Professor Sir David Clary looks back on 15 years as President of Magdalen College
When the fritillaries went over in April, they were replaced with buttercups and clouds of frothy white cow parsley.
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Thank you to the alumni, students, Fellows, and staff who contributed to this issue of Floreat Magdalena.

The opinions expressed in Floreat Magdalena are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of Magdalen College.

Magdalen College. Registered charity number 1142149
The big picture

Benjamin Fitkov-Norris (2017) is a third-year Biological Sciences student and winner of the Magdalen College Photography Competition. You can see more of his wonderful work on his Instagram account: magdalen.wildlife
This has been one of the most extraordinary terms the College has ever had. Most students, tutors and staff are working remotely. Lectures, tutorials, classes, collections and examinations are continuing in an online format. The indication from our undergraduates is that the adaptations have gone quite well and recorded lectures, in particular, have been welcomed. However, it has been challenging for some of our graduate students who have not been able to use the laboratories, libraries and archives which are central to their research work and projects. The College is determined to make sure no student is seriously disadvantaged financially by the pandemic.

I know our students are missing the social interactions that are so important to College life. Dining, sports, music, plays and other activities have always been prominent at Magdalen as are the special events like May Morning, the Commemoration Ball, the Annual Play and Eights Week. Our finalists have been hit particularly hard as they will not have the unique opportunity to celebrate together the completion of their degrees in the summer glory of the College.

This is my last term as President of this wonderful College. Many events had been organised throughout the world for me to meet our alumni for the last time as President. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to cancel these meetings but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your friendship and tremendous support you have given during my time as President. This Floreat gives an interview that enables me to provide some very happy reflections over the last 15 years.

I will be handing over the Presidency on September 1 to Dinah Rose QC. She has told me she is much looking forward to meeting our students and alumni. I know you will all give Dinah the tremendous support I have received during my time as President.

Before the current coronavirus crisis, the College had experienced many major challenges in its great 562 year history including several previous epidemics, a civil war, two world wars and the expulsion of the President and Fellows by James II. However, Magdalen is a proud and resilient college which always emerges wiser and stronger after a crisis. I am sure this will be the case in 2020.

Floreat Magdalena!

Professor Sir David Clary FRS
President of Magdalen College

Dinah Rose elected next President
Magdalen College has appointed alumna Dinah Rose QC (1984) as its next President. She will take up office in September 2020 as successor to Professor Sir David Clary FRS, who will have completed 15 years of distinguished service as President of the College.

Dinah Rose will be the 43rd President of the College since its foundation in 1458, and the first woman to hold the post.

Dinah Rose is a barrister and member of Blackstone Chambers. She has appeared in many of the leading cases in the fields of public law, human rights, employment law, and competition law over the past thirty years. As an undergraduate, she studied Modern History at Magdalen College and was awarded First Class Honours in 1987. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2006, and was named Barrister of the Year in The Lawyer Awards 2009.

Dinah said, “It is a great pleasure and privilege to be returning to Magdalen, where I spent three happy and unforgettable years as a student. I am determined to do all in my power to ensure that Magdalen is as accessible and inclusive as it is exceptional.”
Thank you!

We recently sent an anonymous survey to members of the Magdalen community to collect your thoughts on the College and the work of the Development Office. Thank you to everyone who completed it. Here’s what you said:

Number who responded: **1257**

Percentage who responded: **17%**

Positive or very positive current association with Magdalen: **88%**

Positive or very positive association when they were at Magdalen: **75%**

Percentage who had attended a Magdalen event: **72%**

Percentage who had made a gift to Magdalen in the past year: **85%**

Percentage who give to charity: **85%**

Your view

Of those who have made a gift to Magdalen, people are most interested in:

1. Student Support 448
2. College’s Greatest Need 325
3. Access & Outreach 288
4. Buildings & Grounds 257

Your comments

“I really enjoyed a dinner in Hall with the student who is benefiting from my regular gift, connecting us to current students in our subject is very enjoyable.”

“I enjoy the donor calendar, it connects me back to College all year round. I always have it in my office.”

“I am pleased to be able to give back. It was a privilege and honour to study at Magdalen.”

“I feel very connected to the College, which gives me great satisfaction.”

“I’m currently a mentor on your BAME access to Parliament initiative [see page 38] and it’s one of the most exciting mentoring opportunities I’ve been involved in (and I do a lot of mentoring!). It feels truly meaningful in every sense and I’m proud to be associated with it - and that it’s Magdalen leading the way on this.”

Online romance

On Valentine’s Day we asked on Facebook…did you meet at Magdalen?

Not ‘at’ but ‘because of’...Donna Greschner (1981) and I met a few years after we’d graduated (she several years after me), discovering we’d lived in the same Daubeny flat. Today we’re celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

Alan McHughen (1976)

I met Christoph Erben when he moved across from St Hugh’s in 2003 to do his DPhil. I was staying on to do my MSt and we were put in Rose Lane together. We actually got together working on the MCR bar for Valentines cocktails, and now we are married and have two daughters.

Emily Stamoulis (2000)


Kim Crisp (1988)

Not only did I meet my now husband Paul King (2006) at Magdalen over 10 years ago, we still have the most amazing group of [Magdalen] friends, who we see regularly.

Of that group, there are two other married couples who met at Magdalen too!

Philippa King (2006)
Fellows’ news

Constantin Coussios elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering
Magdalen Fellow in Engineering Science Professor Constantin Coussios has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng) in recognition of his outstanding and continuing contributions to biomedical engineering.

As well as being Professorial Fellow of Engineering Science, Constantin holds the first Statutory Chair in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Oxford, is the Director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, and a co-founder of spin-outs OrganOx, OxSonics, and OrthoSon.

Since 1997 he has led all engineering aspects of the development of the world’s first normothermic perfusion device for improved liver preservation: the ‘metra’.

The ‘metra’ enables the preservation of organs in a functioning state for up to 24 hours, twice as long as conventional cold storage, and is currently used in all seven liver transplant centres in the UK, as well as in 10 other countries across four continents.

“The boundaries of what engineering is and what it can be are being redrawn,” said Constantin. “It is therefore wonderful to receive such recognition from the RAEng for science carried out at the interface between technology, biology and medicine.”

Clare Harris and Laurence Brockliss elected Fellows of the British Academy
We are delighted to announce that Professor Clare Harris, Tutorial Fellow in Anthropology, and Professor Laurence Brockliss, Emeritus Fellow in Modern History, have been elected Fellows of the British Academy (FBA).

The British Academy is a fellowship of around leading national and international academics elected for their distinction in the humanities and social sciences.

Clare Harris is Professor of Visual Anthropology at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, and Curator for Asian Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum. Her work engages with anthropology, art history, and critical museology. In her analyses of art, photography, museums, collections histories, colonial and post-colonial constructions of knowledge, and the politics of representation, she has pioneered new approaches to the study of Tibet, past and present. Clare is also internationally recognised for her collaborations with Tibetan artists, innovative exhibitions, digital projects, and award-winning publications.

Laurence Brockliss was our Tutorial Fellow in Modern History from 1984 until 2017. He is one of the leading cultural historians of early modern Europe. He engages with a number of different disciplines: intellectual history, history of medicine, history of science, history of education, history of childhood, and social history more generally.

Jeremias Adams-Prassl honoured in Recognition of Distinction
Congratulations to Magdalen Fellow Jeremias Adams-Prassl who has been awarded the title of Professor of Law in this year’s University of Oxford Recognition of Distinction awards.

Professor Adams-Prassl was also awarded the prestigious St Petersburg International Legal Forum Prize (SPBILF) earlier this year for his book Humans as a Service: The Promise and Perils of Work in the Gig Economy.

The prize was conferred by the Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, in the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

The SPBILF Private Law Prize was established in 2017 to reward global excellence in legal thought, and is judged by a committee of world-class academics who have informed generations of lawyers.
Sir Peter Ratcliffe wins Nobel Prize

Magdalen Fellow in Medicine Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe became Magdalen’s tenth Nobel Prize winner when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine last year.

Sir Peter jointly won the award along with William Kaelin Jr of Harvard University, and Gregg Semenza of Johns Hopkins University for discovering how cells use oxygen to burn fuel and help the body maintain and grow new tissues.

Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe is currently Director of the Target Discovery Institute at Oxford University and Director of Clinical Research at the Francis Crick Institute in London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences and is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the 2014 New Year’s Honours List, he was knighted for services to clinical medicine.

“I’m touched by the good wishes I received from the College and so many others,” said Sir Peter. “The work of course belongs to the laboratory and there were many, many people who contributed. But at a personal level the experience has been remarkable. As of October 7th 2019 even my children think I have something to say. Quite surreal.”

Professor Sir David Clary, President of Magdalen, said, “The College is truly proud and delighted with the announcement of the Nobel Prize to Sir Peter Ratcliffe, Fellow by Special Election at Magdalen. Peter established the fundamental molecular mechanism for the sensing of oxygen by cells and this has subsequently been found to be a central feature for the understanding of many diseases. This is the tenth Nobel Prize for a Magdalen member and the fifth in medicine. The College flag was flown in Peter’s honour.”

The ten Magdalen Nobel Laureates are:

- Sir Charles Sherrington 1932 – Medicine
- Dr Erwin Schrödinger 1933 – Physics
- Professor Howard (later Lord) Florey 1945 – Medicine
- Sir Robert Robinson 1947 – Chemistry
- Sir Peter Medawar 1960 – Medicine
- Sir John Eccles 1963 – Medicine
- Professor Seamus Heaney 1995 – Literature
- Professor A. Michael Spence 2001 – Economics
- Professor Sir Anthony Leggett 2003 – Physics
- Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe 2019 – Medicine
Professor Marilyn Booth wins Man Booker International Prize

Magdalen Fellow and Professor in Oriental Studies Marilyn Booth became Magdalen’s fourth Man Booker winner when she was jointly awarded the Man Booker International Prize for her translation of *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi.

The book centres on three sisters, Mayya, Asma, and Khawla, who live in al-Awafi, a village in Oman. Mayya marries after a heartbreak, Asma marries from a sense of duty, and Khawla rejects all offers while waiting for her beloved, who has emigrated to Canada. It is the story of the history and people of modern Oman told through one family’s losses and loves.

“It’s been amazing to co-win the prize with Jokha, because it has meant worldwide interest in the novel,” Professor Booth explained. “Not only has it been a national bestseller, but because of the prize, it is now being translated into at least 20 languages. Oman has not been a much-noticed centre of 20th-century literary production, although there are fine novelists there and throughout the Gulf region who are attracting increasing notice. Like every Arabic-speaking society, it has a very long history - long before it was formally a nation - as a site of poetry composition.

“This has all been serendipity: I worked with Jokha in my previous position as a professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh; she gave me a copy of the novel; I loved it, and translated it; we got support from the wonderful Anglo-Omani Society; and eventually, we found a publisher in Scotland, with the help of a wonderful literary agent. It’s been a story of collaboration and determination. Best of all, it’s a great read.

Amongst my university duties and my research work, I’m currently translating Jokha’s more recent novel, *Narinjah: Bitter Orange*, as well as Huda Barakat’s *Night Post*, winner of the ‘Arabic Booker’ last year, the International Prize for Arabic Fiction.”
The College has exhibitions open to alumni in both the Old Library and Longwall Library throughout the year, curated by academic staff and Fellows and other members of the College. Some of these exhibitions are now available online for all to enjoy.

The Flora & Fauna of Magdalen College
More than most Oxford colleges, Magdalen is home to a hugely diverse variety of plants and animals – from the famous deer herd to the occasionally glimpsed wild birds and mammals inhabiting the College’s extensive parkland. These extensive grounds, a lucky consequence of having been the first college founded outside Oxford’s old city walls, have allowed the College to play host to a long history of animal life, and maintained and wild parkland, from prize-winning pigs to enormous trees. Wander the grounds and learn some of our natural history in this online exhibition: florafauna.magd.ox.ac.uk

Fragments of Note
Most of the music that survives from medieval England is preserved in fragments of manuscripts, scraps which have been cut from the original books and used for other purposes. Magdalen College is one of the few small research libraries in the country to preserve an exceptional collection of such fragments, dating from the middle of the twelfth to the late fifteenth centuries, a collection which testifies to the developments in musical style, as well as in the production of musical books. Engage with these fragments and listen to them come to life again in this online exhibition. fragmentsofnote.magd.ox.ac.uk

The Wolsey Manuscripts
Only five years before England broke with the Roman Catholic Church, two intensely beautiful liturgical manuscripts were made for the country’s leading cleric. For Thomas Wolsey, cardinal and first minister of Henry VIII, only the best would do: the manuscripts had to be handwritten, not printed, and were to be produced by the leading artisans of his day. Over time, these books moved in and out of royal and cathedral libraries and eventually found their way back to Oxford, in Magdalen College and Christ Church. Explore the two lectionaries side-by-side and read expert commentary in this online exhibition. wolseymanuscripts.ac.uk

We are the most followed Oxford College on Instagram and Twitter. We may only be in second place when it comes to Facebook, but we have the most engaged audience. Thanks for staying in touch!
Maintaining mental wellbeing at Magdalen
Magdalen prides itself on being a supportive community for both its students and staff. The welfare and wellbeing of those who study and work here is a priority and we make every effort to ensure that everyone feels well supported.

That's why a group of Magdalen staff attended a two-day training course called Mental Health First Aid (MHFA).

“MHFA is a nationally recognised scheme designed to make sure we take first aid for mental ill-health as seriously as we do physical ill-health,” said Tutor for Equality and Diversity Professor Siân Pooley, who organised the training.

MHFA training is designed to give people practical skills in how to recognise the symptoms of mental health problems, how to provide initial help, and how to guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

Attending the course were two Porters, two Sub-Deans, four Fellows, the HR manager, and the Student Support Administrator.

“Our hope is that this knowledge will proliferate and become embedded in the culture of our College,” said Tutor for Welfare, Revd Professor Robert Gilbert.

“By increasing the number of people with a better understanding of mental health we make it more likely that someone will be there when a member of our community needs them most.”

Oscar Wilde's missing ring returned to Magdalen
Almost two decades after it was stolen from College, a ring gifted by Oscar Wilde to his close friend William Ward has made its way back to Magdalen.

The 18-carat gold band, which is shaped like a belt and buckle, was taken from College the day after the May Morning celebrations in 2002. Following initial investigations, the College feared that the ring had been melted down and would never been seen again.

“We thought it had disappeared,” said Magdalen President, Professor Sir David Clary. “So I was delighted when we heard it had been found.”

The ring was found by Arthur Brand, a Dutch expert in art recovery, with the help of commodity broker George Crump.

“We heard very strong rumours that [the ring] was linked to this theft: [the Hatton Garden jewellery raid],” said George. “I didn't think it would come back – it was impossible. And basically, lo and behold, A went to B, to C, to D, down the line.

“I was absolutely astonished. A small thing like that could have been chucked away and lost forever; a needle in a haystack.

“Oscar Wilde was one of our most gifted alumni,” said Sir David. “We are very grateful to everyone who helped bring his ring back to Magdalen College.”

The friendship ring was given as a joint gift to William Ward in 1876 by Oscar and another friend, Reginald Harding. On the outside, it bears an inscription in Greek which reads ‘Gift of love, to one who wishes love,’ and on the inside, the initials of Oscar, Reginald and William, ‘OFOFWW + RRH to WWW’. (Wilde's full name is Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.)

Oscar mentions the ring to William in a letter held in the College archive. He writes, “I am so glad that your people liked the ring, and if the Greek lines you quoted to me would fit it would be charming. Perhaps, however, our initials inside and [Greek inscription] outside would be all that would fit conveniently.”

The ring was donated to College originally at the end of the 19th Century along with letters written by William Ward. It was ceremoniously returned to Magdalen College in December by George Crump.
Remains reinterred at Magdalen

Last summer a ceremony took place at Magdalen to reinter human remains which had been discovered during renovation work in the Cloister buildings.

The remains were dated to the turn of the twelfth century when the area was a Jewish burial ground – one of the very first in England.

The ceremony was led by Rabbi Norman Solomon, and was well attended by representatives of the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee and the Oxford Jewish Congregation, as well as students, Fellows, and staff from Magdalen College and the wider University of Oxford.

Before the ceremony Pam Manix from the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee gave a brief history of the cemetery which was established on the site in 1190.

“Up until 1177 there was only one Jewish burial ground in England – in London,” she explained. “Before then people had a long journey of several days. But in 1190 the Jewish community approached the king to purchase a small part of the manor for a cemetery.

“It ran 300 feet along the road – roughly from Magdalen Bridge to where the Porters’ Lodge now stands.”

However, the cemetery only remained at the site for just over 40 years. In 1231 Henry III gave the land to the Hospital of St John and the Jewish cemetery was moved to an area across the road where the Lasker Rose Garden stands today.

Rabbi Norman Solomon began the ceremony by saying that for him the interment was more than a ‘simple act of piety’. “It is a reminder of a connection through history,” he explained.

Following the ceremony, Dr Michael Ward from the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee laid the remains in the new grave in the Cloister and attendees took turns to scatter earth into the hole.

After Kaddish, people gathered at an engraved stone that the College had set into the paving of St John’s Quad to mark the discovery. Rabbi Solomon then took the opportunity to thank the President, Professor Sir David Clary, for the cooperation of the College throughout the process of the discovery and reinterment of the ‘unknown souls’. 

Virtual May Morning

The May Morning celebrations may well have been cancelled, but the Choir of Magdalen College was determined not to let this 500-year-old Oxford tradition go unmarked.

The Choir welcomed the coming of spring this year, but the Choristers and Academical Clerks weren’t singing from the top of the Great Tower. Instead, they were singing from their homes across the country via video link.

Mark Williams, the Informator Choristarum at Magdalen worked with the 28 members of the Choir to complete new virtual renditions of the Hymnus Eucharisticus and a traditional madrigal for May Morning.

“I am glad that the members of the Choir threw themselves into it. We’re pleased that we were still able to celebrate May Morning with the Magdalen community – and with thousands of others – this year.”

Excellent examination results

It was another excellent year for Magdalen undergraduates in their final examinations. 43 out of 96 students were awarded First Class Honours. Magdalen was placed 3rd in the Norrington Table, just behind Merton and New College.

Professor Sir David Clary, President of Magdalen, said, “Many congratulations to our finalists for their excellent examination results. This was an outstanding year. I’m sure our Tutors will be delighted and they deserve to be congratulated also.”
40 years of co-ed celebrations
The sun shone as members of the Magdalen community returned to College last September to celebrate the 40th anniversary of co-education at Magdalen.

The day began in a relaxed manner with an Iyengar yoga session run by yoga teacher Kirsten Agar Ward (1984) in the Daubeny Laboratory, followed by lunch on the New Building lawns in the glorious sunshine.

Families were encouraged to attend the celebrations and there was plenty for children to enjoy, including a story workshop run by author Julia Golding (1995), a family-friendly talk on magnetism by Magdalen Fellow in Physics Dr Alexy Karenowska, and another talk on resilience by Magdalen Fellow in Experimental Psychology Professor Lucy Bowes.

After lunch attendees headed to the auditorium for a panel discussion about the experience of being a woman at Magdalen. The discussion was chaired by recent student Monica Lindsay-Perez (2018).

The panel members were: Lynn Nickerson (Clarke) (1979), who was in the first intake of female students when she did her DPhil in Chemistry at College; Lizzie Fricker, our first female Tutorial Fellow; Rosemary Wilson (2012), the first female Captain of Boats; Anna Lapwood (2013), our first female Organ Scholar; and Jodi Gardner (2011) who had two children whilst studying for a DPhil at Magdalen.

After a short break there was a second panel discussion on gender issues faced by alumnae after Magdalen. This panel was chaired by Dr Kira Allman (2010).

The panel members were: Barbara Domayne-Hayman (1980), an entrepreneur in the biotech sector; Sue Hincks (1986) President of the Girls’ School Association and Head of Bolton Girls’ School; Helen Mountfield QC (1986) President of Mansfield College and award-winning barrister; Fiona Thompson (1993) a consultant with a career in tech start-ups; and Rachel Amosu (2003) a successful singer from London, via Brazil and Portugal, who sings under the name Jesuton.

“...The sun shone [for] the 40th anniversary of co-education at Magdalen.”

After the panel discussions Rachel Amosu sang a number of songs from her latest album HOME, a reference to an essay question she had been set by her Tutor at Magdalen and Fellow in Anthropology, Professor Clare Harris, who was in the audience to support her former student.

Both panels were introduced by History Fellow Professor Siân Pooley, and attended by Magdalen President Professor Sir David Clary and Lady Clary. Sir David thanked the organisers, and the audience and panel members after the discussions, and recognised the additional pressures many women had experienced at Magdalen. He also renewed his commitment to improving things for future generations of female students, Fellows and staff.

Attendees were then treated to a glass of English sparkling wine in the President’s Garden produced by Belinda Brown (Folliott-Vaughan) (1979), followed by dinner in Hall where Emeritus Fellow Librarian Christine Ferdinand gave a short history of the process of Magdalen going co-ed.
## Donor impact

In the last financial year

| £2.3m | Without the Fellowship by Examination I probably would have had to move abroad.”
|       | Dr Douglas Boubert (Page 22) |

- **£2.3m**
  - Amount raised thanks to our incredible donors (includes gift aid)

- **16%**
  - Percentage of alumni who made a gift.

- **24**
  - Our youngest donor

- **1482**
  - Number of alumni who made a gift

- **100**
  - Our oldest donor

- **“**
  - I am so grateful for the help I receive. I just hope that I get enough success when I graduate that I can give back to College and make a difference to other students.”
  - Mharab Choudhury (2017)

- **20%**
  - The percentage of donors under 40

- **33**
  - The number of countries we received gifts from

- **31%**
  - The percentage of gifts made for student support
The official portrait of Professor Sir David Clary will be unveiled later this year.
It all started in the summer of 2004,” he recalls. “I received an email out of the blue from a search agency asking whether I might like to be President of Magdalen College.”

Sir David was a leading theoretical chemist at the time, and Head of Division at Mathematical & Physical Sciences at the University of Oxford - the idea of becoming the head of a college was something he’d never considered.

But this was not just any college, this was Magdalen! Sir David had visited Magdalen some years earlier, and it was on that visit that the seeds of his ultimate decision were sown.

“In 1989, when I was a Senior Tutor at Magdalene College, Cambridge, I was invited to a Gaudy at Magdalen,” he says. Sir David was used to the beauty of Oxbridge colleges - Magdalene is a pretty college, with lovely views over the Cam - but nothing had prepared him for Magdalen.

“I remember coming in through the Lodge and being blown away by how beautiful it was,” he explains. “It is such a special place.” Whilst here for the Gaudy, Sir David even stayed in the magnificent President’s Lodgings, little knowing that it would become his home 16 years later.

If this were not enough to sway him in his decision, Sir David visited College again a few weeks before he received the email from the agency, when his friend and Nobel Prize winner Ahmed Zewail was to be awarded an Honorary Degree at Encaenia. Despite the unseasonably wet weather, returning to Magdalen brought those first impressions flooding back. “I was reminded of just how beautiful Magdalen was.” The timing couldn’t have been better.
However, there was one sticking point: unlike most jobs, becoming head of a college affects the whole family - the college becomes not just a place of work, but the family home. And more than anyone else, a partner is affected by the role. So, as Sir David was weighing his options he spoke to Lady Clary about the possibility of him becoming President. “I explained all that was involved, and she thought it was a great idea,” he says, “so I threw my name in the hat.”

In preparation, Sir David spent a lot of time reading about the College’s remarkable history. “I love history and read everything I could find on Magdalen. I discovered that Richard III visited here, and that the College silver had been donated to the royal cause during the Civil War. It’s a shame Laurence Brockliss’s Magdalen College Oxford: A History hadn’t been written at that time. It would have made things a lot easier.”

Later that year, Sir David was invited to interview at Magdalen and to meet with the Fellows. The day went well and some weeks later the Vice-President David Roberts phoned to asked whether Sir David would be available the following Wednesday at 3pm for a call.

“It seemed like good news,” he says. But it was only when the call finally came through that Sir David was certain. “Professor Clary you have been elected President,” he said. After that, a notice was nailed to the Chapel door to say that I was the President-elect,” explains Sir David. “It was an exciting time.”

And so on the 1st September 2005 Sir David replaced Anthony Smith C.B.E as President of Magdalen College and the President’s Lodgings became the Clary family home.

“An early memory of my Presidency is the Bishop of Winchester ceremony,” he says. “I went to the Chapel with all the Fellows, they shook my hand in turn and said the traditional Magdalen words of welcome ‘I wish you joy’. I also remember a Fellow recommending Addison’s Walk. Lady Clary and I have walked Addison’s almost every day since!”

In his time at Magdalen, Sir David has welcomed royalty, heads of state, and the great and the good including Prince Charles, the Dalai Lama, David Attenborough, Malcolm Fraser, President Karzai and most recently Hillary Clinton. “Whilst showing Hillary Clinton the tapestries in the President’s Lodgings, I mentioned that I was the 42nd President. ‘Oh, like Bill,’ she replied,” he laughs.

But of all the people who Sir David has hosted over the years, one stands above all the others. “The visit of the Queen has been the highlight of my time at Magdalen,” he explains.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came to Magdalen College on Thursday 27 November 2008 to celebrate the 550th Anniversary of the College. Not her first visit, however, as she was here in 1948 when, as Princess Elizabeth, she came to collect an Honorary Degree from the University.

Sir David explains how the momentous event came about. “Lord Christopher Geidt, the Queen’s Private Secretary, had studied at Magdalen,” he explains. “So I wrote to him to ask whether Her Majesty may be able to visit for our anniversary. A few months later I received a phone call from the Lord-Lieutenant saying that she was able to attend.”

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at College in the morning, and, after taking some time to relax in the President’s Lodgings, met members of the MCR and JCR.

“Then they attended lunch in the Hall,” Sir David explains. “We had a ballot at College for students and staff who would like to come along. I gave a speech about the College links to the royal family - my earlier research had paid off! The Queen later told the Vice-Chancellor that she had enjoyed my speech. It was a wonderful day and one the College will never forget.”

Research
During his time as President at Magdalen, Sir David has maintained a research group in theoretical chemistry. He also became the first Chief Scientific Adviser to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, a role he held between 2009 and 2013. In this role he advised the Foreign Secretary, Ministers and officials on science, technology, and innovation to ensure work on key issues, such as climate change, energy, food security, counter-terrorism, and counter-proliferation underwent proper scientific challenge.

“I don’t know how I did that,” he laughs. “It was a busy time. I was involved in problems such as the dangers of chemical weapons. This subsequently turned into a major research project and we were able to apply quantum mechanics to determine the temperatures at which chemical nerve agents, the worst molecules on earth, are destroyed. This research is being used around the world today.”

David becomes Sir David
In the 2016 Birthday Honours Sir David was recognised with a knighthood for services to international science.

“I received a letter from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office which said the Queen may graciously approve my appointment as a Knight Bachelor”. He explains. “It was an exciting time for the family; my three sons, James, Simon, and Nicholas, and Lady Clary all attended the ceremony at Buckingham
Clockwise from left: HM The Queen; Seamus Heaney; Rayson Huang and Ti Li Loo the first Chinese students in Oxford; and HM The Queen and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Following page. Clockwise from top left: Dalai Lama; Hillary Clinton; Sir Ian McKellen; HRH Prince William; former President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai. Centre: Sir David Attenborough; former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Fraser.
Professor Sir David Clary will step down in August 2020. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Institute of Physics. He is also Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science. He will continue his work in the field of theoretical chemistry.

Magdalen - the family home
Magdalen has played a huge part of the lives of Sir David's sons, two of whom got married here. James, the eldest, got married to Laura in the summer of 2012, and Nicholas, the youngest, got married to Polly in December 2018.

“Magdalen has been a fantastic family home over the years,” Sir David says. “We always spend Christmas here and have the whole College almost to ourselves. We all walk around Addison's. It is so beautiful. I will miss our Magdalen Christmases.”

Fundraising at Magdalen
Sir David has always played an important role in fundraising at Magdalen, and one of the greatest achievements of his tenure has been the renovation and extension of the Longwall Library in 2016.

“It was a privilege to be so closely involved in the project,” he explains. “And to have Prince William open the Library was wonderful. When I started we had almost the worst library of any college, but now we have one of the best. Students love working there. We owe thanks of course to the more than 1000 members of the Magdalen community who contributed to the project.”

Access and outreach
As well as being involved in fundraising, Sir David has been a big supporter of the College's access and outreach work.

“I went to a state grammar school in Colchester,” he explains. “There was little emphasis on applying to Oxford in those days. That's one reason why I have always been deeply interested in access and outreach.”

During Sir David's presidency, the College has now developed one of the most ambitious access and outreach programmes of any Oxford college, and this year the College received a major increase in applications and admissions from under-represented groups.

Sir David's legacy
Sir David leaves Magdalen a stronger, more inclusive community with a bright future in teaching and research, always aiming for academic excellence and, with the hugely successful Magdalen-owned Oxford Science Park going from strength to strength, a College leading the way in entrepreneurship.

“I will certainly miss being at the heart of Magdalen,” he says, “but more importantly, it will be sad to leave the terrific members of the College community - the Fellows, the staff, the students, the alumni and friends of the College - who have helped to make the last 15 years so fantastic. I owe a lot also to my housekeeper Maria who has provided dinners in the Lodgings for over 4000 students during my Presidency. Lady Clary and I will also greatly miss hearing our superb Choir in the Chapel.

“I’m certainly looking forward to more time for relaxation. I might even find time to watch Ipswich Town with my sons,” he laughs. “I wish my successor Dinah Rose every success in her new role, and if she ever wants to ask me anything I will always be available.

“I’m certain she will love this wonderful College as much as I have, as a place of the highest academic achievements, of innovation and excitement, and as a wonderful family home.”

Whilst showing Hillary Clinton the tapestries in the President’s Lodgings, I mentioned that I was the 42nd President. ‘Oh, like Bill,’ she replied.”
Magdalen Fellow by Examination Dr Douglas Boubert is a star. At just 26 he is already one of the top scientists in his field in the world. Floreat Magdalena finds out how this stellar astrophysicist went stratospheric, one awkward question at a time.

“

The question of where [the stars] were coming from was thought to have been solved, but I didn’t buy it.”
In 2005, astronomers from the Harvard & Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics spotted something unusual in the night sky: among the 100 billion stars that make up our Milky Way, one star in the Northern Hemisphere was travelling extraordinarily fast - 1.6 million miles per hour to be precise, three times as fast as almost every other star in the galaxy. They didn’t know it at the time, but they had just discovered the first hypervelocity star.

However, the idea of hypervelocity stars was not a new one. They had been predicted back in 1988 by stellar dynamics theorist Jack Hills who had hypothesised that fast-moving stars could be created if a binary star – a star system made up of two stars – was torn apart by a black hole, sending one of the stars out of the Milky Way.

The astronomers didn’t have any reason to question this, and for more than a decade Jack Hills’ hypothesis remained the consensus on how hypervelocity stars were created. That is until Douglas came along and asked an awkward question.

“The question of where they were coming from was thought to have been solved,” he explains, “but I didn’t buy it. I thought: what if they are coming from somewhere else?” The somewhere else, in this case, is the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way.

“If they were created by the black hole at the centre of the galaxy we would expect to find them everywhere,” he explains, “but you only find the 20 that have been discovered in one part of the sky, and they line up with the Cloud.”

Douglas needed to find more hypervelocity stars to test the Cloud theory, so he headed to Chile, to the Southern Astrophysical Research and Magellan telescopes, to begin his search for a metaphorical needle in a haystack; or more accurately, a needle among 100 billion needles.

But as Douglas scoured the skies for stars the streets below him burned. “It wasn’t great timing,” he laughs. Douglas’s trip had coincided with the Chile riots.

This was the second time Douglas had been at a centre of huge disruption in the last few months. The first time was late last year, when a paper he had co-authored sent shockwaves through the scientific community and caught the imagination of people around the world.

The paper outlined the details of a star discovered by the Anglo-Australian Telescope, and the European Space Agency’s Gaia satellite. What made this star so special was that it was travelling at over 3.7 million miles per hour, more than twice as fast as a hypervelocity star. It was the fastest moving star in the Universe.

“The discovery was made as part of the S5 - the Southern Stellar Stream Spectroscopic Survey - a collaboration of astronomers from the US, the UK, and Australia,” Douglas explains. “They were looking for streams of stars which come about when a dwarf galaxy comes too close to the Milky Way and gets ripped apart. As they were measuring the spectrum of these stars they found one very fast star... and they thought of me.” The hypervelocity star man? “Yes!” he laughs, “They asked me to join the team to identify it.”

The trajectory and speed of this particular star meant that the origin - in this case at least - was clear: it had been created by a black hole at the centre of the Milky Way some 5 million years ago.

Because of these certainties, Douglas was able to ask another awkward question: is the current understanding of the speed at which the sun orbits our galaxy correct?

“We could calculate the speed using the velocity of S5-HVS1,” he explains. “Because we know where S5-HVS1 is coming from, we can be sure of its
“At the moment we know of a fraction of the hypervelocity stars that may have come from the Large Magellanic Cloud - I’ve predicted a stream of thousands more. There is so much more to be done!”

velocity.” Did he concur with current understanding? This time, yes.
Gaia was launched in 2013 at a cost of 1 billion euros. Its purpose was to measure the positions, distances, and motions of billions of stars with unprecedented precision. The data it produces is more sophisticated than anything scientists have had access to before; thousands of papers have been written using it. Although nothing is ever gospel in science, Gaia comes close. But then Douglas asked another awkward question.

“When I looked at some of the data, I could see that something was wrong,” he explains “Could it be that Gaia wasn’t working properly?”

It turns out that Douglas was right. A team at Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands had reported the discovery of a handful of hypervelocity stars in Gaia and had asked Douglas to take a look.

“I discarded most of them as being spurious because of the large uncertainties, but one of them stood out as having a large velocity,” he explains. “I got eight follow-up velocity measurements over several months and found that the Gaia measurement was entirely wrong!

“I was able to diagnose that the Gaia spectrum of this star was being contaminated by a brighter star nearby; an issue which might have affected one hundred thousand stars in Gaia.”

This discovery put Douglas in Nature Astronomy.

Douglas then began to wonder what else may have been missed - could there be other issues with Gaia?

“Gaia sees only two billion of the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, but we don’t understand the biased way those stars are picked. This means that anything deduced from the Gaia data could be wrong,” he says. “We knew that bright stars could contaminate the measurements of nearby dimmer stars, we now needed to find out which other stars were being missed. What are the problems?”

Douglas discovered two. The first is the way Gaia maps the sky.

“Gaia looks in one direction and spins, capturing a strip of the sky,” he says. “But as it spins, it also tumbles. So rather than a complete picture of the sky, you get a grid; there are gaps we need to identify.”

The second problem is a more practical one.

“Gaia is the biggest camera in the world (a billion pixels), but the images it captures are too big to send to Earth. So, each image is chopped into ‘postage stamps’ around each star and sent to Earth, but only a million images at a time.

“So if Gaia is looking at a part of the sky with more stars than that, such as towards the Galactic centre or the Omega Centauri star cluster, then some of those images never make it to the ground; they are just deleted. We need to know which ones.

“The solution to discovering what is being missed is mathematical. We are trying to discover the completeness of the Gaia-verse!” he says with relish.

And that completeness is what Douglas is currently working on with Andrew Everall a PhD student from Cambridge, and former Oxford Physics student. This, alongside tutoring third-year Physics students in general relativity, and mapping both binary and hypervelocity stars.

“At the moment we know of a fraction of the hypervelocity stars that may have come from the Large Magellanic Cloud - I’ve predicted a stream of thousands more. There is so much more to be done!”

And as he describes in great detail the enormity of the tasks he has set himself, a light seems to appear behind his eyes – a star maybe – and we’re sure he’ll do it, one awkward question at a time.

He is after all, the hypervelocity star man.
You heading to the Radder after the rugger?
The linguistic life of an Oxford student

Magdalen Fellow in English Professor Simon Horobin sheds light on the often confusing world of Oxford lingo

Even though it may be some time since your student days, little has changed in the bewildering world of Oxford lingo. Students arriving in Oxford are often surprised to discover that they have come up, especially those who aren’t coming from the south of England. At the end of term they go down – unless they find themselves being sent down by the University proctors (a variant of the legal procurator). Less heinous crimes can result in a student being rusticated: a form of suspension which, etymologically at least, involves being sent to the countryside (Latin rusticus). The formal beginning of a degree is known as matriculation, a ceremony held in the Sheldonian Theatre, in which membership of the University is conferred by having one’s name entered on the register, or matricula.

Magdalen takes its name from the Greek Magdala, the name of the town on the Sea of Galilee (from an Aramaic word meaning ‘tower’), from which Mary Magdalen originated. In the Middle Ages this word’s pronunciation became anglicised to “maudlin” – as reflected in the contemporary spelling maudlyn. This medieval pronunciation has been retained in the name of the College, even though the spelling has been revised to reflect the Greek origin. The earlier spelling is still found in the related adjective maudlin, now meaning ‘sentimental, self-pitying, but originally ‘tearful’, in reference to traditional images of a lachrymose Mary Magdalen. The word college is from the Latin collegium, meaning ‘partnership’ or ‘society’, and is related to the word colleague.

Magdalen’s head of house is known as the President; other colleges have a range of different titles: Principal, Dean, Master, Provost, Rector, or Warden. The head of house presides over a governing body made up of Fellows (from an Old Norse word referring to a colleague in a joint financial enterprise – literally ‘one who lays down money’), also known as dons, from Latin dominus ‘master’. If these terms are confusing for new students, they must be even more so at Christ Church (which must never be called Christ Church College but can be referred to as ‘The House’), where Fellows are termed students. The title reader, a medieval term for a teacher used to refer to a lecturer below the rank of professor, has recently been retired at Oxford in favour of the American alternative associate professor. Emeritus Fellows are ones who have retired but are permitted to retain the title; the name is the past participle of the Latin verb emereri.
‘to earn one’s discharge by service’. Former students, or old members, are also known as alumni, a Latin word meaning ‘pupils’, from alere ‘to nourish’ – also the root of alma mater, the term for a former college or university, literally ‘nourishing mother’.

Students at Oxford read rather than study a subject, a usage which goes back to the Middle Ages. All final examinations were originally known as Greats; this term is now used only of the degree of Literae Humaniores (‘more humane letters’) – Classics to everyone else. No longer in use. University examinations are more commonly as Prelims (or Preliminaries or Prelims). Sadly, the slang equivalents great go and little go have entirely fallen out of use. University examinations are sat in Schools, a forbidding edifice on the High Street (or ‘the High’) which gets its name from its original use for holding scholastic disputation.

College exams, rather less formal affairs, are known today as collections, from Latin collectiones, ‘a gathering together’. The name derives from the fact that they occurred at the end of term when fees were due for collection. Confusingly, the term collection is also used to refer to the end-of-term meeting where a progress report is read by a student’s tutor in the presence of the head of house. As well as fees, students must pay their batells, a bill for food purchased from the College buttery—originally a wine store, from Latin buttis ‘cask, wineskin’, but now extended to include a range of delicacies.

Teaching in College is still focused on the tutorials (or tutes), overseen by College tutors (from a Latin word for a protector); the earliest tutors were responsible for a student’s general welfare — a post formerly known as moral tutor and now as personal tutor. In addition to tutorials, students continue to attend lectures in faculties or departments, more or less diligently. Given the increasing availability of lectures in digital format, via a weblink or podcast, even more so in recent weeks, the seventeenth-century wall-lecture — used of a lecture delivered to an empty room – is becoming an increasingly real possibility. The University year continues to be divided into three terms (from Latin terminus ‘end, limit’) of eight weeks, known as Full term. The gradual extension of University business into the vacation has led to the coinage of such clumsy formulations as noughth week and minus first week. Many British universities have jettisoned terms altogether, in favour of the American semester, from a Latin word meaning ‘six-monthly’ (sex ‘six’ and mensis ‘month’).

Memories of your time at the College may be more focused on your leisure moments than on your academic pursuits. Perhaps you remember enjoying the College grounds: strolling round Addison’s walk, named after former fellow Joseph Addison, or watching the deer in the Grove (from the Old English graf, meaning ‘small wood’). Perhaps you spent your time playing sport, even representing the College in an intercollegiate cuppers competition. This name is taken from the cup for which teams compete, with the -er ending popular in nineteenth-century Oxford slang, best known today from rugger and soccer, but formerly found in names like the Bodder ‘Bodleian library’ and the Radder ‘Radcliffe Camera’, as well as more implausible examples such as wagger pagger bagger ‘waste paper basket’.

Perhaps you represented the University against Cambridge University (whose affectionate moniker ‘The Other Place’ was originally a euphemism for hell) in a Varsity match, a colloquial shortening of university with an alternative pronunciation also found in clerk and Derby, thereby earning a blue. The earliest recorded use of this term in the Oxford English Dictionary is taken from an article from the Daily News in 1882, in which one Ralph St John Ainslie is described as someone likely to win his blue. But, despite captaining the Oriel College boat club and trialling for the University Eight on three occasions, Ainslie never got his blue – a disappointment that was only exacerbated by his failure being enshrined in the pages of the OED.

Hopefully your memories of your time at Oxford are more positive than those of Ralph Ainslie, and that you will come back – perhaps to a gaudy, from Latin gaudium ‘joy’, where you will have the chance to raise a glass and toast the College: Floreat Magdalen: ‘Let Magdalen flourish.’
There’s the President, the Principal, the Dean, the Master, the Provost, the Rector, and the Warden! So who is running this place?
Hogarth Project Archivist, Ben Taylor, shares some of the highlights from the College archive’s latest acquisition from Magdalen’s eminent archaeologist and friend of T.E. Lawrence
In the early summer of 1929, a package arrived at No. 62, St Giles in Oxford. Inside was a bundle of decade-old letters and a covering note from Gilbert Clayton, the British High Commissioner in Iraq. Clayton had been a comrade of David Hogarth, a long-time Fellow of Magdalen, during the First World War, when both men had played important roles in the Arab Revolt along with T.E. Lawrence who was a protégé and friend of Hogarth's.

Hogarth had written the letters during the war, and Clayton was now sending them to Hogarth's widow, Laura.

“As you will see,” explained Clayton, “[the letters] contain a good deal of very confidential matter which could not be published, but you will get from them confirmation of the importance of the part [Hogarth] took in great events and of the respect in which his opinions were held by those in the highest quarters.”

Thanks to the generosity of Hogarth's granddaughter Professor Caroline Barron, this note and copies of the letters in Clayton's package are now in the possession of the College with which Hogarth enjoyed a connection for his entire adult life.

The documents are part of a collection of Hogarth's papers amounting to some nine boxes of material, most of which has never before been publicly accessible. The papers promise to give a new and intimate insight into Hogarth's varied career and the times and places in which he lived and worked.

Hogarth was a member of Magdalen for his entire adult life. He came up as a Demy in 1881 and gained a reputation as one of those undergraduates with the infuriating habit of appearing to do very little work while still excelling academically.

His diversions were athletics and the horses, and he also served as
President of the JCR. Nevertheless, he studied enough to graduate in 1885 with a double first in Greats. He was a Fellow of the College for most of the rest of his life, but spent as much time travelling as he did in Oxford.

He became a distinguished archaeologist, known for his work in Greece, Asia Minor, and the Middle East. He was also a writer, and the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum for almost twenty years.

Perhaps of most interest to researchers will be Hogarth’s wartime experience in the Arab Bureau, the branch of British intelligence set up to incite and support the Arab Revolt which propelled his friend T.E. Lawrence to fame.

These are some of the striking finds which the project archivist, Ben Taylor, has so far discovered among Hogarth’s papers.

**Mark Sykes’ caricatures**

Sir Mark Sykes was a Conservative MP and an influential government adviser on Middle Eastern affairs during the First World War. Most famous for the Sykes-Picoult Agreement, an Anglo-French backroom deal to carve up former Ottoman colonies in Arabia and the Levant, Sykes was also heavily involved in the Arab Revolt.

He designed the Revolt’s flag—a black, white and green tricolour with a red triangle—which influenced the flags of several modern Arab states. He was also a habitual caricaturist, and some of his sketches found their way into Hogarth’s papers. The two shown here feature the Sharif Husein, Emir of Mecca and the figurehead of the Arab Revolt, and a reference to his son Abdullah. Husein cultivated a stately, somewhat ethereal image which led less astute observers to characterise him as a “nice old man”. The big doe eyes which Sykes has drawn on the Sharif here

“Lawrence later reflected that his friendship with Hogarth had been ‘perhaps the most important of his life’.”
are probably a sly nod to this façade: Sykes was most likely aware that the man behind it was in fact a prickly, ambitious, and wily old politician.

The machine gun caricature is probably a representation of Husein’s son Abdullah, one of the leaders of the Arab forces during the Revolt. Abdullah apparently boasted to T.E. Lawrence that he had shot a coffee pot off the head of his muezzin three times from twenty yards. It seems that Lawrence repeated the story to Sykes, who provided his own irreverent take on Abdullah’s bravado.

**Letter from T.E. Lawrence**

T.E. Lawrence sent this letter (left) while working on Hogarth’s archaeological dig at Carcemish on the Turkish-Syrian border in 1919. Lawrence gives Hogarth descriptions of likely-looking objects being sold by antiquities dealers in the local souks, and includes some sketches of his favourites.

Hogarth was quick to spot Lawrence’s potential after his graduation from Jesus College in 1910. He suggested Lawrence apply for a Senior Demyship at Magdalen, and took him to Carcemish to help manage the dig.

It was also at Hogarth’s suggestion that Lawrence was brought into the Arab Bureau at the outbreak of the war. Lawrence later reflected that his friendship with Hogarth had been ‘perhaps the most important of his life’.

David Hogarth matriculated from Magdalen as a Demy in 1881, graduated in 1885, and held a Fellowship from 1886 until his death in 1927. His papers will be catalogued over the course of 2020. The collection includes many personal diaries chronicling archaeological digs, war correspondence, and intelligence work during WW1; correspondence including letters to his wife and to the explorer Gertrude Bell; as well as press cuttings, photographs and other material. The College is hoping to host a one-day conference in the future at which Hogarth’s legacy can be explored and some highlights from this important collection revealed.

“Hogarth was quick to spot Lawrence’s potential. He suggested [he] apply for a Senior Demyship at Magdalen.”
Women and Power? A Magdalen Story

As part of the College's celebrations to mark 40 years of co-education at Magdalen, College Archivist Dr Charlotte Berry and Tutorial Fellow in History Professor Siân Pooley curated an exhibition to examine the role women have played in shaping Magdalen throughout the years. Here is a small selection from that exhibition.

College origins and female benefactors
College founder William Waynflete established the College in 1458 and spent decades acquiring land across 20 English counties until his death in 1486. The rental income from this land then financed the College and its Fellows and made it independent for the future, as Waynflete had so carefully planned.

But William Waynflete's plan may not have been possible had it not been for the generosity of two medieval women who gave lands to College as part of its 15th century origins.

Lady Joan Danvers
Lady Joan (or Joanna) Danvers gifted a manor called Stainswick in Berkshire in 1452 to help establish the College. When this manor passed into College hands, the original title deeds came too as proof of ownership. The College still has over 13,000 such medieval deeds which document a long history of land ownership. The earliest estate deeds date from the late 12th century. Much of this land was sold off by the College in the 20th century.

Lady Alicia Lovell
Little is known about Lady Alicia Lovell, although several members of her family are represented within the College's medieval archives. In the 1450s, Alicia proposed funding two graduate Fellowships for theology at Magdalen which would 'preach and teach the law of God'. It is not certain whether this actually happened, but she did certainly donate some land to the College.

An early female signature, 18 July 1457
This agreement (right) between William Waynflete and Lady Alicia Lovell records her gift of three manors in Buckinghamshire to the College. Ultimately this agreement was not honoured, and another manor in Northamptonshire, was given to the College instead some twenty years later.

This particular document is unusual as it includes Lovell's own signature at the bottom – a signature was not common practice at this time as usually wax seals alone were used. We think that this is probably the earliest female signature in Magdalen's archive. The seal with a rare straw surround featuring a wolf's head and inscription is attached.

List of Civil War residents
War between the Royalists and the Roundheads broke out in 1642 in England. King Charles I made Oxford his headquarters, and some of the King's courtiers and their attendants moved to Magdalen with their wives, children and female domestic servants. A few College Fellows also brought their own relations inside the walls, and the resident male College Fellows and students found themselves sharing their space with women and children.

A fairy godmother for Magdalen
Sophia Sheppard (1769/70-1848) is an important figure in College history. As the youngest sister of President Martin Routh (1755-1854), she lived in the President's Lodgings until her marriage in 1801 to the wealthy former Fellow, Dr Thomas Sheppard. The couple shared philanthropic interests, and Sophia continued her good deeds following her husband's death in 1814. Despite this, she remains largely absent in the College's collections today.

Sophia had special interests in charitable causes for women and she set up a trust, the Sheppard Fund, which was administered through Magdalen College following her death. This used money from her and her husband's estate to support good causes, including a wide range of educational establishments of which Magdalen was one. Two charitable activities benefitted women – an almshouse and a hospital.

Magdalen College as a London property developer
Sophia bequeathed a small estate called Burntwood Farm in Wandsworth to the College on her death in 1848. This was a valuable piece of land located in Surrey which was divided up and developed as Victorian housing.

This printed map (right) from 1899 shows the extent of Sophia's gift, with new street names named after Magdalen figures, such as President Routh and Bursar Henderson.
This page. Clockwise from top left: an agreement between William Waynflete and Lady Alicia Lovell; a map from 1899 showing the extent of the gift to College from Sophia Sheppard; List of Civil War residents.

Female visitors to Magdalen
The College's 15th century statutes set out the rules and regulations of Magdalen, which was a heavily male-centric institution. Despite this, College life was not entirely isolated from the world outside. A small female community lived within the College walls during the Civil War in the 17th century. Women were also regular visitors, particularly when the Picturesque Movement and Romanticism developed in the late 18th-early 19th centuries, sparking a fashion for visiting scenic sites of historical interest.

Women as servants, tenants and staff
The 15th century statutes specify that all domestic work 'be performed by Males, that all sinister suspicion be so far as may be, warily eschewed; unless haply there be a Washerwoman for the towelling and other napery...; and our will is, that she be of such age, and such condition that a sinister suspicion cannot in all likelihood light upon her'.

Women also engaged with Magdalen in a business capacity on a regular basis as tenants of the College's numerous properties across England. And in the later 19th century and during the 20th century, women appear more frequently on the pay roll as members of College staff in their own right.

A small group of College servants lived within the walls of the site. The College's domestic staffing structure had originally been outlined in the 15th century statutes, but by the 19th century, the porter and the head groom each lived on site within their own residences, together with their wives, children and other relatives, and sometimes other college servants. Gardeners also lived across the High Street in the grounds of the Botanic Gardens, which were (and still are) owned by the College and leased to the University.

The President's household was run as a separate unit. In the 1881 census, it was made up of a male butler and page, and female cook, lady's maid (for the President's wife Margaret Bulley), housemaid and kitchenmaid. Female servants were usually unmarried or widowed. Domestic service was the principal form of paid employment for women until the mid-twentieth century.

"The 15th century statutes specify that all domestic work ‘be performed by Males, that all sinister suspicion be so far as may be, warily eschewed; unless haply there be a Washerwoman for the towelling and other napery...; and our will is, that she be of such age, and such condition that a sinister suspicion cannot in all likelihood light upon her.’"

Photograph of College staff, c 1910
The date of this photograph is not given, nor do we have the names of those pictured. We don't know what jobs the seven women seated in the second row had within College. Spot the College cat!

Scandalous and lewd creatures
With the exception of the College's President, who could marry and live with his family on site, all Fellows and students were required to remain celibate. If they wished to marry, they had to resign their post until new statutes in 1880 permitted certain Fellows to retain their posts if married. By the 1920s, most Fellows were married.

The 15th century statutes also dictated that students and Fellows were ‘to keep away altogether from suspicious companies... [and] disreputable or suspicious communications’ and permission was needed to spend the night away from College or to leave Oxford. Similarly, the statutes list the ‘greater Crimes’ of heresy, simony, perjury, theft, homicide, adultery/fornication, incest and battery which would lead to immediate expulsion from College without the right to appeal.

The decision to admit women to Magdalen College
In 1969 Magdalen students elected a Junior Common Room (JCR) committee that believed that co-education might be a ‘vote winner’ within the male student community. The JCR President, David Kosky, later described the admission of women as a ‘pipe dream,’ but a referendum in 1969 found that 69 per cent of the 160 students who voted were in favour of co-education.

This is the paper (right) that students presented to Magdalen’s Governing Body. They argued that the admission of women would remove an academic ‘injustice’, increase the ‘academic standard’, and create a more ‘balanced society’ within College. They also dismissed concerns about women’s incompatibility with Magdalen’s antique plumbing.
Letter from A.J.P. Taylor to President James Griffiths, 6 November 1969
This letter (right) was sent to Magdalen’s President by the historian A.J.P. Taylor. As a Fellow at Magdalen, Taylor had heard of the JCR’s referendum, and asked College to ‘take a further step in the sex war’ by revising the statutes to permit the admission of women. Two-thirds of Governing Body needed to vote in favour of the change, but in 1970 only 60 per cent supported co-education.

Note from, 21 May 1976
This further note (right) from A.J.P. Taylor prompted Governing Body’s fourth vote on the admission of women on 16 June 1976. The motion passed with the support of 71 per cent of the fellows present. In 1977, the University permitted a second cohort of men’s colleges to become co-educational. As a result, women were finally admitted to Magdalen from Michaelmas (autumn term) 1979.

“In 1969, Magdalen students elected a JCR committee that believed that co-education might be a ‘vote winner’.”

Women and Power? A Magdalen Story was originally planned to be available to view in the Old Library every Wednesday until the end of September.

We hope the exhibition prompts members of the Magdalen community – past and present – to help the College to develop its archive. If you have photos, diaries, programmes, posters etc from your time at Magdalen that you are happy to donate, please contact the College Archivist Charlotte Berry at archives@magd.ox.ac.uk
A ground-breaking new initiative to help equip future Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) leaders with the tools and knowledge required to stand for senior leadership positions was launched at Magdalen last September.
The six-day Pathway to Success Leadership and Development programme was set up by the House of Commons and Operation Black Vote (OBV), and is run in partnership with Magdalen College, the Blavatnik School of Government (BSG), and Lloyds Bank.

Magdalen has also been able to extend the original initiative to include a year-long mentoring programme for participants, thanks to more than 30 Magdalen alumni working in politics and business who have offered their time.

“We are excited to be involved in this new programme,” said Ed Dodson, Senior Outreach and Access Officer at Magdalen. “It sends a clear message to our community, as well as prospective students, about our commitment to increasing diversity, and also helps to create role models for future students at Magdalen, Oxford, and beyond.”

30 participants stayed at College during the programme and spent six days taking part in a range of intensive leadership workshops at Magdalen and the BSG: Parag Mehta, a political campaigner in the US, gave a session on how to plan a political campaign; Emily Jones, the Associate Professor of Public Policy at the BSG, gave a session on how to negotiate; and ‘understanding business’ was the focus of the session presented by Fiona Cannon from Lloyds Bank and Magdalen alumnus Dan Monzani (1997) from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Participants also learnt about the science and politics of climate change, and the history of UK education policy, with Magdalen Fellows Professor Liam Dolan and Professor Jane Gingrich.

The programme also included a visit to the Houses of Parliament where participants met John Bercow, David Lammy MP, alumnus Lord Jay (1965) and others. They also had the chance to put their debating skills to the test at the Oxford Union, debating the motion ‘This house believes that the internet is detrimental for society’.

During the evenings, participants dined in Hall with Magdalen Fellows and alumni, as well as students from across the University. And on the final evening the President and Lady Clary gave a special tour of the President’s Lodgings and the Old Library.

“A lot of good people came together with a simple idea,” said Lord Simon Woolley, Founder and Director of OBV. “To bring our institutions, organisations, networks and personal energies towards a collective goal: the nurturing of the next generation of senior Black political leaders. The result: Pathway to Success, now probably Europe’s gold standard in diversity political leadership. I have no doubt the leaders from this cohort who’ll take the highest offices will do so with wisdom and integrity.”

Participant Laks Mann, LGBTQ+ Lead for the Mayor of London’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group and Pathway participant, added, “It was a delight to have participated in the prestigious OBV programme, and a wonderful experience to have stayed at Magdalen College. I feel so honoured to have been selected to take part in such an incredibly inspiring, informative and insightful week.

“I appreciated every aspect, from expert speakers delivering masterclasses and the knowledge imparted by Lord Woolley, to the unique opportunities to engage with representatives from Magdalen College, the Blavatnik School of Government, and the House of Commons.

“Being in the company of delegates from such a diverse range of backgrounds from across the UK was truly a blessing. I stayed on in Oxford for the weekend to relax in the city, gather my thoughts, and to reflect on what the future may hold!”

Magdalen is committed to redressing the under-representation of BAME students at Oxford. The Pathway to Success programme – as well as working with Lord Simon Woolley and OBV – provides a unique opportunity to connect with, and learn from, influential BAME figures, and to support diverse leadership in politics and society in general.

Magdalen College would like to thank our programme partners, participants, and the alumni who have supported this initiative.

For more details about our wide range of outreach initiatives, get in contact with our access and outreach team at outreach@magd.ox.ac.uk
Reggie Nelson
2019/20 programme participant
Reggie grew up on a council estate in east London. His parents did their best for him and his older sister, but with little money the Nelsons were often just scraping by - life was hard.

The deck may have been stacked against Reggie – a young Black man growing up on a London council estate – but he had a secret weapon: ambition. “I was determined to become the first generation wealth builder for my family,” he explains. And Reggie set about changing his life.

But how? Role models were few and far between on the estate, and opportunities were limited. “The majority of people were either into music, football or crime,” he explains.

So, with few options, Reggie plumped for football and threw himself into the sport. He put the time in, trained hard, and excelled, playing at youth professional level. But at 17 everything changed and his promising career was cut short.

“My dad died due to alcohol abuse and I stopped playing football,” he explains. From that moment Reggie knew he needed to pursue something with more certainty, something for the long term. He needed to find a new strategy to build wealth. So he picked himself up and started again.

Reggie knew where he wanted to be, he just didn’t know how to get there. He kept asking himself over and over, 'How do wealthy people become wealthy? Is there a skill? And if so, how do I get it?’ And then, out of the blue, inspiration struck from two disparate sources: his church and… Joan Rivers.

“An idea suddenly sparked inside of me,” he explains. “I knew I needed to come out of my comfort zone, something my church had taught me, so why not just ask wealthy people how they did it, like Joan Rivers in her show ‘How’d you get so rich?’”

So Reggie set about his plan: he Googled ‘richest areas in London’ and headed off to Kensington and Chelsea to discover the secret to success. And against all the odds it worked.

Reggie began by asking people on the streets of Chelsea, but he wasn’t getting the tangible results he was after, so he started to knock on doors. And when Quintin Price opened his door Reggie’s life was changed forever.

“Quintin is the former Head of Alpha Strategies at BlackRock,” Reggie explains. “He invited me into his home and listened to my story. He gave me advice and guidance, which turned into work experience. This led to me going to university, something I'd never planned to do. I studied Economics and Mandarin and graduated with a 2:1.”

Today, Reggie is Graduate Analyst at Legal and General Investment Management. He is also Group Chair of the ACCA Emerging Talent Advisory Group, Founder of K3D – a social mobility enterprise – and a youth mentor. But Reggie’s remarkable story doesn’t end there.

In 2019, he became a participant on our very first Pathway to Success programme which aims to help equip Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) leaders like him with the tools and knowledge required to stand for political office.

“I know from personal experience that it’s hard to aspire for something if you don’t see people who look like you doing it,” he explains. “You think, ‘Am I good enough to be in that environment?’ This programme helps to provide visibility in a space where many bright, talented, and impressive individuals might never have access: politics.”

Reggie took part in the week-long residential programme in September 2019. A highlight for him was winning a debate at the Oxford Union (something for which he had less than 24 hours to prepare!) and hearing from Parag Mehta who worked on the Barack Obama campaign.

After graduation Reggie and the other 29 programme participants were paired with a mentor: a member of the Magdalen community. Reggie’s mentor is alumnus the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt (1985).

“The relationship is going very well,” says Reggie. “It’s great to have the opportunity to pick the brains of someone at the frontline of politics. Jeremy has introduced me to his network so that I can continue to grow and learn.”

It’s all too easy when you hear a story like this to believe that Reggie, with his powerful secret weapon, would always have succeeded. But all too often bright, brilliant, equally ambitious BAME people like him fall through the cracks.

Magdalen is proud to have played a part in Reggie’s story; a story that he now travels the world sharing; a story that he is turning into book; a story we hope will inspire others to take part in our programme as participants, mentors or donors.
Pathway to Success Mentorship Programme

One of the most valuable ways in which Magdalen contributes to the Pathway to Success Leadership and Development initiative is through its mentorship programme, in which the programme participants are allocated a mentor from the Magdalen alumni community. After the week-long residential course at Magdalen, the 30 participants are matched with a volunteer alumni mentor, and they commit to a mentoring partnership for the rest of the academic year.

The current mentors in our first cohort include politicians such as Lord Hague, Dominic Grieve, Jeremy Hunt and Nick Boles; peers such as Baroness Harding, Lord Jay, and Lord Wood, as well as business leaders, leadership coaches, lawyers, journalists and entrepreneurs - all from among our alumni. The rich variety of skills and experience our mentors can offer has led to some extremely rewarding partnerships, giving the participants the tools and confidence to take the next step in their own leadership careers, and has been mutually beneficial, with mentors learning a huge amount from the participants in return.

The mentoring programme and the Pathway to Success Leadership and Development programme provide a unique opportunity for Magdalen to support diverse leadership in politics and society in general, and to connect with, and learn from, BAME leaders.

“"My mentor has given me new perspectives, probing challenges and the clarity I was seeking, as I look to maximise the synergies of my career experiences and seek out new opportunities.”
Laks Mann, 2019/20 programme participant

“"I have never been more proud to be a member of Magdalen College. I can't tell you how excited I am to watch [the programme] grow over the years.”
2019/20 Mentor

“"Mentorship in this programme is a crucial component as it provides a safe space to share fresh perspectives, accelerate professional goals, and tap into new influential networks.”
Frank Starling, 2019/20 programme participant

Mentor recruitment – can you help?

Magdalen has committed to running the Pathway to Success programme for the next three years, and we are now keen to build on the calibre of this year’s mentorship programme to create an exceptional bank of alumni mentors in senior positions in the civil service, politics and business for the 2020-21 programme starting this October.

We are delighted that Baroness Lane Fox and Sarah Healey, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have already joined the 2020/21 mentorship team.

If you have relevant experience in politics, the public sector, business, or leadership coaching, and would like to be part of this exciting project, then please get in touch for more information at alumni.office@magd.ox.ac.uk.

The guideline core time required of mentors is six hours, spread over six mentorship sessions over the nine months to the end of June 2021, but there is considerable flexibility for the mentor and participant to determine together the best format and level of commitment. We also host optional events at Magdalen and Westminster throughout the year for mentors to meet one another and the full cohort of participants.

Through initiatives such as Pathway to Success, we aim not only to increase diversity at Magdalen, to make it the most dynamic of academic and intellectual environments, but also to have an impact on society beyond the spires of Oxford.
Honourable mentions

Dr Kumi Naidoo (1987), the Secretary General of Amnesty International, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the College.

Kumi came to Magdalen as a Rhodes Scholar in 1987 where he completed a DPhil in Political Sociology. He is a life-long social justice and environmental campaigner, and has held a number of high-profile leadership roles including Executive Director of Greenpeace International.

He was born in Durban, South Africa, in 1965, and played an active part in the anti-apartheid movement, organising his first protest at 15 which saw him expelled from school.

At 21 he was charged with violating the state of emergency regulations and was forced to go underground. It was at that time that he applied for a Rhodes Scholarship. “I had to go to the interview in disguise,” he remembers.

After Magdalen, Kumi returned to South Africa to work with the African National Congress where he supported adult literacy campaigns and voter education efforts to empower historically and systematically disenfranchised communities.

As well as his current work with Amnesty International, Kumi is the co-founder and interim chair of Africans Rising, a pan-African movement of people and organisations, working for peace, justice, and dignity.

In 2018 he gave the Waynflete Lecture at Magdalen College entitled ‘Creative maladjustment in a time of affluenza.’ In it, he outlined many of the greatest problems faced by society, including inequality and climate change, and the urgency with which they need to be addressed.

Magdalen College is delighted to be able to recognise the remarkable achievements of Kumi in this way.

“

At 21 [Kumi} was charged with violating the state of emergency regulation. It was at that time that he applied for a Rhodes Scholarship. “I had to go to the interview in disguise,” he remembers.”
Indra Morris (1992), the Director General for Social Care, Mobility and Disadvantage, in the Department for Education, was awarded a Companion of the Order of the Bath for services to social mobility in the New Year’s Honours lists.

Indra came to Magdalen as a mature student in 1992 where she completed a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. She left school early, but returned to complete a certificate of higher education at Hillcroft College for Adult Women, and then worked in Hackney Social Services before coming to Magdalen.

As well as her work as Director General for Social Care, Mobility and Disadvantage, since January 2019, Indra has also taken on duties as the Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Indra was Director General at both HM Treasury and Ministry of Justice as well as spending a short secondment to the Cabinet Office. Indra also spent nearly 10 years at Accenture, where she became a strategy partner focused on public services.

“My honour for services to social mobility was a very special surprise. More importantly it serves as a reminder that where you grow up, if you grow up in care, or the school you go to, still holds more sway in your life chances than your talents.

“I got a place because the late Derek Robison saw something when I applied as a mature student, with no idea what I was doing and an access course qualification no one had heard of. I was lucky because Derek had come a similar route. It really shouldn't be about luck.

“All of us, especially employers or educators, should be working to change that. It’s great to see Magdalen doing its bit.”

Last year, Indra returned to College to speak at an Alumni Dinner to share her remarkable story.

Magdalen College is delighted that Indra has been recognised for her achievements in social mobility.
Outreach

Access and Outreach is a strategic priority at Magdalen, and the 2019 intake of undergraduates has shown significant increases in the numbers of students from under-represented groups.

Magdalen College was founded on the principle that education at the highest level should be available to everyone with the ability to succeed. We still believe that today.

We take our responsibility to discover potential and provide an opportunity for it to flourish seriously – it’s there in our motto: Floreat Magdalena! But we know that barriers still remain for some of the brightest prospective students. That’s why we continue to make access and outreach a priority.

The Access and Outreach strategy
In May 2018 the University of Oxford published its first Annual Admissions Statistical Report which investigated how Oxford can best work to ensure fair representation of talented students from all backgrounds in the UK.

The Statistical Report for 2015-2017 showed that Magdalen needed to do a lot more to attract prospective students from under-represented groups.

In response to this, Magdalen developed an ambitious new Outreach and Access Strategy for the period 2018 - 2023, with four goals:

1. To give opportunities for outstanding education to students regardless of background.

2. To increase the presence of under-represented groups at Magdalen and at Oxford.

3. To promote Magdalen and Oxford to all students with the potential for academic excellence.

4. To support the University as a whole in its outreach and access work.

Increasing our visibility
In its first year, the new Outreach Team conducted over 80 outreach events, engaging with more than 2,500 prospective students. In 2019, this number leapt to 116 events, reaching more than 10,000, including Open Day visitors.

We are delighted to say that the access and outreach programme has received overwhelmingly positive support from across the Magdalen community. During the 2019-2020 academic year so far, 17 academics have contributed taster sessions to our outreach events, in subjects including Law, Physics, Music, and Medicine. Students, staff, and alumni have also given considerable time to support the work.

The Access and Outreach programme effect
Magdalen College saw a marked increase in the number of new undergraduates from under-represented groups last year compared to the period 2016-18.

Of the 76 UK-domiciled students who started in October last year 31.5% are from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds (an increase of 20.7 percentage points from the average for the previous three years) and 60.5% are female (an increase of 16.1 percentage points).

59.2% new-starters attended a state secondary school (an increase of 8.8 percentage points), 13.3% are from socio-economically disadvantaged areas (an increase of 4.2 percentage points), and 17.6% are from areas with low progression to higher education (an increase of 8.9 percentage points).

Previously Magdalen admitted low numbers of students from under-represented groups, relative to other Oxford colleges. Now, however, we are proud to say that Magdalen is leading the way in terms of access.

Access Fellow Professor Robin Cleveland commented, “The increase in the diversity of Magdalen’s student body this year reflects well on the emphasis that has been placed on access and outreach in the past two years.

“In particular the work of the Access and Outreach team in visiting schools across the country and hosting students at the College has made it clear that Magdalen is open and accessible to all.”

Sarah Rosson, the JCR Admissions and Access Trustee for 2019, added, “It’s fantastic to see that there is progress being made and that our outreach efforts are paying off.

“We’re really looking forward to ensuring that we continue this positive trend.”

UK-domiciled students who started in October

59.2% Attended a state secondary school

31.5% From BAME backgrounds

If you would like to find out more about our access and outreach work please contact our Outreach Team at outreach@magd.ox.ac.uk
“It’s fantastic to see that there is progress being made and that our outreach efforts are paying off.”
**Starter for ten**

The Revd Dr Andrew Bowyer joined Magdalen College as the new Dean of Divinity last year. He was raised in Melbourne and was ordained in the Anglican Church of Australia in 2008. Here he shares a few of his favourite things.

1. This Chalice and paten is used each Sunday morning Eucharist at College Chapel. To me it represents holiness, communion, Divine beauty and the gift of priestly vocation. In the liturgy the bells are rung at various points to accompany the priest’s prayers over the bread and the wine at the Eucharist, alerting the congregation to the sanctity of the moment. They also alert congregants to the ‘high church’ tradition of Chapel worship at Magdalen.

2. The Icon, often called ‘The Virgin of Tenderness’ is written in the Byzantine style. I bought it in Athens while I was travelling there with a group of students in 2017. The Greek Orthodox icon writer offered me strong coffee and refused to believe that I was a priest because I lacked a substantial beard. A copy of a similar icon was given to me when I left Australia to come to the UK in 2012, so, as well as being a universal image of maternal love, it reminds me of home.

3. In January, I took a walking holiday in the south of France and was determined to see the Musée National Marc Chagall. I had read this autobiographical reflection in preparation, which tells of Chagall’s childhood in a poor, beleaguered Jewish hamlet in pre-revolutionary Russia and his determination to live his artistic vocation despite opposition and displacement. In extraordinarily vivid colour his paintings portray the struggles of the Jewish people, the endurance of faith and stories that make life worth living.

4. The green book is *A Prayer Book For Australia*, a modern take on the Book of Common Prayer for use in the Anglican Church of Australia. It features a depiction of the Australian wattle flower on the cover. I include it as a reminder of my school days and my early days as a priest, moving around between six small congregations each week in rural New South Wales.

5. Ascenseur pour l’échafaud is an album by jazz musician Miles Davis from 1957. It’s thoughtful, haunting and at times melancholy. When I arrived in my Waynflete flat last July at the height of summer, I opened all the windows and turned up the volume as I unpacked!

6. Donald MacKinnon was the subject of my PhD Thesis, which I gained from the University of Edinburgh in 2016. After many revisions, it was released in unaffordable hardback in 2018 as *Donald MacKinnon’s Theology; To Perceive Tragedy Without the Loss of Hope*. MacKinnon was an Anglican theologian and moral philosopher who taught Iris Murdoch in Oxford and Rowan Williams in Cambridge. He combined a commitment to orthodox Christianity with a conviction that faith must remain restless, questioning and open-ended.

7. This is the key to the Magdalen College Chapel, here representing the great line of predecessors and the responsibility I feel to be a good steward of the spiritual life of the College.

8. This is a reproduction of Arthur Streeton’s *Near Heidelberg* (1890), currently housed in the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. It depicts the grassy plains on the outskirts of the city, so familiar to me as a boy. The painting evokes the colours and smells of the Australian summer.

9. This figure of Tintin was given to me by a friend on leaving Edinburgh, where I lived and studied in 2012-2015. I was thrilled to receive it, because I had absorbed myself in Tintin’s adventures as a child. It also brings to mind wonderful memories of walking the Scottish Highlands and evokes my nomadic life since leaving Melbourne in 2004.

10. J.G. Ballard’s *The Drowned World* and Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* are two novels that continue to shape my imagination years after reading them. Both are intense, dystopian and immensely creative. They explore the lives of characters who seek solace in the midst of environmental and societal break-down; make of that what you will!
**Inside job**

**Olivia Webster** is the Outreach and Access Officer at Magdalen. Her job is to encourage prospective students to consider Oxford and Magdalen as an option, no matter what their background is. Her primary responsibility is to run outreach events. Olivia grew up in Barnsley and, after participating on a UNIQ summer school, she secured a place at Oxford University. This is her first job.

**What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The best thing is definitely working directly with school students. The message behind all our events is such a positive one – ‘students from all backgrounds have the potential to study anywhere and achieve anything’. It is such a pleasure to be able to spread this message almost every day.

**What has been the biggest challenge?**

Probably fixing my student sleep schedule so I can arrive for a 9am start. Or figuring out how my pension works which I still don’t really understand. Thankfully I’m thoroughly mothered by everyone in the Grammar Hall office so they’ve helped me with these adulting basics.

**What has been a highlight?**

After the student interview period was over, we had a big dinner with all the staff and students who helped out which was very fun and very delicious. The student helpers bought us flowers and chocolates which was really touching because I used to be the student helper buying the gifts and now I was one of the staff they were thanking.

**What is your favourite part of College?**

There is a bench at the start of Addison’s Walk where you can see the river, the Chapel tower and New Buildings. It’s a lovely place to read during the summer.

**If you could go back in time, where would you go?**

I studied History at Merton College before beginning at Magdalen and one of my favourite topics was Joan of Arc. So I think I’d probably go back to 1429 France when she helped lift the Siege of Orleans to have a chat with her. If I didn’t get killed in the siege, I’d also quite like to go and hang out in an American movie theatre during the golden age of cinema.

**How do you relax?**

I’m a bit of a film fanatic so in my spare time I make amateur short films and music videos, including one I’ve written about a failed alien abduction. When I’m not making (or watching) films, I’ll probably be drawing portraits. Maybe unsurprisingly these are usually of film characters…

**Tell us something about yourself that not many people know.**

I have a toy dinosaur on my desk who has become our outreach mascot. We have named him Trevor. My goal is to make him a little T-Shirt to match the ones our student ambassadors wear.

**Tell us a joke.**

What do you call a deer with no eyes? No-eye deer

ROAR!!

**What does Magdalen mean to you?**

I see Magdalen as a place of opportunity. For me personally, the College took a chance on a fresh graduate to give me my first full-time job doing something I really love. Also in a wider sense for the school students I work with, who are aspiring to study here and more than ever before have the chance to do so.

**Tell us something about yourself that not many people know.**

I have a toy dinosaur on my desk who has become our outreach mascot. We have named him Trevor. My goal is to make him a little T-Shirt to match the ones our student ambassadors wear.

**Is there anyone you would like to thank and why?**

I’m bit of a film fanatic so in my spare time I make amateur short films and music videos, including one I’ve written about a failed alien abduction. When I’m not making (or watching) films, I’ll probably be drawing portraits. Maybe unsurprisingly these are usually of film characters…

**How would you describe your perfect day?**

I’d probably be back in Yorkshire where I grew up with my family and friends having a movie marathon with lots of chocolate and a cup of tea.

**Tell us a joke.**

What do you call a deer with no eyes? No-eye deer

ROAR!!
Across
1 Struggle with elements (7)
5 Scottish head’s fond of very old holy man (7)
9 German urban area lacking hotel has the Spanish returning in the country (5)
10 Trump, perhaps from bottom of VIP guest (9)
11 Dear former partner writes letter, dropping the “miss” (9)
12 Adult publication with Greek beauty on the cover (5)
13 Headless racket on top of porters’ lodge (4)
15 College dean getting drunk with starters of gin, lager and madeira (8)
18 Local where gin or ale is served (8)
19 Get a record following the summits of southern Transylvania - a bit of a trek (4)
22 Philosophy, French and Latin here (5)
24 Gold coffer heads of Roman archaeology found in a pit (9)
26 Stick to flat surface – it will stop you spinning (9)
27 Sneak back books, way to get one’s fortune? (5)
28 Snake in the grass - one talking nonsense, not quietly (7)
29 Climber, one attached to tower (7)

Down
1 Supervisor in conflict over study (6)
2 Chocolate, alpen, bananas. This could take off! (9)
3 Female embracing the French, one taken to Paris against her will? (5)
4 Local theatre pilots are cobblers (9)
5 Frustration of woman who gave into temptation after exercise (5)
6 They came first in sailing or cycling (9)
7 Character coming last in home game (5)
8 Drumming getting under one’s skin? (6)
14 Most important scientific theorem discussed in lecture (9)
16 German ancient heraldic device is a bird (9)
17 Exam after one singled out by vote (9)
20 Parochial ruler who is on the right page and getting popular at last (6)
21 Get control of subject, with second instead of third (6)
23 Being welcomed by presenter, ego gets a boost (5)
24 Broadcasting touching song (2-3)
25 Supernumerary fellow making a rare appearance (5)

Last words
Puny originally meant ‘junior’ or ‘younger’ and is from Old French puis né ‘born later’.
Dismal is from Latin dies mali ‘evil days’, referring to days believed to be unlucky or unpropitious.
Otter is from Old English otor, related to Greek hydros ‘water snake’, from the Indo-European base of ‘water’.

Follow @SCPHorobin on Twitter for more
Over the years many alumni have chosen to leave a bequest to Magdalen in their Will, as a personal legacy that will endure for centuries to come.

What aspects of College do you most care about preserving in perpetuity?

Is it Magdalen’s sublime buildings and grounds?

Or the intellectual rigour of the tutorial system, and graduate scholarships to unlock the discoveries of the future?

Maybe you just want to help students who need it most, or to support the College’s greatest need?

If you are interested in finding out more about including Magdalen in your Will, please contact Anna Norman Deputy Director of Development and Head of Alumni Engagement for a legacy pack at: anna.norman@magd.ox.ac.uk  
+44 (0)1865 610342

Find out how your gift will make a difference to the generations of Magdalen students who follow in your footsteps.