question what we did well and how we can improve next year.

Winter months see us repairing paths, fences, and coppicing hazel to be used for staking the herbaceous border the following spring, snow clearing, and deer catching. It is also an important time to start planning for the next year.

Spring is a busy time for the garden team; this is a crucial time when preparation for the summer season is in full swing. Pruning, fertilizing, pest control, weeding, mulching and planting out summer bedding are to name a few tasks.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PARTS OF THE JOB?
My favourite part of the job is working in an amazing environment. I walk down Addison’s Walk early morning just before my day starts, I see so much wildlife – if I’m lucky I’ll catch a glimpse of the beautiful kingfisher, I glance over to the College deer herd then walk past the amazing herbaceous border, the sun on my face, knowing I can spend all day tending to this wonderful garden. I never know exactly how my day will be. What more could anybody want?

WHAT ARE YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE PARTS OF THE JOB?
Clearing up other people’s mess and repairing accidental damage.

IN SUMMARY...
Every day is different, every year brings something new. It’s all a memorable experience.
JCR CHARITIES TEAM

The Magdalen JCR Charities team has had a really fantastic year and we have managed to raise over £10,000 for the two elected JCR Charities:

- **New Foundations** is an international charity that is committed to providing primary health care to rural regions of the Niger Delta, helping over 400 people a month receive lifesaving medical treatment.
- **Papyrus UK** is a national charity that works to prevent suicide in young people across the country. They provide support for individuals contemplating suicide and those closest to them in order to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

Throughout the year we organised a number of highly successful events in order to raise money for these causes, including an auction of promises, selling roses for Valentine’s Day, an Easter egg hunt, mulled wine on Bonfire Night and the ever enjoyable fortnightly pub quizzes.

Whilst challenging at times it has been a very worthwhile experience that has proved to be not only fruitful but a lot of fun as well. All members of the JCR enthusiastically took part in these events and as a result helped us reach our impressive total, which will go a long way in helping these two charities continue their amazing work.

Jessica Day (2010)

THE OXFORD CONSORT

The Oxford Consort, a chamber a capella group, was formed in Michaelmas 2012 by Nick Graham, a first year music student and organ scholar at Hertford College.

His idea was to bring together musically-minded first years from around the University, and the group is comprised of eleven first years, the majority of whom are music students. In terms of college distribution, Magdalen has the most members in the group with four members of the Consort. We gave our first public performance in Magdalen College Antechapel in November and the recital – a mixture of sacred and secular Christmas music – was a great success. Our new focus is Motets and Motown, combining the eclectic musical tastes of our members and encompassing the topical aspects of the first year music course. Last term we had concerts at Magdalen College, Hertford College and the Holywell Music Room. The Oxford Consort is still a very new group and we are keen to get involved with many other ensembles and organisations. If you would be interested in hearing us in action, please connect with us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/TheOxfordConsort) where we will be advertising future events and posting links to our recital recordings.

OxTweet is an initiative that uses Twitter to document the lives of Oxford students for the benefit of potential applicants and curious members of the public. Its objective is to improve Oxford access and change the perception of the University to be more in line with reality, rather than the myths that populate the media.

Using the #OxTweet hashtag, students have been sharing information that can’t be found in any formal publications. The project has seen an immediate response, especially as followers are actively encouraged to ask questions about all aspects of life at the University. GCSE and A-Level pupils can now speak one-on-one with real students whose only agenda is to let people know that, really, Oxford is a great place for those who love their subject, regardless of background.

Jamie Miles (2011)

Jessica Day (2010)
SINGING IN THE RAIN

Senior Academical Clerk Will Pate (2011) talks about life in the College Choir

When I first started singing as a treble in my local church choir, I had no idea that ten years later I would be singing in ‘the back row’ as an Academical Clerk at Magdalen College, Oxford. I continued to sing in my school choir after my voice broke, and it was my school’s Head of Music who suggested that I audition for a choral scholarship at Magdalen when I chose to apply to Oxford. It was a daunting audition. As a child I had been in the crowds around Magdalen tower on May Morning; as an applicant I was aware of some of the incredible musicians who are Magdalen alumni. I was ecstatic when I was offered a choral scholarship with my place to read French.

Singing on the top of the tower on a May morning, despite the cold and rain, is one of the best moments I’ve had during my time at Oxford. Though it can be a challenge to juggle singing six services a week with academic work and other commitments, it can also be very useful to break away for a couple of hours to sing in the Chapel before returning to study feeling more motivated and relaxed. All of the clerks get a great deal of satisfaction from being part of Magdalen’s 500-year-old choral tradition, and from seeing the fruits of our labours during term in the CD recordings, concerts and tours that we have the privilege to undertake during vacations.

With the Choir’s live Hilary term broadcast on BBC Radio 3 with the Orchestra of The Sixteen, a performance of Bach’s St John Passion at Easter, it’s this unique Magdalen choral experience that prepares and encourages me to pursue a professional singing career after my time here.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE CHOIR: ARCHIVE RECORDINGS 1906–1960

Donald Tyson (1956) explains how the new CD of archive recordings of the Magdalen College Choir came about.

The aim of this new CD is to help preserve early recordings by Magdalen College Choir, and to make them more widely accessible. Many of these recordings are of great historical interest, but were until recently in danger of being lost for ever.

Compiling an archive CD is a very different matter from recording a new CD from scratch, though the task is no less fascinating. One has first to discover exactly what has been recorded, whether any copies have survived and where they are, and whether they can be restored and digitized. There may also be copyright issues to resolve. One is dealing not only with long-since deleted commercial 78s and LPs, but also with privately made 78s, LPs, and tape-recordings. This CD includes two pieces recorded over a century ago by John Lomas, a Magdalen lay-clerk for 40 years, and two carols recorded in 1907 by four Magdalen academical clerks.

Luck also plays its part. In 1958-59 I made a series of tape-recordings of the Choir and I was almost certainly the first person to do so. A few recordings from my undergraduate days have rather miraculously survived despite five decades of storage in garages and garden sheds, and the new CD includes the best of these. I also managed to track down to a cellar in Italy one surviving copy of Sumsion in G, privately recorded in 1957 and probably the first ever recording of the Choir in the Chapel. The CD also includes a fragment recorded on the Tower on May Day 1931, parts of the first two Choral Evensong broadcasts, in 1959 and 1960, and a short introductory talk by John Betjeman.

Copies are on sale at £10 each (plus postage) from the College Bursary, OX1 4AU, tel: 01865 276052, Email: marilyn.evans@magd.ox.ac.uk. They are being sold in aid of the Choir Fund and the Student Support Fund.

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MEMORIES OF MAGDALEN

Last year, we invited Old Members to submit their favourite photos of the College and received a wide variety of fascinating glimpses into the life at Magdalen and those who have studied here over the years. We are very grateful to everyone who sent in their stories and photographs and hope that you enjoy this selection of memories from Magdalen over the years.

Photographs taken by Bryan Robson (1956)

Both these photographs date from 1958. One is of the May Morning (now defunct) choristers’ punt race – decani versus cantori. It made no matter whether you lost or won: the boys threw you in anyway. The other photo features a relaxed Dudley Moore (1955) beside counter-tenor Donald Clift (1956).

Photograph taken by Joe Gattas (2010).

Photo taken by Julian Alington (1951)

This photo was taken at the Bump Supper held in College in 1954, to celebrate the success of the Magdalen 1st VIII going Head that year. The principal character in the photograph is Karl Leyser, Senior Dean of Arts. He was nearly, but not actually, thrown on the bonfire. He later fined several of the boat club half a crown for unruly behaviour.
College Surveyor Robert Langley describes some key works that have taken place in College over the past year.

Conservation work in Cloisters

This year, a proposal was put forward to lime-wash the walls and conserve the stonework of the walls in Cloisters.

Lime-washing

The first step was to sample and analyse the paint on the walls. For most of its decorative history the walls have been repeatedly lime-washed, however, at some point after 1920 modern paint was used. We removed the modern paint using an acrylic paint remover. The lime wash chosen was a yellow ochre pigment to best match the existing colour. An average of six coats were applied to the walls.

Stonework cleaning

Centuries of surface dirt and carbonation were removed from the undecorated stone and window tracery using gels, an acid additive and poultices. After a couple of days the poultice was removed and the stone surface brushed and sponged with water.

Carved panels

The carved decorative panels and heraldic badges were covered in surface dirt and suffered from surface delamination and obscuring of the painted surfaces. These are particularly fine carvings and the details on them required consolidation with fine lime water before being repaired with lime mortar due to the friable nature of the stone.

Minor stone repairs

On the whole the stonework was in good condition though there are areas of damage to the passageways. These were repaired with lime mortar. There were also some stone indent repairs to the window tracery and mullions.

Other decorative items

The decorative painted and gilded numbers over the staircases were restored using acrylic paints including burnt sienna, raw umber and Schwarz black paints, and gilded with 23½ carat transfer gold leaf.

Repairing the windows of New Building

These fine oak sash windows were last renovated in the 1980s, and were in need of a major overhaul. The windows to the south elevation overlooking the lawn required the most repairs and formed a package of work that could be undertaken in a long vacation. In view of the Grade I listing of the building, there were several unusual steps that had to be taken:

- Broken glass panes were replaced with ‘cylinder glass’, a form of hand-blown glass which is contemporaneous with the age of the building.
- Structural timber repairs to the sash rails, stiles and glazing bars were carried out using selected European Oak.
- The new timber members were cut to the exact profiles of the existing members to be replaced.
- The majority of the programme was decorating – four coats of stain were applied externally and internally.
- The sashes were rebated and ‘hidden’ draught strips fitted.
- New sash lifts and fasteners were fitted to the majority of the windows.
- The new anti-glare blinds were designed to ‘disappear’ when rolled to the top of the window.

The windows were either repaired in situ or removed, replaced with a ‘dummy sash’ and repaired in the College workshop.

Restoring the river banks

Significant bank erosion has occurred in the Fellows’ Garden and Bat Willow Meadow. Left unchecked, this would threaten the stability of the trees and paths. With the assistance of the Head Gardener, there is now in place a rolling programme of bank restoration works. The banks have been shored using a combination of interlocking trench sheets and weld mesh panels, which sit below the water level and are vegetated.

The project faced a number of challenges. Firstly, our proposals needed to improve biodiversity and we achieved this through the introduction of pre established coir rolls, edge sods and wild flower berms. Secondly, the vicinity of the trees to the banks necessitated undertaking the piling works from a pontoon floating on the water.
Mark Smith (1984), founder of award-winning train travel website The Man in Seat 61, talks about the unexpected turn in his career.

Way back in 1987, I ran away from Magdalen to join the circus. Or as we used to call it in those days, British Rail. It seemed that surviving 24 hours in Watford (such was the selection process) had gained me one of 30 annual places on the British Rail Management Training Scheme, and there followed 18 months of exploring the network from freight to InterCity, signalling to catering. It’s a decision I’ve never regretted, it’s an amazing industry to work for even though today’s railway is very different from the company I joined. I became the station manager for Charing Cross and London Bridge in the early 1990s, a customer relations manager post-privatisation, and finally the head of the small team at the Department for Transport regulating rail fares, ticketing and National Rail Enquiries. At the DfT, I had a front seat view of the industry buffering up to Politics with a capital P. In fact, literally a front seat at times, sitting next to the Minister facing questioning by the Transport Select Committee, or in the Officials’ Box in the House of Commons.

But in 2001, my career took an unexpected turn, not that I realised it at the time. Lacking anything to read on the commuter train home, I wandered into WHSmiths and bought a ‘teach yourself’ magazine on html, the language in which websites are written. In retrospect, possibly the best £2.95 I’ve ever spent. I soon had a webpage online, initially one page showing train times and fares from London to a range of European cities. It had been (and in many ways, still is) a bugbear of mine that it’s so easy, practical and affordable to travel by train to Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and so on, yet in today’s airline-obsessed world it is so difficult, if not downright impossible, to find anyone in the commercial world who will tell you how to do it. That first page was a cry in the wilderness - I never truly expected anyone to find it or use it. But a webpage rapidly became a website, and in May 2011, much to my surprise, seat61.com was the Guardian’s Travel Website of the Week. Visitor numbers soon started to climb, as this was clearly something people wanted and couldn’t get elsewhere. I discovered ‘affiliate schemes’ where online retailers pay a few percent commission for referrals to their site. Amazon run such a scheme, and within weeks I’d earned twenty quid. Great, I thought. A hobby that buys me a curry and a beer. By late 2007 it was buying me quite a lot of curry. When I was earning more on my laptop on the train to work than I was when I got there, I decided I should run the website full-time. Which is just as well, because seat61 has become something of a monster to maintain as it now covers train, ferry and connecting bus travel not just in Europe but in all the most-visited countries worldwide. It’s won several awards, most recently pipping Trip Advisor at the post as Daily Telegraph readers’ Favourite Travel Website 2012. Much as I hate the term, it’s become a ‘lifestyle’ business that has allowed me to cease commuting to watch my young children grow up. It certainly beats real work. Was it Confucius who said, “Give a man a job he loves and he’ll never have to work a day in his life again”? www.seat61.com
My wife, Kate and I and our children, Thomas and Bea, all really enjoyed our first Magdalen alumni event as a family – a guided tour around the west part of Highgate Cemetery in the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth.

Instructions issued in advance were clear and sensible: “Wear sturdy footwear and clothes suitable for the occasion”. Good advice for a damp October Saturday afternoon and heeded by most, but not all those alumni attending.

There was an excellent turn-out - several dozen members and a broad range of matriculation years (1953 to 2005) and a much broader range of ages attended. Quite a few members brought guests. I’m not sure how many were regular participants in alumni events, but we certainly weren’t the only ones for whom, at least as a family, this was a first. On arrival we enjoyed a hot cup of tea and, then the tour got going. We were led through the trees and ivy-clad tomb stones past the graves of well-known and other, less well-known or forgotten, Victorians.

A few of us held back as we passed the back of a spectacular modern house that seems to sit half above and half in the cemetery (85 Swains Lane) before catching up to see the grand catacombs, the Egyptian Avenue and the Circle of Lebanon.

Charles Dickens himself is buried in Westminster Abbey, but many of his family, friends and associates were buried in Highgate cemetery – John and Elizabeth (Charles’ parents), Catherine (his wife), Frances (his sister) Alfred (his brother) and Dora (his daughter).

Each time we stopped, we learnt of key episodes and inspirations from the expert and engaging guide – about Dickens’ life... interspersed with much information about others buried in the cemetery too.

...then went on to Nick Sayers’ (1978) nearby house where Nick and his wife Yvonne hosted a reception and Magdalen Fellow in English, Dr Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, gave a short talk and signed copies of his new book Becoming Dickens: The Invention of a Novelist.

We look forward to our next Magdalen event – with children.

Alex Chadwick (1985)
ANNUAL LONDON DRINKS RECEPTION

The London Drinks Reception was held on 15th October at the Rocket Restaurant Bishopsgate, with more than 250 attendees spanning 65 matriculation years.

Various renovation has made the City streets as deceptive as the Hampton Court maze, but with only a few false starts and a smiling security check, I was admitted to a pleasure dome where the madding crowd of Magdalenses browsed and sluiced on excellent champagne and lavish canapés. Generation and gender gaps were easily bridged by brief encounters with old friends, and fresh encounters with new. The President gave a state of the College speech and sent us, encouraged by his tales of College triumph, happily on our way. Luke Johnson (1980), the generous host, has funded such occasions for a number of years. To my regret I had never been before. I shall not make that mistake again. Michael J Beloff QC (1960)

NEW YORK RECEPTION

Over 50 Magdalen Members and guests gathered at America’s oldest and largest society for bibliophiles, The Grolier Club, in Manhattan on Saturday 17th November 2012.

The venue provided the perfect backdrop for a talk by one of our English Fellows, Dr Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, on Charles Dickens, the subject of Robert’s 2011 prize-winning book Becoming Dickens. Magdalen’s Fellow Librarian, Dr Christine Ferdinand, provided an update on the College’s plans for the redevelopment of the New Library and the evening ended with a reception hosted by the President and Mrs Clary. With the Magdalen Society having elected three new Committee members based in North America – Michael Drexler (1993) and Andrew Klaber (2004) in New York, and Shaan Gandhi (2007) in Boston – we look forward to more regular opportunities for Magdalen alumni to engage with each other and the College.

INAUGURAL BENEFACTORS’ GAUDY

On Saturday 29th September 2013 the College held its’ first Benefactors’ Gaudy in Hall, attended by 76 of Magdalen’s major benefactors, guests and Fellows. The black-tie event was held as part of the College’s new programme to recognise and celebrate the important role played by philanthropy in shaping the College into the world-class centre of academic excellence that it has become. Benefactors were encouraged to bring a guest or guest couple to the event, providing the opportunity to extend Magdalen’s welcome beyond our immediate community.

During the afternoon Fellow in English, Dr Robert Douglas-Fairhurst gave a highly entertaining talk on ‘Why Dickens?’ in celebration of Dickens’ 200th birthday. This was followed by a private view in the Old Library on the theme ‘Magdalena Depicta: Architecture and the College’, hosted by the College’s Fellow Librarian Dr Christine Ferdinand. Later members and their guests assembled for a champagne reception in Cloisters, followed by a splendid banquet in Hall which began with a glorious sung Grace and ended with rousing speeches and toasts from the President and Magdalen’s Campaign Chair, Dr Paul Beckwith (1979).

If you would like to receive information about the Benefactors’ Recognition Programme please contact Dr Marilyn Bowler in the Development Office, marilyn.bowler@magd.ox.ac.uk or tel +44 (0) 1865 286682.
THE 2012 season was another successful one, even in weather terms as we managed to play four of our six fixtures in a summer when there was so much rain. Our final match victory against Suffolk Swans on an absolutely beautiful late July afternoon reminded us why the pilgrimage back to Marston Road is such a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. You can’t beat clean bowling the opposition’s last man with the final ball of the season, especially when it was also the final ball of the last twenty overs in this match! We remained undefeated, achieving two draws and two wins, and played a lot of good cricket with a pleasing balance of youth and experience. No less than twenty-nine former or present members of the College participated as players or umpires, including seven taking part for the first time.

We are always pleased to introduce new players, even if they can only play a single match. Anyone interested should contact John Claydon at johnandgillclaydon@hotmail.com.

John Claydon (1968)

MAGDALEN GOLF DAY

Members are invited to this year’s Magdalen golf day at The Springs near Wallingford on 6th September.

David Rutherford (1956) will be defending his title, having edged out Andrew Mawby (1962) in 2012 at Oxford golf club. You don’t have to be a low handicap golfer to take part in this friendly gathering. On the team front, Magdalen is represented at the annual Oxford inter-collegiate golf event and plans are being made to hold a match against a Cambridge college. If you are interested in joining our alumni golf activities, please contact Andrew Doherty: andrewdoherty09@btinternet.com.

Andrew Doherty (1977)


FOOTBALL

Magdalen College Old Boys FC are currently in their fourth season of existence and life couldn’t be better.

After struggling last season, a summer reshuffle saw the ignominious exit of old boy financier Jeniv Shah (2004) and amateur poet Jon Siah (2005) due to the desperate need for a change of direction. Alex Canfor-Dumas (2006) and Daniel Thompson (2005) stepped into this void and their refreshing new approach has led Magdalen to six wins out of their last six games, including an impressive 3-0 victory against the current Magdalen crop. Any old boys who still possess the passion please get in touch with Dan Thompson:

danielroanthompson@gmail.com

PUDDING

元老们聚在一起，享受着他们的时光。

Suggestions welcome for new ideas. Please contact John Claydon at johnandgillclaydon@hotmail.com.

John Claydon (1968)

WITHERED LILIES OLD BOYS’ CRICKET

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John Claydon (1968)
50 years after the death of Magdalen Fellow C.S. Lewis, Donald Whittle (1943) reminisces about his time as a student of his at Magdalen.

I went up to Magdalen in January 1943 having been awarded an Exhibition in Modern History in the examinations held over New Year. I was just 17 and had decided to take up my place for 12 months before being called up for the Forces.

I was the product of a Methodist manse and a Lancashire grammar school and it was my first time away from home. My parents were anxious that I should not ‘get into the wrong set’ and were very relieved when I pointed out that C.S. Lewis was a Magdalen don and indeed it turned out that his rooms were on the next staircase to mine in New Building.

In the term before I went up Lewis was giving weekly broadcast talks on religion and in particular his conversion to Christianity. My father had impressed on me what a good man he must be, and I had formed a mental image of an ascetic, devout character who was bound to be teetotal (for as a Methodist I had been brought up to view alcohol with horror).

I was very excited therefore to receive an invitation at the end of my first week from Lewis himself. I was asked to go to his rooms after Hall to discuss firewatching arrangements in the College. As I got near the door I could hear a certain amount of laughter and was amazed to be greeted by CSL – ruddy of complexion, smoking his Wills Gold Flake, in a Harris Tweed jacket, downing a pint of beer. In the corner of the room were two barrels – for beer and cider. My diary for that day records: ‘He offered me three glasses of beer. Jolly decent chap.’ I began to realise that my picture of the world would need to be adjusted.

During that first year my history tutorials were with Alan Taylor, but it was decided that in the Michaelmas term the Historians should also take the Political Science paper and we were assigned to Lewis for weekly tutorials. The set texts were Hobbes’ Leviathan, Aristotle’s Politics, with Rousseau in the original French. Presumably CSL had been asked to supervise History students for this paper in addition to his normal English teaching load. I had a joint tutorial with another historian and we read our essays out in the usual way. Lewis chain smoked throughout the hour but was an affable and helpful tutor. I remember that I once tried to argue that I understood the working class since I came from that background but he pointed out that a son of the manse was indubitably bourgeois.

When I returned to Magdalen in 1947 there was a thriving college Christian Fellowship, chaired by the Dean of Divinity, Patrick Thompson and CSL was a regular member. We met weekly after Hall and the meeting was followed by prayers in the Chapel led by one of the group. In my diary I recorded that we held our annual dinner on 30th January 1949 with a paper by Lewis on ‘Punishment – or Cure?’ The previous term he had read a fascinating paper on ‘Why are we here?’ in which he spoke of ‘the cosmic dance’. And it was during this period that Lewis was involved with the Socratic Club and had his famous encounter with Elizabeth Anscombe over his views on ‘Miracles’, though I wasn’t present at that particular meeting.

Look out for our C.S. Lewis anniversary event in College on 23rd November, with guest speaker former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.
'My time at Magdalen was amazing, giving me new perspectives and ideas which have shaped my thinking ever since. I benefited so much from the community, the facilities and the opportunities I received. I hope that my small gesture will help ensure that others can discover the joys of Magdalen in years to come.'

Penny Hill, 1999

For more information about including Magdalen in your Will, or if you would like to discuss in confidence, without obligation, how a gift in your Will can benefit Magdalen and its students please contact Marilyn Bowler in the College’s Development Office.
Tel: +44 (0)1865 286682
Email: marilyn.bowler@magd.ox.ac.uk

Make a gift to Magdalen in Your Will
– Invest in Academic Excellence
UPCOMING EVENTS

2013

18 September
110th Anniversary of the Rhodes Scholarships – Dinner in College to honour the Magdalen Rhodes Scholars.

20 – 22 September
Oxford University Annual Alumni Weekend.

21 September
Magdalen Society AGM and Annual Alumni Dinner (50th Anniversary for matriculation year 1963).

28 September
Year Gaudy for matriculation years 2003-2004.

25 October

23 November
Lectures and Dinner in Hall to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the death of CS Lewis.

7 – 8 December
Carols by Candlelight in the Chapel – please apply to Jacky Barratt for tickets on +44 (0)1865 286701 or jacky.barratt@magd.ox.ac.uk

2014

15 February
Scholarships and Bursaries Lunch & Annual Fund Event in College.

21-23 March
Oxford University Asian Reunion, Hong Kong.

22 March
Dinner for Magdalen members in Hong Kong.

31st May
Fastolf Lunch in College for Legators to Magdalen.

5th July
Year Gaudy for matriculation years 2005-06.

27th September
Year Gaudy for Matriculation years 1996-98.

Photographs: Jaani Riordan.

St Mary Magdalen Lodge
The St Mary Magdalen Masonic Lodge was set up in 1874 and is open to members of Magdalen College. Its members meet in London three times a year and would be delighted to hear from any students or alumni of the College interested to find out more. For further information, please contact Bob Calderan on calderan@totalise.co.uk