



LMH
Lady Margaret Hall

THE **BROWN BOOK** 2024



**Lady Margaret Hall
Oxford**

THE BROWN BOOK



2024

Editor

*Carolyn Carr
66 High Street
Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, OX9 7AB
cacarr1996@aol.com*

Assistant Editors

Obituaries

*Alison Gomm
3 The College
High Street
Drayton St Leonard
OX10 7BB
alison_gomm@msn.com*

Reviews

*Judith Garner
1 Rochester Avenue
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 3YE
judith01garner@btinternet.com*

Lady Margaret Hall

*Oxford OX2 6QA
Telephone: 01865 274362
development@lmh.ox.ac.uk
www.lmh.ox.ac.uk*

The Brown Book is produced by Lady Margaret Hall alumni for fellow alumni
with the support of the college.

Front cover illustration: Old Old Hall

Contents page illustration: View from the roof of Talbot Hall

Back cover illustration: Isambard Kitten Brunel, the Library cat
(photograph by Jamie Fishwick-Ford)

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2024 edition of *The Brown Book* which we hope you will enjoy. As always, we have an interesting range of articles and news from alumni, book reviews and obituaries, and we are immensely grateful to everyone who has contributed. In the college reports, we include reports from the new Chaplain and the new Head Gardener. As we no longer include exam results in the gazette, the Senior Tutor has sent a report on this year's results, highlighting the subjects where LMH has been particularly successful. In addition, we have a list of academic staff in the final section of this *Brown Book*. This list used to be included in *The Brown Book* but was dropped in 2006 when the Development Office sent the College Annual Report to alumni.

Most articles in *The Brown Book* result from interesting items sent in for the News section. This year Michelle MacDonald describes her transition from piano teacher to award-winning garden designer and Sister Anne-Marie Worster tells us about the production of two CDs by the sisters of the Poor Clares of Arundel. As has been highlighted in *LMH News*, the Oral History Project was re-launched after the pandemic. We have a brief overview from Nicky Bull and an article that came out of a discussion between Judith Macgregor and three fellow LMH diplomats.

The Reviews include books ranging from Antonia Fraser's biography of Lady Caroline Lamb, through Margery Ord's memoirs and Lisa Parkinson's book on her work in the field of family mediation, a discipline which she founded, to history, poetry and art. We have a review of Marion Turner's biography of the Wife of Bath, the first 'ordinary' woman in English literature, and family histories from Angelica Goodden and Jane Bwye. We re-visit the diplomatic world with a memoir from Juliet Campbell and, of course, there is a good selection of novels to tempt you over the winter months.

As we near the 50th anniversary of LMH going mixed, in 1979, the obituaries sadly include an increasing number of men. Among those is an obituary for Francis O'Gorman who was an organ scholar in the 1980s and a Professor of English at Leeds and Edinburgh. We have featured reviews of a number of his books over the years. Stacy Marking was a frequent reviewer for us and edited *Oxford Originals*, the anthology of writing by LMH alumni. She had a fascinating life, including working for the BBC and on *Today's History* for Channel 4. Many of the obituaries for our older alumni describe lives that were not particularly out of the ordinary and yet it is clear that they were all strong, independent women. There are many references to travelling abroad, some for their own career or to support their husband, and some for the experience, from travelling the silk road by bus to visiting Antarctica for a 'big adventure'.



This year, Alison, Judith and I have been joined by Charlotte Crilly (1991 Jurisprudence) who is bringing her copy-editing experience to help Alison with assembling and proof-reading *The Brown Book*. As always we are very grateful to the team in the Development Office for their support, suggesting ideas and possible reviewers, gathering submissions for the news, checking names and dates in the database and, most importantly, providing the photos of our beautiful College.

Carolyn Carr
Editor



REPORTS

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REPORTS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Many of you may have heard me talk at College events about what I see as the three central priorities of my role as Principal: championing and supporting our core academic mission of excellence in teaching, learning and research; attracting and admitting the most talented students regardless of background; and reinforcing the College's finances to provide security and flexibility for current and future generations.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to champion some of the academic achievements of our Fellows in the past year. Professor Yujia Qing, Tutorial Fellow in Organic Chemistry, received a European Research Council Horizon Europe starter grant, one of only four awarded within Oxford's Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences division. Dr Ben Higgins, College Fellow in English and Tutor for Graduates, received the Shakespeare's Globe Book Award for his book *Shakespeare's Syndicate*. Professor Gianluca Gregori, Tutorial Fellow in Physics, was awarded a major UKRI grant on a multicentre nuclear fusion project. Professor Christine Gerrard, former interim Principal of the College, was appointed director of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH). Professor Marion Turner, J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language, curated the acclaimed exhibition *Chaucer: Here and Now* at the Bodleian and edited its accompanying book. And Professor Christine Goldschmidt, Tutorial Fellow in Statistics, will be the Della Pietra Distinguished Professor at the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute at Berkeley in 2025. This non-exhaustive list is a brief snapshot of the impact our academic members are having on the world.

We operate within a highly competitive academic environment, and I am delighted that the college remains globally competitive. Over the last year, we have hired seven new Fellows to join our academic community: from within Oxford; from the Universities of London and Bristol; from Australia; and – continuing a trend of arrivals at LMH from the Ivy League – Professor Frank Griffel from Yale, who will take up the Chair in Abrahamic Religions in October 2024. Our Fellowship is made up of brilliant academics from across the world, adding to the richness of collegiate life and bringing fresh perspectives and ideas.

The generosity of our alumni has enabled us to add three new Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) this year, early-career researchers who will be the academic leaders of the future: the Manby JRF in the Humanities; the Levin JRF in Peace Studies; and a JRF in Applied Artificial Intelligence. We have also established and hired the Clive Holmes Fellow in American History thanks to the remarkable collective support of over 95 members of the LMH history community. This is a major boost for our history teaching team and provides a fitting recognition for a much-loved LMH historian.

LMH was founded to open education and career opportunities to the previously excluded. We continue to focus on reducing barriers to an Oxford education, attracting the most talented minds regardless of background or disadvantage, and providing the support, resources and community so that they can flourish. LMH is distinctive – through our wellbeing and study skills support – in our dedication to equipping students to tackle academic and personal challenges. College is only able to provide this support due to visionary philanthropy of our alumni, for which we are deeply grateful.

I am particularly proud that this year we will be sending two of our Finalists on fully funded scholarships to the Ivy League, on the Von Clemm scholarship to Harvard and through a Thouron Award to the University of Pennsylvania. As I write, Finals results are beginning to come in, along with news of various prizes won by our students. I am delighted to report that one of our Law Finalists placed first in their cohort across the whole University. News like this emphasises the transformative impact of the tutorial teaching our students receive during their time here, and how it can help them to flourish academically and personally.

To enable us to continue providing this high standard of teaching and support, the Governing Body and I are committed to securing the college's finances and building financial flexibility for the future. This year we were delighted to achieve a record high of philanthropic funds received, which pushed our endowment over £50m for the first time. Looking forward to 2029 and beyond, we will seek to build on this foundation, closing the financial gap between LMH and other Oxford colleges and reducing the financial barriers many of our students face in accessing a collegiate education.

This college has been built on a rich history of philanthropy. For example, when College members work, dine or sleep in the Deneke building, we literally stand on the generosity of those who have invested in LMH. In 1930, Helena and Margaret Deneke travelled to New York City to raise funds for a badly needed new building. 'A plan was discussed but with little hope, for the finances of the hall did not justify so heavy an outlay.' However, the building that we now know as Deneke was made possible by Mary Stillman Harkness, who had no prior connection with the college. Mrs Harkness donated £35,000 (about £3m today) to the college because she believed in LMH's distinctive and compelling educational mission.

Thank you all for your continued engagement, commitment and support of LMH. It has been a delight as Principal over the past two years to meet hundreds of our alumni in the UK and abroad. I look forward to seeing many of you back in College in the years leading up to our 150th anniversary for gaudies and garden parties, and to celebrating the impact that the college has had on so many lives. As we plan our 150th Anniversary in 2028–29, we are excited to celebrate all that has been achieved since the first nine women walked through the doors of Old Old Hall in 1879, and determined to consider the legacy we want to leave for future generations at LMH.

Stephen Blyth
Principal

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

To summarise the activities of the Development Team during the past year and all the interactions we have had with alumni is no easy feat.

Our events programme has been very busy and varied, with 42 events hosted during the 2023/24 academic year, including our winter social drinks in London which sold out, and our Garden Party in June which reached maximum capacity. We are delighted that alumni, whatever their age and stage in life, continue to join us from around the world: to reunite with old friends at gaudies; enjoy our academic content such as our refreshed annual Wordsworth Lecture; and to share the college with loved ones, for example at the Garden Party.

Opportunities for alumni to contribute their time continue to grow through the LMH Volunteer Network. My sincere thanks again to our wonderful *Brown Book* editorial team who spend hours compiling this treasured record of alumni news and achievements for us all to enjoy. Thirteen volunteers are now involved in our Oral History Project – recording the memories of alumni throughout the years to enshrine their experiences of LMH and life stories in our archives and for our 150th anniversary exhibition. Meanwhile others are kindly sharing work experience, internship and job opportunities for display on our student noticeboard to support students in their career searches. Furthermore, as part of our work to build and maintain strong links within this rich and vibrant community, we have been pleased to welcome back alumni to speak about their extraordinary accomplishments, their careers and their areas of expertise.

The team works hard to keep alumni and friends connected with each other and with College news. I hope you have enjoyed *LMH News*, published earlier this summer, and also our regular e-news bulletins. We are keen to ensure we are communicating in the way alumni prefer, and I would encourage readers to participate in our *How do you read yours?* campaign to share your communication preferences with us.

The 150th anniversary in 2028-29 provides a unique opportunity for us to celebrate together all that is special about LMH. From paying tribute to the visionary founders of the college in 1878, to documenting and acknowledging the varied and impressive achievements and developments of our community over the subsequent years, to planning for the future and how our actions now will influence the college of tomorrow, the activities of the coming years will be a chance for us all to show our appreciation. We look forward to working with you in support of College and will keep you updated as our plans progress – please continue to share your suggestions for marking this important period with us.

Finally, and vitally, the transformative philanthropic spirit of alumni and friends must be celebrated. With inflation and the high cost of living significantly affecting the finances of both the college and our community, we simply could not provide the special LMH experience and student support of which we are so proud without donations. We hope that more alumni will be inspired to join their peers in giving back

at whatever level they are able and joining our wonderful community of donors who endorse the value of our college. To find out more about the direct impact of gifts to LMH I encourage you to read our annual *Philanthropy Report* which can be found on our website.

Anna Bates
Development Director

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

These first two terms as Chaplain of Lady Margaret Hall have been remarkable, exciting, and have provided me with varied opportunities to get better acquainted with our College community as well as with the Chapel itself. From lighting candles throughout the day and saying a private prayer, to playing on the piano, either alone or with friends, in daytime or in the evening after dinner, to participating in various services. Current members of the college, as well as alumni, friends, family members or visitors, interact daily with the Chapel in various ways. Although Giles Gilbert Scott (1880–1960) conceived it originally as directly accessible from the street (*see image below*), the Chapel is now set apart, out of the way visually, and offers, as a sacred space, an oasis of calm and quietness like none other in College.

A major highlight in Trinity Term which helped reveal the architectural delights of the Chapel was the art exhibition organised by the second-year art students, under the coordination of Joni Brown and Azezia Edwards: ‘Adaptations’ (*see photograph below*). Textiles, light or image projections, sculptures, paintings and engraved plates transformed the space to help everyone ponder the various adaptations students had experienced as they joined Oxford University, and Lady Margaret Hall in particular. It enabled all visitors to see, inhabit, explore, navigate and engage with the Chapel in another way. It opened up everyone’s imagination to see beyond the ordinary and reveal the potential of this spectacular space.

Meanwhile, both Hilary Term and Trinity Term have offered remarkable occasions of celebration at our weekly Choral Evensong service, which takes place on Friday at 6:00pm and to which all – including alumni – are warmly welcome.

Our first service in January, at which I was licensed by the Revd Canon Dr Peter Groves, Associate Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, almost exactly coincided with the 91st anniversary of the consecration of our Chapel on 14 January 1933. Later in the Term, we hosted the annual University Sermon ‘On the Grace of Humility’ at which the Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, preached a delightful, thought-provoking, brave and inspiring sermon based on the passage from 1 Corinthians 1:31 (‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’). The service preceded our annual Founders and Benefactors dinner and was glorious. It featured the world premiere of the mesmerising setting of the Canticles (Magnificat

and Nunc Dimittis), the 'LMH Service', composed by our outstanding student in music, Christopher Churcher. Our senior soprano Choral Scholar, Erin Williams, performed the solo piece 'The Woodcutter's Song' by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), which he composed for his opera *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1951) inspired by John Bunyan's (1628–88) Christian allegory of the same name (1678). Because I am also Chaplain at Corpus Christi College, we held a joint service of Choral Eucharist with both the LMH and CCC choirs on Ash Wednesday, which was splendid. The term ended on a glorious note with a service on 8 March curated for International Women's Day which we held with St Hilda's and St Hugh's. It included the poem 'Christ came out of the Greenwood' by local poet Joseph Butler, and 'Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou (1928–2014). The service ended superbly with the 'March of the Women' composed by Ethel Smyth (1858–1944) and written by Cecily Hamilton (1872–1952). The music covered many generations of women and composers whom we now include regularly in our services as we aim at diversifying our repertoire even further. After this service, and some refreshments, the Chamber Choir performed the *Nelson Mass* by Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) back in the Chapel, which was a triumph.

In Trinity Term, our main highlights were our Lady Margaret Day service at which Professor Marion Turner, J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language, gave a memorable address about Lady Margaret Beaufort, and our Leavers Service at which Dr David Campbell, Fellow and Tutor in Law, and Dean, gave the address – inspiring, witty, and wise. These two concluded a series of thought-provoking, challenging and most enjoyable sermons given by a wide variety of preachers in Hilary and Trinity, among whom were The Revd Ally Barrett (Chaplain of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, artist, painter, writer), The Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex (Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry), The Revd Hannah Cartwright (Associate Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, University Church), The Revd Mary Gurr (Chaplain to the Homeless Community, Founder of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter), The Revd Dr Christina Beardsley (pastor, researcher, speaker, trans Christian advocate, author, retired healthcare chaplain) and the Revd Remi Omole (Lead Chaplain at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust).

Much gratitude goes to our Organ Scholars, Alexander Hall and Matthew Eldridge, as well as our Director of Music, Paul Burke, for the outstanding music we enjoyed this year. We bid farewell to four Choral Scholars (Liliana Cookson, Tasha Dambacher, Toby Galbraith and Erin Williams) and one Organ Scholar (Matthew Eldridge), and are thus now awaiting our new Junior Organ Scholar to join us in Michaelmas Term, as well as looking forward to recruiting new Choral Scholars.

Alongside our weekly service of Choral Evensong, Compline and Taizé have become part of our weekly offering, on Wednesday at 8:30 pm. By candlelight, the services offer a brief pause in the evening to sing and listen, in a warm, quiet, and prayerful environment. LMH students particularly enjoy singing and the service of Taizé, at which everyone is invited to sing, was especially popular.

Apart from the services in Chapel, we have co-organised an a cappella singing session in the LMH gardens in collaboration with our gardeners and the very talented choir conductor Elena Harris. We held social events with members of various religious

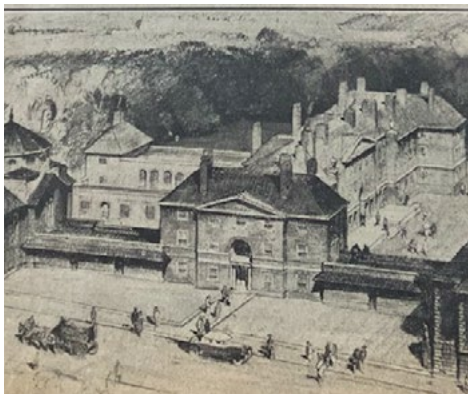
societies (including a particularly enjoyable Bring & Share), a ceremony on Holocaust Memorial Day with the LMH Jewish Society, as well as a celebration in the LMH garden with the Hindu Society. Given the heart-breaking situation in the Holy Land, offering opportunities for everyone to pray, find a safe and quiet space, as well as engage with people holding a variety of views in a respectful manner has proved very welcome.

As we prepare for the 2024–25 academic year, the Chapel programme features a variety of captivating preachers at Evensong and our service of Lessons and Carols dedicated to our alumni will take place on Friday 6 December. The full Chapel Card will be available online and in hard copies in 0th Week. *All our alumni are warmly invited to join any of our services.*

Inspired by stellar examples such as Eglantyne Jebb (LMH 1895–98), this new academic year will also see the development of volunteering opportunities through which our students especially will be invited to put into good use their outstanding and many talents to the benefit of others. Stay tuned.

Being the first female Chaplain at LMH, I feel honoured, privileged as well as delighted to be part of it. Since January, I have witnessed an appetite for thought-provoking conversations and the exploration of difficult questions, a passion for music, and a curiosity for spiritual matters. In what we often call a secular society, our students and staff have the immense privilege of being given a space and various opportunities to embrace their spirituality without the fear of seeing it dismissed as irrelevant, opportunities to try and learn about various religions, to discern what makes most sense to them and can help them navigate a complex world. This is something to treasure and nurture.

Stephanie Burette
LMH Chaplain



Giles Gilbert Scott design for Lady Margaret Hall

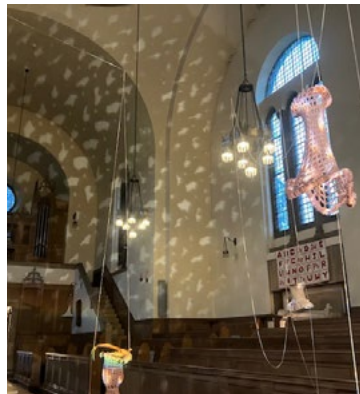


Image from 'Adaptations' exhibition

FROM THE HEADS OF WELLBEING

At the end of Nicole's second year and Lizzie's first year as joint Heads of Wellbeing, we are delighted to update you on another busy and productive academic year. Building on our goal to promote wellbeing at every stage of a student's journey, we have been able to make contact with students even earlier this year. In June, we launched a newsletter for offer-holders, followed by a welcome letter to Freshers in September, inviting them to contact us with any questions or concerns before they arrived in Oxford.

The year began with our participation at the Freshers' registration event, where we hosted a table and gave a talk to all incoming students. This initial contact proved invaluable in introducing ourselves and highlighting the proactive approach we take to wellbeing and welfare at LMH.

The core of our work continues to be one-to-one meetings with students. This year, we held over 400 meetings, working with 145 individual students, which represents approximately 20 per cent of the LMH student population. Key concerns remain consistent, with mental health difficulties, accommodation issues, and challenging personal circumstances being the most common topics discussed.

Our professional backgrounds have enabled us to further streamline wellbeing-related processes, policies and procedures to ensure clarity and transparency. A significant development this year was the implementation of a new information storage system. This system allows us to store notes confidentially and securely, and crucially, separately from a student's academic record. This improvement ensures that student privacy is maintained while providing the best possible support.

Wellbeing fortnights have continued to be a highlight this year, incorporating a variety of events aimed at promoting mental health and wellbeing. These events included workshops, guest speakers and group activities designed to foster a sense of community. Additionally, LMH hosted a mindfulness course for students that ran throughout Trinity Term, which was well-received and attended by many students seeking to learn more about mindfulness.

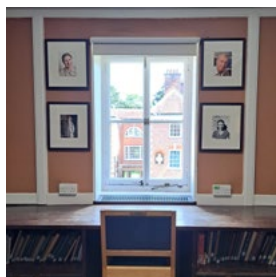
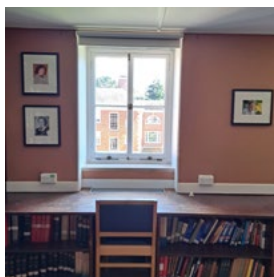
Looking forward to next year, we are excited to build on these successes and continue to innovate in our approach to student wellbeing. We plan to introduce more proactive outreach initiatives, expand our range of wellbeing events, and further refine our processes to ensure we are meeting the evolving needs of our student population. We remain committed to ensuring that every student feels supported and valued throughout their academic journey.

Nicole Jones and Lizzie Shine
Heads of Wellbeing

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

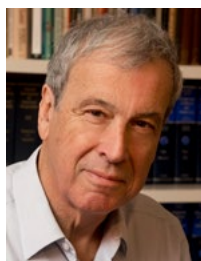
Last year's library report spoke about the relief of a return to normality after the disruption of the pandemic lockdown years – this year's relief has been the successful completion of a whole range of long-outstanding projects. Hopefully, these have all had minimal disruption for students, but will enable the library to provide a better service and work more efficiently in future. The Fellow Librarian this year, responsible for chairing the termly Library Steering Group and representing the library on Governing Body, has been Jan Westerhoff – but these projects began and had much of their work done under the previous Fellow Librarian Grant Tapsell, and so both are to be thanked for supporting the library staff in guiding them to completion.

The main visible change has been the long-requested addition of a lift up the main library staircase, which is folded away when not in use but folds out to operate as either a platform lift or a chair lift. Following on from the conversion of the ground floor entrance to the library to a powered door several years ago, this enables LMH to offer step-free access to two of the three library floors for any users with specific mobility requirements. Sadly, there is no step-free access to the upper floor, but the narrow width of the gallery makes that impassable for many wheelchairs anyway. However, the new lift gives access to the middle floor where readers can visit the library staff in their offices, who can then fetch them books from upstairs.



The folded lift up the main staircase, and photographic portraits of LMH humanities Fellows

Another visible change has been the completion of the second set of photographic portraits. About a decade ago a set of portraits of LMH scientists was hung in the science area on the lower floor; this second project aimed to build a collection of photos of distinguished LMH humanities Fellows, particularly those with strong ties to the library and not recognised elsewhere in college, in the side rooms on the upper floor.



Humanities Fellows in the photographic portraits collection. Top row: Anne Pennington, Anne Whiteman, Clive Holmes. Bottom row: Susan Wollenberg, Catherine Mary MacRobert, Richard Jenkyns, Lilian Jeffery

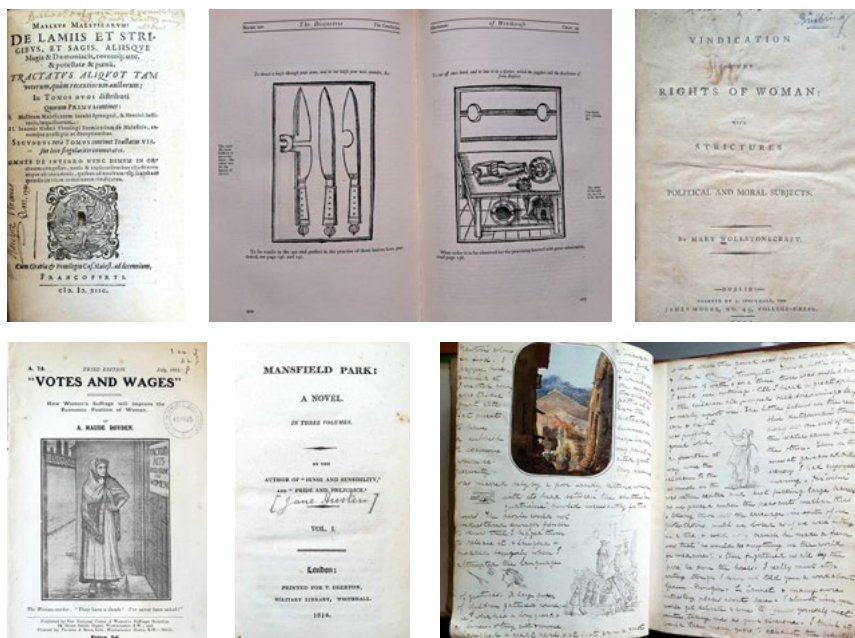
One major infrastructure project is currently under way: the replacement of the existing single-glazed windows throughout the library with double-glazed windows. This project should have minimal visual impact – reusing existing frames and brass fittings as much as possible – but will make heating the building much more efficient, tying in with the recently completed work in Eleanor Lodge. At the time of writing, at the start of the Long Vacation 2024, the downstairs windows have been completed apart from a final coat of paint; work on the upper and middle floor windows is just beginning. Over this vacation there will be some disruption to library users due to this, particularly as *in situ* work on the fixed upper half-circle windows will be more intrusive than work on the regular windows, requiring scaffolding and noisy tools to be used inside the library. The project should be finished by September, and ensure a more efficiently and effectively heated Michaelmas and Hilary.

One of the most notable projects this year from a staff perspective has been the successful implementation of the new Oxford-wide library management system last summer, and a series of improvements made to the new system over this year. While this was a huge undertaking for library staff, hopefully the impact on other LMH members was minimal (apart from a period last Long Vacation, when everything shut down to be transferred to the new system). The new system enables better integration between the university's management of physical books, e-books, other digital resources, and

online reading lists; and the software is used at other similar institutions including Cambridge and Harvard. This project involved a lot of successful collaboration between the Bodleian Libraries and college libraries. The LMH Library team stepped up to do their part: LMH Librarian Jamie Fishwick-Ford was on the Reporting & Analytics Workstream from the start of the project, and became the colleges' main voice on the Programme Board for the final two years, while LMH Assistant Librarian Sally Hamer has been on the Acquisitions Workstream for the past year. Now the main project is wrapping up, although the Bodleian and colleges are keen to continue some of this cross-collaboration in the future, and will be establishing successor groups to help perfect the new system and test future changes.

Of course, the Bodleian has been undertaking many other major projects. The renovated Radcliffe Science Library finally re-opened just after the start of this academic year, and it is a popular space with students. Meanwhile, the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, including a Humanities Library that will merge the existing libraries for English, History of Medicine, Music, and Philosophy & Theology, is under construction in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, and is due to open in Michaelmas 2025. Both of these projects involve losing some seats, which is counter-balanced by many college libraries currently or recently undertaking major building projects to expand. LMH was ahead of the curve on that front, and the conversion of the ground floor from bedrooms to library two decades ago means that LMH Library has the number of seats that most other colleges are now working to attain.

Sally Hamer, the Assistant Librarian, wrote this year's LMH Library exhibition, entitled *Library Treasures from Women's History: Witchcraft, Women's Rights, and Women's Writings*. The first set of exhibition cases deal with witchcraft and the witch-hunts, including a 1588 edition of the infamous witch-hunter's handbook the *Malleus Maleficarum* ('Hammer of Witches') that led to so much suffering of innocent people, particularly women, and a fabulous fine press facsimile of Reginald Scot's *Discoverie of Witchcraft*. Scot set out to show that the belief in witchcraft was irrational and un-Christian, and also exposed how street magicians did their tricks – the first 'Secrets of the Magic Circle Exposed'! The next case looks at the fight for women's rights, featuring LMH's 1793 edition of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and a selection of suffrage pamphlets including LMH alumna Maude Royden's *Votes and Wages: How Women's Suffrage will Improve the Economic Position of Women* (3rd edition, 1912). The final case features a selection of literary works by female authors, including the 1814 first edition of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, and several issues of *The Barnacle*, a marvellous hand-written and hand-illustrated magazine made by a group of young ladies in the 1860s, united by their love for the author Charlotte Mary Yonge. This exhibition was opened to the public at Oxford Open Doors 2023, and was visited by many alumni at the recent 2024 Garden Party (including the actor Samuel West, who remarked that the fake daggers in Scot looked like ones he had used!). Pictures and captions for all the books are available online at https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/lmh/womens_history for those who missed out.



Library Treasures from Women's History. Top: Malleus Maleficarum (Frankfurt, 1588), Reginald Scot's Discoverie of Witchcraft (London, 1930), Mary Wollstonecraft's Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Dublin, 1793). Bottom: Maude Royden's Votes and Wages (Westminster, 1912), Jane Austen's Mansfield Park (London, 1814), the hand-made Barnacle Magazine (England, Christmas 1865)

The library is very grateful for all the support from donors, and book donations from alumni are gladly received. Books written by or about alumni, and books from before 1800, are automatically kept; other donations are processed and the books most useful to LMH students are added to the library while the rest are first offered to the students and then sent to an online bookseller if the students do not take them. People who have given books this year include Charles Amos, Pauline Baer de Perignon, Nicola Bull, Juliet Campbell, Nancy Campbell, Pip Cull, Dilar Dirk, Christine Gerrard, Judy Hague, Angela Heap, Kossen Ho, Sarah Hogg, Tom Hoskins, Jean Kabasomi, Kevin McCormick, Ewan McKendrick, Ruth Millington, Barbara Moore, Piyasi Morris, Griselda Pollock, Columbia Radu, Adrienne Rosen, Antonio Rubio, Grant Tapsell, Jane Turner, Peter Tyler, Rachel van der Wilden, Yuhang Wei, Guy Westwood, Judith White, Susan Wollenberg, and the Pakistan High Commission.

As always, alumni are very welcome to visit the library, and the library staff are happy to give tours and to show off the rare books collections. Alumni are also welcome to study in the library, particularly during staffed hours in vacations, but other times can

be arranged if needed. Appointments are made by emailing librarian@lmh.ox.ac.uk. It has been wonderful to see many of you this year, via appointments or on open days, and I look forward to seeing more of you in the year ahead.

Jamie Fishwick-Ford
Librarian

FROM THE SENIOR TUTOR

We are delighted once again with our Final Honours Schools results in more than 30 degree programmes. Over 120 students completed their degrees in summer 2024 and just shy of 90 per cent of the cohort obtained a First or 2:1. Notably strong performances were in history (modern, and history and politics), in economics and management, and in PPE. Once again we saw terrific results in mathematics and joint schools, chemistry, fine art and experimental psychology. Modern languages and philosophy, both also with their joint schools, and law were similarly pleasing.

We are particularly pleased to celebrate the 2:1 successes of the latest cohort of former LMH Foundation Year entrants who completed their Oxford degrees this summer. So far 36 former LMH Foundation Year students have completed. Nine additional students are progressing well and we look forward to celebrating their completed degrees in the course of the next three years.

Some of our graduates on taught courses have completed their studies (a good number are working on course dissertations due in September!). Many of those who have completed have been awarded Distinction or Merit in the following programmes: Bachelor of Civil Law and Magister Juris; Executive MBA; MPhil in development studies, economics, linguistics, philology and phonetics, economics, Slavonic studies, and water science, policy and management; MSc in contemporary Chinese studies, criminology and criminal justice, education, energy systems, law and finance, mathematical finance, mathematical sciences, mathematical and computational finance, mathematics and foundations of computer science, migration studies, precision cancer medicine, and refugee and forced migration studies; MSt in Asian and Middle Eastern studies, classical archaeology, comparative literature and critical translation, English, film aesthetics, Greek and/or Latin languages and literature, Greek and/or Roman history, history, theology and fine art.

Results in preliminary examinations this summer are excellent, with Distinctions obtained in history, PPE, biology, chemistry, mathematics (and joint schools), engineering, physics, modern languages, English, and law. These results bode well for Finals results in the future.

Anne Mullen
Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions

FROM THE HEAD GARDENER

This year has been a delightfully interesting churn of movement in our pursuits in the gardens of LMH. As you may already be aware, we have started the work here to gracefully update some key places to a fuller expression of their character, in time for the celebrations of our 150th anniversary in 2028. We are also working on solidifying our long-term plans for the wilder areas of college, the meadows, surveying the biodiversity more extensively, and thinking of our succession tree planting for the future.

Since October 2023 we have made good progress in the garden and the plans for the year ahead are coming together well. Despite exceptionally extensive flooding of the gardens and some prolonged wet, mild and stormy weather, the frost did arrive, which was welcome and needed. Due perhaps to the longest wettest winter in living memory, we have had a largely verdant garden this year which has been a welcome respite to the heat of years before, even with the relentless germination of weeds on all our beds and paths. This includes hordes reassembling themselves regularly on the beds that have been cleaned out for new planting. We have had a full site-wide tree survey, generating a complete and exacting species list – all 313 of them. This is a wonderful and educative source of information which we now have and can share with our community; it is quite nice to be able to speculate on tree plantings of the past, and notice the relations of thought around certain groupings.

We have also teamed up with Catriona Bass and company at the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project (TVWMRP) – this is particularly exciting, as for many years now I have been nudging along the meadow work here. With their help we can extend the meadows somewhat, introduce rarer localised natives, survey and educate, and use the machinery that can make it all possible at a larger scale. Until now we have been cutting and lifting cuttings by hand or with a Tracmaster, a motorised scythe for cutting the meadow close to the ground. This leaves the meadow cuttings on the ground to dry and finish dropping any seed, before picking them up after a week or so. This has been very laborious, yet peaceful and a real labour of love. The



Common bistort, bee orchid, pyramidal orchid



Flooded gardens, planning a bed, purple-loosestrife, Trees and meadow at the edge of the sports field

equipment on hire from TVWMP is a range of somewhat larger machinery, attached to a tractor, for cutting, tedding, raking and baling the hay, among other things. By using them we can scale up the size of our meadow on the hockey pitch, although we will continue to cut the smaller detailed areas by hand. An added bonus is that we can try out different timings of the meadow cuts to increase biodiversity, such as a traditional early cut in June and then a second cut in October, rather than one cut a year in late July or early August. This is most welcome, and it will be interesting to see how the meadows develop over time. On the years of the summer ball we can cut very early in the year so the field can be used for the ball. This will also help the perennial species by forcing them to spend their energy on rooting in a little more, rather than racing to flower that year.

This has been a year of spinning plates, and there is more to come for everything to be completed and bedding in, in good time for the 150th. In this process, it is wonderful to see the gardens of LMH refine and come together to illuminate its existing charisma. As I am slightly pressed for time with this report, we thought it would be best to share a link to a newly updated place on our website, where you can access more information on what is going on in the garden and grounds, with some more details on our vision for the future of the gardens. Here you will find my reports on the gardens uploaded each term, please do have a look: <https://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/gardens>

Oakley Loudon

Jenny Rose Carey Head Gardener

RETIREMENT OF HELENA ALEXANDER

On 17 May 2024, the college held an event in the Dining Hall to mark the extraordinary contribution of Helena Alexander (Lawrie 1976 PPE) to LMH. A large gathering of support staff, past and present, Fellows, friends and family came for coffee and cake, beautifully prepared as always by the catering team. Helena started to work at LMH in 2009 as the Treasury Administrator, supporting the then Treasurer Richard Sommers, and gave 15 years of service to the college. Coupled with her three years as an undergraduate, Helena held the record among support staff for the longest involvement with College. Helena reduced her hours to one day per week in 2021 to administer the college's endowment, and has more recently helped as a volunteer since she formally retired last year. After a successful career in the Bank of England and the Financial Conduct Authority, and as a PPE undergraduate, Helena provided expertise to the administration of the college with a particular focus on financial and investment matters. Helena also organised the 'World at LMH' for many years, oversaw the Amalgamated Sports Committee, which coincided with her interest in tennis, and outside her formal role, looked after the college seamstress, supervised work placement students, supported undergraduates attending College committees for the first time, and helped with development events. At the event, we thanked Helena for her extraordinary contribution and wished her well in her retirement.

Andrew MacDonald
LMH Treasurer



Helena Alexander receives a retirement gift.





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ARTICLES

THE LMH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

As you will have seen on p. 58 of this year's *LMH News*, a project to collect 150 recordings from LMH alumni and other members of the College community in time for the 150th anniversary celebrations was relaunched in mid-2023. Building on the work done by Harriet Kemp (1979 *Literae Humaniores*) and Cindy Bull (Harrison 1979 *Chemistry*) before and during the Covid pandemic, a new team of a dozen or so interviewers has now doubled the number of interviews held in the archive and by the end of 2024 we hope to be at least halfway to the target. Work has also started on preparing transcripts of recordings so that some of the recollections can be used in printed material and on the College website.

Talking to LMH alumni about their time in Oxford, and often also about how this influenced their futures, is a real privilege and I know that the other interviewers would say the same. We all have different memories of College: some of the memorable people, both staff and fellow students; the social life; and the rooms we occupied and the food we ate. It is proving absolutely fascinating to hear from ladies who were at LMH many decades before my own student days – as well as from those some years later who experienced life in a mixed college, and from even more recent, twenty-first-century graduates; these meetings invariably reinforce the impression of LMH as a welcoming and hospitable community.

One member of the Oral History Project interviewing team, Judith Macgregor, has spoken to a number of alumni who went on to have notable careers in the Foreign Office. As well as her review of Juliet Campbell's recent book, *Playing Britannia*, in this edition of *The Brown Book*, she writes below about these women and how their lives were influenced by LMH. This will give you a flavour of some of the wonderful material that is being gathered as we build an oral history archive for College that will be of lasting value for historians and prospective students as well as for future generations.

Nicky Bull
(Harper 1972 *Biochemistry*)

LMH ORAL HISTORIES: WOMEN DIPLOMATS

LMH is rightly regarded as a pioneer in teaching women and furthering our cause in education and research. It is less known perhaps for the women diplomats it has produced – of whom I am one. Three others are Juliet Campbell (Collings 1954 PPE), Susie Kitchens (Pullan 1992 Human Sciences) and Pauline Neville-Jones (1958 History), all of whom I interviewed recently for the amazing project to capture 150 alumni oral histories for the college's 150th anniversary in 2028.

Our interviews revealed very different experiences – both as students at LMH and in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) – over careers from the 1950s to the current day. Juliet Campbell went up to Oxford in 1954 and

joined the FCO in 1957, finishing her career there as Ambassador to Luxembourg. Juliet had an itinerant childhood and came to Oxford after a spell in Beirut where her father helped establish the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to look after the refugees from Palestine. She was never long enough in one place to do her A levels but passed the entrance exam, choosing LMH because of its buildings and beautiful garden.

Pauline Neville-Jones followed in 1958 with a career that lasted from 1963 to 1996, concluding her work as our first Political Director and Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee. Pauline's grammar school had recommended LMH, and Oxford offered her 'a better scholarship than Cambridge'. I followed in 1971, tempted by LMH's reputation for teaching my chosen subject, history. I subsequently joined the FCO in 1976, concluding my career as Ambassador in Mexico and High Commissioner in South Africa and retiring in 2017.

Susie Kitchens, my third interviewee, joined the college in 1992. She was also guided by her chosen course, human sciences, which few colleges offered at that time. After graduating in 1995, Susie pursued a career in international development and joined the FCO in 2002. She remains an active diplomat: most recently as Deputy High Commissioner in Kenya and then on loan as Deputy Director for Global Research and Innovation to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

In tracing our stories, the wider story of female empowerment is very clear. Juliet, Pauline and I joined a single-sex LMH – with firm gate rules keeping out the men and



*Judith Macgregor, Juliet Campbell
Susie Kitchens, Pauline Neville-Jones*

protecting the women. (Although two of us had ground-floor rooms providing frequent illicit passage in the summer term!) Our studies, with some variation, were broadly hosted within College and our lives were closely entwined with our friends and fellows. Susie entered a mixed-sex college, with around 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women, freer rules, and a pattern of study that took her almost exclusively to tuition outside of college. Social life, by definition, took most of us into Oxford and the men's colleges, and there were many parties. Juliet recalls, 'Post-war Britain was so very grey: my generation were trying almost to recreate the glamour of the pre-war period.'

But for all of us the friendships and contacts we created in our first weeks inside LMH proved hugely formative and long lasting. These friends were invariably found in nearby rooms or subject sets and all four of us are still in touch with many of them. Pauline found these friends provided a sort of 'unparalleled intellectual debating club with whom you could discuss absolutely anything'. Juliet too described endless late-night discussions over cups of cocoa, and Susie recalled supporting her friends through the unwelcome dramas of a bedroom fire in their building or at plays and concerts put on by fellow students. For all of us the luxury of having our own room – for personal independence and shared hospitality – was just wonderful.

More broadly, we all felt supported and stimulated by our Oxford experience to want a decent career and the chance to travel (neither a given aspiration for women in the earlier decades). The 'Oxford platform' brought us into contact with a wide range of creative and intellectual talent. The Oxford Union was closed to women until 1963, but there were many other outlets and activities to excite and inspire. All of us benefited (at least in retrospect!) from LMH's relentless essay writing regime – equipping us to write and digest material at speed and form cogent arguments. And we all revelled in – and drew comfort from – the lovely college gardens, especially as finals drew near.

In parallel, we were fired up by outside political developments. Juliet spoke of the impact on her and her circle of the invasion of Hungary in 1956 and the Suez expedition in 1957 – both actively deplored by students. Pauline recalled following avidly the Berlin Airlift and later the Cuban missile crisis. For me, in 1971, the US and French university campus occupations were still a very recent memory – as was the occupation of the Examination Schools in Oxford in 1969. These differing international events clearly stimulated all of us to look for a career abroad. Juliet and Pauline opted to do so even as they took their finals – Susie and I went abroad first to work before sitting the exams.

But for all of us this was a bold decision. Women were only permitted to apply to the FCO fast stream in 1946. Very few women did so as women in the FCO were not permitted to marry until 1973 and many therefore were obliged to retire even as they progressed in seniority. Many areas were closed to us. Juliet regretted that she could not learn Arabic in her early years and Pauline chafed at some of her early postings – mostly away from the 'interesting' areas. Both noted that in London their male colleagues were often out of office at their clubs, while their female colleagues manned the desks and put up with the 'dire' office canteen. By 1976 when I joined, marriage was possible, but having children and still working was rare and unpaid periods of leave still rarer. Juggling families, partners' careers, ageing parents and fixed cultural norms was anything but easy.

Gradually, we took on posts that had never been done by women and showed we could do them extremely well. Juliet and Pauline, by gaining visible ambassadorial posts and senior diplomatic and intelligence positions, served as helpful role models as more and more women joined. Women diplomats themselves grouped together in the 2000s to press for more equal opportunities – a group I myself led for some 10 years (as an Ambassador married to another Ambassador and with four young children) – and lobbied long and hard. In 2019, we could announce that seven of the UK's most senior posts were held by women: Washington, the UN, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Beijing and Rome. Increasingly, and at about the same time as the LMH Foundation Year programme took shape, the FCO's take on diversity too began to range more widely beyond women – with much still to do.

Learning through the Oral History Project about other students' experiences and careers has been fascinating – especially the ups and the downs: how obstacles were skilfully circumvented and how we all drew on our formative years at LMH and Oxford. As the Oral History Project gathers pace, it will provide an extraordinary archive of life at LMH and the journey of change for the women and men who joined the college in its first 150 years of existence. It will also serve as a reminder of the part Oxford played in encouraging and equipping us for our later careers – and the part we can play now in sharing those experiences with our students of today.

Judith Macgregor
(1971 History)

CHANGING CAREERS – FROM PIANO TEACHER TO GARDEN DESIGNER

I never thought I would change career. I was an established piano teacher with classroom experience and thought it odd when colleagues left to do other things. But a combination of things pushed me to consider something new. I was disillusioned with teaching, where pupils gave up at an interesting musical point because public exams got in the way or developed a social life which reduced practice. I was conscious that I might become that 'crabby' and, worse, 'old' teacher who put off young players. And when not teaching I seemed to spend too much time on a computer dealing with administrative emails.

After many years in accommodation at the schools my husband worked at, he retired and we returned to our own house. I took a one-term evening course to redesign our neglected garden and a lightbulb moment occurred looking at a diagram of overlapping shapes shifted vertically to manage a sloping site. Fascinating!

After much soul-searching about changing career, I found a part-time, in-person diploma course in Bristol. I wanted inspirational teaching and would never have finished an online, open-ended course. The course was so much more involved

than I had expected. First we learned the basics of design layout with reference to scale, harmony, aspect and managing levels; coping with issues such as overlooking neighbours, ugly boundaries or buildings, and how to take advantage of a lovely view; then came paving materials and other hard landscaping (anything which doesn't grow), suiting the location and style of the property for a harmonious result. All these were applied to projects from real sites with fictional briefs outlining the client's needs and wishes. Planting design was my favourite part, and we learned not just to select a pretty range of plants, but how soil, drainage and aspect affects each plant. Plants that are unhappy in your soil will not thrive, or you will spend much time and money trying to achieve the situation they like. Much better to analyse the soil and situation and choose appropriately. This may mean that you need to educate your client as to what will work in their garden, and part of our training was to find those plants that worked as alternatives where necessary.

We then considered features such as water and heat, lighting for safety and aesthetics, considering dark skies and wildlife, and structures such as garden rooms and outdoor kitchens. For me the hardest part was specification to receive an accurate quotation from your potential contractors – the nitty gritty of analysing exactly how much of any product or labour is needed, such as for preparatory works, paving, walling, edging materials, plants. We learned that unless contractors know precisely what you want, tendered quotations can vary greatly as each contractor quotes for what they estimate rather than what you actually envisage. Communication and clarity are therefore key to avoiding unpleasant surprises.

All this took place during the first year of the pandemic and we were forced to pause learning for a good period before teaching resumed, initially online and later in person again – socially distanced and sanitised, of course! Coupled with family illness at home it was quite a year and was a very slow start to creating a new business.

After finishing the course I offered to volunteer weekly at a local plant nursery to become more confident in choosing large shrubs and trees. I helped with potting on, watering, and selecting perennials for the many Chelsea and Hampton Court Shows they supplied. The excitement around these encouraged me to apply for a fairly new show at Belvoir Castle in Rutland. The show gardens were to be only 2.5 metres long on each side, and though I did not win any funding, I was happy to get through on the 'B' list. Applicants submit their design rationale with a scaled layout, and a mood board of possible plants. Pictures from previous years showed a large open field on the site, blazing blue skies, and happy designers in sun hats and glasses. In high summer all I want to do is retreat from the heat, and that became my brief – a secluded garden corner to hide from the sun and the world at large. I planned an enclosing trellis boundary on two sides to stop the view across the open field, a short offset stepping-stone path to slow one's pace, leading to a tree under which a small, paved area provided shady seating, a focal point for contemplation, and all enclosed with plants for shade under the tree, and for sun at the front edges. That was a lot to fit into a small space and after playing around with layouts a diagonal design worked best.

I wanted a partner to come and help me with the build and the show days themselves, and asked a long-standing super-organised friend and gardener. By nature,



The plan for Michelle's show garden

I live more sketchily in my head, so it was an opportunity to practise good planning, and keep her up-to-date with developments. Monthly emails became weekly missives with diagrams, thought-processes, adjustments, resources acquired, build order and timings. As time went on, it became apparent that wandering around the nursery each week I had become immune to the great size of the trees. Huge pots and root balls a metre or more in diameter were normal, but not going to fit my

diminutive show garden. In addition, we were not allowed to dig the showground, so anything in the garden had to fit into the 20cm depth of the perimeter boards. How to accommodate a 3-metre magnolia with a knee-high root ball? The paper design showed paving under the tree, but that would not work in reality. So I moved the tree to the front of the design, to allow for the height of the root ball, with a mound of soil and plants around it. This added some height interest to the flat plot, and although my original design would have worked in a real garden with the root ball dug in, it proved the sense of thorough thinking and planning ahead rather than manoeuvring a huge tree under pressure.

How was I to achieve all this with no grant? Fortunately, a paving company sponsored me with charred oak setts which had taken my eye at a trade show. The nursery wanted to support me with the plants I needed, even a tree, and the owner talked me through how designers, contractors and suppliers collaborate to become one family in putting on a show garden. We also discussed the vagaries of supply and weather on plants, and he encouraged me not to be too rigid in my planting choices or layout until on site, all of which calmed my beginner's anxieties and allowed the freedom to be flexible with planting combinations. I designed and commissioned a focal point sculpture, made by a local metalworker, hoping to sell it at the show. We stained simple willow trellising with diluted wood stain and added little ogee offcuts to the edging strips to support tiny, planted clay pots inherited with the house. My husband built frames and taught me how to attach the trellises to them, and my build partner and I then spent one Sunday practising at home. I also needed to provide a poster and flyers explaining the garden's concept to visitors, so learning continued as I grappled with online design programmes. There was no escaping the computer!

Plants in a show garden are of necessity planted closer together than normal as they do not have years to grow together, so planning needs to take account of that. Also they don't necessarily flower during show week, so designers always need a back-

up plan. In the past, plants were either artificially warmed or kept cold to bring them into bloom to order, but these days that is unsustainable and not advocated. Many of the plants I had been nurturing at the nursery were no longer in bloom, being mid-spring perennials, so we sourced others that were ready for mid-summer.

We had two days to build our garden, two days of the show itself, and two days to take it all down. It happened to be the weekend in 2022 of the Big Heatwave, not the best omen for an outdoor show, and my shady corner garden would be tested to the extreme. As I journeyed to Grantham with watering cans and tools, sculpture, 'staging' for the garden with a chair, quilt, basket, teapot and cup, along with compulsory hi-viz gilets and steel-capped boots, I was excited, yet filled with trepidation, hoping to cope with the heat, praying the car would not break down, and that the plants would all survive the great heat. My friend had taken holiday from a very busy schedule to help, and the paving, trellises and nursery plants came in the nursery van, for which I was hugely grateful.

In the end the build went swimmingly, there was a constant breeze across the field, which, while still hot, was a relief. The delicate trellises withstood said breeze, as did the magnolia tree which we underplanted with ferns, low grasses and shade-loving perennials. I had chosen a structural shrub, hydrangea 'Annabelle' for the back of the border, and it was a real talking point with visitors, who were extremely enthusiastic, knowledgeable and keen to ask questions. (Learning point: always know everything about your plants because someone will ask!) Around the open section with the

sculpture we had planted sun-lovers such as achillea and gaura. Small hosta 'Devon Green' and Asarum europaeum nodded gently over the oak paving setts and we placed the plants to look natural with flowers all facing the same way as they would in nature. We were so busy planting up the garden that there was little time to admire other competitors' plots, but those we saw were beautiful, with varied concepts such as plants for pollinators, planting to support declining songbird numbers, wildlife gardens, and those combining a decorative garden with an allotment.



The focal point sculpture in the show garden

My own concept of the shady retreat seemed rather shallow compared to all these worthy ideas, and so I was taken aback, and very honoured, to be awarded the main prize, the Duchess of Rutland Trophy for 'best in show'. The adjudicator, Professor David Stevens, is an international designer, lecturer and author, and was very generous about the design itself, how the space and heights were managed, how colour choices and blends of perennials toned with the sculpture peeping through. It was an amazing experience. And then it all had to be dismantled!

What did I learn? Always choose a wise, thoughtful and hard-working partner who will lug watering cans all day long without complaint. Having a design-based job will not release you from the computer for long: many designs now transfer very quickly to computers, and we all need good and frequent communication. There are so many design possibilities for even the smallest space. Surround yourself with a supportive community and accept that you cannot and should not do everything yourself, and that the joy of success is so much nicer shared with that team.



Michelle in her show garden

*Michelle MacDonald
(Spencer 1984 Music)
www.michellemacdonaldgardendesign.com*

THE SINGING SISTERS OF ARUNDEL

In the community room of the Poor Clares in Arundel there is a Gold Disc on the wall. In the summer of 2019, we were approached by James Morgan on behalf of Decca to ask us if we would like to make a record. He had come to listen to us privately and had been present one evening when we sang Vespers. Our immediate reaction was definitely 'No'. Our singing was not that good and even if it had been, we weren't interested. He continued to try to persuade us and when we put forward conditions which we thought would end the suggestions, Decca agreed to them. These included insisting that all rehearsals and recording would have to be done in our chapel as we wouldn't consider going out to a recording studio. They had to take place on the days we had a singing practice in order not to disrupt our timetable, and the whole community would have to be involved, rather than a select group of singers. After discussions with the whole community we finally agreed to go ahead, with the understanding that those who would rather not take part could opt out. A few sisters decided not to be involved but didn't refuse their consent. The age-range of the group involved was from two sisters aged over 90 to those in their 50s.

One of the reasons we agreed was that for many years we had regular singing practices with a singing teacher, but she had moved to Scotland and we were feeling the loss. So began a year of involvement with Juliette Pochin and James Morgan. Juliette began every time by giving us exercises both in breathing and singing, putting us through our paces. Then we would settle down to learning and practising the various songs which would eventually be recorded, for all of which Juliette and James either arranged or wrote the music. The singing practices were rather longer than our normal ones, but we enjoyed them and looked forward to meeting Juliette and James each week. We had just one final rehearsal to complete the recording when Covid struck. Luckily it was decided that we had produced enough to make the disc and *Light of the World* was released in October 2020. Then the problems began, both for us and for Decca.

The music we made was issued under the classical branch of Decca. Normally, if a classical CD sells 3,000 copies it is considered a great success. For some reason ours caught people's attention and was sold at such a rate that within two days Amazon had sold out. Decca was quite unprepared to meet the demand and had to produce more discs. We ourselves were unprepared too for the reaction. Why did it happen? Perhaps it was because of the Covid pandemic and people being shut up in their homes and suffering great stress. The publicity which followed put us under considerable pressure which we hadn't expected, though Decca did their best to protect us. We had so many people contact us from all over the world, who had found our music a help in very difficult times, that we couldn't regret having agreed to make the recording. However, we had no desire to make another one.

As a community we had agreed that any profits we made would be given to local charities and, at a time of cut-backs and austerity, it was a joy to meet together in chapter to decide to whom to give help, something we did regularly. It was during one of these meetings, having refused to consider making another disc for two years, that we agreed to Decca's request to make a second. We found such pleasure in being able to help local charities at a time when there is so much need that we wished to be able to continue to do this.

This time we had a much clearer idea of what would be involved and discussed together with Juliette and James the subjects we would like to cover. We wanted the selection to be more clearly Franciscan and therefore to include settings from St Clare's writings and, because of our concern for the environment, some pieces from St Francis's 'Canticle of the Creatures'. We also didn't want to be swamped by the media as had happened with the first one. As a result the release of the album, *My Peace I Give You*, has been done in stages: the whole CD didn't come out until May 2024 but could be ordered from March onwards. The whole process has been a steep learning curve for us all and especially for our bursar. Initially, we had thought it would be good to make it possible for people to order the disc from us. The complications that resulted made us decide that the minimal amount of extra profit didn't compensate for the time and problems it caused. We did not repeat the same mistake this time.

It is always something of a revelation to listen to the completed disc when our singing is put together with the backing accompanying it. This time we were invited

to go to the recording studio in Abbey Road to listen to it, as our own sound system is not exactly of the best quality. We were offered door-to-door transport and six of us went, leaving after Mass and returning just in time for Vespers. We were met by Juliette and James and two photographers whom we had already met when they took photos of us in the convent. Listening to the recording was an experience I won't easily forget. There were speakers all round us and even two in the ceiling. As my hearing is not brilliant it was wonderful to be able to hear everything so clearly without missing any of the lyrics, but I did find it very loud. We also had a tour round the studios. I was surprised at their size, but the need for this became clear when we saw a large orchestra rehearsing in one of them. Geraldine, who plays the organ, was given the opportunity to play the piano on which the Beatles composed some of their songs. It was a rather battered upright which looked a little out of place in a studio which also housed two grand pianos.

We have had to get used to being recognised, when we go out, as one of the singing nuns, as our habits make us easy to spot. That can be embarrassing to say the least. I work at times as portress here and have been greeted with 'Oh I recognise you'. Nevertheless, it has been worthwhile. Our singing has improved and we continue to have the real joy of making a difference to the lives of those in great need in some small way.

Sister Anne-Marie Worster
(1955 History)



The sisters who made the first disc. Sister Anne-Marie is the second from the right in the front row



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PERSONAL AND CAREER NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Items of news can be sent to the Editor directly or via the Development Office, by post or by email, at any time of the year. Please include your date of, and your name at, matriculation. We do not publish personal email addresses, but the Development Office is always happy to facilitate contact between alumni. Members are listed by the names used at the time of entry to the Hall; current names, if different, are placed in brackets afterwards.

1949

SHEILA INNES: For each of the past 30 years we have spent some five months, spread out across the seasons, at my house in the South Lakes. Back in March 2023 I decided to sell it before the 330-mile drive from Sussex to Cumbria became a dread rather than a challenge. Our traditional April/May trip to the Tramontana mountains in Mallorca gave way in 2023 to long weekends away in our own beautiful country, whether Rye, Southwold, Buxton or York. I still enjoy driving, but a reality check last year made me swap my beloved 2-litre sports car for a modest Golf! We enjoy a quiet life, close to friends, largely ex-BBC, and family, sheltered by the South Downs in a village outside Lewes, a town of great charm and many amenities. As I seldom go to London these days, I have reluctantly cancelled my 50-year membership of the Reform Club, of which I was one of the first women members. Instead we indulge in many a pub lunch! We live within easy reach of several good vineyards, and wine, in slightly restrictive moderation, remains a great pleasure. It was lovely to visit LMH once again and to admire its many developments, not least the Study Skills Centre, and I hope to attend the next donors' lunch. I still smile when I think of the then College Secretary, Catherine Anson, in the days when undergraduate numbers were approximately 8,000 men to 800 women, suggesting that LMH's '*Souvent me souviens*' might more appropriately read: '*Souvent monsieur vient*'. Only for tea, of course.

1950

ANTONIA PAKENHAM (Fraser): In 2023 I published my book *Lady Caroline Lamb: a Free Spirit* (see *Reviews*). My 21st grandchild was also born!

1952

GAIE HOUSTON: I have been asked to give the Marianne Fry Lecture in Bristol on 28 September 2024. I have chosen the title ‘The Enormity of Now’, and am fascinated to know what I find to say.

1953

DIANA LAYCOCK (Atkinson): Having reached the ripe old age of 90, I spend more time looking at the past than the future. I recall my first tutorial at LMH with the wonderful but formidable classics tutor, Miss Hicken, whose first words to me were: ‘We are taking a serious risk with you, Miss Laycock.’ In the event I worked hard and managed adequately, but felt guilty for not using my classics degree, spending nearly 20 years abroad on overseas postings with my husband, Keith, whom I met at Oxford. Returning to the UK, I did do some teaching locally, but it was not until my husband died, 26 years ago, that the rewards from my studies really kicked in. I discovered the local Sevenoaks U3A (University of the Third Age), a nationwide self-help organisation for older people, forming groups of every kind of study or activity, and I was soon running classes in Latin, Greek and classical studies in my own house, which I am still doing. This has given me company, mental exercise and a great enrichment of interest in the Ancient World, its languages, literature and art, and I am glad to have been able to share this with others. So I like to think that the faith LMH had in me was justified, and I remain deeply grateful.

1955

CHRISTINE MASON (Sutherland): Most of my good news is about my grandchildren. My granddaughter Aphra recently completed an MSc in ecology at the University of Calgary. She was working on the health of the Bow River, on whose banks I lived for 43 years. She had already completed a degree in English. Her brother Joel is working on a PhD in film studies, specialising in sound, at the University of Chicago. He recently gave a conference paper on recordings by the famous Canadian pianist, the late Glen Gould. My other grandson William is 11 and is in the French Immersion Programme. He already speaks French fluently. I do a little work for the Anglican Cathedral in Calgary. I retired from the University of Calgary as Professor at 73, in 2009, and have since helped English second language students with their degree programmes.

ANNE WORSTER: My community – The Poor Clares in Arundel – have produced a second disc, which came out in April (see *Articles*). The actual recording of the singing was made in our chapel. Some of us went to Abbey Road Studios to hear it in optimum circumstances in November 2023. It was a most interesting experience, and gave quite a shock to sightseers at the gate when a group of nuns were ushered out of a car.

1956

ROSEMARY LEE (Smith): I had fun at the General Election being agent for the Lib Dem candidate for Clacton. This was going to be my last election, nice, quiet, and only a formality as we don't do well in Clacton and weren't going to campaign much, but then Farage stuck his oar in and the whole thing blew up. Here's my account.

It is usually the candidates who face the camera; all smooth benevolence or fiery passion – pick your stereotype – with those lovely scripted phrases flowing out of their mouths. We agents sit in the back rooms, setting up the interviews, scripting the phrases, marshalling the troops to go out and knock on doors. I'm happy with that. Shadows in the background, that's us. Not this time. That man Farage has turned us upside down. The Tories are panicking, have sent a Big Man down to the constituency to make Big Noises and the BBC want to cover it, but have to have their famous Balance – ethics and all that. The candidates aren't official candidates yet, only potential ones, so who do they pick? It is 12:10 and I'm in jeans and sneakers and gardening gloves when they ring. Could I meet them for a 1pm interview, voice and pictures, Clacton pier in the background, we want your reaction to the Tories' reaction. Help! It's half an hour to Clacton and you can't park near the Pier in summer for love or money. Skin out of jeans, choose a dress, pin on my biggest rosette, smear on some lipstick and I'm in the car, breaking the speed limit on my way. Trying out phrases on my tongue, trying to remember all our Party policies. I have a problem, we'd been briefed about the Farage factor. Don't stir the pot, be bland, keep a low profile, let the right wing fight it out and destroy itself, but when you've got a BBC man with a microphone and a camera pointed at you asking skilful questions, it's difficult to be bland. I'm an agent, dammit, not a candidate. This is not my role. But hey, in the man's world Farage and the Tories live in, the BBC needed a skirt and a cleavage behind another rosette for Balance. Ha! There's only me and the Green candidate to choose from. I don't intend to be bland. Life's going to be fun for the next four weeks. It's election time.

ANNE MILLINGTON (Smith): I have been cutting back recently: after 22 years as an independent member of Croydon Council, first as Chair of the Standards Committee and then, when that was abolished, as an Independent Person on the Ethics Committee, I felt that I had done my bit of voluntary service there. I am still governor of the now merged college of which I was Second Mistress (grammar school for boys, 1970), Deputy Head (mixed 14–18 comprehensive school), Vice Principal (sixth form college (SFC)), Principal (SFC) and on retirement Governor, first of SFC and then of the merged FE College. After 50 years associated with the establishment I am unable to give up! I was also Chair, now Vice Chair, of a local counselling and advice charity for local young people. I sing tenor in two choirs and write the occasional poem. In between I wait for funerals, of which there is an increasing number, where friends and ex-colleagues and I meet again. I am now driving an electric car so that I feel I am doing my bit.

1958

DIANA BUXTON (Brass): My garden work began in 1972 when my husband left and so gave me *carte blanche*! A pond for the children to splash in (blanket, chicken wire, concrete) was followed by laying a lot of crazy paving (I was given this from a broken playground) and building rockeries (I was also given a lot of granite). I inherited a privet hedge on one boundary and laurel at the bottom of the garden and so was free to add the trees I love – now mature: a beech hedge at the front (red and green), an oak to mark the grave of my beloved dog, Winnie Wuf. Over the years, I added birch, acers and more beech. My aim has been to make gardening easier as I age: less lawn, more water, so a second pond and a central black bamboo – for drama and the sound of wind. Now I do have to employ a tree surgeon to care for my trees and ensure light. I have not yet succeeded in translating it to canvas, but my autobiography *In My Place* has photographs I have taken over half a century. I am as a philosopher with Voltaire on gardening and backed by Vita Sackville-West. Now, as I write, my forest floor is dressed in a carpet of garlic – white beauty.

ELIZABETH BURNSIDE (Lisa Parkinson): We have had a Ukrainian family living with us since January. Tanya, the mother, is co-founder of the Ukrainian association of family mediators. We met in Kyiv in 2011, when I was invited to give some mediation training, and we kept in touch. Tanya was anxious for her 15-year-old twin daughters to resume regular education, as their school was constantly closed by bombardments and power cuts. The girls are enjoying school in Bristol and doing extremely well, especially in maths and music. They are keen to continue and hope to go to university in the UK. I give training online for Ukrainian mediators, organised by Tanya or one of her colleagues, and also in other countries including Germany, Italy and Latvia. Our youngest grandchild is looking forward to starting university in the autumn. Musical highlights in July include the York Early Music Festival and Crouch End Festival Chorus, of which our daughter Diana is a member, singing Verdi's *Requiem* in the Proms on 23 July.

ANNE CROWE (Simor): In April 2024, our daughter Jessica Simor KC represented 2,300 elderly Swiss women at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and won a landmark ruling on climate change. She has been interviewed frequently on radio and television about the role of the Strasbourg Court, the importance of the UK's membership of the ECHR and as a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights. Rebecca, our first daughter, is Director of Festivals and Seasons at the British Council. They have both chosen to work in areas of what the press might call 'soft power', following perhaps in my footsteps as Director of the former NGO, the America-European Community Association, and influenced by a love of things European. I hope modern language studies at LMH are thriving! Manchester High School for Girls celebrated its 150th Anniversary in January 2024. Set up by philanthropists and academics, its aim was to provide an education to equal that offered to boys in the North. When I was there nothing was made of the school's history – that

Margaret Emily Gaskell, daughter of novelist Elizabeth Gaskell had been a founding member; Christabel and Adela Pankhurst (1893) had been outstanding pupils; the first headmistress was Miss Elisabeth Day from Queen's College; and that the second head, Sara Burstall, took a lead in the Suffrage movement. Now I have an even deeper appreciation of being at two remarkable educational establishments, thanks to the work of a Development Office!

ROSEMARY FITZGERALD: I read English but my main career ended up being in wild plant conservation. However, much of this work involved looking for information on historic rare plant sites and it was essential to be able to deal with primary sources. THANK YOU to LMH and Elizabeth Mackenzie for giving me the necessary research skills! Now (theoretically) retired, I'm lucky enough to be the garden writer for a respected local quarterly magazine *Exmoor* and I review and write for the Wild Flower Society and Hardy Plant Society journals. The research and language skills I learnt at LMH are still relevant and intensely valuable to me.

SUSAN FRANKLIN (Treggiari): My husband, Arnaldo, and I retired to Oxford in 2001, after about 30 years in Canada and the US, in order to be closer to family and friends. It has been a time of great happiness. I am still involved in research in Roman social history. We see as much as possible of LMH contemporaries. My mother, who celebrated her 108th birthday in 2024, was, as I write in June 2024, the 61st-oldest person in the UK and living in her own home, thanks to her carers from the family and the district.

1960

ELIZABETH IVIMY (Clarke): At Oxford I acted (a little) with OUDS, was President of the OU Ballet Club, and wrote ballet reviews for *Isis*. As I'd read Russian and French, my first job was hush-hush. Then came four years teaching at Francis Holland School under the late Heather Brigstocke. Then temporary typing – a skill for which I am forever grateful – in all sorts of companies: a great life experience. This led to work in the City and for Robert Maxwell, and to seven years in theatre management as Appeal Secretary at Sadler's Wells, where I founded the Friends of Sadler's Wells. Work ranged from organising royal galas with Princess Margaret and Margot Fonteyn to tearing tickets in the Upper Circle. It was all a great change from Oxford. At 40, I met and married my husband, William Clarke, an art restorer. We were blessed with three sons born in my forties, now grown up and two married with families of their own. The medical people thought it alarming to be giving birth at such an age, but I was simply following in the footsteps of my own grandmother, who also had three healthy, intelligent, good-looking and tall children in her forties. Blood counts more than statistics. With a busy husband, three small boys and two houses to run, my real work had now begun, and I no longer had the leisure to do a job, interesting though these had been. As soon as my youngest started school I became a volunteer on the team of the London Healing Mission, a non-denominational Christian healing centre. On my first visit there I was amazed to find that they took God seriously as a real person, and He responded by behaving like one,

answering prayer and healing people. I was also for 12 years a telephone counsellor (Lifeline) at Premier Christian Radio. William died of cancer in 2010. We had reached a Silver Wedding, though not a Pearl. His grandfather (later Sir) Orme Clarke, barrister, having ended up in Cairo at the end of the war in 1918, had been summoned by General Allenby to create a Judeo-Christian or British-type constitution and legal system for the British Mandate in Jerusalem to replace the ejected Turkish ones. He did this in six months, and described his work in letters home to his wife Elfrida née Roosevelt. As these formed part of the history of the state of Israel, in the centenary year of 2018 I donated them to the National Library of Israel (NLI). They were presented at an event entitled 'There are Judges in Israel', attended by senior lawyers and members of the Knesset. The letters are now online and can be accessed at the Orme Clarke archive at the NLI. In the course of researching my family history I discovered that a forebear, Mary Fauche (1801–75), had written an opera in 1823. She was a singer and pianist of professional standard, the daughter of renowned piano-maker Thomas Tomkison. So it was opportune in 2023 to put on a bicentenary revival of *The Shepherd King, or The Conquest of Sidon*. I produced two concert performances which were recorded. The score is available online and the sound recording is with the British Library. For 20 years, on and off, I have been working on the Ivimy family history, which is now complete (insofar as such things can be) and has been sent to the printers. It has been an interesting journey of detection and discovery. Martin Luther puts in a surprise appearance, as does Casanova. The book contains the Linnell–Schuster letters, family correspondence which recounts the dramatic story of the marriage of artist William Linnell (1826–1906), son of the more famous John Linnell. Now that my sons have left home, I share my house with a retired friend of my husband, a young Russian concert pianist and a German artist. We all keep fit and well by playing racing demon and ping pong, and it gives me pleasure to occasionally win a set off a young man half my age!

1961

JENNY STREET (Woodhouse): I am 16 years into retirement from an HR post in Cambridge University (so have garnered two MAs!). My main focus currently is on writing flash fiction, and I am trying to complete a flash fiction novella set in early nineteenth century Russia.

1962

HILARY FISH (Potts): I am now taking part in a dementia study at University College Hospital – fortunately not too demented at age 80 to appreciate its possible value to medical research.

1963

CATHERINE SIMMONDS (Chambers): Since retiring and moving out of London I have been able to enjoy a variety of volunteering roles and these provide such

satisfaction and enjoyment that I like to share this happiness. Currently I have two roles: cataloguing and digitising records in the Bath Record Office (basement, solo, historically interesting) and as a sewing repairer at Share & Repair (busy Library-of-Things shop, different challenges every week, sociable). In the latter we have just been one of the first organisations to be awarded the King's Award for Volunteering. The combination of the old (records) and the modern (reusing, remaking, repairing) is very fulfilling and I am sure other LMH alumni are doing many similar things.

ANN HUTCHISON: James Carley (Honorary Research Fellow) and I each got a Doctorate of Sacred Letters honoris causa from St Michael's College in the University of Toronto in 2023, in recognition of service and immense scholarly contribution to the University and support of students. That was the first time that St Michael's accorded such an honour to a married couple. This year James was awarded a Doctorate of Letters honoris causa from the University of Victoria (BC).

1966

HELEN ASH: During the strange time which was the pandemic, many things changed for me. Like others, I found myself reassessing what I'd done in the past and sorting out what I really found important. One thing I realised was that reading modern history had given me a perspective I hadn't previously recognised so that now I'm appreciative of the website *History Reclaimed*. Possibly more importantly, I began to see that training to be a solicitor and also a librarian were digressions from my original enthusiasms as a child and teenager. The MA at UCL which I did in information studies and librarianship included a study of children's literature and probably explains the many children's books on my shelves. When I retired, I volunteered to help children with reading at a local primary school and went on to attend sessions with children through the charity The Garden Classroom. Both activities were much more satisfying to me than work as a solicitor or in a library, probably because the curiosity of children made me remember all my old enthusiasms which had never totally disappeared. Things like drawing and painting, making sculptures, gardening and reading about plants, and cooking – everything in fact which is real and not behind a screen. Friends who knew me well often asked what I was going to train to be next. Unfortunately no one thought to suggest that when I had a mid-life crisis break I should have retrained as a primary school teacher instead of taking a very belated gap year or two travelling through the Far East.

I've lived for over 30 years in Highbury (Islington) in a kind of semi-detached way with Charles Palliser (Exeter) whom I first met at Oxford when he was at Wolfson. The enforced confinement during Covid to our house and garden led to much needed renovation of the house over about 15 months. We didn't do the sensible thing and move out but persuaded the Polish builders to work around us while we tried to divest ourselves of many books and possessions. Both of us survived the 15 months with reasonable equanimity and Charles completed his sixth novel, *Sufferance*, which was published this year. A bit of a watershed came in 2022 because we married in early

September and shortly afterwards I discovered that I had a health problem. Being curious to know how my body works and wanting to contribute to research, we had both joined the Biobank UK project when it was launched in 2008. In late September 2022 I signed up to take part in a series of medical scans Biobank was carrying out at different centres. An abnormality was found and a further brain scan at the National Neurological Hospital confirmed that I had a meningioma and that it was of 'a sizeable mass' on the right side of my brain. Having not had any previous symptoms I was somewhat taken aback but because these tumours are usually benign we agreed that I needed an operation rather than watchful waiting. Luckily the team at the hospital found a gap in their operating schedule and I was able to have the tumour removed on 14 December 2022. Being older made my recovery feel very slow, but singing with Islington Choral Society has been of great help because, like drawing, you have to concentrate and therefore are really present in the moment. I'm looking forward to doing more with the Friends of Gillespie Park, an ecology centre at the bottom of the road which often does events with local families, and also with The Garden Classroom and possibly more volunteering with a school.

1967

WENDY DAVIS (Robinson): My husband, Noel (Exeter 1967) died earlier this year. We met at Oxford and married the year after graduating.

1968

MARGO BELLAMY (Metcalf): I was appointed to the voluntary part-time role of Curator of Dorchester Abbey Museum in Dorchester-on-Thames in spring 2023, and this is proving a fascinating and fulfilling role. I am using my local history background and following in my late husband's footsteps, as this was one of his many voluntary activities in Dorchester. I also do tours for visitors to Dorchester Abbey, chair the local historical society, and give occasional talks on local history themes.

SUE REPARD (Algeo): I am really enjoying retirement and have been living in a village near Guildford for the past six years. In 2020/21 I was Master of a City Livery Company (the Worshipful Company of World Traders). Even though we were under Covid restrictions for a large chunk of the year, thanks to Zoom we managed to put on nearly 30 events during that time. I am still involved in Livery events, including a careers conference for state school students that we put on twice a year. Closer to home, I am a lay minister in the Guildford diocese and I have a regular commitment in HMP Send, a woman's prison a couple of miles from our home. Running around after my seven grandchildren also keeps me busy.

SARAH STEWART-BROWN: I have recently completed a delightful training in embodiment in the USA and am now offering 'radical wholeness' workshops in Oxford. Living in the head can feel like the right place for LMH students, staff and alumni,

but losing access to the body's deep wisdom is not just exhausting, it compromises health and leaves us feeling disconnected and anxious. More information here: www.wellbeing-ventures.co.uk. This work sits very well alongside helping my consultant paediatrician daughter with the grandchildren who, of course, still have access to their bodies' intelligence.

1969

JOANNA ORMSBY (Kennedy): My term as a trustee and Deputy Chair of the National Portrait Gallery ended just as the gallery's Inspiring People redevelopment project, which I had overseen, was completed and opened by the Princess of Wales to great acclaim in June 2023. I have also retired from my non-executive directorship of the property company, Native Land, but continue to provide advice as a trustee of the Poole Museum Foundation on their redevelopment project.

ANN WIDDECOMBE: I am still writing for the *Daily Express* and am now also a twice weekly contributor to GB News. I am very active in Reform UK, but still find plenty of time to walk on Dartmoor.

1971

MARIANNE BURNS (Elliot): I have continued active in scholarly and academic life since my retirement and move to the beautiful Kent coast. I currently serve on the governing Council of the British Academy. I have just finished my new book: *Fixers, Women and Housing Corruption in 1950s Belfast*.

PAULA GRAYSON: Having completely failed to send in any information for 2023, I need to mention the wonderful weekend gathering we had in Malhamdale in November 2022. Apart from the many LMH friends who could manage those dates, there were alumni from Exeter, St John's, St Catherine's, Trinity and Keble all sharing a love of walking in beautiful scenery. My role as a public governor for a mental health and community services NHS Foundation Trust has seen new challenges when we received a 'requires improvement' rating from CQC. The independent inquiry into unexpected deaths in our services for the last 20 years has been paused to become a Statutory Inquiry with new terms of reference. We are using our culture of learning to identify necessary actions which will improve the safety of our services. I'm Chair of the local Rural Communities Charity where: our 2019 sparkling wine produced by 85 volunteers is in the top 100 wines of a wine journalist; volunteers held their annual entrepreneurs' open day at the vineyard; we merged with a small local charity which offers education and social opportunities to young people; our green 'social prescribing' activities are re-engaging people with gardens, woods and wellbeing walks; our other social prescribers are reducing the isolation of referred patients for many of our county's GP surgeries; and our Heritage Railway Station museum has been visited by enthusiasts despite no trains running along our line for many months. I am still paid to provide

personnel support to several charities. As an enterprise adviser, and assisting other schools through Inspiring the Future, I have carried out mock interviews, assisted with CVs and put schools in touch with local businesses to improve career aspirations.

1972

GERALDINE BOOKER (Burgess): I retired from parish ministry in January 2024 and we have now moved from Sussex to Dorset, my childhood home. Retirement looks likely to be busy with seeing small grandchildren in London, getting to more of our musician daughter's concerts, and supporting our local churches, as well as enjoying this beautiful part of the country.

MELINDA CRADOCK-HARTOPP (Lewis): I retired in 2022 after 47 years working for the British Geological Survey. I was awarded the Whitaker Medal by the Hydrogeological Group of the Geological Society of London in 2023.

BARBARA MARGOLIS (Roche): I obtained an MRes (Distinction) in philosophy from Birkbeck, University of London. I have now started an MPhil/PhD at Birkbeck.

SUSAN REYNOLDS (Halstead): In May 2024 we welcomed a third granddaughter, Lucy, bringing the total of my grandchildren to four. Appropriately, I recently completed a new translation of the classic Czech novel *Babička* (The Grandmother) by Božena Němcová, to be published in 2024/25, and gave a talk about it at the Czech Embassy in London in February this year. In June I took a leading part in the fourth Abingdon Passion Play in the Abbey Gardens.

SARAH STOWELL (Baxter): I am a trustee of a grant-making charity, the Scouloudi Foundation, and last year I invited Wendy Proctor (also Modern History 1972) to become a trustee. The foundation was set up by Irene Scouloudi, a keen historian, so we support charities that encourage and promote history in a variety of ways, as well as donating to charities that work with young people, older people, overseas aid, social welfare, music and the environment. Wendy is currently studying for a history MA at Birkbeck and was previously a trustee of the Charity for Civil Servants, so she fits the bill perfectly. As Wendy says, 'It has been great to team up with Sarah again and a testament to the enduring friendships we forged at LMH. We both find it really valuable to visit the charities we support and see them in action, and always come away moved and inspired.'

1973

RUTH DOBSON (Bourne): The last couple of years have been busier than usual as a trustee of the Worcestershire Biological Records Centre, since taking on the Chair's role, in addition to volunteer work and some help for the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. I am also a volunteer transcriber for the Calderdale Family History Society, which leads me down many intriguing rabbit holes and adds a dimension to my intermittent

genealogical research. A fortnightly newsletter and maintaining a social media page for our camera club fill any potential gaps in the timetable! We have come to France this summer for the first time in a few years and at the time of writing are wondering what the imminent elections here, at home and in the USA will bring.

GEORGINA FERRY: During 2024 I have been a volunteer interviewer with the LMH Oral History team, which is gathering 150 interviews with alumni in advance of the college's 150th anniversary. For me, this included a reunion with my three fellow PPP tutorial partners, Gianetta Rands, Jonquil Drinkwater and Joanna Collicutt. We met in College and chatted non-stop for over two hours. We've been meeting up from time to time for some years, but we all learned something new about each other as well as sharing our memories of the college as it was then, as well as the dress, behaviour and politics of the mid-1970s!

JANET SMART: After retiring from the Saïd Business School and the Department of Engineering Science, I decided to do an MPhil in Irish Writing at Trinity College Dublin. I moved to Dublin for a year and joined a cohort of 12 lively, international students. We studied the works of Joyce and Beckett, and sampled the works of poets, novelists and playwrights since 1690. We explored the publishing infrastructure of Dublin since the seventeenth century and buried ourselves in the archives of the National Library of Ireland and Trinity College. We attended plays and book launches, and went as a group for weekends in Cork and Galway. I even wrote my MPhil thesis on Joyce. Friends came to stay with me, so that I could share the delights of Dublin. It was a fantastic year and I absolutely loved it.

1974

JANE DOULL: I have recently published a four-volume digital collection of prayers entitled *Let us Pray*, for use in worship and other spiritual gatherings, or for one's own reflection: details are at <https://prayerbench.ca/product-category/prayer-worship-resources/>. In retirement, I still lead occasional Sunday services and help with labyrinth retreats and interfaith seasonal spiritual gatherings. I am writing poetry and memoir, and participate in writing, editing and poetry-reading groups. I have three haiku published in *Porch to Porch. A Maritime Haiku Anthology* (ed. Blanca Baquero and Carole Martignacco), Ottawa, Haiku Canada, 2024.

ALISON GOMM: In November 2023 I was so pleased to attend the day at LMH in memory of our English tutor, Elizabeth Mackenzie, beautifully put together and led by Helen Barr and Susan Wollenberg. Reflecting her personality, it was serious, scholarly, modest, witty and inclusive, and we enjoyed poetry and music that she loved, as well as hearing tributes from some of her former students. It was also a delight to see Karen Gray, Valerie Proctor and Nadia Woloshyn from the 1974 English set again.

ISABELLE HEWARD: I have continued participating in quizzes. In 2022 I was the runner-up in the Radio 4 music quiz, *Counterpoint*, and later that year, after approximately five

previous appearances, I finally succeeded in making it to the final of Radio 4's *Brain of Britain* (where I came last). This year, 30 years after my previous appearance, I took part in Channel 4's *Countdown*. I was exceptionally fortunate and won eight heats to become an Octochamp. My position on the leaderboard was just good enough to take part in the quarter-finals when I was beaten by a young man of 16 (52 years my junior) who went on to win the series. Participating in the series was made even more enjoyable as the guest who accompanied me to the studio recordings was my dear friend Cherry (Elliott 1974) whom I met at LMH 50 years ago. I have attended a couple of events at LMH over the last year. The June Alumni Garden Party was blessed with glorious weather, excellent food and an interesting 'In Conversation' with Samuel West. However, for me the highlight of the day was meeting the librarian's cat, Isambard Kitten Brunel, on his fifth birthday. I do hope IKB is 'at home' to visitors during our year's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

VICTORIA SCHOFIELD: Fifty years since I matriculated, I am still pursuing a career as an independent writer and historian with a specialist interest in South Asia, due to my long-standing friendship with Benazir Bhutto (1973). I have also built on my interest in military and naval history. My most recent publication is an edited and expanded edition of a book my father first published in 1968, *The Rescue Ships and the Convoys, Saving Lives During the Second World War*. I remain thankful for the many friends I made at LMH and am pleased to say that many of us are still in touch.

1976

TRICIA AUSTIN: I was re-elected as a Green Party town and district councillor in Thanet in 2023 and am Deputy Leader of the (small but beautiful!) Green Group. Ramsgate Town Council's Climate Task Group has been busy this year on community projects, including setting up a Repair Café (Thanet's first) and Town Shed, and obtaining external funding to install drinking fountains on our beaches. Plans for the coming year include tree planting, hedging and food growing projects, promoting home insulation to reduce fuel bills and working with our County Council to try to establish 20mph areas in town where people can feel safe to walk, cycle and use mobility scooters. I'd be very interested in hearing from anyone involved in any similar initiatives.

SARAH BROWN: After many years in the writing, my book, *Winning by Being Good*, will finally be published this autumn. It is a business book based on my experience of working across public, private and charity sectors. It brings together 15 key elements of success for a responsible organisation, with a strong focus on how values and ethics can practically translate into running an organisation. It includes lots of case studies and some modern parables. Like PPE, it is a mix of how to be economically successful while also considering the ethics of running an organisation. I hope it will particularly appeal to existing and potential social entrepreneurs as well as anyone wanting to respond to the challenges we all face as a society.

CHRIS LEWIS (Godfrey): I am looking forward to the ordination of my daughter, Josie, this summer. She completed her theological training at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and is currently serving her curacy at St Deiniol's Cathedral, Bangor. I have finally retired from a long career in special education and am now enjoying working in my local library and community hub, and reconnecting with old friends. I have started cycling again, after a gap of many years, and am meeting new friends and endeavouring to develop my stamina in preparation for some longer rides, possibly in the hills of Eryri.

JUDY RODD (Ford): I am continuing to fill my retirement with a range of activities. My latest detective novel, published in July 2024, focuses on Islamophobic hate crime and the subtle influence that computer gaming could have on its participants. My commitments as a Methodist local preacher have increased as the number of preachers and ministers declines, which means that most Sundays I am out and about visiting churches across the Wirral and North Cheshire. I am also a trustee at Disability Positive, a charity that supports disabled people to live independent lives, and Company Secretary of the residents management company for the small estate in Shropshire where we have our second home. And, of course, there are our six growing grandchildren!

1977

JUDITH GARNER: This year I was honoured to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Classical Association in recognition of my teaching career. I was presented with this award at the annual Classical Association Conference at Warwick University in March. My career since graduation has involved teaching Latin, classical Greek and classical civilisation in three schools, specialising in the classical languages. I currently work part-time at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School in Canterbury where I was Head of Classics for many years. It has been a privilege to introduce so many students to the classics, and to play a part in maintaining the subject in schools, especially in the state sector.

JILL GOODRUM (Cook): In retirement I have taken up barbershop singing and perform and compete with a large award-winning women's barbershop chorus, Spinnaker Chorus, based in Portsmouth. I am on the board of the Ladies Association of Barbershop Singers and will become the Chair in 2025. I live in Chichester and enjoy being in such a beautiful cultural city with wonderful walks on the coast and on the South Downs.

CAROLYN JONES (Carr): After the death of my mother, Eileen Jones (Greep 1947), we have finally finished clearing her house and so I am proud to say I now have an almost complete run of *The Brown Book* from 1954 onwards! It is interesting to see the changes over the years, so at some point I may write an update to the history of *The Brown Book* that I wrote in 1997, the year after I started assisting the editor Margaret Hodgson. I am still an Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics in Oxford, working part-time (technically). I also work part-time for a university spin-

out company, TdeltaS Limited, and am Chair of the grants committee for the Fund for Women Graduates which provides funding towards living expenses for PhD students in need. Along with editing *The Brown Book* that means life is rarely dull!

1978

SYLVIA ASHTON: I have just started a new volunteering role as a governor for a primary school. Having been in education for my whole career, but not having worked in schools since 1991, I was really shocked at the changes. To me it feels like the advent of the trusts and academies has created new layers of management and duplication which were not there when local authorities advised and managed schools. Obviously they had their issues but now the system is so fragmented and the funding so poor that children seem to be losing out as well as staff. Hopefully I can support the excellent work going on in my new context but I do feel we need an urgent change in the way the whole thing works!

VALERIE SANDERS: I married Professor Bruce Collins on 18 October 2023.

SARAH THOMPSON (Johnson): This year I added to my armoury of perinatal skills by qualifying as a breastfeeding counsellor with the National Childbirth Trust. At the age of 66 with dodgy joints, I am astonished to find myself still in the intensely physical work of a birth doula, and in March 2024 I supported the birth of my third grandchild who was born at her home in Wrocław, Poland. Meanwhile the business I co-founded, The Baby Experience Ltd, offers bespoke programmes for corporate clients looking for ways to ease parent returners back into the workplace. I'm dividing my time between London and north Norfolk – and, of course, Wrocław. Slava Ukraini.

1979

PETER BARTLETT: I was 29 years old when I arrived at LMH to read History, so at least 10 years older than the others in the set. I was never a real academic but was always, I hope, a seeker of knowledge. I'd been a music student, but lacked the talent and courage to make my living as a musician. So in 1971 I had joined the police force, at a time when applicants with A levels were the exception.

Twenty-four hours before my interview at LMH in 1978, I had been on shift as a young Police Inspector, on the streets with my officers, supported by civilian staff, dealing with a range of issues. Sitting on a bench in the LMH gardens, waiting for my interviews with Anne Whiteman and then with Frances Lannon, I felt as though I was in a dream, like Alice in Wonderland. The interviews were challenging. Of course it was the first time LMH was interviewing to admit men. Dr Whiteman classed me as a 'vgg' – a 'very good girl', she explained. She was kind but forbidding. Frances Lannon was equally warm and kind, while intellectually incisive. It was the first and only time that I was interviewed by someone who had taken holy orders.

Arriving in 1979, I was mesmerised by Oxford and by my fellow students. I found myself between the JCR and MCR, but LMH was then, as now, inclusive. Taking Prelims after only one term was hard – I had to reawaken the French and German that I hadn't studied for years.

I'm now 74 years old. My children have flown the nest, but I'm still working, accompanying an autistic child and giving English lessons to French university students. It's important to contribute to society, to feel valued, in whatever way suits the individual.

The influence and spirit of LMH History lives on. If you have not yet signed up to the LMH Oral History project, it is to be recommended. It is so worthwhile, regenerates contacts, and future historians will benefit. For example, I'm now in close contact with Roger Ramsden (History 1979) who is currently rediscovering the Ottoman Empire on his bicycle.

Thank you LMH. Thank you Anne and Frances. I'm a better person for it.

HELEN de BRAY (de Bray Maguire): My big news is that in October 2023 we moved to Canberra, Australia from London. In my case, it was moving back after more than 40 years in the UK. My husband Simon went through the formidable process of applying for permanent residency. Our daughter Hannah lives here with her partner and a greyhound so we see more of them, at least at weekends. My husband has retired and I developed mild Parkinson's a few years ago. There is a very good network of activities and advice for people with Parkinson's here. I attend a painting group in the Botanic Gardens, which is a delightful group in a heavenly setting. There are various support groups and other activities. We do lots of exploring and walks, and some birdwatching. Canberra is a beautiful place to live and people are relaxed and helpful. There's plenty going on even though it feels more like a town than a city.

MARK HANLEY-BROWN: After nearly seven years as the CEO of the Alpha Plus Group, a private education company which owned and operated 19 schools and colleges in the UK and one school in New York, the schools part of the business was sold to the Inspired Education Group in October 2023 and I am now focused on the colleges side of the retained business. This has freed up time for other educational interests, most notably in the area of edtech. I now have the privilege of working closely with many edtech founders, in an advisory or non-executive capacity. Many of these founders are highly intelligent, driven young men and women who have a desire to produce educational tools which will have a wide social impact, at both school and higher education level and within the UK and globally. This has been a very rewarding new chapter in my career and I can say that the future for educational technology in the UK looks very bright, based on the talent I have seen working in this sector. As for other news, for reasons best known to my wife, Rachael, she has asked me to be the Chair of her company. The Team Lab is a small management consultancy which has a specialism in team coaching and mentoring (and now edtech). So there is plenty going on to keep us occupied in the HB household!

1980

LOUISE LOCOCK: I'm now partially retired from my chair at the University of Aberdeen, working 30 per cent remotely, and living back in Oxford. I am very much enjoying waking up on a Monday morning and not having to angst about work. Instead I volunteer every Monday with Oxford Mutual Aid, providing food parcels to families in need. It's also giving us more time to travel; we spent a month in Venice in the spring, and plan to spend a month in Innsbruck in July. Also looking to catching up with Fiona Whitworth (1980 Classics) on a short trip to Greece in the autumn.

ELIZABETH WHITING (Hill): I retired a year ago from my working life as a software developer. However I am still using my computing skills to produce historic interactive maps for the local village.

1981

MARK CLARK: I left the City in 2015 after 30 years as a pharmaceutical industry analyst. Since that time, I have maintained a mix of pharmaceutical investor relations consultancy and *pro bono* health-related roles. In March 2024, I became Chair of Prostate Cancer Research, the only UK-based charity which seeks to fund academic and translational research into advanced prostate cancer, as well as health inequities for those affected.

1982

RICHARD BUXTON: I retired in August 2023 after 38 years as a UK equity fund manager, a few months ahead of my 60th birthday this March. I spent 11 years at Barings – including the period when Nick Leeson bankrupted it – 12 years at Schroders and 10 years at Old Mutual Global Investors, which became Merian Global Investors via a management buyout which I led, before being acquired by Jupiter, for whom I worked for three years prior to retirement. Having been a member of the development board at Shakespeare's Globe for several years, in retirement I have joined a newly formed development committee at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, where fellow LMH alumnus Tom Littler (2003 English) is Artistic Director and co-CEO. I have also become a Board member of challenged English National Opera, remain a committed supporter of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and serve on the investment committee of anti-poverty charity, Turn2Us. Opera and theatre lovers within reach of London are welcome to contact me to engage with and support either ENO or Orange Tree.

1983

NAOMI HOLMES (Starkey): After six years on Anglesey, I have moved back to Gwynedd to be vicar of the Bro Eryri Ministry Area, based in Llanberis.

MICHAEL PETHER: After 35 years as a solicitor in London in insurance litigation, I retired last year. I now fill my time enjoying the company of my wife, three daughters and two grandchildren. Reviving old friendships made at LMH is very much a priority as well as various charitable roles, music (especially the church organ having been rather more proficient during my time at LMH), gardening and trying to maintain a reasonable level of fitness! What I learnt and who I met at LMH have been, and continue to be, such a valuable and important part of my life.

1984

MARCUS EALES: I set up Aberlink Limited after reading engineering science, and it has been successfully providing innovative metrology solutions since. This year it has been honoured with a King's Award for Innovation, for successfully utilising a delta mechanism in a coordinate measuring machine.

ALICE FOWLER: My debut collection of short stories, *The Truth Has Arms and Legs*, was published by Fly on the Wall Press in July 2023 (see *Reviews*). Several of the stories have won awards, including the Historical Writers' Association short story prize and the Wells Festival of Literature short story competition. I'm happy to say the collection was Fly on the Wall's best-selling title of 2023 and has gone to a third print run.

ANDREW HAYES: My team at the Royal Marsden and I featured in the second series of *Super Surgeons – A Chance at Life* on Channel 4. It shows our work with a treatment called 'isolated limb perfusion' in patients with cancers that other doctors have been unable to treat. The Royal Marsden Hospital is the only hospital in the UK to offer this treatment. Before delivering the chemotherapy, I isolate the limb from the rest of the body by temporarily blocking the circulation of blood. This technique allows my team to target high doses of chemotherapy to the limb that hosts the tumour, meaning the healthy tissue in the rest of the body is protected from the dangerous side effects of receiving this specialised chemotherapy. The aim of this treatment is to shrink tumours enough for them to become operable and so prevent an amputation. My work has also been covered in an article in *The Times*.

IAIN MORLEY: I have been living in the Caribbean as the senior High Court Judge on St Kitts and Nevis from 2021, having been the same on Antigua and Montserrat from 2016, trying tragic and terrible crimes, otherwise sailing each weekend as a pirate seeking the kraken. I have three children with Dr Jillian Morley (Prickett 1984 English). Helen is finishing an MA in theatre directing at the Bristol Young Vic, Ben is working for an MP, and James took the top first in linguistics at 'the other place', where he has been writing well-received papers that Iain is too dim to follow.

JILLIAN PRICKETT (Morley): see Iain Morley above.

1985

JAMES ALLEN: After a 25-year broadcast career in Formula 1, I work now on the business side of the sport. I currently serve as President, Motorsport Business and F1 Liaison for Motorsport Network, the largest digital media platform covering F1 and motorsport in 15 languages. I also host a Podcast, *James Allen on F1*, where I speak to key figures shaping the sport of F1. I still host occasional events for Vincent's Club.

SUNDEEP KAPILA: I am still working as a lawyer at Freshfields (over 25 years now – so, not hugely imaginative!). I am married to Sarah with four children between eight and 18, the oldest hopefully starting at Oxford this year. We are living in Wimbledon and very occasionally join (lag behind) Rob Newry, Martin Delve, Dave Milward and the other 'LMH Riders' on weekend bike rides.

1986

NEIL PUGMIRE: The third edition of my comprehensive manual for church communications – *100 Ways to Get Your Church Noticed* – will be published by Church House Publishing in October 2024. Find out more on www.getyourchurchnoticed.com. I continue to be Director of Communications for the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, hitting 24 years in the role in December.

1987

RICHARD GRANT: I have started a new position as Director, Scientific Strategy, at Syneos Health.

ELIZABETH HOLLINGSBURST (Michael): After many years working as an actuary, I have retrained and completed a Masters in psychotherapy. I am now working in private practice as an existential psychotherapist.

1988

KATE HAMPSHIRE: I've been working in the Anthropology Department at Durham University now for over 25 years! Most of that time, my research has been focused on various aspects of health and healthcare in Sub-Saharan Africa. But recently, after finishing my term as Head of Department, I've embarked on a new ethnographic project on chainsaws and tree-cutting in Northern England, which has meant retraining in tree surgery and forestry. So for four days a week, I'm doing the day job as a Professor in the Department, and the fifth, you'll find me up a tree somewhere! It's been a big challenge, especially physically, but great fun.

1989

PENNY SHAW: I am still living in Fremantle, Western Australia, working as a singer and as an opera director. This year so far I have adapted Mozart's *The Magic Flute* for primary school children, shown at 30 schools in the Perth area, appeared as a guest artist on cruise ships in Fiji and New Zealand, and as part of the Perth International Cabaret Festival with a new cabaret show based on my podcast, *Diary of a (Teenage) Diva*. Check it out! Later this year I will be directing a new production of *Don Giovanni*.

1990

ANNELIE FITZGERALD: Having spent over two decades in France as a postgraduate student, then university lecturer, I returned home a couple of years ago to Wales, where I had always maintained strong links. Fifteen years ago, I was diagnosed with an environmental disability – electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) – after several years of unexplained symptoms followed by a dramatic deterioration in my health in 2008. (The website phiremedical.org provides a useful 'Fast Facts' leaflet about EHS.) I subsequently struggled on at work for several years, eventually having to reduce my hours to part-time, but sadly became unable to continue in my post in 2022. Since then I have been without a home and without an income, living itinerantly out of a small van in rural West Wales, where growing numbers of EHS refugees are seeking sanctuary. I try to raise awareness of the health and environmental impacts of wireless pollution, as well as help others with EHS, through Wiser Wireless Wales (wiserwirelesswales.org). I had an article on the subject, 'Wireless Tech: Time to Think Again?', published in Oxford's alumni magazine, *Quad*, in 2018.

1991

SONIA TOLANEY: In May 2024 I was elected (Joint) Head of Chambers, One Essex Court, succeeding Lord Grabiner KC.

1992

ALISON CROCKER (Cooper): My daughter Abi (with Simon (Worcester 1991)) is starting her degree in French and linguistics at LMH this October.

1996

NANCY CAMPBELL: My book *Thunderstone*, being an account of life on the margins by the Oxford canal (reviewed by Dr Laura Varnam for the 2023 *Brown Book*), was awarded the TLS Ackerley Prize for Memoir and Autobiography in September 2023.

DAVID KOZACK: I have been appointed as a non-executive director of both Hitachi Rail STS France and Hitachi Rail STS Deutschland. These appointments allow me to

promote sustainable transport across the world, and the language skills which I honed at LMH have enabled meetings to be conducted in the local language, which has made life far easier for the teams on the ground.

FARIS YAKOB: After ten years living nomadically all over the world, my wife, Rosie, and I have bought a house in Chattanooga. Domestication is interesting. A new edition of my book *Paid Attention* was just published, so that's nice. Hope everyone is well, considering.

1997

DAVID SAUNDERS: I am co-editor of *Picture Worlds: Story Telling on Greek, Moche, and Maya Pottery* which accompanies the exhibition of the same name at the Getty Villa, Los Angeles (10 April – 29 July 2024) and the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Atlanta, GA (14 September – 15 December 2024).

1999

KATIE SCOTT (Wollaston): After a few years in Hong Kong, I am now living in Sussex with my husband, four children, two dogs, two cats and a snake called Sidney. I am a freelance journalist now, after an inspiring few years in house on *Wired* magazine. I write for a beautiful array of consumer titles, including *Breathe* and *Stylist*, covering everything from foraging to mental health. I have the most wonderful group of LMH friends; still love *Beowulf* (thanks, Dr Barr); and hope to make it to the Gaudy in years to come.

SARAH WOOD: In autumn 2023, my husband and I, and his younger son and spouse, enjoyed a long-postponed tour of medieval Welsh castles, originally scheduled for 2020. More recently, I have been promoted to the rank of Reader at the University of Warwick. I continue to enjoy regular visits to the Bodleian for research.

2000

JACKIE SCULLY: Frances Walker (Sykes 2000) and I took to the London streets on 21 April 2004 in an iconic London Bus costume designed by ex-*Dancing on Ice* pro skater Frankie Seaman. Along with eight other friends we ran to mark 10 years since I was treated for breast cancer. I took the role of bus driver (in full TfL branded costume) and Fran wore scrubs, with each team member choosing to dress up as everyday community heroes. My husband, Duncan Sloan (2000), ran as roadside assistance to support the team along the route. We now hold the Guinness World Record for the fastest marathon in a 10-person costume.

2001

ALISON ICKE (Shallard-Brown): see Howard Shallard-Brown below.

ABIGAIL INGRAM: I've recently returned to research after a career break, caring for my three children. I was fortunate to receive a Daphne Jackson Research Fellowship funded by the Royal Society and the National Environment Research Council. I'm based at the Natural History Museum where my work looks at how blue and green bivalve shell colours evolved.

JOSEPH NWOKOBIA: I have been awarded the degree of Doctor of Business Administration by the Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge, having successfully completed an approved programme of supervised research and submitted a thesis on 'The Impact of New Public Management on the Youth Justice in England and Wales'.

HOWARD SHALLARD-BROWN: Alison (Icke 2001) and I welcomed our daughter, Isabel Susan Rose on 30 November 2023, a much loved sister for Florence and Matthew.

2004

CHRISTOPHER TARRANT: My wife Natalie and I had our first child, Jasper, in August 2023.

LAURA VARNAM: I am the Lecturer in Old and Middle English Literature at University College, Oxford. I appeared on the podcast *Backlisted* in June 2024 (discussing *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*) and October 2023 (discussing M. R. James). I also appeared on Radio 4's *Open Book* in March 2024, discussing Daphne du Maurier. In October 2023 I was one of the three winners of the Nine Arches Press 'Primers' poetry competition and my poems inspired by Grendel's mother (from the Old English epic *Beowulf*) will be published in *Primers* in August 2024.

2005

TIMOTHY ASHTON: Following the work done at Soulton during the pandemic to support drama (including with the National Youth Theatre), and in collaboration with James D. Wenn of the country house and cultural consultancy, Byrga Geniht, a novel line of scholarship has emerged about the work of my forebear, Sir Rowland Hill (d. 1561) who built Soulton Hall. Sir Rowland Hill's sixteenth-century activities are emerging as more complex and influential than previously understood. This is because his work was dangerous and secretive, and he held high office under an unusual number of monarchs – Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. His contributions include the publication of the 1560 *Geneva Bible*, as well as a substantial amount of esoteric publishing in diverse fields. He also played a role in protecting people, art and artefacts during the Reformation, pioneered architectural techniques with hidden meanings, and helped steer statecraft during the Elizabethan settlement. Perhaps most

intriguing in all this is Sir Rowland's pioneering work in Renaissance drama. Beyond extensive theatrical regulation and commissioning, he is emerging as an inspiration for William Shakespeare (and they were cousins via Mary Arden). Specifically, a case can be made that the hero 'Old Sir Rowland' in *As You Like It* is a cultural monument to Sir Rowland Hill. Moreover, closer study of the deeds for Soulton Hall link the manor to Thomas Lodge Jr, the writer of the source book *Rosalynde: Euphues Golden Legacie* (1590). There is more to come out concerning 'The Dance of Harmony' that closes the play. These matters were delivered in public lectures in The City of London and in Shropshire, and work is under way to repeat them at LMH during 2024. A recording of the London lecture may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@ByrgaGeniht>

ALEX CHRISTOFI: My fourth book, *Cypria*, a history of Cyprus and the Mediterranean, was published in May. It has received positive coverage in the *Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Independent*, *Literary Review* and elsewhere, and a photo essay on the ghost town, Varosha, was published in the *Observer*.

2006

WILLIAM CHIPPERFIELD: I am a barrister at Farringdon Chambers, London.

LETITIA LOPEZ SANCHEZ: After graduating with my MJur degree I stayed in the UK and married my husband Jon Blundell, whom I met at Oxford when he was doing the BCL at the same time as I was doing the MJur. I re-qualified as an English lawyer and worked here as a corporate lawyer for Pinsent Masons for five years (I had previously worked as a corporate lawyer in Mexico for Baker & McKenzie). I stopped work when I had the first of my two daughters. Last year I decided to start a new project – Alegría Latin Art. This is a vision for sharing the passion, colour and drama of Latin American art with an international audience. I am bringing artwork from Mexico and making it available in the UK. My first exhibition was in London in April – I had over 100 visitors on the opening night alone! My next event will take place at The Lightbox museum in Woking, Surrey. You can find more information about future events, the art and the artists I am working with on the website www.alegrialatinart.co.uk and you can follow me on Instagram @alegrialatinart.

2007

DOMINIC REA: Skye and I welcomed our son, Cassian, into the world in April.

2008

PENNY JACKSON: I have been working in science and engineering since graduation but I am planning to retrain in psychology. I am an active trade unionist and a town councillor in Barrow-in-Furness and would be interested in connecting with alumni who are involved in feminist, LGBT or disability activism.

ELIZABETH MONAHAN: My husband (Thomas Brazier, University College) and I welcomed a baby girl on 18 January, Evelyne Audrey Rose Monahan-Brazier.

GERVASE POULDEN: Polly Ashmore (Balliol 2008) and I formed a civil partnership in July 2022 and our son Frank was born in June 2023. This summer we all returned from a year of motor-homing around Europe.

2009

TOBY LLOYD: This year, I published my debut novel, *Fervour* (see *Reviews*). Parts of the novel are set in Oxford, in an unspecified college that might be LMH. It has been critically acclaimed both here and in America. The *Financial Times* described it as ‘Stylish, puzzling, mystical’ and the *New York Times* called it ‘Magnificent, indelible’. It is currently being translated into Italian, French, Finish and Croatian. The UK paperback is scheduled for February 2025.

2010

SAMANTHA BAKER (Ashby): As of August 2023, I am the Chief Executive of the charity SUDEP Action (a world leading charity preventing epilepsy deaths and providing the only specialist bereavement services to those bereaved by epilepsy/sudden unexpected death in epilepsy).

FRANCES ARNULL: I married Jamie McIntyre in a tiny elopement ceremony in rural Devon on 28 November 2023, a beautiful wintry day.

JESSICA NORMAN: I have been chosen as one of six playwrights on attachment at the Oxford Playhouse (see www.oxfordplayhouse.com/artists/playhouse-playmaker).

GEORGINA POLLARD: I am getting married on 14 September 2024 to Nicholas James Mitchell.

2011

ANGELA TRUMBLE: After working as an international art auctioneer for eight years after my Oxford graduation, I transitioned into a career as an art lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. I lectured on the philosophy of graphic design using the theories of cultural capital from Pierre Bourdieu. I was then offered the senior art teacher position at Jeppe High School for Girls in Johannesburg – a high school with a 104-year legacy whose first headmistress in 1919, Miss Ellen L. Cummins, was an Oxford graduate. I have been teaching both visual art and design to grade eight to twelve and have also run a successful charity auction to raise money for the school.

2012

NICHOLAS COATS: I married Amelia Blenkin on 11 August 2023.

DAVID MORLEY: See below.

AURELIA SPECKER: David Ormrod Morley (LMH 2012) and I got married on 18 May 2024 in Amsterdam, where we currently live.

2016

NATALIA SCHOMERUS: I was a Forbes '30 under 30 Europe' young professional in 2023.

ILIANA VELKOVA: I am delighted to announce my marriage to Andreas Carvalho Lamatsch on 19 September 2023 in French Polynesia, and the arrival of our baby son Louis James Carvalho Lamatsch on 1 March 2024.

2017

CHARLES HOWLEY (Charlotte Howley): I'm just finishing my second year at UCLA, doing a PhD in Pre-Islamic Iranian Studies, and while I do love UCLA I often find myself feeling nostalgic for LMH and its gardens. Oh, also I'm Charlotte now. Lovely to meet you all!

2019

LAUREN CHARTERS: I am now in my second year of doing a psychology PhD at the University of York and have been collecting lots of data from babies aged six months to 16 months for my study on empathy development. I have also been practicing kendo, a Japanese sword martial art, and have been enjoying it a lot.

MARRIAGES

ARNULL – MCINTYRE. On 28 November 2023, Frances Arnull (2010) to Jamie McIntyre

ASH – PALLISER. On 7 September 2022, Helen Ash (1966) to Charles Paul Palliser

COATS – BLENKIN. On 11 August 2023, Nicholas Coats (2012) to Amelia Blenkin

MORLEY – SPECKER. On 18 May 2024, David Ormrod Morley (2012) and Aurelia Specker (2012)

SANDERS – COLLINS. On 18 October 2023, Valerie Sanders (1978) to Bruce Collins

VELKOVA – LAMATSCH. On 19 September 2023, Iliana Velkova (2016) to Andreas Carvalho Lamatsch

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

POULDEN – ASHMORE. In July 2022, Gervase Poulden (2008) and Polly Ashmore.

BIRTHS

ANDREWS. On 7 July 2023, to Samantha (2008), a son (2s)

MONAHAN. On 18 January 2024, to Elizabeth (2008) a daughter (1d)

POULDEN. In June 2023, to Gervase (2008) a son (1s)

REA. In April 2024, to Dominic (2007) a son (1s)

SHALLARD-BROWN. On 30 November 2023, to Howard (2001) and Alison (Icke 2001) a daughter (2d 1s)

TARRANT. In August 2023, to Christopher (2004) a son (1s)

VELKOVA. On 1 March 2024, to Lilana (2016) a son (1s)

WALMSLEY. On 27 September 2023 to Eve (O'Brien 2008) a son (2s)

DEATHS

BOLTON. On 27 November 2023, Carol (Grattan 1954) aged 88

BROXHOLME. On 14 May 2024, Gillian (1973) aged 70 (see obituaries)

CAPEWELL. On 27 August 2023, Christopher (1999) aged 42 (see obituaries)

DREW. On 22 April 2024, Doris (Broadfield 1949), aged 92 (see obituaries)

GREGORY. On 10 September 2024, Jennifer (Byrne 1957) aged 86 (we will publish an obituary next year)

HAYNES. On 3 November 2023, Everild (Williams 1962) aged 80 (see obituaries)

HILTON. On 7 September 2023, Sonya (Gregory 1945) aged 102 (see obituaries)

HUGHES. On 13 April 2024, Daniel (1996) aged 47 (see obituaries)

IFILL. On 2 August 2024, Barbara (Lear 1953) aged 90 (see obituaries)

KENNEDY-COOKE. On 8 May 2024, Annette (1972) aged 91, daughter of Annette Cooke (1918) (see obituaries)

LAMB. On 9 February 2024, Alyson (1974) aged 68 (see obituaries)

LEIGHTON. On 28 September 2023, Anne (Gibson 1977) aged 64, sister of Carol Oster Warriner (Gibson 1981) (see obituaries)

- LEVINE.** On 5 August 2023, Sarah (Friedberger 1958) aged 82 (see obituaries)
- LOWRY.** On 7 April 2024, Patricia (Agnew 1947), aged 95
- MCCONNELL.** On 17 January 2024, Alba (Pennycuick 1954) aged 88 (see obituaries)
- MACLEAN.** On 13 November 2023, Jennifer (Thompson 1955) aged 87 (see obituaries)
- MARKING.** On 2 October 2023, Stacy (Waddy 1956) aged 83 (see obituaries)
- MARTINDALE.** On 29 August 2023, Jane (Brooke 1953) aged 88 (see obituaries)
- MATARASSO.** On 15 November 2023, Pauline (Sanderson, 1947), aged 94 (see obituaries)
- MATTHEWS.** On 6 June 2024, Joanna (Roberts 1948) aged 95, mother of Hubert Matthews (1980), who died in 2019 aged 57 (we will publish an obituary for Joanna next year)
- MILES.** On 12 July 2024, Elaine (Armstrong 1944), aged 98
- NIAS.** On 6 November 2023, Dorothy Jennifer (1950) aged 90
- NICHOLLS.** On 11 November 2023, Lady Ruth (Legall 1953) aged 90
- O'GORMAN.** On 11 April 2024, Francis (1986) aged 56 (see obituaries)
- PEMBLETON.** On 4 October 2023, Paula (Mildred 1945) aged 96 (see obituaries)
- RICHARDS.** On 23 May 2024, Katie (1984) aged 61, wife of John Roome (1983) (see obituaries)
- STOWERS.** On 20 January 2024, Juliet (Toussaint 1954) aged 92 (see obituaries)
- SWEET.** On 25 June 2024, Cathleen (Vause 1946) aged 97 (see obituaries)
- THOMAS.** On 7 April 2024, Priscilla (1956) aged 86 (see obituaries)
- WAKEFIELD.** On 6 May 2024, Rosalind (1953) aged 89 (see obituaries)
- WEEKS.** On 17 June 2024, Elisabeth (Crouch 1949), aged 93 (see obituaries)
- WHITE.** On 16 May 2024, Susan (Morton 1972) aged 71 (see obituaries)
- WYBURD.** On 13 April 2024, Anne (Ross 1947) aged 95 (see obituaries)
- MacDONALD.** On 27 August 2023, Philip Geoffrey MacDonald (Hertford 1974), husband of Michelle (Spencer 1984) and brother of James MacDonald (1984)
- ROBINSON.** In early 2024, Noel Robinson (Exeter 1967), husband of Wendy (Davis 1967)

PUBLICATIONS

- JANE BWYE** (Southon, 1960). *Tides of Life* (Minuteman Press, Australia, 2023) (see [Reviews](#))
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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

DAME SONIA PROUDMAN, 1949–2003



Dame Sonia Proudman

Sonia Proudman died on 22 July 2023 just before what would have been her 74th birthday.

Sonia was born in London and spent her early years in Chelsea and Fulham. She went to St Paul's Girls' School. She was an urbanite through and through. Sonia's mother, who was Armenian, met her father in Alexandria where he was serving in the army during the Second World War.

Sonia and I first met when we were schoolgirls, visiting LMH for scholarship interviews. We were given a choice of topics to speak on. Sonia chose a fiendishly complex scenario involving trusts and inheritance. She was awarded the scholarship. Her interest in the complexities of inheritance and trusts

was an early indication of the area of law in which she was to excel and acquire such a formidable reputation.

Sonia and I were tutorial partners. In 1968, LMH was the only college to have a woman law tutor, the formidable Miss Elizabeth Thorneycroft. Mark Studer, a friend and colleague, recounts that in a tutorial she commented disapprovingly, 'Sonia, I hear that you have been seen in public houses', to which Sonia replied that this was the case but she took care not to drink immoderately. Miss Thorneycroft observed, 'That's as may be but apparently you sit around there with friends laughing.' Being in the company of friends and laughing was a feature of Sonia's life at LMH and at the Bar (the legal not the pub).

Despite claiming not to have worked hard at all, Sonia gained a first-class degree in jurisprudence. She was awarded the Eldon Law Scholarship for attaining the highest First of those intending to become barristers. In gaining this award Sonia was following in the footsteps of well-known and distinguished judges.

After leaving Oxford armed with a stellar record, Sonia joined Lincoln's Inn and qualified as a barrister. She was the first woman to be taken on by her Chambers. The work there was trusts and land law, not the areas in which women were expected to practice. Her then senior clerk addressed her as 'Miss Proudman, Sir'. Despite hurdles placed in her way, Sonia became one of the leading practitioners in trusts and private client law and became Head of her Chambers.

Sonia was appointed a QC in 1994, taking on ever more important and challenging cases. Dealing with cases completely out of her area, as do all practitioners aspiring

to judicial office, Sonia became an Assistant Recorder and then a Recorder. This meant that for the first time in her legal career she had to deal with criminal cases. Her husband, Crispian Cartwright, a criminal law barrister, says that while Sonia had the outward appearance of toughness, she gave much thought to handing down fair sentences. In 2001 Sonia became a Deputy High Court Judge hearing a variety of cases in the Chancery Division.

In 2008 Sonia was appointed a High Court Judge, only the second woman to receive such an appointment in that Division. We were appointed at the same time, although to different Divisions. We were entitled to a heraldic coat of arms. Sonia chose 'a Peacock in his pride proper, perched upon a Cartwheel'. The accompanying Latin motto in translation referenced *Measure for Measure*: 'Man, proud Man, dress'd in a little brief authority.' The description of the design and the motto gave a nod to Sonia's and Crispian's surnames. As a High Court Judge, Sonia presided over a wide variety of cases ranging from commercial and financial services to family, public, administrative and international law, media and intellectual property. Sonia was a perfectionist in preparing her judgments.

The other side of Sonia was a person of great humour, sociability and appreciation of the joys of life. At lunchtimes before she became a Bencher, Sonia was to be seen with the same group of friends in Lincoln's Inn, having a good gossip as well as sharing legal ideas. These lunch companions became long-term friends. In social conversations Sonia was fearless in taking up unpopular views. She was a committed Brexiteer and made no secret of her opinions.

Sonia shared enjoyment of the lighter side of life with her beloved husband, Crispian. She enjoyed the songs of Flanders and Swan and Tom Lehrer. She could recite without hesitation from T. S. Eliot's *Book of Practical Cats*. She also was much amused by Archy and Mehitabel. Sonia and Crispian shared a love of Dickens. They both enjoyed the theatre and Gilbert and Sullivan. Sonia was a devotee of black-and-white Hollywood movies, comedies and the glitz and glamour of musicals such as *Cats*. She watched *Strictly Come Dancing* and *The Great British Bake-Off*. Sonia started performing on stage at St Paul's Girls' School and was an occasional member of the Bar Theatrical Society. She performed the role of Elvira opposite Crispian as Charles Condomine in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. For several years Sonia and her husband took part in summer theatricals in Haddo House in Scotland.

Sonia and Crispian have a daughter whose middle name, Tallulah, is taken from a favourite performer, Tallulah Bankhead. Grace pursues a career in counselling and psychotherapy and with her husband has a little boy, Ivo.

No account of Sonia's life would be complete without a reference to her style and love of fashion. She excelled in dramatic jackets, had 62 handbags and numbers of shoes rivalling Imelda Marcos's collection. Sonia's wardrobe must have been exhibition worthy. There are not many High Court Judges who have said that if they had not gone into the law they would have liked to have been the lipstick correspondent for *Vogue*. This answer was reported in Sonia's obituary in *The Times*. Although Sonia had an outstanding career in the law and did not pursue the lipstick route, she never lost her interest in fashion and the lighter side of life.

A cruel debilitating neurological illness, progressive supra-nuclear palsy, took over the last years of Sonia's life, during which Crispian lovingly cared for her.

Sonia was very fond of LMH where she made lifelong friends. She embodied a wonderful combination of remarkable intellect, steely determination, sociability and a great capacity for friendship and fun. She is much missed by all who had the good fortune of knowing her.

Dame Elizabeth Slade
(1968 Jurisprudence)

FRANCIS O'GORMAN, 1967–2024



Francis O'Gorman

Francis came up to LMH in 1986 to read English Language and Literature. As the C. S. Deneke organ scholar, he had the privilege of living in the splendidly sized (and conveniently located for the bar) Arwen Warmer room for all three years of his degree. That room became the still point in his fellow students' turning worlds. A place filled with music, literature, and friendship.

Those same three words characterised his funeral service in May. An extraordinary event, curated by Francis in such a way that his absent voice reverberated through Little St Mary's Church in Cambridge, providing consolation for those of us gathered together, missing him so very much. A last act of kindness.

We proved to be not quite the oldest friends in the church, since we met one of Francis's school friends from Wolverhampton days. We discovered (although it really should not have been a surprise) that he was as gifted a scientist and mathematician in the classrooms of St Peter's Collegiate School as he was at the arts subjects with which we associated him. However, it was English which won his academic devotion at Oxford and beyond. That devotion was always balanced with mischievousness, such as the tutorial challenge of introducing a word – usually improbable – chosen by his tutorial partner. One of the rare occasions Francis was stumped was by the quest to use the word 'cuttlefish' in a tutorial on the novels of Walter Scott.

Having achieved a double first and won the University's Violet Vaughan Morgan Prize for English Literature, Francis went on to study for his DPhil, working on the Victorian critic John Ruskin. In her tribute at his funeral, his supervisor Professor Dinah Birch

described Francis as ‘quite simply a prodigy’. Transitioning from student to teacher, his first positions were held at Oxford’s Pembroke and Westminster Colleges and as a research fellow at what is now the University of Gloucester.

From there, Francis became a Professor at the University of Leeds where he was also the Head of the School of English from 2007 to 2011, a difficult and demanding role which he performed with the utmost consideration and dedication. Travelling yet further north, Francis then served as the Saintsbury Professor of English at the University of Edinburgh from 2016 until his retirement in September 2022.

Throughout this distinguished career, Francis continued to write, edit and publish in a prolific stream, making a significant contribution to the study of writers including Ruskin (of course), Trollope, Swinburne, Gaskell, Arnold, Emily Brontë, Edward Thomas, Walter Pater, and W. B. Yeats among others. Lest anyone should be under the impression that Francis was somehow trapped in a Victorian bubble, his Facebook following of 1.2k friends was testament to how he embraced new ideas and ways of communicating with people. Nor was his writing confined to the academic, as his books on the concepts of *Worrying* (2015) and *Forgetfulness* (2017) and their place in modern culture show.

Francis did not simply engage with subjects which interested him through the power of his pen. He was an active member of many institutions, including the Ruskin Society, which he chaired, and the Guild of St George. He held fellowships at the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries. He was the editor of *Organists’ Review*, a publication he wrote for from his undergraduate days. He was also thrilled to become a member of the Athenaeum Club, a place where we spent what turned out to be a last memorable lunch (which extended, as all the best lunches do, into tea).

Francis’s life was accompanied by the most thoughtful of soundtracks. Music was his still point in a turning world, providing joy and solace in equal measure. As Dr Stephen Farr noted in his funeral tribute, ‘Francis and music is a large subject. His engagement with it was lifelong and wide-ranging; as a writer, thinker, broadcaster, listener, journal editor, reviewer, and player of greater accomplishment than he would ever acknowledge.’ He also made the connection between Francis’s ‘innate musical instinct’ and his ‘impeccable judgement of phrase and cadence, sound, and rhythm’ whether the medium was words or notes.

Disaster struck late in 2022 when Francis was diagnosed with a particularly aggressive cancer which threatened not only his life but, even if cured, his ability to read, write, and play music. It was all the more devastating that this happened so soon after he had moved from York to Cambridge to be with his beloved Kate. The biggest concern before making that journey was whether his adored cat Ginger would approve of the new living arrangements with Kate’s equally adored spaniel, Pepper. Needless to say, they lived together as happily as did their ‘owners’.

Hope was restored when Francis made a remarkable recovery from surgery and was able to share the joys of music, literature and friendship once again. Sadly, this reprieve proved to be short-lived. His dignity and composure in the face of his ‘soul’s sunseting’ was nothing short of extraordinary. With faith, love, and a fine view of the tulips he planted in Kate’s beautiful garden to sustain him, Francis died on 11 April

2024. A month after Ginger. We have lost the dearest of friends. The world has lost a brilliant mind of the most inspiring and generous kind.

We will leave you, as Francis left us in Little St Mary's Church, with Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in C major BWV 545* and this note from the order of service:

Francis wanted everyone to know that he came to think of the final entry of the fugue subject in this great piece, in the soprano part in the last few bars, as a kind of summary of his life and death on which something, whatever it is, was achieved, but, for him, only by the help of Kate, his friends, and by the Grace of God.

Sara Bennison and Nigel Mortimer
(1986 English)

STACY MARKING (*née* JUDY STACY WADDY) 1939–2023

Stacy was born in a snowstorm on the eve of war in 1939. With her mother Margaret and brother Christopher, she sailed to India when she was three weeks old, joining her father (the Rev Pat Stacy Waddy), a chaplain in Pune. They moved to Bombay in 1942 when he became Dean of the cathedral. Her mother became a Wren, assisting the Admiralty of Bombay. Stacy later became the youngest pupil at the Cathedral School. Her father



Stacy Marking

held an open house, hosting many people before they headed to other areas of Asia to fight the war with the Japanese. Stacy would recognise people by their shorts or shoes and knew if they were Army or Navy. They were always kind to her – she thinks because so many had children they were missing back home.

Her father wanted his children to be above the malaria line and sent Christopher to a Jesuit boarding school in the small hill station of Kodaikanal, three days away by train. In the summer Stacy and her mother joined him. Stacy loved it up there – beautiful countryside around a lake – and she ran quite wild. However, the threat of war was reaching Kodai, too.

When Singapore and Burma fell to the Japanese in 1942, everyone thought India would be next. The fear that they would invade the south from Singapore led to mass panic as people fled. The Waddy family were abandoned by their housemates in Kodai with nowhere to go, as Bombay was considered too dangerous, and petrol too scarce to go elsewhere. Stacy was convinced she could singlehandedly beat the invaders.

One day she marched to the entrance to the town and waited for the imaginary army to advance, practising a Japanese word she thought would send them packing. Ultimately, she just got terrible sunstroke and had to spend three days in hospital.

After the war, the siblings were sent to school in England. Stacy was miserable in the cold and wet, not seeing her parents for over 10 months at a time. She detested her strict schools, using them as a benchmark for any further horrors in her life: Is this as bad as Parkfield? It rarely was. Held at gunpoint in Bolivia? Not as bad. Cancer treatment? Not as bad. The only highlight was that in the holidays she would stay in Oxford with a beloved uncle, Herbert Danby, Regis Professor of Hebrew. He lived in a flat overlooking Tom Quad and Stacy would spend her days sneaking onto the roofs of Christ Church.

Later she studied at Oxford herself, reading English at LMH. She was thrilled to be there and seemed to go to every party there was, writing letters home about the endless champagne, sinking punts and dawn breakfasts. Although she thrived socially, academically she was less successful – mainly because, although an excellent linguist, she refused to do something so pointless as Anglo Saxon, a compulsory part of the course. In addition to this rebellion, and having seen an advertisement in *Vogue*, she spent way more time writing a piece for the annual talent contest than she did revising. She left Oxford in 1959 with a third, but won the *Vogue* competition. The prize was a job in London and later New York.

In 1961, having become fashion editor at a magazine, *Woman's Day*, under the pseudonym Elizabeth Windsor, she found herself very bored. She organised a job teaching English at the American University of Beirut, so she and a girlfriend hopped in a Mini Cooper and drove to the Middle East. It was now that life really began.

En route, they stopped in Istanbul and, while walking in a bazaar, she was spotted by Alain Robbe-Grillet, a pretentious (Stacy's word) French modernist writer and director who needed an actress. Through that, she met people in the local film industry, which was as big as Bollywood at the time. So began her short career as a Turkish film star, playing the 'comedic foreigner' in over 23 Turkish-language films. She would learn her lines in Turkish even if she had no idea what they meant.

It was a shock to discover how cold Istanbul was in the winter and, never having earned enough money to get to Beirut, Stacy decided to go home. She had fallen in love with film, but thought drama – Turkish or French – too pretentious for her. Back in London in 1963, she enrolled at the Slade Art School and the UK's first ever film department. The Dean of the Slade has since admitted he only accepted the few women on the course if they were pretty enough to keep the serious artists (the sculptors) happy. But nevertheless, she was creating radical and revolutionary art and it was exciting. She thrived.

During this time, Stacy lived on a houseboat on Chelsea Warf which she loved. It was the most basic place, with no bathroom, but it was an excellent party venue – indeed sinking after a particularly good one. In her last term at the Slade, Jeremy Isaacs offered her a job at Associate Rediffusion, one of the big companies making factual programmes for Granada and Thames TV. She jumped at the chance.

Stacy first worked as a researcher on *Futurama*, with Julian Huxley. Later she moved to *This Week*, one of the pre-eminent news shows, where she started directing the video (VT) inserts. On Friday when the team went home, she would stay in the studio where they were recording *Ready, Steady Go*, the most exciting music show, responsible for introducing new Black music to the UK. Sam Cooke, James Brown, the blues . . . Stacy got to know all the musicians and music scene.

In 1965 she moved to the BBC, working on *Whicker's World*, again directing the VT inserts. The next year she started to direct her own films, focusing entirely on socially important issues of injustice, such as race and poverty. All the while she was writing articles about art and politics for the *Guardian*. She began to use her middle name, the unisex Stacy, when she realised she was commissioned to write more interesting pieces if they thought she was a man. Years later she met the *Guardian* editor, Peter Preston, who having read her pieces for years, was astounded to discover she was a woman.

Through this work Stacy also met some extraordinary people, including François Truffaut, who asked her out for dinner. They struck up a great friendship while he was in UK making *Fahrenheit 451*, and he became a mentor. They endlessly discussed the latest films, he imparting wisdom as they went. He didn't like Audrey Hepburn's plastic beauty and detested *Brief Encounter's* false ending. He famously loved Westerns and Hitchcock, but Stacy realised that was because they didn't require sophisticated English.

Stacy 'dropped out' and became part of the underground psychedelic scene. She described a whole alternative night life in Soho, where all the experimental filmmakers would be snuck into the edit houses when everyone else had gone home. She and others – like Yoko Ono – would work on the Steinbeck machines until dawn. She would scour the street for discarded reels of film, painting and bleaching them to get the psychedelic effects she wanted. Her films became the lightshows for the most happening club of them all, UFO. In 1967 she made a video for Pink Floyd and her friend Syd Barrett.

In 1969 Stacy was asked to direct the first series of *Nice Time*, making the careers of new presenters Kenny Everett and Germaine Greer for Granada TV. It's likely she was the first female director of factual TV at Granada. However, after some shocking misogynist bullying she left TV and travelled to Latin America, working as a correspondent for the *Guardian* and the *Sunday Times*.

The most incredible adventures ensued, but the best, and final, was, having been expelled as a Maoist spy by the Bolivian government, meeting her future husband and lifelong partner Giles Marking in 1971 in La Paz. They married in New York City and, returning to UK in 1972, had their daughter, Havana.

After a fire in their New Oxford Street flat (destroying many of Stacy's original films), they moved to Seattle where Giles taught at the University of Washington and she wrote a weekly column for a daily newspaper and reported for PBS.

Returning to UK in 1977, Giles joined Fitch & Co Design and Stacy went back to freelance TV directing, also writing and teaching film at St Martin's and Goldsmiths art schools. In 1981 she and three others bought the magazine *History Today*, saving it from

closure, and made Juliet Gardiner editor. Together they turned it around. Then, with the advent of Channel 4 in 1982, she set up her own film indie, Marking Inc Productions, that allowed her to flourish outside the traditional hierarchies.

Her long-running series *Today's History* was a prime-time show that looked at the historical context of a contemporary issue. They were radical and exciting films: not just because they brought political ideas to the story, or that they felt very alive compared to the 'grand' series like *The Celts*, but because of who presented them. Over half the presenters were women, while Stuart Hall – one of the first black British historians – broke into the mainstream. Her commitment to social justice never stopped – forever marching, lending support, and highlighting the injustices of the world.

Splitting their time between Covent Garden and West Dorset, Giles and Stacy created a dynamic and exciting life, in various beautiful homes. She died peacefully, never losing an iota of wit, intelligence or grace. She was, forever, a wonderful friend, grandmother, mother and wife.

Giles and Havana Marking, Stacy's husband and daughter

The *Brown Book* editorial team and Peter Watson, former Development Director, would like to add their appreciation of Stacy's support and her commitment as an LMH alumna. She attended alumni events and was a popular reviewer for *The Brown Book*, submitting well-judged and beautifully written pieces. But perhaps her most significant project for LMH was her editorship of *Oxford Originals*, an anthology of writing from LMH alumni, 1879–2001. She suggested and undertook the project while a member of the LMH Advisory Council, as a means of raising both awareness of and funds for the campaign to endow one of the English fellowships at LMH. The book succeeded in both of these objectives. Stacy was delighted and, on her own admission, somewhat overwhelmed by the sheer amount of material she discovered, and, with editorial assistance from fellow alumnae Diana Athill (1936), Cathy Avent (1939) and Sue Graham-Dixon (Villar 1950), together with the design skills of Jane Havell (1972), produced a memorable anthology that continues to delight. Many readers have exclaimed, as Stacy herself did, 'I never knew she [or he] was at LMH!'



Stacy outside the Examination Schools, Stacy in the studio

ANNE WYBURD (*née* ROSS), JP MBE, 1928–2024



Anne Wyburd, in 1959, her engagement photograph

Anne Wyburd, who died on 13 April aged 95, was born and brought up in Northwood, Middlesex. She and her older sister were educated at Crofton Grange, a small boarding school in East Hertfordshire, as it was remote from the German bombing which came all too near their home which was opposite the requisitioned hotel that had become the headquarters of Coastal Command. Having achieved the best School Certificate in her year, she went up to Lady Margaret Hall to read French and German in 1947. She wrote in her memoirs:

a prominent memory of Oxford was of being cold and hungry. Everything was rationed – even bread, which had not been rationed during the war. The food at Crofton had been superb, including fresh meat from the Home Farm and fruit and vegetables from our own walled garden, so the very indifferent

college food came as a nasty shock. There was no heating in our rooms and one scuttle of coal a week to burn in our tiny grates. A great feature of university life was to queue at the cake factory in north Oxford early in the morning if one was having a tea party. Just about everyone in the queue was either studying or writing essays while they waited. But life there was of course highly enjoyable and I took part in a lot of activities, learning to play squash, helping to found and then chairing a new non-specialist society we called The Spectator, with interesting speakers from a variety of cultures.

After Oxford, finding there was practically no career advice available for girls, Anne took a secretarial course at St Godric's College in Hampstead with German and French shorthand as well. Her first job was in a French bank in the City, where her weekly pay packet was £6/9s. She then became secretary to the Jewish refugee chairman of a German metallurgical company in Wimbledon, paid £10 a week, and was furnished with one of the earliest electric typewriters. In 1952 she travelled on the Queen Mary to accompany her boss to New York for the first time and in 1953 she moved to New York for a year. Before returning to the UK she and a girlfriend did an early version of a backpacking trip, travelling on Greyhound buses across the States and into Mexico.

Back in London, Anne worked for a musical impresario and then joined the Covent Garden Opera House as secretary to Rafael Kubelik, a Czech composer/conductor who

had moved to London from Germany and spoke little English. She had a keen interest in classical music and opera and this suited her well. Her connections also led her into translating, mainly from German, for record sleeves and books, something she continued throughout her life.

In 1960 she married Giles Wyburd, a businessman. They had a daughter, and then twin sons in quick succession. In 1964 they moved to live in Varese, Italy, when Giles was posted to head the Milan office of Dunlop. After five years in Italy, during which she learnt excellent Italian, they moved to Wetherby in Yorkshire. Here Anne became involved in Save the Children Fund, organising fundraising events; she co-founded the Wetherby Arts Festival; and was a member of Deanery and Diocesan Synods. In 1978 the family moved again, to Chipperfield in Hertfordshire, not far from where she had grown up. She was soon appointed as Professor of German at the Guildhall School of Music, teaching the voice students (the most famous of whom was Bryn Terfel) to understand and pronounce German *Lieder* and opera libretti. She even worked for the Glyndebourne festival on a production of *The Magic Flute* in German, coaching the cast in their pronunciation and producing the surtitles for the audience.

In parallel, she applied successfully to become a magistrate in Watford, and then joined the Board of Visitors of a young offenders prison nearby. This led to working with and then chairing the Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (HACRO), not once but twice. Her work for HACRO and the prison, which included setting up a visitors' centre, led to her being awarded the MBE by the Queen in 2003.

Anne continued to translate and to volunteer in her local community, including as chief poppy appeal collector and for the local community shop, well into her 80s and was singing in the local choral society until a year before her death. She regularly attended Beaufort Circle events at LMH, for the past couple of years accompanied by her granddaughter who is a postdoc in Oxford. At her last lunch in October 2023, she was delighted to be the oldest attendee by over eight years.

She was very proud of her children, her seven grandchildren and that she lived to become a great-grandmother (in May 2023).



Jocelyn Wyburd, Anne's daughter

Anne on her 94th birthday

DORIS MAY DREW (*née* BROADFIELD), 1931–2024



Doris Drew's graduation photograph

Doris was born in Eastleigh, Hampshire in 1931, the only child of older working-class parents. She developed a love of books early in life, spending much of her childhood reading and absorbing the contents of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* her parents bought her.

She was a very bright and intelligent child, and went to Eastleigh County High School, where she became Head Girl as well as the school's council member for the library.

In 1949, Doris's natural ability combined with dedication to her studies led to her winning a place to read English Language and Literature at Lady Margaret Hall. This was unusual for a child of her background and the adjustment to life at Oxford was difficult. However, she was taken under the wing of the Principal, Dame Lucy Sutherland, from whom she received a lot of help and support throughout her time at

Oxford. Dame Lucy also met Doris's parents, and on finding out that her father, William, was deaf, personally bought him a television so that he could be more connected with what was happening in the world. From then on, Edith, Doris's mother, sent her a box of lily-of-the-valley from her garden, as a thank you, every year.

While at LMH one of Doris's tutors was J. R. R. Tolkien, an alumnus of Oxford, who lectured in Old and Middle English. She was a fan of his books and kept her well-read copies of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* for the rest of her life.

It was during her time at LMH that Doris went on a trip to Paris with some fellow students, one of whom was David Drew, who was studying French. He later became her husband, and they went on to enjoy 64 years of marriage together.

After leaving university, Doris and David moved to Hertfordshire where she started a career teaching English Literature at Durrants Secondary School. When she and David started a family, she worked part-time, bringing up their three children and ensuring that they too grew up with a love of books and learning.

Doris continued to teach, both in the state and private sectors, throughout her working life – at Loreto College in St Albans and later at St Mary's School, Gerrards Cross, where she was Head of English and took immense pleasure in running the school's library. She happily found new books to add to the library, and it became a great resource for the whole school community.

A fellow English Literature teacher from St Mary's wrote to Doris's family soon after she died. She said, 'For me, she was the best colleague I ever had. She was always quietly helpful and supportive, and if ever I felt anxious about something, she'd say "Don't fret" and immediately put her mind to some way of improving matters.'

Doris retired from teaching in her late 50s, after hearing loss worsened. It was a problem she'd lived with since childhood due to a measles infection.

On retirement she made full use of her free time, travelling with her husband, and spending more time doing the things she loved, including, of course, reading, as well as gardening, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, meeting with the Fine Art Society, and going to classical concerts. She also continued to help and encourage others to enjoy books; through her local library, she regularly visited elderly residents of retirement homes in her area, with books for them to borrow, always based on what they'd told her they enjoyed. She continued doing this until she was in her mid-80s.

Doris had six grandchildren and was a wonderful Grandma to them, always interested in their lives, encouraging, kind, loving, and generous with her time. She was adored by them in return.

Doris will be remembered by those who knew her as an intelligent, highly articulate, interesting woman who was rarely without a book in her hand or close by. She had a tremendous capacity for learning and retaining information and this formed a great part of her enjoyment of life – and enabled her to consistently beat her husband at Scrabble!

She never lost her appreciation of what her time studying at LMH had given her, and was a life-long supporter of the college, donating regularly and generously to try to help others benefit as she had.

Doris passed away peacefully on 22 April 2024. She is greatly missed.



Laura Frost, Doris's daughter

Doris later in life

PAULINE MATARASSO (née SANDERSON), 1929–2023



Pauline Matarasso photographed by her son, Antoine.

‘In the beginning was the word.’ Pauline’s faith and identity, her very sense of self, were bound up in words. She was, as the title of her most personal book affirmed, *Clothed in Language*. A lonely child, she wandered in the worlds of Jack London, Ernest Thompson Seton, and Rudyard Kipling, nourishing what would be a life-long love of nature, animals and gardening.

The debt she felt towards Miss Cook, who opened literature’s door for her, was honoured in the poem ‘Head Mistress’, undiminished by the passage of 80 years. Pauline acquired languages easily – Latin, of course, and then German, which she intended to study at Oxford. It was learning what had been done in that language during the Second World War that turned her decisively towards French, whose medieval and modern forms she studied at Lady Margaret Hall, and then at the Sorbonne, where she wrote her doctoral thesis under Pierre Le Gentil, who became a lifelong friend.

Her *Raoul de Cambrai* was published in 1953, the year that Pauline married Robert, and began farming, first in Burgundy and then in Warwickshire. Being close to Oxford allowed her to do some teaching and research in the Bodleian Library, but family life naturally slowed her work. It was not until 1969 that her translation of *The Quest of the Holy Grail* appeared as a Penguin Classic. When the Monty Python team produced their version of the tale, she joked that it was a pity Penguin had not given her the film rights.

That book has never been out of print. She produced two more Penguin Classics, including *The Cistercian World*, a collection of twelfth and thirteenth century monastic writings. Pauline was pleased by Anthony Burgess’s *Observer* review, but she would have been moved and humbled to learn that Bishop Erik Varden thought it one of the two best books on the Cistercian patrimony.

A very long widowhood and a move to central Oxford made the second half of Pauline’s life rich and diverse in literary production – translation, biography, social history, memoir, theology and poetry all found their publishers.

She spent much of this year, 2023, writing and revising her poetry, which she imagined falling into receptive hands like autumn leaves. It was a special pleasure to give her the first copy of *Leavings* a few weeks before her death. At Sobell House, she worked on another text by Christian Bobin, and we spent an hour debating every word of the first paragraph. Language remained her faithful joy, and I’m thankful to have shared a little of it with her.

She was delighted to be told by an eminent historian that ‘You write a good footnote’ and liked to think of it as a good epitaph. Pauline was, as she wished to be, a true scholar, but also a gifted, distinctive voice in literature who brought pleasure and insight to very many readers.

François Matarasso, Pauline’s son

JANE MARTINDALE (née BROOKE), 1935–2023

Jane Martindale, who died on 29 August 2023, was a distinguished early medieval historian, whose immensely readable life of Eleanor of Aquitaine (c. 1122–1204), was considered by the editors of the revised *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004), to be one of the best contributions. She was the oldest of three children. Her Australian father, Malcolm Archibald Brooke, was a mining engineer, and her mother, Hilary Margaret (née Marshall b. 1904), had read history at LMH. Jane’s early education was in Malaya and in Australia after the Japanese invasion of early December 1941. When the family returned to England after the war, living for a time with her maternal grandparents in Igham (Kent), Jane was sent to Benenden School. In 1953 she came up to LMH with an exhibition to read history. As an undergraduate she was taught in college by Naomi Hurnard. External tutors included J. H. Galbraith and the young Margaret Aston for her special subject on the reign of Richard II. John Mason’s course at Christ Church, on medieval European history from the tenth to the thirteenth century, foreshadowed the direction of her future work.



*Jane Martindale
as a young
woman*

Jane’s DPhil dissertation, ‘The Origins of the Duchy of Aquitaine and the Government of the Counts of Poitou (901–1137)’, begun in 1956, was completed in 1965. She was supervised by the Oxford Reader in Diplomatic, Pierre Chaplais. Jane’s research was supported by awards from LMH and from the university, as well as by a French government scholarship. She spent most of 1957 to 1958 in Paris at the Bibliothèque nationale (now the BnF), but also worked in Poitiers, and then and later in other libraries and archives scattered throughout south-west France. Her friend, former pupil and fellow specialist, Rowan Watson, writes:

Jane’s work was based on meticulous and critical examination of charter and chronicle sources. To consult this material using public transport accompanied by the weight of card-indexes, transcripts and books was no mean feat. An appendix to her thesis consisted of the first modern edition of a work of Europe-wide significance, the *Conventum*, which survives in a late 11th-century manuscript; this gives a very detailed account of disputes in the 1020s between Duke William the Great of Aquitaine (d. 1030) and his vassal, Hugh of Lusignan.

Virtually all sources for this period were written by clerics, and the *Conventum* is exceptional in having been composed by someone with little interest in church affairs, and certainly not by a trained cleric.

Jane published an edition of the *Conventum* from this manuscript in the *English Historical Review* in 1969. In her 1997 Variorum Collected Studies, *Status, Authority and Regional Power. Aquitaine and France, 9th to 12th Centuries* (Aldershot, Ashgate Publishing, 1997), she added to the subject, incorporating the results of discussions with fellow specialists which had taken place at the Institute of Historical Research in London; the difficult wording of the text and its implications were re-examined in detail. The French historian, Dominique Barthélemy, referred to Jane's edition in his history of the early Capetians (2012) as the most convincing discussion of the document. These meetings were chaired by Susan Reynolds (obituary in *The Brown Book* 2021), for whose *Festschrift* (2001) Jane was a contributor and co-editor. Her articles on Aquitaine collected in the Variorum edition, and those more directly related to England listed in the *Bibliography of British and Irish History*, demonstrate her wide-ranging, original, and influential approach.

In 1959 Jane and the art historian, Andrew Martindale, had married. They had met at Oxford and that year Andrew had begun teaching at the Courtauld Institute in London. From 1960 to 1964 Jane was employed at Royal Holloway at Egham, first as tutorial assistant to Professor Joan Hussey, then as Assistant Lecturer, teaching courses in both European and English history. In 1965 Andrew joined the newly created Fine Art and Music School at the University of East Anglia (UEA), becoming Professor in 1974. From 1966 until 1994 Jane taught History at UEA; in 1995–96 she was elected to a year's visiting fellowship at Clare Hall, Cambridge. To her regret, the syllabus of the School of English and American studies required her to teach only English not European history, but a festive evening of talks held at UEA in her honour in October 2018 paid fitting tribute to her published work.

The move to Norwich and later to Abbot's Farm House outside Aylsham had many advantages. Jane had green fingers and loved the large garden where both she and Andrew worked tirelessly to keep things under control. She was a generous hostess and an excellent cook who specialised in Cromer crabs. Travel brought prized

opportunities to explore monuments and works of art in Andrew's company, as well as to attend conferences on both art-historical and historical topics. Jane's diffident manner concealed a razor-sharp mind.

Andrew's early and sudden death at the age of 62 in May 1995 was a devastating blow. Jane spoke eloquently at his funeral in Norwich Cathedral, but in spite of her gift for friendship and her passion for research, for the rest of her life was often lonely. Aylsham on her own was



Jane and her husband in later years

a largish house to keep in order, and a move to the Barbican during her later years brought her closer to London friends, to concerts, plays and films, and to bookshops where she could find novels and detective stories for leisure reading. She was always prone to accidents, on one occasion breaking an ankle, on another falling through the seat of a wicker chair, and on yet another falling down an escalator at St John's Wood station, but she recovered from several spells in hospital until a stroke deprived her of speech and movement. She nevertheless could still follow a conversation and was, until her final stroke, visibly delighted to receive visitors in the care home where she spent her last months, gently accepting of her situation.

Jenny Stratford
(*Lewis 1959 English*)

BARBARA IFILL (*née* LEAR), 1934–2024



Barbara Ifill in 1973

My mother, Barbara Lear, was born in Devonport, Plymouth in 1934. She was an only child and had many aunts, uncles and cousins, her father being the youngest of ten.

With the bombing of Plymouth in the Second World War, and leaving her father working there, Barbara and her mother moved to her father's family home in Truro, Cornwall where she grew up. In July 1950, having taken the exam for the Cambridge School Certificate, Barbara was awarded the Stanley Maxwell Memorial Prize for Latin, which is given to the candidate getting the highest mark in Latin in the country. Two years later, Barbara's results in Latin, French and History at the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education meant that she qualified for both a state

scholarship and a county university scholarship. In 1953, she came up to LMH to study modern history.

Barbara met her future husband, Max Ifill, while they were both working in a summer job at the Potato Marketing Board in Oxford. Max came to England in 1952 on a Trinidad and Tobago Government Scholarship and spent his first year at the London School of Economics before gaining entrance to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he studied PPE. They became engaged in Oxford; Max returned to Trinidad and Barbara sailed off to join him, marrying in December 1956.

Barbara began teaching in Trinidad in 1957 and by 1960 had three young children, Julie, Richard and Alison. She was an assistant mistress, teaching history and Latin at Bishops Anstey High School in Port of Spain. The then Headmistress, Miss Sutherland, wrote in 1964 that ‘Mrs Ifill is a conscientious teacher who expects the girls to think for themselves and to be interested and ready to work’.

Max’s thwarted political ambitions led to the family leaving Trinidad in 1968 and moving to Tanzania, where he worked for the United Nations until 1970. We have great memories of Barbara playing the church organ in Dar es Salaam – Julie in the choir and Richard and Alison placed within view so Barbara could keep an eye on what they were up to! Back in Trinidad, Barbara returned to teaching at Bishops and Max got a job working in Canada where it was planned that the family would join him. Instead, in 1973, Max got another United Nations posting, this time to Nigeria. Barbara packed up their home again and returned with the three children to England. She provided us with a roof over our heads for the following 50 years, grounding us in the same place.

Despite more than a decade of teaching experience, Barbara did not have a teaching qualification and this meant she was unable to get a job in education. Instead, she went to Abingdon College of Further Education and re-trained in accounting and bookkeeping. She worked for numerous accounting organisations and departments in Oxford and at her official retirement in 1996, aged 62, was a senior accounts technician at the YWCA.

Barbara was deeply resentful that she was expected to retire from employment which gave her interest and kept her brain working. She found other work as a temporary accounts assistant and was made a permanent member of the team at Blackwells in 1996. She joined a wonderful, fun group of people and, when the team disbanded, they continued to meet for a knees-up – she had such fun with them all. Later, Barbara worked from home, proofreading secret shopping reports, and finally stopped paid work in 2016, aged 82.

One of the most wonderful things about Barbara was her desire to learn. She was learning something new all her life and had a wide range of intellectual and practical interests – reading about archaeology, ancient Egypt, astronomy, the Ice Age. Until a few years ago, Barbara went to evening classes: silversmithing, web design, acrylic painting. We inherited her interests and she enriched our lives.

Barbara was blessed with three grandsons: Joseph, Ben and Alex. Joseph reflects, ‘You would struggle, if you had to find someone more giving of themselves than Nan.’

Barbara grew up in a home of piano music and songs. She taught us to play the piano and music continues to be the heart of our family life. Last year, despite her excuse of stiff fingers, she was encouraged to play ‘Aragonaise’ by Jules Massenet, which was played at her funeral. Barbara’s strength of character and presence of mind continued to the end of her life.

‘All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.’ Julian of Norwich.

Julie Ifill, Barbara’s daughter

CATHLEEN SWEET (*née* VAUSE), 1927–2024



Cathleen Vause as a student



Cathleen Sweet on her 94th birthday

Cathleen, born in 1927 and brought up in Southampton, read Modern Languages at LMH, 1946–49. In preparation for her course she visited Germany in 1946 and was shocked by the poverty and devastation she saw there.

Like many students, Cathleen cycled everywhere. She rowed, and made the University VIII to row against Cambridge. However, she failed the medical – because she'd cycled so hard to arrive on time for the doctor's appointment that her heart was beating 'too fast'. She remembered her crew-mates boarding the Oxford–Cambridge train with their blades, but without her.

Cathleen met Geoffrey Sweet while at Oxford and they married in 1950. She had ambitions to go into the diplomatic service, but this option was not then open to married women. She became a teacher instead, until her three children arrived.

Cathleen resumed her career in 1965 when they relocated to Oxford. After teaching at a middle school, and becoming frustrated as the age-range grew younger, she opted for a complete change of direction, moving to an executive officer position in what was then the Department for Health and Social Security in London. She worked on the international desk, where she was able to use her languages. Cathleen found it easy to talk with people and she made good friends on the way into and out of work.

Cathleen retired at 60 and became an Oxford and then a Bodleian guide, leading many tours around Oxford, including some of the (then new) Morse tours. Being fluent in French and German was a definite asset.

LMH retained a special place in Cathleen's heart; she considered it a second family. The alumnae bonds were real. In 1949, when settling into Burford for her first teaching

job, she was invited to tea by Katharine Briggs (LMH 1918), who was to become a renowned folklorist. When Katharine discovered that Cathleen was also an alumna of LMH, she immediately asked her if she would look after her house and cat for several months while she went to France with her sisters. Cathleen jumped at the chance to leave her damp and dingy digs; she stayed on after Katharine's return and they kept in touch when their paths diverged.

Was it her upbringing or the LMH ethos that made Cathleen intrepid, pioneering, hard-working, curious, egalitarian? She did not follow the high-flying career that she would almost certainly have had a generation later, but she influenced her family profoundly. Her husband did the washing up as a matter of course, at a time when most men would not have been seen dead washing up or pushing a pram. Her daughters were brought up to believe that no doors should be closed to them just because they were female.

Cathleen was active in her local Women's Institute branch, being president, secretary and treasurer at various stages. 'Jerusalem' resounded loudly at her funeral. Cathleen was keen on Scottish dancing, she still cycled everywhere when retired, she loved travelling and she was an enthusiastic bridge player.

Cathleen's last years were spent at Lady Nuffield Home in north Oxford where she used her gift of friendship to welcome each newcomer who arrived, helping people to settle in. She brought great kindness and a genuine depth of curiosity to every stage of her long and varied life and leaves a legacy of many loving friends and family.

Penelope Vincent-Sweet, Cathleen's daughter

PRISCILLA THOMAS, 1937–2024



Priscilla Thomas

Priscilla Thomas had a varied career linked by excellent research skills, a scholarly interest in a very wide range of subjects, and a quiet exterior which hid an unusually adventurous spirit. Wherever she went, her amused and tolerant interest in people made her a large and varied collection of close and lasting friends.

Priscilla had the self-confidence and self-containment of many only children, and her lovely, free, wartime country childhood in Worcestershire helped to develop her early independence. She went to Lawnside, a fairly typical 1950s girls' boarding school, where girls who went on to university were vanishingly rare. But her headmistress spotted her academic potential and helped her get into LMH.

At LMH, as well as enjoying college and Oxford life, she was ideally suited to the history course. She was scholarly by nature, and particularly enjoyed being taught by Dr Anne Whiteman. After graduating, and until Miss Whiteman's death, Priscilla often visited her whenever she was in and around Oxford.

Her first job was in the Foreign Office international research department (IRS), where all staff had to sign the Official Secrets Act. The job suited her well, because it demanded a talent for research and perfectly suited her naturally discreet temperament.

After a time in London in the Middle East section of the IRS, she accepted a job in Turkey, beginning a lifelong love of the country, and gaining a deep and scholarly knowledge of it. There, her growing numbers of friends learnt that her neat, quiet, and as one friend put it 'almost prim', appearance hid a brave and adventurous spirit. She travelled on her own to many parts of Turkey where the roads were unmade and untrodden by foreign travellers, and occasionally potentially hostile to them.

This adventurousness showed in other ways. When back in London and working for the publisher, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, the usually beautifully but unobtrusively dressed Priscilla splashed out on a very fashionable plum velvet trouser suit from Yves St Laurent and wore it to one of the legendary parties given by George Weidenfeld, the firm's founder and mainspring. On arrival, to her horror, she saw her much shorter and distinctly tubby boss wearing the identical suit.

On her return from Turkey, she did postgraduate work in Ottoman Studies at Oxford before joining Christie's book department as a consultant working mainly on manuscripts. It was perhaps typical of her protection of her independence that she never wanted to join the staff. There she was famous for the tidiness of her desk, and the way she could decipher almost any manuscript in several languages. And, as she did everywhere she went, she made lasting friends.

Priscilla used her research skills after she retired, enjoying helping local Kensington conservation societies by burrowing in the bowels of her beloved Kensington public library, producing photographs and documents to strengthen their cases. And with her very wide and scattered friendship she always seemed to be able to solve any problem, from how to find a good care agency to how to sell 8,000 pretty much valueless books.

She was the best ever travel companion and consultant. She devised many unusual trips either with her friends or for them. Most were around Turkey, and later Romania when she developed a deep interest in its history and landscape and architecture. For one couple, travelling through Turkey to India, Priscilla planned routes, taking them well off the beaten tourist track. And she even wrote them a Turkish phrase book to help them make some contact with local people.

Above all, she was an amazing friend. Wonderfully easy company, with her quiet humour and her love and deep but lightly worn knowledge of art, and music and history. A terrific letter writer and later emailer. A great walking companion, with her love of the English countryside. And an excellent gentle (but occasionally acerbic) gossip.

For me, Priscilla was beautifully summed up in one line by a contemporary at Christie's book department. He said he was impressed not just by the breadth and

depth of her knowledge before the internet made research much easier, but by her imperturbability. She could face the most challenging and illegible French manuscript in the morning, and with the minimum of fuss would have it sorted into neat piles for cataloguing by the end of the day.

So much, he said, was contained in her head – and in her heart.

Virginia Makins

(1957 History)

ALYSON LAMB, 1955–2024

Alyson was born and brought up in the north-east and attended the Newcastle Central High School for Girls before coming up to LMH in 1974 to study modern languages (French and Russian).

Her lifelong friend and LMH contemporary, Judy Hague (1974 modern languages), recalls:

‘On our second day in college, Alyson and I met at the modern languages’ noticeboard. She had a long sheen of dark hair, keen dress sense and fabulous wedge-heeled blue shoes. We were to be tutorial partners for French literature with Mrs Crow. Bonding in Deneke over Van Morrison and vodka, we swapped stories of being *au pairs* in France and quickly became firm friends.

‘Both GPDST girls, languages and literature were not all we shared. We delighted in David Bowie’s Aladdin Sane tour and partying to ABBA. Poised and articulate, with an inquiring mind, Alyson was a talented linguist and, as a student, her powers of empathy, analysis and communication were already evident.

‘In the long hot summer of 1976, we attended a language course at the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute. This brought us into contact with young Russians, simultaneously warm yet guarded, at various official functions. We were uncomfortable with being barred from contact with students in our hostel outside our group. We brought *The Oxford Companion to the Theatre* to a grateful Russian academic. We always hoped he achieved his ambition to “stroll down the Haymarket” as we did ours on walks down Nevsky Prospekt.

‘With finals approaching, we separately and mistakenly thought our Russian special authors paper was an afternoon – not morning – exam. A phone call from our Russian tutor, Anne Pennington, disabused us of this and we high-tailed it to Schools, arriving almost 30 minutes late. Tony Stokes, the invigilator, said we could still sit the exam as



Alyson (on the right) and Judy in Oxford, c. 1980

no one had left the room in the interim. Long after we graduated, whenever someone was the voice of calm at times of turmoil or upset, we dubbed it “a Dr Stokes moment”

After Oxford, Alyson worked briefly in Paris before settling in London and joining Reiner Moritz Associates Arts – a TV production company which co-produced programmes such as the *South Bank Show* and brought major theatrical productions like the RSC’s *Nicholas Nickleby* and Peter Brook’s *Mahabharata* to the small screen. Alyson took a sabbatical in 1986 to travel extensively before going back into TV production and then into PR with Good Relations, working on Glasgow’s successful City of Culture bid in 1990.

Throughout her life, Alyson was fascinated by what gave purpose to life and in the late 1990s came to Christian faith through the Alpha Course at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). She worked full time at HTB until 2003 when she started on the path to ordination through the Theology for Ministry course at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. She served her

curacy at St Michael Le Belfrey in York before becoming vicar at St John the Evangelist in Eastbourne. Her next ministry saw her return to Paris as the first female vicar of Saint Michael’s, the city’s English-speaking church.

The Reverend Dale Hanson recalls:

‘I served with Alyson at Saint Michael’s in Paris where she became a dear friend as well as a colleague. Her time at Saint Michael’s was not without its challenges but included much fruitful and joyful ministry.

‘The Tamil congregation held a special place in her heart and I recall the way she threw herself into that community’s joyful Christmas celebrations. Alyson always cut a stylish figure and she looked very much at home in the sari they gave her! She was at her happiest as she shared her infectious love for Jesus with the people around us.’

In a coda to her time in Paris, she returned to preach at the funeral of the actress, Jane Birkin. They had first met when Alyson officiated at the funeral of Jane’s daughter, Kate Barry, and Birkin then requested in her will that Alyson preach at her service.

Alyson never lost her love for the north-east and it always seemed inevitable that she would settle there again. In 2017, she became vicar



Alyson, the vicar; Alyson looking magnificent at Glyndebourne

of the parishes of Mitford and Hebron, deep in the Northumberland countryside. Although this would be her last ministry as retirement approached, she committed to the parishes with the same zeal, energy and care which characterised her life in the church. Being by the sea was also a recurrent theme in her life and she had a very happy but all too brief retirement in Berwick-upon-Tweed where she made another new circle of cherished friends.

Judy Hague recalls:

‘After LMH, we shared myriad holidays, walks, concerts, parties, exhibitions, movies, and conversations. Alyson’s acts of kindness were legendary among our close circle of friends. A consummate communicator, even when demands on her time were great, and a wise, thoughtful, and supportive friend, she was greatly loved. She retained her sense of fun, revelling last year in our dance box at *ABBA Voyage*. Our last walk together, serene and, as always, companionable, was fittingly on her beloved Lindisfarne.

‘A few weeks later, we swapped Christmas presents over lunch in London. Then Alyson accompanied me to a nearby make-up shop continuing an almost 50-year conversation by encouraging me to “Wear a bit more makeup, Jude” on special occasions. My fellow “dancing queen” and I were blessed with a deep and lifelong friendship for which I am profoundly grateful.’

Space here does not allow recounting the many things in which Alyson took pleasure: music, dancing, art, sea swimming, hill walking and designer shoes, to name a few. But above all else, her greatest joy was in her family and the many friends she made during the different chapters of her life. Even after her cancer diagnosis, she dedicated her last year to being with the ones she loved and making many more magical memories.

She is deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Duncan Lamb, Alyson’s brother

MATTHEW WESTON, 1978–2023

Matt was a gifted mathematician and a delightful, funny, and kind man who retained close friends from multiple LMH cohorts throughout his life.

Always brilliant but modest, Matt uncomfortably attracted the attention of the national press after gaining six A grades in his A levels. In the modules comprising his maths and further maths A levels, he had achieved 100 per cent in all but one (a module not taught at his school; he still got a high mark). His peaceful summer job at a baked potato stand on the beach in his native Skegness was interrupted by journalists and photographers, the latter getting him to pose with six baked potatoes with a flag reading ‘A’ in each.

At LMH, Matt made close friends within his year and beyond, with humour, food and music providing the starting points for many friendships. Many will remember his incredible record collection and music knowledge – and his talents on the football



Matthew Weston

pitch. He was also a polymath way beyond his subject, always interested in and often impressively knowledgeable about subjects his friends raised. Latterly, Matt had also started writing poetry.

After LMH, he went on to start a PhD in maths at Sussex University but gradually drifted away from academia. A surprise to his teachers and tutors but not to his friends, it was cookery that captivated Matt. He worked mainly in pub kitchens, gaining praise and attention for the quality of the menus he planned and produced. When he died, Matt had been working for many years at the Tapping the Admiral pub in London, where he led the kitchen and was particularly famed for his pies. His interest in mathematics still persisted. An online obituary noted that Matt was ‘a chef who could bake you an award-winning pie while explaining complicated mathematical equations’.

Matt died unexpectedly at the age of 45, in his sleep, in February 2023. His funeral in Lincolnshire was attended by lots of his LMH friends with more joining online from around the world. His sisters gave a wonderful eulogy, including in their tribute one of Matt’s own poems. He is greatly missed.

Helen (Mel) Bach (1996 European and Middle Eastern Languages), Patrick Baxter (1996 Music), James Gledhill (1996 History), and Christopher Wallace (1998 English)

DANIEL HUGHES, 1977–2024

Dan studied biochemistry at LMH, his incredible intelligence giving him a lifeline out of a damaging childhood. To the end of his days, he never stopped feeling grateful to Garry Brown, his LMH tutor, who supported him throughout his occasionally tumultuous college years, and also to Helen Post from the college’s ‘One Stop Shop’ student support office, who also never stopped believing in him.

Dan was loud, challenging, fun, annoying, loud (again); his almost superhuman brain was offset by a swathe of extremely human traits, including a poorly hidden obsession with the ruling classes and an addiction to Sara Lee Chocolate Gateau Mousse (the latter especially when he lived unofficially on the sofa of the



Daniel Hughes

Jericho house some of us rented in 1997/98). He was devoted to his friends from LMH days and kept in touch with many throughout his life.

After Oxford, Dan went on to complete a PhD in genetics at the University of Cambridge. He then lived in Brazil with his wife, Rachel, picking up fluent Portuguese at the same time as teaching himself computer languages – all with irritating ease. Dan then embarked on a stellar career in bioinformatics. His first job brought him back to Cambridge (where he and Rachel had first met) for three years before he was snapped up by the US. His work saw him move from institution to institution, including two stints at Columbia and one at Baylor. Most recently, he had taken a prestigious job at a private company in Alabama, working towards early retirement with Rachel somewhere warm by the sea.

A keen runner showing no obvious signs of what was to come, Dan died suddenly in the early hours of 13 April 2024, aged 47, of heart failure. A site set up to memorialise him (<https://everloved.com/memorial/daniel-hughes/>) was flooded with tributes from friends and colleagues shocked by his loss. Rachel decided to commemorate Dan not with a funeral but with a celebration of his life, held in June 2024 in Cambridge. Many LMH friends were among the attendees. John Bradley, Jim Gledhill and I gave tributes, Cat Meakin (Bennett-Rees) read a Bible passage, and Greg Bannister led us in prayer. Dan was an amazing, infuriating, and irreplaceable friend. He will never be forgotten.

Helen (Mel) Bach

(1996 European and Middle Eastern Languages)

ANNE LEIGHTON (*née* GIBSON), 1958–2023



Anne Leighton

Anne was born in Wakefield, the middle child of five, having two older brothers and two younger sisters, including myself. We had a very happy childhood and were very close. Our parents were strong believers in the power of education to change lives and worked hard to ensure that we all attended higher education. Anne was the first in the family to go to a grammar school, Wakefield Girls High School (WGHS), where she became Deputy Head Girl and was encouraged by the Headmistress, Miss Hand, to apply to LMH to study jurisprudence. She came up in 1977. She was taught by the wonderful Ann Kennedy who took great care in selecting her students and subsequently told me that Miss Hand was ‘a very good picker of potential lawyers’, resulting in my

sister being the first of three WGHS girls to study law at LMH in a 5-year period. Ann advised that ‘the older generation of LMH Fellows, when there were so few women’s



Anne Leighton and family at her graduation



Anne Leighton (right) with her sister Carol

places at Oxford [with only five women's colleges then], used to say they were looking during the entrance exam and interviews for GVGs – good vigorous girls' and that 'to do well at Oxford you needed to develop self-confidence and drive'. As she recognised, Anne clearly had these traits which served her well during her lifetime.

My sister loved her time at LMH and made very good friends there with whom she kept in touch throughout her life. Visiting Anne there, and seeing how happy she was, inspired me to follow in her footsteps, four years later. By the time I arrived in 1981 Anne had left and boys had started to be admitted – causing our father, a traditional Yorkshireman, to observe that in the changed circumstances 'dressing gowns must be worn when using the bathrooms'!

Anne worked in tax at the Ocean Group and its successor businesses for much of her working life and was successful there, being able to use many of her personal qualities of strength, determination, honesty, diligence and competence.

Although she was very hard working and highly committed to her work, family meant everything to Anne. She married Christopher, who read mathematics at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1997. They were married on 6 September, the day of Princess Diana's funeral, when it was briefly uncertain whether weddings could go ahead. Fortunately, Magdalen, where they were married, was very sympathetic and I vividly remember reading the lesson, Corinthians ch. 13, and later discovering that Tony Blair had been reading the same one elsewhere! It was fitting that their reception was at LMH, where Anne had made so many happy memories 20 years earlier, surrounded by friends and family.

Anne had two daughters, Emma (now 24) and Charlie (now 17), who were her pride and joy. Anne was a superb mother, ensuring her girls were able to do a wide range of activities and supporting them in their education. As with everything else, Anne would

help them decide what they wanted to do and then, once they had decided, put her personal strength and hard work into whatever was necessary to achieve it, whether it be an elite sport, academic results or adventurous holidays. As a family they travelled together exploring new places and regularly visiting Bermuda, which was particularly special for them as Christopher's aunt lived there and, as a centenarian, was very inspirational. Our families also remained close, and our children regularly went on holidays together, creating special memories.

In 2004, while juggling work and home life, Anne was first diagnosed with cancer. After minor surgery she was cancer free but sadly it returned in November 2013. Anne dealt with her illness in the same way that she dealt with everything else, stoically and with great determination. Over the next ten years she fought hard, having extensive surgery and treatment. Throughout she carried on working and organising family life, from her hospital bed and at home, determined to do everything she could to keep life as normal as possible. The strength and determination she had first developed at LMH served her well, but sadly she lost her battle with this awful disease in September 2023, a month before her 65th birthday.

Anne was always kind, generous and thoughtful, doing what she could to help others. To me, my big sister was inspiring. She is sadly missed by all those who knew her.

*Carol Oster Warriner
(Gibson 1981 Jurisprudence)*

GILLIAN BROXHOLME, 1954–2024

Gill and I started at secondary school in Bradford in 1965. We became close friends through the years, sharing A-level classes in German, Latin (just the two of us, the teacher and Catullus!) and history, where Gill excelled, and I definitely didn't. We could bicker – sorry, debate – happily about pretty much anything and would almost always take opposing views, whether on religion, the English Civil War, music or literature, sometimes out of contrariness as much as conviction, I suspect.

Between school and university Gill and I joined a scheme, the Rugby Programme, offering six months' work in Germany supported with a programme before, during and at the end of the stay. This proved seminal: we met and made lifelong



Gillian Broxholme



Gill and friends in LMH gardens, 1976 (left to right: Clare Anderson (Hoskin), Ruth Bourne (Dobson), Gill Broxhorne)



Gill at a work event

friendships in and through the programme. Gill was in Cologne while I was in Stuttgart. The interim seminar was a few days in Berlin, which was a very different place in 1973. I think we all still recall the impact of seeing the Wall and its effects when going into East Berlin for the first time.

We came to Oxford in autumn 1973 for three intense and formative years, making more good friends at LMH and elsewhere. We had neighbouring rooms in one of the then 'new blocks' in our final year, so late-night chats were a speciality. Gill was a dab hand with her vintage waffle iron! She was also i/c the committee for the Norham Gardens boathouse when a tree flattened it, as I recall; all was duly sorted by Gill the 'fixer'. We enjoyed many a pleasant punting expedition, from more pretentious outings in our Laura Ashley best, with my vintage wind-up gramophone, a friend's numerous Beethoven 78s and Gill's punting skills, to less glamorous ones involving inelegant plastic dustpan balers and some very soggy floppy hats.

After graduating in history, Gill began a varied administrative career which included a stint in Fleetwood with British Ports, but was otherwise in London, working variously for Westminster Council, as a Company Secretary for the National Consumer Council, and for the Finance and Leasing Association, while also giving many years of valuable voluntary service to the Samaritans. For obvious reasons, she wouldn't talk about that in any detail, but what she did say made it clear what a challenging, yet satisfying role that was for her. In later years, before her early retirement, she worked for the Alzheimer's Society, including representing them on the Early Diagnosis and Intervention working group for the Department of Health's important 2009 National Strategy, 'Living Well with Dementia'.

Over the years she happily took herself off solo to destinations including Australia and Antarctica for her 'big adventures', but always took much pleasure in the smaller joys of going to art galleries, concerts or meals with friends. Gill was happy to spend time with family and friends but also very comfortable with her own thoughts, a good book, a writing project, Formula 1, a fiendish crossword or music for company. We shared many high and some very low moments over the years and knew we could

always rely on each other when need arose. The debate habit never entirely went away!

Gill celebrated her 70th birthday in April with a few close friends. Sadly, she died suddenly in May 2024. Her funeral took place in June in Yorkshire, where her brother and his family still live, and donations in her memory were fittingly shared between Alzheimer's Society and the Samaritans.

Ruth Bourne

(Dobson 1973 Modern Languages)

CHRISTOPHER CAPEWELL, 1981–2023

I first met Chris in October 1999 at LMH where we'd both been accepted to read mathematics and had rooms in Deneke West. I really appreciated how accepting and welcoming Chris was. His door was usually open and as he had a PlayStation 2 there was often a crowd playing or watching in his room.

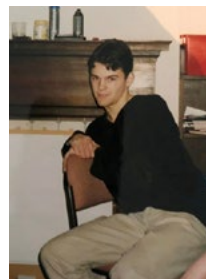
Chris came up with his own definition of what it meant to be a student. He enjoyed maths, just so long as it didn't interfere with his having fun. He stopped attending lectures after the first year and, if there was a 9am tutorial, the chances are that he would have been up all night and would go to bed after the tutorial. Instead, he relied on his considerable natural ability to get by with minimal effort.

One night he decided it would be fun to break into the kitchens by climbing over the roof. While he was there, someone heard him, so he had to scarper quickly back to his room having secured his trophy of an onion! Unfortunately, his reputation preceded him; the night porter took an educated guess and was waiting outside his room. The result was a stint working in the kitchens. Many years later, a few of us visited LMH and, of course, the only person the porter recognised was Chris.

Despite his lack of interest in studying, his passion for maths and science continued well beyond university. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of zoology and always had an interesting fact about some animal behaviour. He had a prodigious memory and while he could recite Shakespeare's speeches by heart, he preferred to recount plots of 1980s cartoons.

After graduating, Chris started a career in analytics with WPA, health insurer, in Taunton. I could have easily lost touch but another LMH friend organised a holiday to Morocco. This cemented our friendship and from that time our group annual holidays became a highlight of the year.

After three years in Taunton he moved to Bristol, working for Lloyds Bank. Chris loved Bristol and made it his new home. He took up new hobbies, salsa dancing and kung-fu, which he became impressively good at and would demonstrate whenever he had the chance. He later moved to London where I shared a flat with him and Leigh



*Chris Capewell in
Deneke West, 1999*

Duckwith (1999 maths). I have fond memories of evenings together, often competing at Singstar, which Chris always won.

Chris said that he didn't want to get to the end of his life and never have lived anywhere other than the UK. His girlfriend at the time was from New Zealand and wanted to be nearer her family, so that provided the perfect opportunity to move to Sydney, Australia. Chris loved his life there with the sunshine, hot tub and new friends. However after a few years he was missing his family. The day after his citizenship ceremony, he left the country as an Australian, never to return. He took the opportunity to return via Indonesia, Thailand and Borneo, exploring some of the wildlife.

Chris returned to London, working first at Farfetch, an online fashion retailer, then as head of analytics at Mettle, a banking app. His LMH friends met up regularly for activities such as escape rooms, dinners and holidays. He had plans to move to Manchester with his girlfriend Becky but sadly this was not to be. On 27 August 2023 he died suddenly aged 42. At his funeral, as per his wishes, the music included cartoon theme tunes.

In March 2024, his close friend Tej Dhami (1999 PPE) organised for many of us to return to college to celebrate his life by visiting some of his favourite places. Everyone who knew him had a funny story or act of kindness to tell about Chris. He left a wealth of comedy, music and videos that he recorded; watch them at <https://www.youtube.com/@remembering-chris>. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

*Jonathan Adams
(1999 Mathematics)*



*Chris by a statue of Darwin
in the Natural History
Museum, 2022*

KATIE RICHARDS, 1962–2024



Katie Richards 1985

Katie Richards read PPE at LMH and completed the Graduate Diploma in Theology in 1987, both on a Rhodes Scholarship. It was at LMH that we met and married – I being a South African and fellow Rhodes Scholar. In addition to the academic benefits from attending LMH, Katie came away with a life-changing new way of understanding her faith, and a number of dear lifelong friends.

Katie was born in Chicago in 1962, and hence a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan. After her father's death, her family moved to Missoula when she was 11 and she grew up in Montana, a place she loved dearly for the rest of her life. She graduated

from Hellgate High School in Missoula (1980) and from the University of Montana (1984), where she majored in classics. Later, in 1992, she completed a Master of Arts in journalism at the University of Maryland.

In 1989, we moved to Washington, DC, when I took a job at the World Bank, and we settled in Olney, Maryland in 1993.

For several years, Katie worked as a reporter for *The Baltimore Sun* where she wrote about local government issues, a wayward manatee, and attempts to locate a new major league football stadium in the DC area. She also contributed to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Olney Gazette*, and worked as an instructor at the University of Maryland and for various non-profits in Washington and London. She penned the inspirational ‘Glass Grizzly Blog’ (<https://glassgrizzly.blogspot.com>), sharing her thoughts about dealing with breast cancer in 2011–14.

For some years Katie was a member of the Mill Creek Parish United Methodist Church, where she was a member of its governing council and taught Sunday School. She was a delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church where she actively worked to try to change the Church’s position on LGBTQ issues. Frustrated at the lack of progress in that regard, she eventually left the church and was later part of the Sandy Spring Friends community.

Katie absolutely loved being a mom to Sean (29), Julia (27) and Matt (21). And she was an excellent mom, raising the kids to be the wonderfully balanced and capable young adults they have become.

Katie proudly described herself as a ‘liberal Christian’ and as a ‘political activist’. Her spirit animal was the honey badger, known as tenacious ‘bad-ass’ – a term Katie embraced. This stood her in good stead as a journalist confronting recalcitrant public officials, dealing with cancer, and managing her fear of heights and swimming. Katie was an active volunteer with the Maryland chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America where she helped shape and lobby to pass numerous state gun control bills. She also supported and assisted a number of local politicians. In recent elections she served as an election judge. She had strong and clearly articulated political and social views – which she sometimes took to spirited battles on social media.

Katie was a very talented artist in multiple media and completed the Master Artist Program at Compass Atelier in Rockville in 2020. Her work (www.KatherineRRichards.com) has been shown in several galleries and juried shows across the US, where she won multiple awards. She was a talented and avid photographer, often taking literally thousands of photos a day while travelling. Through these media she sought to highlight beauty in the world and draw attention to difficult social issues.



Katie Richards 2023

As fiercely as she stood up for what she believed to be right, she also celebrated the natural world and its beauty. Katie loved the outdoors and national parks, which she visited often – especially Glacier Park in Montana and the Kruger National Park in South Africa. She loved wildflowers, and was an expert in identifying them. She lovingly nurtured, without chemicals, a wonderful garden of native plants.

As much as she cared about the world around her, she just as deeply loved and stood by her family and friends. Everyone she met came away better for the interaction. She had friends all over the United States and abroad and stayed in touch with people she met at every stage of her life. Katie counted people from every school she attended (including LMH), every social activism group she belonged to, every hobby she enjoyed, and many others as lifelong friends.

John Roome

(1984 MSc Applied Statistics and 1986 MPhil Management Studies)

SONYA HILTON (née GREGORY), 1921–2023

My mother was an amazing, driven person. She was a teacher, an entrepreneur, a politician and a mother. She was born on 20 June 1921 and died on 7 September 2023 at 102 years old. She achieved a great deal in her long life.

Sonya was brought up as an Armenian and grew up in Calcutta, India, where she excelled at the University of Calcutta, earning two first-class degrees and two gold medals for coming first in botany and zoology. Her first job was teaching biology at the New School in Darjeeling and then in 1945 she went to LMH, graduating in Geography and then achieving a Diploma in Social Anthropology. She loved her time there.

Sonya returned to Calcutta after finishing her degree and met my father, Harry Hilton, a Hurricane pilot in the RAF on the ship home. They married in 1948, eventually settling in Bombay where my father was managing director of a large British company that manufactured cigarettes. They had two children, Richard and Janice, and we had a wonderful childhood with trips to the beach every weekend and swimming lessons after school. Not satisfied with being a wife and mother, Sonya started a business manufacturing plastic flowers, employing people with disabilities



Sonya Hilton on her 100th birthday

to assemble the flowers. She also became the ladies squash champion one year. My father retired from his job in 1969 and he and my mother returned to the UK.

Sonya spent time learning about and investing in residential and commercial UK property which she did successfully. As energetic as ever into her 70s, she became a councillor in Hammersmith and Fulham and served for 12 years as a Conservative in a Labour borough. In her early 80s she moved to Barnes to be near her daughter and son-in-law and immediately signed up to join the local Roehampton Club. She adored the club, playing bridge and backgammon and swimming. She made lovely friends there. My Mum was proud to have reached 100 and receiving Honorary Membership at a most special lunch.

She loved visiting LMH for the annual garden parties and the Gaudies. She often took me and my friends as well her sister. Unfortunately she did not meet many of her contemporaries from LMH as she had reached such a ripe old age.

Janice Savundra, Sonya's daughter

ANNETTE KENNEDY-COOKE, 1932–2024

Annette Kennedy-Cooke died peacefully aged 91 at Church Farm Rest Home, East Wittering on 8 May 2024. Born in Northampton on 12 September 1932, Annette was brought up in Flore, Northamptonshire, and educated at Northampton High School and then as a boarder at Eothen School (subsequently part of Caterham School) from the age of 14. On leaving school she studied drama and started her career in stage management, mostly based in Hornchurch in Essex.

Annette's father was working for the British Council in Rome, and she spoke fluent Italian. She decided to pursue an alternative path and joined the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford where she was granted two weeks leave every summer to excavate in Morgantina, Sicily, where the team made many discoveries. She obtained a BLitt from Oxford (LMH) as a result of her thesis describing the artefacts.

Later Annette moved to West Wittering to live with her mother, Annette Rae Kennedy-Cooke (Cooke 1918 English), and became involved in many local activities. She joined the Seffrid Guild (embroiderers) at Chichester Cathedral. She was an immaculate seamstress. She was very involved in the local horticultural society and had a large allotment. She returned to acting and stage activities as a member of the West Wittering Players and maintained her interest in archaeology and history, travelling widely throughout the UK.

Unfortunately, as dementia set in, she was unable to maintain her activities and she spent two years in the care home where she appeared to be very settled until her death.

Caroline Tibbs, Annette's niece

SUSAN WHITE (*née* MORTON), 1953–2024

Sue was born in Clapham. She was an only child and the family resided first in Brixton and then in Kennington, not far from the Oval. Perhaps not surprisingly, she supported Surrey Cricket Club. More surprisingly, she supported Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, on the grounds that she liked Danny Blanchflower!

Sue attended Mary Datchelor School in Camberwell from 1964 to 1971. She obtained an open scholarship to read natural sciences at Lady Margaret Hall and she left there in 1976 with a first-class degree in chemistry.

Sue went into a firm of stockbrokers as an oil analyst (natural resources was a growth area back then). As it turned out, she stayed in this sector throughout her working life, ending up at Merrill Lynch, from which she retired early in 2002. Sue headed the oil and gas research team and ultimately headed this area globally. She was also involved in many high-level transactions, not least the privatisations of several state-owned oil companies.

After retirement, Sue took a Master's degree in forensic archaeology at UCL and was subsequently involved with UCL's Centre for the Forensic Sciences. She also took on board a couple of non-executive director positions.

Without full-time employment, Sue was able to enjoy far more two of her other loves – travel and culture. Normally travelling with me, Sue visited a huge number of places in the world. In part, this was motivated by a desire to see each species of penguin in its native habitat. She did in fact achieve this, bar those species only seen in Antarctica. Few other people could claim to have been to each of North Korea, Mongolia and Sudan, for instance. She travelled extensively in the USA, visiting 47 of the 50 states.

Sue particularly enjoyed opera and theatre, and provided financial support for several organisations. She was also a very generous donor to certain animal charities, not least Cats Protection. She had had cats at home for many years.

Jerry White, Susan's husband

SARAH LEVINE (*née* FRIEDBERGER), 1940–2023

The anthropologist and LMH graduate, Dr Sarah E. LeVine (*née* Friedberger) died on 5 August 2023. Born in Northampton in 1940, she was just shy of 83 years old. Sarah received her BA from Lady Margaret Hall in 1961, her MA from the University of Chicago, and her PhD from Harvard University.

While in the Voluntary Service Overseas in Nigeria, she met her American husband, Dr Robert A. LeVine, also an anthropologist. They married in 1968 and worked together for more than 50 years, first at the University of Chicago and then at Harvard University. From 1976, Sarah lived in the Boston area.



Sarah LeVine more recently



Sarah LeVine and the Bullingdon Club

Sarah's fieldwork, starting in the late 1960s, focused on the socialisation of children and the impact of women's education on child and reproductive health in many countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Mexico, Venezuela, India and Nepal. She was the author of a wide range of books, some written with her husband and other collaborators, including *Mothers & Wives* (1979), *Rebuilding Buddhism* (2007) and *The Saint of Kathmandu* (2008). She also wrote novels under a pseudonym, Louisa

Dawkins, such as *Natives & Strangers* (1985).

In addition to her work as an anthropologist, Sarah, who was a naturalised American citizen herself, spent decades volunteering with those seeking political asylum in the United States, doing extensive interviews to prepare affidavits in support of their applications.

Sarah is survived by their children, Anna LeVine Winger of Berlin, Germany, and Alex LeVine of Los Angeles, CA, and by three beloved granddaughters, Isabella and Rose Winger, and Eva LeVine. A celebration of her life was held on 10 August 2024 in Maine, where she spent her summers.

Anna LeVine Winger, Sarah's daughter

ALBA MCCONNELL (*née* PENNYCUICK), 1935–2024



Alba (with the black tie) and friends in front of the Examination Schools



Alba and Peter, around 1958

Alba, who was at LMH from 1954 to 1958, died peacefully in January 2024 aged 88. The daughter of Sir John and Lucy Pennycuick, she grew up in an ancient house in Maids Moreton, north Buckinghamshire, where she rode ponies and played tennis. She later attended St Joseph's Convent School near Tamworth, along with several cousins.

One of the few girls from her school to go to university, she went up to LMH in 1954 to read French, helped by an academic father and a year at a crammer (and probably the French nuns at the convent). At Oxford she met Peter, a doctor's son, who was up at Pembroke reading chemistry. They married in 1958 and lived in Cyprus during Peter's national service there, returning afterwards to south Buckinghamshire, where their two children were born.

Peter's work took the family abroad for many years, where Alba enjoyed travel and golf. They returned to England on Peter's retirement in 1995. Sadly widowed four years later, she lived on in Buckinghamshire before moving to a care home in Sheffield, near her daughter.

Alba loved her time at LMH, and kept in contact with her friends there long afterwards. Her life would have been unrecognisable without it.

Mark McConnell, Alba's son

JENNIFER MACLEAN (*née* THOMPSON), 1936–2023



Jennifer Thompson, 1958

Jennifer Thompson was born in 1936, during the short reign of Edward VIII. Her mother, Charlotte, was a legal secretary, one of nine siblings, who spent her early childhood in Australia. Her father, Arthur, a travel agent, had grown up on a farm in Yorkshire with 12 brothers and sisters. The family moved into a house in Petts Wood, in Kent and her sister Tessa was born two years later.

One of Jennifer's earliest memories was of her third birthday party, during which the grown-ups were talking very seriously. She realised later that they had been discussing the outbreak of the Second World War. Her father was posted to Scotland during the war and arranged for his wife and children to be evacuated there by knocking on front doors and asking if they would be willing to have them. This strategy worked and Jennifer and Tessa spent the early part of the war with their mother in Scotland.

Eventually they returned to Petts Wood, thinking that the bombing was over. This was not quite true. Jennifer described rushing with her mother and sister to the Morrison shelter in the living room and feeling the house bounce into the air as a V1 detonated nearby. To her amazement, when she opened her eyes, she saw the pattern on the carpet, unchanged, and not the rubble she had been expecting.

At the end of the war, the family moved to Edinburgh. However, Jennifer had a place at Christ's Hospital Girls' School in England. From the age of nine, therefore, she travelled alone from Edinburgh to Hertfordshire by train and spent term time nearly 400 miles from her family. Christ's Hospital was also to play a role in her life 50 years later.

Jennifer arrived at LMH in 1955 to read French Literature. She made several lifelong friends and met her future husband, Donald Maclean. After graduating, Jennifer lived in France, working as an *au pair* and exploring the country. She returned to the UK and began teaching French at St Margaret's School in Bushey, in what was the beginning of a 40-year teaching career.

In 1964, Jennifer married Donald and five children followed over the next decade. She took a break from teaching to look after her children.

When she returned to teaching, Jennifer did not seek an easy life; she turned down jobs at private schools and chose to teach at a series of South London comprehensives and finally at Elm Court near Herne Hill, a special needs school where the students had multiple challenges. During her career, she taught thousands of children to speak French. For some of them it was the only exam that they passed as she found that, with her help, even those children who could not read could still learn to speak another language.

Donald died quite suddenly in 1990 and, almost immediately after, Jennifer was diagnosed with breast cancer. She recovered, narrowly, from both these disasters.

With her children grown up, she finally had some free time. She set off on a hike across the Atlas Mountains, returning two weeks later, very thin, with amoebic

dysentery but very happy. She prepared for a trip to climb Mount Elbrus by teaching herself Russian and taking an ice-climbing course on Ben Nevis. She made her way back from a hike in the Himalayas, which she said was too easy, by bus, along the Silk Road to Samarkand.

When she retired from teaching, Jennifer joined the board of visitors at Wandsworth Prison, where she worked for many more years, providing support for prisoners.

In 1997, at a Christ's Hospital reunion, Jennifer met Sam Botes, who became her second husband. In 1999 breast cancer returned but, again, she recovered and had some of her happiest years with Sam. They travelled around Europe together and enjoyed having her grandchildren to stay on Sam's farm in Sussex.

Sam died in 2013 and she moved back to Wandsworth. At 76, she regularly swam a mile at Putney pool, only slightly slower than her younger self. Her time was increasingly spent caring for her daughter, Maggie, whose health was deteriorating and who died in 2018.

By this time, Alzheimer's disease was evident, although Jennifer devised practical ways of dealing with it, writing everything down and sticking to a routine. After Jennifer's long and eventful life, it was unfair that she should lose her memories, but she was rightly impatient with the idea that misfortune is distributed fairly.

She leaves behind four surviving children, six grandchildren and one great grandson.

Hector Maclean, Jennifer's son



Jennifer in around 1970



Jennifer in the Lake District, 1990

JULIET STOWERS (*née* TOUSSAINT), 1931–2024



Juliet recently, with David and Vanessa

Juliet Fay Toussaint was born on 9 March 1931 in London, the second child of Dr Hugh Toussaint and Celia (*née* Clyne). They lived in Islington and, when the war broke out, Juliet and her sister Felicity were sent to Sidcot School in Somerset where they completed their secondary education. Juliet went on to read mental philosophy (now more often described as the philosophy of mind) at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1954 with a



Juliet Toussaint in Edinburgh



Juliet with her children

First. She followed this with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics at LMH. She graduated in 1956, having completed her PPE degree in two years (1954–56), again achieving a First.

Juliet then started teaching in the adult education sector. In around 1956, she was travelling by train to London when she met a dashing young New Zealander, who charmed her into agreeing to meet him the following day under the clock at Victoria station (shades of *Brief Encounter!*).

That handsome Kiwi, Harry Stowers (who was actually born and raised in Hoxton, London), worked his magic and after only a couple of weeks they were engaged and then married in 1957. Harry had been moving to and fro between England and New Zealand since the end of the war. He had lied about his age and enlisted in the Royal Marines, and in 1940 was sent to Dunkirk to help with the miraculous evacuation of over 300,000 allied troops. After the war he couldn't settle down and joined the Merchant Navy, which led him to New Zealand. Harry moved back and forth between England and New Zealand seven times in total: three times with Juliet and the last time with the whole family, including their sons Michael and David and daughter Cath.

Juliet taught philosophy at the University of York for a while before sacrificing her academic career to follow Harry's restless wanderings, and was at different times a librarian, shop keeper, Open University tutor and English language teacher. She was always fiercely loyal and devoted to Harry, and it was a massive blow when he died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1996, shortly after they had retired and moved into Juliet's late parents' cottage in East Harling, Norfolk. Tragedy struck again in 2010 when Cath succumbed to a horrible form of diabetes, and yet again in 2014 when Michael died of heart failure.

Despite these appalling losses, Juliet always displayed great inner strength and equanimity, and was a well-known and much loved figure in the village. Her core values were founded on genuine concern for the weaker and more vulnerable members of society, and she quietly donated a significant proportion of her

modest retirement income to causes including Crisis, Shelter, Amnesty International and Médecins sans Frontières. Even in her final days, having suffered a major stroke and barely able to talk, she continued to greet her carers with her trademark: ‘How are you? . . . are you all right?’

Juliet’s remarkable qualities are summed up in the following anecdote from her niece Vanessa’s tribute at her funeral:

‘I always felt close to Juliet and was very fond of her. As adults, at least until recent years when I’m glad to say I saw her several times, we rarely met. But we used to write.

‘I recall one particular exchange of letters. I went to university to read English literature, but didn’t like the course or the department and decided to change to philosophy. I wrote to Juliet to tell her of my decision, and I’m sure that, being Juliet, she would have replied with warmth and encouragement and said something like “I hope and expect you’ll find it interesting and enjoy it.” Which I did. But I recall very clearly something else she said: “Don’t expect the study of philosophy to give you a philosophy of life – that’s something you’ll have to forge for yourself.”

‘That made me think of the extraordinary philosophy of life that Juliet forged for herself. Warmth, wisdom, fortitude, humour, generosity, selflessness and an abiding interest in other people.’

Vanessa Edwards, niece, and David Stowers, son

ELISABETH WEEKS (*née* CROUCH), 1931–2024

Elisabeth was born on St Leonards Farm near Beaulieu in the New Forest on 3 April 1931, to Ethel and Charles White (she later took the surname of her stepfather, Crouch). She entered the world with a bang! The storm that night caused the roof of the great, medieval grain barn (the largest in England) to collapse. Her early childhood, with her younger sister Anne, was spent living rurally and idyllically, their parents being tenant farmers on the Montague estate. But economic pressures in the Great Depression forced the family to give up the tenancy. Her mother took Elisabeth to Scotland to stay with her extended family, while her father stayed down south, working in a succession of farming jobs. For a period, Elisabeth, her sister and their mother travelled between Stirling and wherever their father could find work. With the family eventually settling in Penn in Buckinghamshire, the girls went to Watford Grammar School. They were both



Elisabeth Weeks in student days



Elisabeth Weeks on her 83rd birthday

bright and hardworking, but there was always a streak of rivalry between them. This was exemplified when Elisabeth got into Oxford and Anne declared that she would go to Cambridge instead – which she did!

Elisabeth went up to Lady Margaret Hall in 1949, where she studied modern languages, virtually teaching herself Spanish in the summer holidays beforehand. Self-teaching was a recurring theme for this talented linguist, who always liked to learn as much as possible of the language before visiting any new country – including Portuguese, Russian and Hungarian.

She loved her student days in Oxford, making lifelong friends. Her time at LMH set the course for the rest of her life, which was to revolve around Oxford and languages.

While at Oxford, Elisabeth met Mike Weeks, who was at Hertford College, and they married in Great Missenden on 17 August 1951. During his last year at Oxford, Mike contracted TB and had to take a year out. This meant that Elisabeth became their main breadwinner, so she followed in her mother's footsteps and became a teacher. Living in rented accommodation in Iffley Turn, her first job in 1952 was maternity cover in a school in Reading, where her eldest pupil was 18, while she was only 21!

Her three children were born in 1955, 1958 and 1960. In 1962 the family moved to East End, Northleigh, which was to be Elisabeth's home for over 60 years. This was where she raised her children and welcomed all their friends, and where she entertained her own friends and their families. It was also a much-loved second home to her three grandchildren, born in 1989, 1992 and 1996. Elisabeth's warm and interested hospitality made everyone feel welcome.

In her teaching career, Elisabeth worked part time at many local schools, including St Helen's School Abingdon, Headington Girls', and Oxford High School, before gaining her first full-time post at St Edwards Boys' School in 1971. Teaching Spanish as their first full-time female teacher was a pioneering step for her. Around this time, she also returned to LMH to study in the evenings for an MPhil, after which she undertook translation work in Spanish and Portuguese, alongside her teaching jobs. Characteristically, she also somehow found time to teach foreign students at St Clare's Language School during the school summer holidays.

Elisabeth retired from teaching at the age of 60, but this was the start of a whole new chapter of her life. She went to work for Oxford University Press as a lexicographer and editor, working on their English-to-Spanish dictionary, and editing coursework books. There she made close friends and pioneered a form of 'hybrid working', as she worked partly from home.

Elisabeth now had the freedom and enough money for travelling further afield to some of the countries she had always wanted to visit. With her close friends Ros, Mary and Judith, or her sister Anne, she had wonderful trips to places such as Cuba, South America, Mexico, Nepal, Syria, China, and New York.

Her deep love of words and languages, and her expertise in this field, were constant throughout her life. Whether learning, teaching or playing word games, she enthused and benefitted 70 years' worth of people in and around Oxford with her passion and her skill.

Simon Weeks, Elisabeth's son

RUTH EVERILD HARTLEY HAYNES (*née* WILLIAMS), 1943–2023

I am sad to report the death on 3 November 2023 of my good friend and contemporary at LMH, Dr Everild Williams. Everild, as she was always known, and I came up in 1962 to read biochemistry at LMH where our tutor was Dr Margery Ord. Everild was very clever, had an analytical mind and would not put up with any lazy thinking! After we graduated in 1966, she stayed on in Oxford and did a DPhil in a branch of botanical biochemistry with Professor Vernon Butt as her supervisor.

After Oxford she worked for many years for a high-powered editing agency (CABI, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International), doing meticulous proof reading of scientific books and articles. She worked both in the Wallingford headquarters and increasingly online from various homes in Oxfordshire and later in Wales. She was always a stickler for accuracy.

Everild and I kept in touch for the next 50 or so years, went on holiday a few times – to Austria and Ireland (on a youth hostelling trip which was memorable for the bed bugs!), and I visited her numerous times in various residences, in Combe, Stonesfield, and further afield in increasingly isolated farmhouses in Wales. We also paid a visit to the new biochemistry department in Oxford when it was under construction. I last saw her in August 2023 when she had already had a terminal prognosis due to her rapidly progressing pulmonary fibrosis.

Everild is survived by her husband Colin Knight (sadly in a nursing home with advanced dementia), her daughter Lucy, two grandchildren Archie and Montie, adopted son Lee and foster daughter Pat.



Everild Haynes as a student

Everild positively influenced so many people and was loved, respected, and admired. She did not want a formal funeral and would probably be surprised at how much she will be missed.

Carolyn King

(West 1962 Biochemistry)

ROSALIND WAKEFIELD, 1935–2024

Rosalind (always Ros) was born in May 1935 to parents, Lucie and Will Wakefield, who lived in Middlesex. She went to Breakspear School and then Bishopshalt Grammar School. At the age of 13, Ros and her close friend at Bishopshalt, Irene Cape, decided they would go to Oxford – extremely ambitious for girls at that time.

Shortly after, Ros was awarded a scholarship to Wycombe Abbey where she boarded. There she enjoyed many extracurricular activities, playing lacrosse and cricket, the piano and the clarinet. They did not distract from her studies as she achieved A levels in pure maths, applied maths and physics. Subsequently, she gained a place at LMH to read maths, fulfilling her childhood ambition. Unfortunately, Irene contracted TB so never made it to Oxford, but she remembers Ros coming to see her in hospital. Having found it very cold, Ros knitted Irene some fingerless gloves so she could do the occupational therapy, an early example of her compassionate nature.

In 1956 Ros was awarded a BA Hons in Maths, and went on to do a Diploma in Education the following year. (Later, in 1976, Ros also gained an MSc from Nottingham in statistics and computing. This was in the very early days of computing and her project was about the use of AI in constructing computer programs and networks. Ros really was at the forefront of the computer revolution.) Ros began her career as a teacher at Northampton High School. She taught at several schools during her career, including the North London Collegiate School and Westonbirt School, Gloucestershire, making many lifelong friends among both teachers and students. After spending many happy years in Scotland, she finally settled back in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

In the 1970s, Ros taught in the Solomon Islands, where she was also the Senior Mistress looking after the girl pupils.



(138) Rosalind Wakefield, B.A. (Oxon). *

Ros Wakefield's graduation photograph

According to a fellow teacher, the boys thought the girls should be at home looking after babies and gardens, and that a place in the school was so precious that it was wasted on girls. Ros vigorously disputed this. While in the Solomon Islands, Ros and two friends travelled by canoe along the coast of the island Choiseul, a trip that lasted several days and during which they visited a number of remote villages. To friends and family back home, Ros led an exotic life, and they were excited to read of her adventures in letters with foreign stamps and to receive gifts of gigantic shells.

The same adventurous spirit that had taken Ros to teach in the Solomon Islands, along with a great social conscience, had previously led her to go to workcamps in Europe. In 1959 and 1960, Ros took part in a UN project to build houses in Austria for refugees from the Hungarian uprising of 1956. It was an international effort with people from the USA and Europe. Their lodging was a half-built house with no windows or doors and earth floors. It was hard work, helping teams of local builders fetching bricks, tiles, sand, cement etc. The evenings usually involved singing, dancing or playing games. Not put off by the experience, Ros joined other UN workcamps in Greece in 1961 and 1962 to rehome refugees from Albania.

Ros was a tireless supporter of Amnesty International, writing letters to prisoners, and collected for Christian Aid and other charities. In recent decades, Ros's Christmas gifts to friends and family usually took the form of toilets or goats for communities in developing countries. We would often meet up with Ros and her parents over Christmas. For several years, this was arranged around Ros spending Christmas Day volunteering in soup kitchens.

Church was at the centre of Ros's life. She was brought up in a strong Methodist family – both her grandfathers were ministers. Through church she made friends wherever she went. In church she also enjoyed another of her passions, music, playing the organ and singing in various choirs. In Northampton, Ros was a member of the Bach Choir and the St Matthew Singers. The Singers were a small group and became firm friends and had some great parties too. Ros sang with the Phoenix Consort in Wormit, one performance being for her father's 90th birthday. A gifted musician, Ros played the bassoon and loved chamber music.

Ros was a keen Rambler and member of the Scottish Christian Highland Hillwalking Club. She hiked up many mountains and went on several backpack walking holidays with family and friends. Her 'short walks' could end up being several miles.

Ros's family was extremely important to her. She was close to several of her cousins; her only regret on going to boarding school was being away from them. She was a devoted daughter, caring for her parents in their old age. They moved to live next door to her in Wormit, near Dundee. After her mother died in 1994 her father lived with her until his death in 1999. Her cats were also an important part of her family.

As I was of a different generation to Ros, she was a great inspiration to me growing up. She achieved things as a young woman that were pioneering at the time – going to university, studying what we now call STEM subjects, travelling, living and working abroad, playing sports like cricket, having a career, and being an independent woman. She was a role model, paving the way for the next generation, enabling women like me to follow in her footsteps.

PAULA PEMBLETON (*née* MILDRED), 1927–2023

Paula Mildred came up to LMH in 1945 to read modern languages. She married Derek Pembleton (Lincoln, 1946–49) whom she met over a book-stamp, while she was briefly librarian at the Codrington Library immediately after graduation.

Subsequently, Paula taught French in secondary schools in London and Essex, retiring in 1988. Derek died in 2016.

The couple had one daughter, Jane, and lived in Epping, Essex before relocating to Preston in 2007 to be with their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

David Smyth, Paula's son-in-law, made us aware of Paula's recent death

We are pleased to publish a further note on the life of Malati Swaminathan (1967 PPE), from a friend who knew her in her last decade.



Malati Swaminathan

Among the effects of my late sister Dorothy (1965 Zoology), I recently came across a 1989 *Brown Book* obituary of Malati Swaminathan (LMH 1967–70), who lived with my family for the nine years that preceded her tragically early death in 1988 from a seizure at the age of 39. The author, who states that she never met Malati again after leaving Oxford, correctly reports her happy and successful time at LMH and how she abandoned a PhD on Hegel in Edinburgh and suffered a serious mental breakdown.

Her life certainly had its dark side: her parents died early; a brief return to India ended in disaster when she was subjected to a traumatic exorcism intended to cure her epilepsy; and she lived for years without a penny to her name. But the clouds lifted in her last decade. After her return to Oxford, she rebuilt her life and through her thirties lived quietly in a sunlit room in our home, surrounded by books and newspapers, enveloped by the scent of joss sticks, in an island of calm amidst a hubbub of children, friends and visitors.

Highly intelligent, amusing, and when, on a good day, she emerged wrapped in a gorgeous silk sari, Malati was the centre of attention wherever she went. She was a very special person. Unable to hold down a fulltime job, she found satisfaction tutoring a succession of Asian boys in maths and communicating with her many friends and

admirers in Oxford and beyond. Our lasting memories are not of tragedy but of her sense of fun, her courtesy, and her generosity of spirit: cuddled up with our daughters watching *The Jewel in the Crown* (which she always referred to as ‘the stone in the hat’); debating current affairs into the early hours; or patiently guiding a pupil through the mysteries of elementary algebra. True, she dramatically ‘failed to live up to her promise’ as an expert on nineteenth-century German philosophy but, in a warm and very human way, she found her own kind of happiness and lit up the lives of all who were lucky enough to count her as a friend.

Patrick Gray (New College 1967–71)





REVIEWS

REVIEWS

Lady Caroline Lamb: A Free Spirit

by Antonia Fraser. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2023, ISBN: 978-147462482-4, £25

In 1797 the 11-year-old Lady Caroline Ponsonby (as she was then called) sent a poem to her cousin 'I'm mad/That's bad/I'm sad/That's bad/I'm bad/That's mad'. As Antonia Fraser shows in her consummate biography, in these six lines Caroline unknowingly prophesied the course of her life.

She was born into the 'exotic world' of the grand Georgian aristocracy, brimming with celebrated beauties and great statesmen, gambling and extramarital affairs. Her mother Harriet, Countess of Bessborough, included among her lovers the playwright Sheridan (perhaps Caroline's real father) and the diplomat Lord Granville. Caroline's aunt, the star of Whig society, was Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who for much of her marriage lived in a *ménage à trois* with the Duke and her best friend Elizabeth. All three women had illegitimate offspring, those 'Children of the Mist', but only Elizabeth's by the Duke were allowed to share an upbringing with the young Caroline. Harriet and Georgiana's babies were taken away at birth and brought up elsewhere, examples of the double standard that plagued women's lives.

'What a world,' Caroline wrote to her cousin Hartington, 'what a flimsey patched work face it has – all profession, little affection, no truth.' Fraser paints a colourful picture of this decadent, duplicitous fashionable society as she explores how it might influence Caroline's notion of morality and adult life.

She was a captivating, intelligent girl, yet often ungovernable. To calm and control her, the ubiquitous household remedy of laudanum was used, disguised in lavender drops.

Ahead of her lay the career of an advantageous marriage. She fell in love with William Lamb, son and eventual heir of Viscount Melbourne, when he read poetry aloud at a party. William was a good-looking, intelligent Whig and was enchanted by her. Their marriage, in 1805, was a love match.

Yet Caroline's married life was no fairytale. Her mother-in-law Lady Melbourne, a powerful political hostess, was not enthusiastic about the match. Caroline's experience of childbirth was painful: losing two babies prematurely, she produced a boy, Augustus, who was epileptic and suffered from mental disability. While William was a busy MP, attention-seeking Caroline followed the well-trodden family path of sexual dalliance but, unlike them, flaunted her affairs. It was her inability to be discreet with caddish Sir Godfrey Webster that infuriated them. She also challenged society's rules, dressing as a page boy. As Fraser writes, this cross-dressing was less a wish for transition to the masculine gender than a wish for the freedom men possessed.

Webster was but the prologue to the main drama of her life, the one for which she has been immortalised. ‘Mad, bad and dangerous to know’, she apparently noted in 1812 about the celebrity poet Lord Byron. Foreseeing ‘That beautiful, pale face will be my fate’, she plunged into a passionate affair with him: ‘Your heart, my poor Caro, what a little volcano!’ Their liaison was conducted in the blaze of his fame and her exhibitionism. Yet the flames quickly burnt out; within months Byron wrote firmly, ‘This dream, this delirium must pass away.’ She refused to comply. Fraser writes, ‘exhibitionist would be a mild word for some of her exploits’ – stabbing herself, sending him her pubic hair and stalking him. He couldn’t escape her; at a dance she broke a glass, and scratched her arm with a shard, drawing blood. He swiftly escaped to other affairs; his reputation was undamaged, hers was ruined.

In May 1816 her first Gothic novel was published. The best-selling scandalous *Glenarvon* savaged Byron and satirised her circle. Caroline was excluded from fashionable society and called mad by her family. Fraser brings empathy to the question of Caroline’s mental state and withstands retrospective diagnosis, such as bipolarism. Throughout these scandals, William remained passive and detached. Fraser suggests that his indifference was more likely self-protection. She mentions he later had a taste for consensual flagellation, but Caroline only once alluded to abuse. He still loved her, withstanding familial pressure for a separation until 1825 and refusing to take Augustus from her – as was customary when the law gave control of children to the father.

Caroline published two further novels and literary articles. Her poetry earned praise but little male encouragement. Caroline wondered why everybody wished to suppress her creativity: ‘I am not vain, believe me, nor selfish, nor in love with my authorship; but I am independent.’ She thought herself ‘like the wreck of a little boat . . . merely a little gay merry boat, which perhaps stranded itself at Vauxhall or London Bridge – or wounded without killing itself as a butterfly does in a tallow candle’. She took to laudanum, drank a bottle of sherry a day and died aged 42. Augustus died in 1836 and William, as Lord Melbourne, became Queen Victoria’s first prime minister.

While Lady Caroline Lamb has been written about extensively, Fraser’s concise account offers nuance and depth, combining scholarship with a readable style. She restores to Caroline dignity and respect, saluting her as an independent woman, a writer and free spirit.

Antonia Fraser hints this may be her final book: ‘It can also be regarded as the culmination of an exciting and fulfilling life spent studying History.’ She has already given us a superb body of work, and in this accomplished biography has chosen to celebrate another woman in history with an imperishable spirit.

Jehanne Wake
(Williams 1975 PPE)

Shakespeare's Syndicate: The First Folio, its Publishers, and the Early Modern Book Trade

by Ben Higgins, Oxford University Press, 2022, ISBN: 978-0192848840, £76

Famously, 1623 saw the publication of the First Folio, the earliest collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. As Ben Higgins affirms, this monumental volume, having laid the foundations for Shakespeare's later ascent to cultural supremacy, is 'probably the single most studied book in literary history'. The numerous angles from which scholars have approached it include examining how it was printed; assessing how its versions of texts differ from those in early Quarto (single-play) editions; and researching the lives and careers of its editors, Shakespeare's actor colleagues John Heminges and Henry Condell.

Dr Higgins takes an original approach by directing our attention to what he calls 'probably the least-read words' of this much-studied book: its colophon (that is, 'finishing touch'), a statement at the end of each early printed book of its publication details and date. The Folio's colophon specifies: 'Printed at the Charges of W. Jaggard, Ed. Blount, J. Smithweeke, and W. Aspley, 1623.' These men were 'stationers' – an early modern profession that could involve any combination of publishing, printing, or bookselling – and it took four of them to finance and organise this substantial and complex project. Dr Higgins uses the career of each member of this syndicate to delve into various aspects of the early modern London book trade and its treatment of Shakespeare's works. In so doing he takes us into the streets and shops of this vibrant commercial and cultural milieu while asking searching questions about how the Folio was made, sold, and received.

First under the spotlight is Edward Blount, a publisher of large, expensive, prestigious volumes like John Florio's landmark translation of Montaigne's *Essays* in 1603, and of innovative literary authors such as Marlowe, John Lyly and Samuel Daniel. In his publishing choices, in the prefaces he wrote for his own publications, and in his networking with authors, travellers and patrons, Blount displayed his discernment and influenced taste. At a time when play-books were widely regarded as worthless and disposable – Thomas Bodley, notoriously, excluded them from his new library as 'riff raffs' and 'idle books' – Blount's name on the Folio volume, argues Dr Higgins, bestowed cultural prestige. Indeed, it was Blount who first dignified Shakespeare's writings with the designation of 'Works' in his advertisement for the Folio in the catalogue for the Frankfurt Book Fair.

William Jaggard, by contrast, was widely vilified by twentieth-century scholars as a 'pirate', because in *The Passionate Pilgrim* (1599) he published works falsely purporting to be by Shakespeare, and because in 1619 he printed a set of Shakespeare quartos with bogus dates and publication details. Dr Higgins sets these publications in context and notes that scholars increasingly question the definitive status of the First Folio itself, disrupting the concept of any Shakespearean text as 'perfect'. He finds that William Jaggard and his son Isaac (named, with Blount, on the title-page of the Folio as its printers) were mainly known for publishing authoritative and encyclopaedic reference works, so these are the primary associations that their names would have conveyed

to early purchasers of the Folio. Moreover, it was the Jaggards' printing-house in the Barbican where skilled craftsmen set the type, applied the ink, and printed the pages that became the Folio.

The third syndicate-member, William Aspley, had only limited involvement in publishing works by Shakespeare before the Folio, but this offers an opportunity to explore the challenges of gathering the plays and securing publication rights from the multiple stationers among whom ownership was scattered. Aspley was far more interested in publishing the works of a preacher named John Boys, a business activity which provides further insights into the book culture of the time and instructive comparisons with Shakespeare's reception history. Though Boys is now forgotten, there is evidence that in the mid-seventeenth century the folio edition of his Works was in more demand than Shakespeare's.

Aspley and Blunt had their shops in Paul's Cross Churchyard, the centre of the London book trade, but John Smethwick, the fourth syndicate-member, worked in St Dunstan's Churchyard. This smaller hub of book production on Fleet Street, outside the City walls, prompts Dr Higgins to trace how, over time, the locations of businesses publishing and selling Shakespeare's works moved westward across London, suggesting shifts in his status and readership. This is illustrated by admirably clear maps, and indeed the whole volume is enriched by pictures, textual facsimiles, and statistical tables which support the impressive scholarship.

Dr Higgins writes in his Introduction of our 'tremendous cultural investment' in the First Folio, and of his aspirations not only to bring forward its 'quiet cast of makers' but thereby 'to explore some new ways to think about early modern publication'. He has undoubtedly achieved these goals: *Shakespeare's Syndicate* makes visible in fascinating detail the social, commercial and practical processes vital to the production of a uniquely treasured book.

Helen Hackett
(Cobb 1980 English)

From Fingal's Cave to Camelot

by Douglas Gray, edited by Jane Bliss. Independent Publishing Network, 2020, ISBN: 978-1-83853-783-8, £22

Douglas Gray FBA, who died in December 2017, was the first J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language in the Faculty of English from 1980 to his retirement in 1997. During these years, he was a professorial fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, and before that had been a Fellow of Pembroke College and University Lecturer in English Language. A brief obituary published by the University described him as 'a deeply modest, wry, and self-effacing giant of his field . . . who . . . had not only read everything, but had seemingly remembered everything he had read'.

The current book was published posthumously, gathered from Gray's papers by his friend Jane Bliss, whose sensitive editing added references, index and other finishing touches, probably taking rather more time and energy than Jane might admit. Reading

it was akin to a term's tutorials in the presence of a great scholar. Although each part builds on the last, it challenges the reader to engage with all manner of examples, many unfamiliar, and to explore different avenues in pursuit of 'medievalism' in literature.

A largely chronological review of the 'medieval revival', it explores the use of medieval texts and ideas in English literature from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. Gray's introduction to the volume allows that it will of necessity be 'selective and simple' but also puts the reader on notice that this is not an easy topic. He deals, in some detail, with the essential and knotty problem of 'lost' and 'forgotten' literature: how much of the medieval literature which survives today was apparently ignored by or unknown to the 'literate elites of later centuries'.

His starting point is the aftermath of the death of Chaucer in the fifteenth century. After briefly considering Chaucer and Spenser, Part 1 moves away from chronology to consider different kinds of literature and their authors: romances, the influence of Bunyan, drama, songs/lyrics, religious writing and the works of antiquarians. This section also briefly examines the afterlife of earlier medieval literature, contemporary debates on language and, in a tiny section, Old English. His aim here is to chart the beginnings of 'medievalism' and the extent to which literature of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries had its roots in earlier ideas.

Part 2 takes us to the later seventeenth century and Continental Europe, although much of this section reverts to England, stressing the continued dominance of Chaucer in this period and adding a section on ballads. Notable work here was the production of informative texts and catalogues. Among these, Smith's 1696 publication of a catalogue of manuscripts in the Cottonian Library stands out. Since many were destroyed in the fire of 1731, this invaluable work represents almost all that remains of the collection.

A relatively short Part 3 examines Primitivism and 'other trends', focusing on Scott and the various undercurrents which led to the beginnings of Romanticism. As in art, there developed an intense interest in 'primitive' ways of life, clearly demonstrated in its poetry. This period Gray summarises as a 'Golden Age', harking back to a time when people were not constrained by the challenges of modern life, but could have a simpler, purer existence. Driven not merely by dissatisfaction, but a set of deeper feelings that humans could aspire to something more meaningful, this age can be seen to contain almost a 'homesickness' for a lost past. Ossian and Chatterton are contrasted with Dr Johnson. Runic poetry is well aired here.

In Parts 4 to 6, we come to the nineteenth century and a surprising influence of medieval ideas throughout western Europe in what is often regarded as an age of technological advances. Ancient monuments were being restored and new 'Gothic' buildings erected. Interest in 'Celtic' literature flourished. Much of the poetry of, for example, Villon, continued to find eager readers in later authors such as Steinbeck. Although the Pre-Raphaelites dominate Gray's examination in Part 5, he includes George Burrow and William Barnes, especially the former's interest in Romanies, and Barnes' thesis that Dorset dialects were closer to Anglo-Saxon than to contemporary English.

Continuing with the nineteenth century, Gray discusses the philologists of whom he says that there were so many that he has selected only a few for analysis. He acknowledges the growing numbers of female scholars (though he does not deal with

any) and the proliferation of learned societies and of university libraries, old and new. He examines different kinds of scholarship: criticism, creative writings and the ‘pure’ scholarship of such as Thorpe and Kemble, noting that many scholars of this genre worked on editions, dictionaries and the like, to assist others in their work in this field. He also travels beyond these shores to the USA to seek Twain and Adams.

Finally, in a brief Part 7, ‘Towards the twentieth century’, he remarks on the many and varied streams of ‘medievalism’ found towards the end of the nineteenth and well into the twentieth century, streams which the Victorians would have considered ‘peripheral’ such as collecting folk tales and songs. It is surprising to read that James Joyce considered the modern spirit to be a ‘returned medievalism’ and that so many ‘modern’ works were inspired by the Middle Ages. In this respect, Eliot’s *The Waste Land* and Yeats’ works on fairy tales and ghosts stand out.

Gray concludes, with some satisfaction, that these trends, far from diminishing, have blossomed in recent years. The twentieth century has seen so much new writing that he envisaged another volume dedicated entirely to those years, a volume which we will sadly not now see. His last word is a call to the uninitiated: that anyone looking at the field of medieval literature must also take an interest in the life of the Middle Ages, and expect some ‘oddities, eccentricities and misunderstandings’ along the way, but that their rediscovery brings with it a profound love of the period and its literature.

Since this little volume is so ambitious and broad in scope, it will be of interest to a wide readership. A stepping stone to more detailed study, it brings some new and exciting authors and resources to the forefront and will be invaluable to anyone who, like me, shares his (and Jane’s) profound love of all things medieval.

Margaret Coombe

(Mallaband 1971 History & Modern Languages)

The Wife of Bath: A Biography

by Marion Turner. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2023, ISBN: 978-0691206011, £20

Following on from her magisterial biography of Chaucer in 2019 (*Chaucer: A European Life*), Marion Turner has turned her attention to his most popular, dynamic, and debated character from *The Canterbury Tales*, the Wife of Bath. Subtitled ‘a biography’, Turner’s entertaining and incisive exploration of the literary life and afterlives of Alison, the much-married wife and raucous raconteur, represents a timely and important intervention in both medieval studies and medievalism studies – the ways in which the ‘medieval’ is encountered and reimagined in the modern world. In her introduction, Turner poses the question ‘What does it mean to write a “biography” of someone who never existed?’ (4), noting that the ‘historical’ and the ‘fictional’ are not so easily disentangled, either in the medieval period or the present day. The ‘biographical’ mode here is expansive and usefully so, as Turner contextualises Alison of Bath in relation to her ‘real world’ counterparts and offers not just the life of a singular literary woman but a dynamic nexus of possibilities for medieval female experience. Turner’s great

achievement in this book, which has been both popular among general audiences and rightly admired by medieval scholars, is to show both where the Wife of Bath came from and how far she has travelled since in the hands of her later adaptors, both sympathetic and adversarial. Turner asks: 'How can the past best speak to and in the present?' (224) and her biography enacts the answer to that question – through writing that is energetic and empathetic, meticulously researched yet wears its learning lightly, and that is deeply committed to showing why medieval women's lives matter to this day. The Wife of Bath is a hard act to follow but Turner does her more than justice.

The biography is divided into two complementary parts. The first contextualises the Wife as a new kind of literary character but one who emerges out of, and subverts, the real conditions of medieval women: women who worked, married, narrated their own lives, and travelled. Frequently widowed and remarried, women like Alison were 'socially central in [Chaucer's] world, but textually marginalised' (93) and Turner's comparisons with Margery Kempe, a real late-medieval woman who turned her life 'experience' into textual 'auctoritee', reminds us that the medieval world did afford opportunities for women beyond the stereotypes and binaries. The historical and literary connections that are drawn here make this book a perfect introduction for undergraduates encountering Chaucer and his world for the first time, reminding us both of the economic and social independence available to women like Alison as well as tracing the foundations of the medieval misogyny typified by Jankyn's *Book of Wicked Wives*. The Wife tells us that she was 'beten for a book' (line 693) and Turner carefully sketches the troubling relationship between textual and real world violence against women.

The second part of the biography examines the Wife as a 'bookrunner' *par excellence*, a character who almost immediately outruns the bounds of her own text and offers a provocative invitation to later writers to rewrite, adapt, and even attempt to silence her. From manuscript annotators who 'mansplain' her Prologue, to Dryden's declaration that she is 'too licentious', Turner tells a sadly all too recognisable story of the misogyny that is directed at outspoken, sexually active, irrepressible women such as the Wife. But the anxieties that later male writers feel when confronted by Alison only reinforce her enduring power to shake up the status quo. In the final chapter of the biography, Turner examines the brilliant reclamation of Alison by modern Black women writers, including Zadie Smith's play *The Wife of Willesden* and the Jamaican and Nigerian Wives in the poetry of Jean 'Binta' Breeze and Patience Agbabi. Turner also shines a light on texts and characters that might not explicitly declare their debt to the Wife of Bath: Shakespeare's Falstaff and James Joyce's Molly Bloom in *Ulysses*. Indeed, in the discussion of form and structure in the latter, Turner shows how Joyce transforms the Wife's prologue into Molly's concluding monologue, allowing the sexually exuberant and autonomous woman the last word.

Turner's book is an important reminder of just how significant the Wife of Bath is as the first 'ordinary' woman in English literature and how telling her story might offer productive windows onto the history of later periods, too. Turner quotes the modern experimental poet Caroline Bergvall who asserts that Alison is 'not bygone just bigonne' and this superb biography opens up the possibility of more beginnings

– not only for Alison herself, but for our ways of writing scholarship that is historically nuanced, imaginatively generous, and – like the Wife herself – feminist, fierce, and fun.

Laura Varnam
(2004 *English*)

Playing Britannia: How I Became Her Excellency

by Juliet Campbell. Holywell Press, 2023, ISBN: 978-1916929005, £25

Diplomats do not always enjoy great public esteem, being variously described over the centuries as being paid to lie for their country, or castigated for eating too many Ferrero Rocher chocolates.

Juliet Campbell's memoir, however, paints a different picture of how British diplomacy looked from the inside in the latter part of the twentieth century: charting the nation's fortunes in the aftermath of Empire, pursuing the all-important but difficult relationship with Europe, and experiencing the changing role of diplomacy at first hand. Above all, it is the story of a remarkable – and remarkably modest – pioneer who was tenacious in her pursuit of success in a traditional and male-dominated foreign service.

After a nomadic childhood and entry into Lady Margaret Hall – despite never having the time to sit any A levels – Juliet added to her Finals burden in 1957 by simultaneously taking the exams for the Diplomatic Service. She failed, but took the opportunity for a temporary secondment to the Foreign Office. By chance she was assigned to a post in Brussels, which afforded a ringside seat at Britain's first attempt to join the European Economic Community. Juliet's record of the hopes, dramas and disappointments of that experience are particularly poignant – especially the key consequence that Britain missed the chance to help form the emerging Community policies and institutions, which later caused us so much grief.

Secure in her tenure, Juliet was then posted to Bangkok, where post-war tensions and emerging nationalist feelings in the region were challenging collective defence systems established by the Western Allies, but with a British government more preoccupied by economic and social issues at home. Drawing on her extant letters home and her diaries, she paints a picture of a bygone age – of working with remarkably well-staffed British diplomatic missions, in spacious compounds, surviving 'too many receptions', and of coping with the challenges of being a serious single female diplomat – a novelty to her diplomatic colleagues and to her host government.

Working through successive postings in Paris, the Netherlands and the Foreign Office News Room (yet another 'first for a woman'), Juliet took on the challenging role in 1974 of working in the department supporting the government in Britain's second attempt to join the European Union. Diplomats and Whitehall colleagues were faced with an almost overwhelming number of issues on which a speedy British position had to be devised: which met both European requirements as well as concerns from a largely sceptical Labour Party. Juliet describes vividly and feelingly the uncertain direction of the Wilson cabinet, the volume of speeches and papers to be prepared, the

endless revisions of details of policy, the nerve-racking sessions in Parliament and the relief of securing a positive outcome.

Thereafter, her career flourished with postings in Jakarta, a year with the Royal College of Defence Studies, a formative period as Head of the FCO Training Department and as the first female Ambassador in Luxembourg in 1988. At that point her marriage to Alec Campbell and the difficulties of reconciling careers in different and far-flung locations led to her leaving diplomacy in 1991 to be Mistress of Girton College – a new and very different venture. As elsewhere, Juliet's recollections are fascinating in their frank insights on the taxing role of a head of college, the need for extensive fundraising and working with the academic community.

Juliet's book charms by its warm, engaging and confiding style, and by the freshness of memories based on writings at the time. Her anecdotes are funny but illuminating; her reflections shrewd and thought provoking. She is candid but unsentimental about her often lonely role as a single woman, confronting her battle with self-confidence and noting that she was 'daunted as well as inspired by the very clever men around me who oozed such confidence', but then adding that 'tenacity saw me through'. Equally she recalls with honesty that her aim 'was to be seen as a paid-up member of what was essentially still a male environment rather than to mark any feminist milestone'.

But for myself and other female diplomats following in Juliet's footsteps, her skill in navigating a successful path through such a traditional male culture was hugely important for our own progress. And her work to modernise our profession was also seminal. As Head of the Training Department in the mid-1980s, Juliet won renown for her reforms: overhauling our language training systems, focusing on better management, commercial and media skills – with a more professional preparation for Ambassadors including a day in Parliament. In short: completely exploding the myth that clever people (mostly chaps!) learnt best on the job..

The best memoirs entertain as well as inform and throw light on the present by describing the past. *Playing Britannia* does all these and much more.

Judith Macgregor
(*Brown 1971 History*)

Pathways: Reflections of a Female Scientist

by Margery G. Ord

Dr Ord was my Biochemistry tutor from 1976 to 1980. She was a great tutor – terrifyingly clever and knowledgeable – and I would panic before every tutorial with her. Despite my nervousness though, I always knew she cared about me, and that she challenged her students because she wanted us to excel. I was therefore very pleased to read Dr Ord's memoirs and to learn more about her remarkable life. Dr Ord was a pioneer in so many ways: she was a female undergraduate studying chemistry in the late 1940s, was awarded a PhD from Guy's Hospital Medical School in 1951, and was the first woman in Oxford to hold a lectureship in biochemistry and a full College Fellowship in 1959.

The book is divided into three parts thanks to excellent editing by Nicola Bull, a former student of Dr Ord. She has made Dr Ord's life story much more enjoyable for a wide audience by separating the scientific research (Part Three – Science) from the general recollections of her life (Part One – Memories). Dr Ord's passion for travel is made obvious by the fact that the travel section (Part Two – Travels) is far longer than the other two sections combined.

Dr Ord writes in Part One – Memories that she had a 'middle-class childhood in the 1930s'. She documents her childhood and her student life in London, as well as her life in Oxford as a researcher and a teacher. I was particularly struck by the matter-of-fact way in which she describes her many achievements and awards.* Her descriptions of adolescence in wartime, including several air-raids, seem almost nonchalant.

Travel has played a huge role in Dr Ord's life, and she describes her journeys in minute detail, which in some places detracts somewhat from the bigger picture of her courageous spirit. It is clear that her love of travel began with many happy family holidays with her parents. As a graduate student she saved up so that she could travel to Norway in 1949, at a time (not long after the war) when very few people went abroad. Once in Oxford she continued to travel during her research years, often combining it with academic conferences and lectures. It's clear from her memoir how special her relationship with Lloyd Stocken was because they not only worked jointly for 37 years, but they also took many trips together both for work and pleasure, along with Lloyd's wife Noreen.

Dr Ord travelled very economically, taking many buses, and even a slow cargo boat to Japan in 1967. Once she retired, a little more luxury crept in and plenty of champagne is mentioned, though her trips were always adventurous and there was no lazing around on deck chairs! There are stories of terrifying flights including aborted take-offs, flying through storms, and animals on runways causing the pilot to circle around to scare the animals away. She describes her first flight to New York in 1961 when the intercontinental terminal at Heathrow was 'still in wartime concrete huts'. Also: 'The planes had to refuel at Shannon and Newfoundland and there was something very wrong with the heating in the plane. It didn't work!' Luckily, they were given plenty of blankets, but that flight was very different from the fast non-stop flights to the US these days.

Trips were planned around seeing new landscapes and the native flora and fauna. Her interest in conservation led to her pioneering at LMH the first senior research post in wildlife conservation in any university in the world and creating the WildCRU institute. While there are wonderful descriptions of many of the animals she saw, she wasn't always impressed: in Australia she describes viewing 'the obligatory koala, an over-rated animal always hiding its face against the trunk of a tree to which it is clinging! Doped by its eucalyptus diet?'

Dr Ord's research career in Oxford lasted from 1951 until she retired in 1988 (Part Three – Science). She and Lloyd Stocken made many important discoveries about the effects of radiation on cells, including finding that radiation affected cell-cycle specific alterations of DNA-binding proteins called histones. We now know these effects lead

to important changes in gene expression and cell behaviours. For their research Dr Ord and Dr Stocken received the Royal Society Silver medal in 1968 and Dr Ord was awarded the Oxford higher degree of DSc in 1973.

There is only one quotation in the book from 'The Golden Journey to Samarkand' by James Elroy Fletcher: 'We are the Pilgrims, Master. We shall always go a little further.' This quotation is appropriately at the start of the travel section, but it could apply equally well to Dr Ord's scientific research career and her championship of wildlife conservation. In all aspects of her life, she always went just a little further.

Alison Vigers

(Ball 1976 Biochemistry)

**For more about Dr Ord's many achievements please see the lovely eulogies and the obituary in The Brown Book (2020, p. 88). Copies of Dr Ord's book are available from the Development Office, development@lmh.ox.ac.uk, +44 (0)1865 274362.*

Conversations with Young People in Family Mediation

by Lisa Parkinson. Bloomsbury Professional, 2024, ISBN: 978-1526529589, £70

This is a useful and accomplished book by a leader in the field. Indeed, Lisa Parkinson is *the* leader, since she founded the discipline herself, together with a small group of other professionals, in Bristol in the late 1970s. Graduating from LMH in modern languages, and then in social sciences in London and Bristol, she qualified also as a social worker, and this put her in touch with the effects which parental divorce, with its recourse to the adversarial court system, has on children and young people of all ages and kinds. Divorce has become more common (42 per cent of marriages end in divorce in the UK) and attitudes are very different from when I was a child of nine or ten, when it was rare and a matter of rather horrified excitement to hear that a classmate's parents were getting divorced. Now, with a far looser idea of what a family consists of, with all shapes and types of family abounding, we are no longer committed to the notion of the simple nuclear family, while separation and divorce are common.

Of course, since Milton wrote his first pamphlet on divorce (*The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce; Restor'd to the Good of Both Sexes*) arguing that Canon Law was 'bondage', much has slackened and altered. However, nobody seemed to think about the children involved, either then when children were not much attended to, and regarded as the parents' possessions, or indeed up till recently. There is no doubt but that children would far rather in almost all cases that their parents stayed together, provided of course that they could stop fighting. It was also recognised in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) that applying to a court was a move of last resort, given the contamination that litigation brings into a clinical case with its adversarial bent.

The first significant step forward, as Lisa Parkinson tells us, was the Children Act of 1989, when, as she says, 'the new statute called for the child's wishes and feelings' to be taken into account in decisions concerning him or her. She has gone on from there,

considering how this is to be achieved. This is not as easy as it sounds. It is by no means a straightforward matter to determine what a child wants. Probably the first thing a child wants, as I have already implied, is for their father and mother to get on nicely and for all this business of divorce which is shaking up the world as they know it to vanish like a puff of smoke. But, given that this has occurred, does a child really know what he or she wants?

In this book we have the fruit of many years of experience, the experience of allowing and helping a child to find a voice. This calls for not only a sympathetic ear but also for attentive and serious listening, emotional receptivity and plenty of time. One can only call it a stroke of genius on the part of Lisa and her colleagues when they struck upon the concept of mediation, an intermediate position between separation and divorce. Time is to be allowed for thinking without a rush to action, and of course for discussion between the parties, but with an engaged and active umpire.

We are given the core principles of mediation which include, among others:

- Voluntary participation which requires the informed consent of both parents, but nobody has the power to make the child participate.
- Confidentiality, which is absolute unless safeguarding issues are revealed – that is when the mediator judges the child is at risk of significant harm.

The book goes on to demonstrate all aspects of mediation with generous amplitude. Chapters include one on diversity and inclusivity, one on the necessity of shaping the process to fit the child, one on mediation with different kinds of families. But just as important as the meaty chapters are the appendices. Here we have what many readers will want: examples of good practice, something to follow. There is a handout for parents and carers, a draft code of practice, and examples of a mediator's letter to parents, one inviting a child or young person to a meeting with a mediator, a letter regarding grandparents' contact, and finally books for children and suggested reading for mediators.

All in all this is a most useful handbook, infused with the common sense of the best social work practice. It tells us what mediation is, why it is needed, and how it is done. There are very useful examples of mediation in action, and extracts from conversations with children. If you want to know about the subject, this is the book to read in order to find out. And, as a bonus, there is an excellent, admirably wide-ranging bibliography.

Lisa Miller
(Davies 1958 English)

Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa: The National Peace Accord, 1991–1994

by Liz Carmichael. James Currey, 2022, ISBN: 978-1847012562, £50

As Liz Carmichael notes at the beginning of *Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa*, there is a tendency to 'telescope' South Africa's remarkable transition in the

1990s from apartheid to democracy, as though it consisted of Nelson Mandela being released, an election happening, and then the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). There was, of course, much more to the transition and how it came to pass relatively peacefully. One vital element was the 1991 National Peace Accord (NPA), and the peace structures established under the accord.

Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa is a comprehensive account of that accord and the structures through which thousands of ordinary people became involved in making and building peace, supporting South Africa's transition from the racist system of apartheid to become a free, multiracial society. As the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu says in a foreword to the book, it was a peace that was 'facilitated by churches and business, negotiated by politicians, and supported by the international community, but the people accomplished it'.

The book is organised in three parts, the first of which briefly situates South Africa in the field and concepts of peacemaking and peacebuilding, before providing a succinct summary of the history, politics and conflict leading up to the transition. Under the heading of peacemaking, the second part of the book provides a richly detailed account of how contacts and talks developed between key parties, generating the important steps and decisions which ultimately produced the NPA. Lastly, under the heading of peacebuilding, the third and longest part of the book documents and examines how the NPA's peace structures operated, ranging from national-level bodies through to regional and local committees, with variation in the conditions which these faced, the personalities involved, and the activities and measures that they undertook.

A strength of the book is the depth and detail of research informing it. Thanks to the author's long engagement with South Africa, the book draws on insights from interviews with many protagonists and participants in the transition, as well as archival documents and material. The author worked with the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg during 1991–96, during which she served as a churches representative on a grassroots local peace committee in Alexandra township. Prior to this, she had served as a doctor in a Soweto hospital during 1975–81, witnessing some of the terrible consequences of apartheid.

As the book shows, in between the high points of South Africa's transition, such as the release of Mandela on 11 February 1990, following F. W. de Klerk's speech when he declared that it was 'time to break out of the cycle of violence and break through to peace and reconciliation', South Africa's path was littered with difficulties. The months after Mandela's release saw talks founder and become deadlocked, while new outbreaks of violence occurred. But gradually a process of talks facilitated significantly by businesses and churches developed. This culminated in the negotiation during July–September 1991 of the agreements that would make up the NPA, and the convention at which the accord was signed by an array of political, trade union and government leaders.

South Africans have many ways to recall and analyse their country's transition from apartheid to democracy, and contrasting perspectives can be taken and aspects emphasised. *Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa* is written from a perspective that should be valuable to scholars and practitioners interested in questions about how peace is made and built. It covers a wide range of aspects such as how the NPA peace support structures functioned, the extent and dynamics of

violence during the process, and the observer roles of international organisations. But the aspect that the book perhaps most valuably illuminates is how a spectrum of society mobilised and made the success of the accord possible during 1991–94. As the caption on a page of portrait photos in the book reads – ‘A few among the thousands of peacemakers’ – it is people (many people, not just a few leaders, mediators or diplomats) who make and build a successful peace in a country.

At the end of 1994, eight months after the elections that made Mandela president, most of the NPA peace structures were dismantled, some being retained only in Kwazulu Natal until 2001. The belief was that they had served their purpose. In hindsight the dismantling was a loss or even a mistake, as Carmichael indicates in her conclusion. The task of peacebuilding and transformation in South Africa went beyond the NPA and the TRC, and is still relevant today, with the ongoing economic, political and social problems that South Africa faces.

Dr Richard Barltrop

Visiting Senior Fellow, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics

Central Asia in World War Two: The Impact and Legacy of Fighting for the Soviet Union

by Vicky Davis. Bloomsbury, London, 2023, ISBN: 978-1350372283, £75 (h/b), £24.99 (p/b)

I often deliver introductory lectures on the history and politics of Central Asia. One of my favourite questions to ask, mid-way through one of these lectures, is: What proportion of the Kyrgyz population died as a result of the Second World War? UK-based audiences usually look baffled to discover that Kyrgyzstan even participated in the war, let alone that a statistically significant number of Kyrgyz lost their lives due to the conflict. A few will hazard guesses, usually much lower than the truth. There is always surprise that, as a proportion of their populations in 1940, Kyrgyzstan lost as much as seven times more citizens to the Second World War than the United Kingdom.

The numbers are tricky of course. Kyrgyzstan participated in the Second World War as a constituent republic of the Soviet Union, and the cohort of soldiers who volunteered or were conscripted to fight from Kyrgyzstan was ethnically diverse. Historians must parse through lists of fatalities and decide which can be directly attributed to the war: those shot dead on the Eastern Front are clear cases, but what of people who starved to death or succumbed to illness deep in the Tian Shan mountains? Whatever the specifics, the point remains the same: the Second World War had a profound impact on Central Asia, and Central Asians had a profound impact on the war.

Vicky Davis's 2023 monograph makes this point through an accessible, comprehensive treatment of the whole topic, punctuated by telling details from her favoured case study, the Issyk-Kul region of north-eastern Kyrgyzstan. Readers will recognise the big, set-piece episodes of Second World War history on the Eastern Front: Barbarossa, Stalingrad, mass deportations, the migration of heavy industry. But here these episodes are told from Central Asia's perspective.

To Davis's great credit, this does not just mean following the journey of Kyrgyz or Uzbek conscripts over the Kazakh steppe, past the Ural Mountains, and on to Berlin. The story of Central Asia in the Second World War also includes the multitude of communities who leave, pass through, or settle in Central Asia, some by their own will, most by force. Poles, Germans, Chechens, Koreans and others all visited the region, some are still there, and their various legacies are exemplary of how the war is constitutive of Central Asia today.

Davis is fluent on the treatment of Central Asians in the Red Army, neither a story of colour-blind class solidarity, nor ubiquitous racial prejudice, but something distinctly Soviet. Her depictions of the female Central Asian experience during the war raise questions over whether there was a categorical or simply quantitative difference in how Central Asia was affected by the conflict. Fewer local women joined the war effort. How profoundly did the more traditional, religious gender roles of Central Asian communities affect women's ability to participate? Did the adaptations to spousal relationships, as men fell at the front and women sought new partners, look different in the region? Did the well-known change in Stalinist culture, precipitated by the onset of war, manifest in particular ways in Central Asia?

The book is careful not to generalise overly from Davis's findings in Issyk-Kul's archival holdings, but it's worth emphasising that Central Asia was a big, varied place in the 1940s. The Second World War may have manifested itself similarly across Kyrgyzstan, northern Tajikistan, and southern Kazakhstan. But the Turkmen or Uzbek experience will likely have been very particular for both hyper-local and sweeping geostrategic reasons. Nevertheless, Przhevalsk (today's Karakol, near Lake Issyk-Kul) makes for a gripping vantage point to watch Kyrgyz shepherds join the Red Army, literacy and education change, working practices and industries develop. Other parts of Central Asia do receive some sustained treatment; Davis's depiction of demographic changes in Tashkent help to explain why it became such a churning, fascinating, sometimes combustible melting pot of the late Soviet era.

More than once, Davis uses the modernity paradigm to explain these changes, placing her book alongside the work of scholars including Moritz Florin and Sarah Cameron. Her treatment of the ethnic dimension of Soviet tragedy makes an interesting pairing with recent publications by Mehmet Volkan Kaşıkçı. To augment Davis's narrative with more depictions of Central Asian subjectivity and experience, readers could turn to Allen J. Frank. Use of concepts like progress and development pitches the book against recent trends in the scholarship best represented by Botakoz Kassymbekova or Aminat Chokobaeva.

Anglophone scholars of Central Asia are often faced by a choice: focusing exclusively on the Central Asian experience can make the region feel parochial and overly unique, whereas building Central Asia into larger world events can understate its specificities and importance. Davis's book strikes a good balance, never losing sight of how the Second World War affected the region, while reminding readers of how important Central Asia was for the trajectory of a global conflict and its outcomes.

Alun Thomas FRHistS, SFHEA

Associate Professor of Eurasian Studies, Staffordshire University

Flame, Ash, Feather: A Dozen Eggs from Lockerbie

by Catherine Swire. Black Spring Press, 2024, ISBN: 978-1915406378, £20

This is a short and vividly written book, but it is a difficult read.

Some experiences and their effects are hard to communicate to those who haven't shared them. My life has been largely peaceful and stable. Catherine's family life and happiness were suddenly destroyed when she was still adolescent.

On the second page of the book, she explains that her sister, to whom she was very close, was killed in the terrorist attack in which a bomb exploded on a plane and brought it down over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Her mother, previously a tower of strength, was devastated by this event and the family was in a sense destroyed.

It didn't help that the Lockerbie bombing was such a public event. It was very much in the news; Catherine's family was plagued by journalists and the behaviour of everyone around them was coloured by the enormity of what had happened.

On Catherine it inflicted a life-altering injury, not to her body but to her inner self. This book, written in 2019 and published in 2024, makes it clear that the effects of the catastrophe have affected the whole of her subsequent life.

Like her previous book, *Soil*, this one consists of both prose and poetry. The surprising – one might say quirky – thing here is that Catherine is explaining some of her story, her feelings and reactions, via the chickens she has kept. They are real, but also act as metaphors and illustrations of the human personalities and interactions in her own life.

Catherine was drawn to chickens because they are living beings like us, but they are unlike us in many ways – not even mammals. She was able to look clearly at their behaviour to each other, their births, lives, sufferings and deaths, in a way that she couldn't in her own case or the lives of the human beings surrounding her. She explains that after the catastrophe some people tried to help, but failed; others avoided her and her family. She clung on to a few – friends and a favourite teacher – but some of them proved inadequate, or let her down in the end. So to some extent she turned her back on the human world and directed her attention to the world of chickens. They also encountered death and disaster, but it was at one remove from her.

The main part of the book is divided into 12 'Eggs' or chapters. Each contains poetry as well as prose. Most of the poetry concerns the lives of the chickens she kept, though there are parallels to human lives and interactions.

The poem in the first chapter begins:

'It is their facility for death
that is remarkable.'

She comments: 'They allowed me very quietly to observe death – and mourning . . . to build a better understanding of whatever it was that had leapt on me suddenly.'

In chapter 3, when she has described the wounding, temporary recovery and subsequent death of a 'tame white hen', she tells how 'the chickens in their white silence represented for me . . . the work of mourning'; and how they also provided 'a kind of wall' between her and everyone else. 'I think that wall protected me.'

Chickens died in many ways. Some simply lay down and died for no obvious reason. One starved herself to death by sitting on eggs for too long. Some were taken by foxes, though on one occasion Catherine saw a fox pick up a chicken and she let out such a violent yell that the fox dropped it.

One chicken was blinded, probably by a crow. She had been the leader of the hens, reminiscent of the powerful women to whom Catherine attached herself after her sister's death. The hen was never the same again and lost her power over the other chickens.

There are other comparisons between the behaviour of chickens (and other birds) and the people in Catherine's life. She finds similarities between the cockerel Fizzy, who was rough with the hens and attacked people, and her ex-husband. She also talks about egg-theft – not by one hen from another, but by penguins (as seen on a David Attenborough programme). When other penguins 'roll the egg away . . . the mother . . . squatting on blackness . . . often dies of grief'.

Some of the people who had tried to help Catherine recover from the trauma of losing her sister later seemed, she felt, to give up on her and to transfer their efforts to her daughter. 'The thieving nature of these spirit figures' approach to my child did enrage me.'

It's difficult to give an adequate impression of the book, based as it is on extraordinary suffering and years of trying to understand, to come to terms with it. Catherine is a deep thinker, and the book contains decades of thoughts and reactions.

It may not be a comfortable read, but the book is well worth reading – and re-reading.

Chris Considine
(Maney 1960 English)

Killing Men & Dying Women: Imagining Difference in 1950s New York Painting

by Griselda Pollock. Manchester University Press, 2022, ISBN: 978-1526164179, £80

With her current book Griselda Pollock continues her admirable crusade to rescue women artists from the obscurity in which the prevailing culturally patriarchal order has placed them. Her 1981 book *Old Mistresses: Women, Art and Ideology* (born of the Women's Liberation Movement and co-authored with Rozsika Parker) was one of the first in the field to challenge male hegemony in the world of art. Since the Renaissance, women had been considered congenitally unsuited for the making of art, fit only for decorative work. Men were the truly innovative artists, women merely possessing taste. The concept of Greatness – Genius – was reserved for the male sex, the female deemed incapable of rising to that level. To the authors' surprise, they found that the male conspiracy to exclude women from the canon of Art History had intensified only gradually, by the late nineteenth century and twentieth century being assumed as the natural order. *Old Mistresses* unearths the lives and careers of numerous women from the Renaissance onwards whose work equalled that of their male contemporaries, among them Artemisia Gentileschi, Rosalba Carriera, Angelica Kauffman, Elizabeth Vigée-Lebrun.

In her book, *Killing Men & Dying Women*, Pollock returns to the challenge in the art world of 1950s New York, with the emergence of American Abstract Expressionism. Here the genders are radically polarised, with male dominance prevailing. The Female is personified by the objectified sex symbol Marilyn Monroe, while Male Genius is embodied in the painter Jackson Pollock. Griselda Pollock seeks out the underlying reasons for this polarisation. 'I wanted to understand how, and why, the discourses of twentieth century art history had systematically suppressed knowledge of the modernist artist-women in this very century (let alone all preceding ones).' She poses myriad questions. What is Art on a psychic level? How does sexual or gender difference affect it? Is it gender free? Is it amoral? Does it stem from the infant's early formation of the Ego? She delves deeply into psychoanalysis, arguing that the origins of art, and the impulse to make it, tap into an archetype that is neither male nor female, but stems from a psychic matrix common to all genders. Each artwork therefore becomes the expression of a unique subjectivity – a subject – a person.

Her conclusions are particularly pertinent when it comes to the new kind of painting developed by Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, Morris Louis, Jackson Pollock, and their female contemporaries such as Helen Frankenthaler and Lee Krasner (Mrs Jackson Pollock). Because gestural painting, without roots in representation, was a process, the canvas served simply as a space for the artist's action, making each painting an event. If the person behind the event happened to be female, why should that make the painting less valid? And why then were the contemporary artist-women consistently overlooked in art criticism and mixed exhibitions? As she points out,

artist-women of the 1950s were drawn to new and unexplored practices of painting, but practised in a misogynist art world. . . . Painter-women knew they wanted to be artists. They wanted to be, and indeed were, part of an exciting modernist project that included the painting of Pollock and De Kooning alongside many other women and men, black and white, straight and queer, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, spiritual or agnostic and neither, working-class, economically privileged. Immigrant, born to immigrant families, old country families, urban aristocrats. Some of their fellow artists inspired them, opening new pathways from which all eagerly learned.

Griselda Pollock alerts us once again to the ground-breaking work that women artists were making alongside their male contemporaries. Even today, when the gender balance seems to be equalising, with more critical acclaim given to women artists, as well as more exhibitions, including a dedicated gallery in France, the dismal lack of attention that American women artists received in the 1950s still comes as a shock. Pollock has dug deep to uncover the causes of this apparent male conspiracy. We need this exposure. However, her densely written text is so steeped in feminist theory and in psychosexual/psycholinguistic analysis that, for the uninitiated, it is a very demanding read.

Jenny Pery
(*Stuart-Williams 1958 Modern Languages*)

Woman in Art: Helen Rosenau's 'Little Book' of 1944

by Griselda Pollock. Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 2023, ISBN: 978-1-913107-41-3, £35

Griselda Pollock (1967 Modern History, Professor Emerita of Social and Critical Histories of Art, University of Leeds) is one of the foremost feminist thinkers, writers and teachers of her generation. Her development of critical theory has been influential well beyond the confines of art history, a subject she never expected to study, whose bounds she has constantly expanded. *Old Mistresses: Women, Art and Ideology* (1981), co-authored with the late Rozsika Parker, was Griselda's launchpad for a prodigiously productive career, which has garnered many accolades: most notably the Holberg Prize in 2020 for 'groundbreaking contributions to feminist art history and cultural studies' and the College Art Association's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing on Art in 2023.

The subject of the book under review is the German Jewish *émigré* art historian, Helen Rosenau (1900–84), who came to Britain as a refugee from Nazism in 1933, spending most of her career teaching in London and at the University of Manchester. So far so unremarkable perhaps, given the circumstances of the times. However, there was nothing unremarkable about Rosenau or her 'Little Book', a pathbreaking study, *Woman in Art: From Type to Personality*, published in 1944 at 5 shillings a copy (just under £14 today according to my calculator, though Griselda quotes £18–20 for 2023). Modest in format and size, 12 x 19 cm, it had 100 spiral bound pages, including 55 monochrome illustrations printed on poor-quality wartime paper. Its unassuming appearance belies the scale of its ambition as proclaimed by a front cover which juxtaposes three different views of the diminutive but exuberantly curvaceous limestone Willendorf 'Venus' (33,000–25,000 BCE), printed in red, with Barbara Hepworth's sleekly elegant 'Single Form' (1937) made from holly wood, printed in black over the 'Venus' on the far right. 'The purpose of this study on Woman in Art is threefold,' Helen Rosenau explained in her preface:

firstly, to show the close interrelation which exists between the visual arts and the society to which they belong; secondly, to suggest the changing attitudes held regarding womanhood in the course of human evolution. The third problem to be considered is whether there may be found some permanent features which repeat themselves in varying social conditions, and may be regarded as typically feminine.

Griselda's exegesis is equally ambitious in scope, and much more so in length. Wrapped around the 'Little Book' are a 'Personal Memoir' by Adrian Rifkin, Griselda's colleague at Leeds who introduced her to the work of Helen Rosenau in the first place, and a chapter by another scholar, Rachel Dickson: 'Some Things I Never Knew: The rehabilitation of Dr Helen Rosenau and her work in England after 1933'. These are followed by Griselda's essays on 'Thought in a "Woman's Shape": Writing as a Portrait of the Writer' and seven 'readings' of *Woman in Art*, situating the author and the larger

body of her work historically, culturally and psychologically.

All is laid out in a most beautifully designed and produced volume, where the 'Little Book' (pp. 101–58) has been reimaged in a new, full-colour edition. Yet therein lies my caveat. As a curator by inclination and profession, I hold fast to the materiality of objects as an essential part of their identity. This has been lost, perhaps inevitably, as far as the 'Little Book' is concerned. Everything is historically contingent, but embedded in the Paul Mellon Centre publication it becomes very much part of a contemporary discourse, untethered from a mid-twentieth century context. We are referred to the digital facsimile on the Internet Archive (archive.org/details/rosenau_wia_1944), nonetheless I wish a more faithful evocation of the original could have been conveyed within the larger volume. Its innovative features resided in its design and typography, as well as its pictorial and intellectual range, to which Griselda draws attention in the first and third of her readings of *Woman in Art*: 'The Cover and the Title' and 'The Plates and the Method'. Though it was intended to be part of a series 'of monographs on science, technics, sociology and art', *Woman in Art* was the first and only book published by Anthony Froshaug's Isomorph Press. Froshaug (1920–84) was an exponent of typographic modernism following in the footsteps of Jan Tschichold (1902–74), who left Germany for Switzerland in 1933, coming to Britain in 1947–49 to redesign Penguin Books.

The excitement of Helen Rosenau's ephemeral looking publication was conveyed in the blog for International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 by a London book dealer, Laura Massey of Alembic Books. She first came across *Woman in Art* at a book fair without any prior knowledge or information beyond author, title and date from the dealer who had it for sale. She acquired the copy, later selling it in 2018 to the library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. I recommend seeking out the original in libraries if you can (there is a one in the British Library) and in any event, to consult Griselda's volume with the digital version on screen before you. That way you will be in dialogue with the past as well as Griselda's 'mission accomplished' to place 'Helen Rosenau's "little book" in dialogue with my generation's attempt, after 1970, to engender what I call "feminist interventions in art's histories"'

Frances Carey
(1967 *Modern History*)

Catland: Feline Enchantment and the Making of the Modern World

by Kathryn Hughes. 4th Estate, 2024, ISBN: 978-0-00-836510-3, £22.00

Kathryn Hughes, who has produced four previous scholarly works on Victorian social history, including on George Eliot, Mrs Beeton, and the Victorian governess, has turned her attention to the British attitude to cats and how it changed over the period from 1870 to the Second World War.

As a focus for her investigation, she has chosen the artist Louis Wain (1860–1939), renowned for his anthropomorphic drawings of cats. If you think you are unfamiliar

with his work (of which there are abundant examples in this very attractive book), then a quick internet search will find whimsical illustrations of cats in top hats, sitting in a barber's chair, dressed for war, or walking or dancing on their hind legs. I'm certain you will recognise the style immediately. In fact, if you follow @LouisWainBot on Twitter, you can see an example of his art every three hours. Whether or not his fanciful work is to your taste, it is clear that he was an exceptionally skilful draughtsman and extraordinarily prolific.

As Hughes shows in this work, Wain was responding to a change in our attitude to these domestic animals, which left behind their pest control duties and infiltrated our sitting rooms and, yes, our hearts, becoming prized specimens to be bred and exhibited at shows, and beloved members of the family. (In the 1901 Census, one family listed their cat, Jim, as a lodger, his employment status being 'working on own account'.) Wain also used them as a way to make sly and amusing comments on human behaviour and the changing society, before and after the First World War.

So Catland is both the world populated by cats of Wain's illustrations and also our own world in which cats are cherished and still anthropomorphised. Think of cats' dominance of social media – Larry the Cat (@Number10cat) apparently rules Downing Street, for example, and cat videos are plentiful on the internet. That Hughes herself is not immune to this is clear from an acknowledgement of the assistance of Ted and Maud Hughes, 'who kept the manuscript warm by sleeping on it conscientiously'.

But lest I am accused of leaning to the whimsical side, let me make it plain that this is a serious book that uses the life of Louis Wain and our changing attitude to cats (not only in the UK, but also in other European countries and in the United States) to comment on social history during the nearly 80 years of his life. It was a period that saw significant events and change: the end of the Victorian age, the First World War, the emancipation of women. An account of Louis Wain's difficult life – he was born with a cleft lip, was bullied as a child, suffered bereavements including the early death of his wife, and died in Napsbury Hospital where he spent his final nine years suffering from mental illness – is woven into many short chapters that set the social scene with a unifying feline theme.

In 'Cats for Pleasure and Profit' we meet Frances Simpson, a vicar's daughter, who makes a healthy income from breeding cats and supplying the extras that a besotted cat lover might crave: special food, litter trays, travelling boxes – or their cat's pedigree carefully drawn up (with the assistance of Frances's brother, an amateur genealogist). In 'Cat Burglar' Hughes reveals how this soubriquet was applied for the first time in 1907 to one Arthur Young, who committed a series of burglaries by climbing up houses to enter them by upper windows. Like many good stories, it appears to have been lavishly embroidered by the press – Young wasn't a particularly successful burglar, did a lot of time, and had to 'leave the drainpipes to younger, lithier cats' when he was in his mid-forties.

Hughes has had to work hard to unearth the story of Louis Wain, whose life appears to have been a permanent muddle. He left little in the way of the material that biographers normally rely on, but she has been able to find articles and interviews and to make fresh archival discoveries, including material that has been 'hiding in plain

sight'. The book is a pleasure to read because it contains fascinating stories and creates a detailed picture of its milieu, while at the same time being delivered in a jaunty style with many witty asides. Hughes also employs an invigorating tartness at times: 'All of which should warn us against trying to diagnose artists through their work (van Gogh is currently battling at least eight different "syndromes" and it makes not a whit of difference to the enduring magic of his *Sunflowers*).'

During our time in Catland, Hughes tells us, 'we will grow tired of the number of times that someone cracks a joke about cat lovers being "catty" as if no-one had thought of that before. But, honestly, they were a scratchy crew'. Nevertheless, I recommend a visit – I'll definitely be going back!

Alison Gomm
(1974 English)

The Life and Miracles of St Godric, Hermit of Finchale by Reginald of Durham

edited and translated by Margaret Coombe. Oxford University Press, 2022, ISBN: 978-0199641796, \$225/£203.41 from Blackwells

Margaret Coombe has produced the first comprehensive translation of 'The Life and Miracles of Godric of Finchale', set alongside the definitive version of Reginald's original Latin text and supported by meticulous footnotes. The book, published by Oxford University Press in its Medieval Texts series, is a monumental achievement. Reginald's text alone runs to over 140,000 words. The volume comprises over 1,000 pages of sustained excellence. Margaret has also set the context for this work by describing the religious and political life of Durham cathedral in the twelfth century in her well-structured and thorough introduction. The outcome is an absolute triumph.

There had been an important publication of Reginald's text by Joseph Stevenson for the Surtees Society in 1847. Unfortunately this work had been corrupted to a degree by Stevenson's inclusion of sections from the work of three other twelfth century writers, who also had written about Godric. These were mistakenly believed to be early versions of Reginald's work. Margaret's endeavours have clarified this and given us for the first time a pure, complete version of Reginald's original text, free from these later interventions.

Margaret's research has established that Reginald's complete text is available in only one manuscript: Oxford Bodleian Library, MS Laud Misc.413 (L). Her work has included a comparative study of 15 other partial texts from six other French and British libraries (some of these versions she was able to identify for the first time). The result is that the Oxford Medieval Texts series has been able to present a fresh and definitive edition of the Laud manuscript. These pages of Latin text face those of Margaret's full, lucid and flowing translation. For the first time our understanding is aided by comprehensive and helpful notes.

The biggest challenge Reginald presents lies in the language he employs. He writes in medieval Latin, adopting a difficult style. It has been variously described as 'obscure',

‘verbose’ and ‘convoluted’. He also wrote at great length. Only the most patient, sustained scholarship could have disentangled this interlace and freed the threads of truth. Margaret has slain this dragon of stylistic obscurity to reveal wonderful treasures that have been withheld from us for centuries.

Godric and Reginald are set in their religious and political contexts in Margaret’s introduction, affording a window into an important period of the life and community of Durham cathedral. The Norman conquest had led to the building of the magnificent Romanesque cathedral, which stands to this day. The clerics, who had served the shrine of Cuthbert, had been replaced with a Benedictine monastic community. Durham had retained a unique status. The area had fallen outside the chronicles of the Domesday book and had a degree of autonomy. The Bishop had spiritual oversight of the region between the Tees and the Tyne, and political authority ranging more widely across to the west and up to the Tweed. These Prince Bishops enjoyed their own courts and coinage, the right to grant sanctuary and to raise armies. Their secular purpose was to keep the peace among their own turbulent peoples and to resist the incursions of the Scots.

Margaret gives fascinating insights into the cultural richness of this period. Historic and theological writing had continued to flourish led by Simeon of Durham, who had recently died, and Prior Lawrence. All this was underpinned by the magnificent library the cathedral enjoys. So Reginald wrote in a time of intellectual vitality, which was to prove a worthy successor to the age of Bede. Godric was very much inspired by Cuthbert, whose shrine is at the heart of the cathedral.

Reginald’s text is in two parts. Part one tells the story of Godric’s life. Part two records 164 miracles attributed to the shrine of Godric at Finchale after the death of the saint. This is a particularly large and varied collection, second in size only to that of St Thomas Becket. They afford us a rich insight into life in twelfth century England. Margaret serves this collection well. She amplifies these accounts of miraculous healing and deliverance with a matrix of recipients detailing their places of origin, with historic and current names. There are also map references for each place and even a map showing distances travelled and likely routes.

The same detailed helpful aid to the reader is served by the three indices, which, as well as a general index, also include indices of names and the very many biblical references.

This prodigious endeavour has proven to be an entirely worthwhile enterprise. Godric of Finchale has been a relatively unknown twelfth century English saint. Insofar as he was known at all, it was as an early composer of music and song, some of which have come down to us. He emerges from the book as a very interesting figure indeed. Reginald gives us a vigorous narrative, full of variety and colour, energy and adventure. Far from being a minor figure, of interest only to a ‘small, provincial and local’ audience, Godric is revealed as one of the most international of English saints. He undertakes many epic journeys. At their heart lies a quest of universal relevance and a life of exceptional holiness.

The Rev’d John McManners

Rev’d McManners has guided many ‘Northern Saints’ pilgrimages, and lectures on Northumbrian heritage and spirituality.

Liberty Over London Bridge: A History of the People of Southwark

by Margaret Willes. Yale, 2024, ISBN: 978-0300272208, £20

In her previous book, *In the Shadow of St Paul's Cathedral*, Margaret Willes explained how mercantile factors were just as important as spiritual elements when considering the history, atmosphere and character of the City of London, the area that surrounds the cathedral. Her new book explores the neighbourhood of Southwark Cathedral, barely a mile from St Paul's but on the south side of the River Thames, where two quarters, the Borough and Bankside, form the historic core of the modern London Borough of Southwark.

The mediaeval church of St Saviour's only achieved cathedral status in 1905, when its pre-Dissolution monastic name of St Mary Overie was again included in its title. With no green cathedral Close or even an urban Precinct to set off its Gothic architecture, it appears crushed both by the railway viaduct which runs at seemingly touching distance along one side, and by the bustle of Borough Market encroaching to the south. Yet these commercial twins – merchandise and transport – are what made the area prosperous. Trades connected with the Thames, such as transporting people or goods, and providing storage in wharfs, were crucial, as were brewing, glass and leatherwork. Just as important was entertainment, including the lucrative sex trade, which could even be said to have its spiritual side, given the involvement of the Bishop of Winchester and his 'Geese' or licensed prostitutes.

The 'Liberty' of Willes's title was a legal technicality which set Southwark outside the jurisdiction of the City of London. This meant that bear-pits, brothels and other premises prohibited north of the river could flourish in Southwark. Most notable were the playhouses, the Globe being the best known, which prospered along the south bank of the Thames and attracted audiences from all over London.

Naturally, people who worked in these theatres chose to live nearby – and Willes's list of actors, dramatists and managers connected with the area is impressive. Playwrights John Fletcher and Philip Massinger are buried in the cathedral, Philip Henslowe and Edward Alleyn also lived here, while Shakespeare, of course, was part-owner of the Globe and wrote several of his plays for its stage.

Before Elizabethan times, the area housed the *pieds-à-terre* of nobles and clerics who needed to stay in London on business. They included Sir John Fastolf, the original of Shakespeare's Falstaff, but the memory of this early period now survives mainly in the names of streets, such as Rochester Walk.

As well as being on the other side of the Thames from the City of London, Southwark was also on the way to Dover, and hence to France and the continent. This made it an important terminus for travel abroad – and, after 1173, for visiting Canterbury and the shrine of the martyred St Thomas Becket. Chaucer's pilgrims set off from the Tabard in Borough High Street, one of numerous coaching inns which housed both travellers and their horses.

That centuries-old industry was killed off by the arrival of the railways, as was a good deal of the traffic on the river. Southwark lost two of its main sources of income, though

the creation of London Bridge station created new scope for conveying travellers and goods. This had never been a rich area, but the nineteenth century saw much of the populace fall into the sort of poverty often described as ‘Dickensian’, something Dickens knew at first hand as his father was imprisoned for debt in the Marshalsea. (The Clink was Southwark’s other infamous debtors’ prison; both have mercifully disappeared, apart from their names.)

Other literary associations include two poets, John Gower and, nearly five centuries later, John Keats, who studied medicine at Guy’s Hospital.

Medicine is another of the main themes of the book, with two of London’s leading hospitals, Guy’s and St Thomas’s, originating at the south side of London Bridge. St Thomas’s moved a little way upriver in 1871, while Guy’s gradually expanded to take in much of the land behind Borough High Street which had belonged to the coaching inns.

Willes’s sources are as wide-ranging as one would expect from the scholarly scope of her previous books and she has organised her book with great skill: chapters follow a chronological order, from the Romans to the present day, and yet within each time frame she concentrates on a theme particularly relevant to that period: medicine, theatre, railways etc. And she never loses sight of the ‘People’ in her title, as varied as John Harvard and Sam Wanamaker – though there are sadly few women.

As with all books, readers will pull out their own factual plums: for me, that in the days of horse-drawn vehicles, it could take an hour to cross London Bridge; and that, when the railway viaduct into London Bridge Station was being built in the 1830s, 600 men laid 100,000 bricks every day.

Willes has produced a complex book – not a guide book, nor a history – but a celebration of the people, both well-known and obscure, who have lived in this vibrant, yet often ignored, part of London.

Gillian Mawrey
(Butt 1960 English)

The Marvellous Miss Macbeths: Five Victorian Sisters
by Angelica Goodden, Golden Hare, 2023, ISBN: 978-1838406530, £25

There is a close relationship between history and memoir, public and private lives; in Angelica Goodden’s new book the two intertwine beautifully. With unique tenderness and affection towards the five sisters of the narrative, the author’s grandmother and four great-aunts, Angelica illuminates through telling their story moments in Britain’s social history from Victorian times to the twentieth century.

The sobriquet – The Marvellous Miss Macbeths – conjures up a troupe of itinerant artistes. In Angelica’s eyes, they are perhaps indeed that, unwittingly leaving a creative imprint on history through their innate gifts in, variously: embroidery, painting, golfing, glandular medicine (including, startlingly, sex change surgery), social activism, wartime nursing, surviving shipwreck and living the ex-pat life in pre-independence India.

The spur for the story is the author’s recollection of a moment of childhood shame, linked to a brother being schooled in Edinburgh, leading to a reverie over a

black and white photograph of five sisters in lace dresses, one still a coy child, taken in Edinburgh in 1905. This photograph, reproduced on the cover of the book, holds a powerful fascination for the author who sees in it all the coiled potential, unleashed over subsequent pages, within each sister-protagonist.

The introduction to *The Marvellous Miss Macbeths* is a glorious piece of writing, gently leading the reader from the minutiae of a childish memory in 1950s Suffolk backwards in ancestral time to meet the Macbeth girls in Victorian Scotland and then forwards, gradually unspooling the lives of these five remarkable women. Ann, suffragette, professional artist, doyenne of the Glasgow Style; Flora, painter and international golfer; Mary, unmarried, dedicated to domesticity; Sheila, wartime nurse, later genealogist; and Ailie, 'the delinquent' youngest, thrice-married, unabashed radical and doctor.

Angelica Goodden is a meticulous researcher of European archives. Her previous books are authoritative biographies of cultural greats, including Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, Germaine de Staël, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *The Marvellous Miss Macbeths* is a late diversion into a new kind of writing, still based on extensive research, yet imbued with such personal connection and imagination that it makes the whole a literary read. The author frames the story throughout; we are never not aware of the storyteller. Occasionally her voice intercedes directly 'Did she actually use that word? I think she did – she certainly might have done – but I can't be entirely sure'. Occasionally, too, these private lives intersect with more public ones: Sheila joins the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) alongside Vera Brittain, Second World War hero Guy Gibson, as a small boy, pushes Sheila's baby's pram in Shimla; Flora's headmistress is none other than Henrietta Jex-Blake, familiar to readers of *The Brown Book* as a future Principal of Lady Margaret Hall; Sheila, in older age, films underwater with Jacques Cousteau.

The five sisters are born to staunchly middle-class parents Norman and Annie (there are also three brothers who don't really get a look-in because this is undoubtedly a feminist history told about women from a woman's point of view). The girls are brought up in a suitably Victorian atmosphere of art, science and manufacture, but there must have been a degree of sisterly competitiveness to bring out the talent that each displays. The book is accompanied by photographs from the family archive, including exquisite reproductions of embroidery, ceramic art and paintings by Ann, the eldest – in particular an embroidered suffrage quilt now in the collections of the Museum of London.

While each sister is deftly and humanly drawn, it is Sheila, the author's maternal grandmother, whom we get to know best, possibly owing to her garrulousness, which is mentioned, fondly, several times. Sheila is remarkably well travelled for the times. Flora and Sheila cross the Channel to Paris to study art; Sheila is on the ship *Britannic* when it hits a mine and sinks, luckily surviving the disaster before being posted back to France. She meets her future husband on a Swiss ski slope. Their married life in the Punjab is beautifully described with all the travails of being an Englishwoman, pregnant, abroad, detours across Germany and Austria, and ultimately in older age, a return to Scotland and the family's proud roots.

Then gradually she starts to suffer from a kind of double vision of past and present, a blending of tenses, with the 'now' and 'then' merging even as she tries to put the brakes on time, even while crouching, as the poem has it, below extinction's alp.

Read this book for the sheer pleasure of getting to know five strong personalities who would otherwise be lost to us; read it to better understand the interior life of a period in modern history, the collapse of Empire alongside two world wars and how private individuals function, change, and impact the slipstream; most of all enjoy the delicious and sometimes wicked personal perspective Angelica generously shares with us.

Heather Norman-Soderlind
(Norman 1971 Modern Languages)

Tides of Life

by Jane Bwyne. Printed and bound in Australia by Minuteman Press, 2023

If ever a tide of life was taken at the flood it's this book. Bwyne covers nearly a century of family (in fact three interlocking families) history, using a chorus of voices to tell a story that spans space as well as time. This is family history for family, based on contemporary diary accounts as well as memoirs. Different family members cover different periods, the whole creating a chronological record that stretches into the late twentieth century. The story thus encompasses two world wars and the collapse of the British Empire, very relevant in a family whose destiny is tied to the colonies. It is also a book about family relationships, those that work, those that don't. The whole is a novel way to present the past, and assembling such diverse source material an impressive achievement.

The saga begins in nineteenth-century west Africa with a missionary methodist grandfather. This introduces two themes that thread through the book, 'chapel' and colonial life. Tellingly the grandfather admits later that in his work abroad he has felt like 'a king among the natives'. The conversational style of the whole work fills it with myriad details of the writers' everyday lives, but occasional phrases like that point to a deeper reality. One such that strikes a chilling note is a story from the First World War, unusually recounted by a lower-rank private. The officers, we are told, are almost to a man snooty and abrasive: 'no wonder so many of them were shot in the back'.

The book is also a social history. From a turn-of-the-century Welsh mining community where you're lucky to have a six-day-a-week job in a coal yard at the age of 13, we move through the first war into the turbulent inter-war years, with the story shifting down a generation. This is the voice now of Madge, Bwyne's mother; we will get to know her well as she describes her social life in the thirties ('the best of times', in spite of 'looming war clouds') then into what will be a disastrous marriage. Interestingly her husband, of Polish Jewish roots at a time when Jews in Poland are being deported,

soon to be exterminated, is never seen against this background. Handling a story of such scale and complexity must involve massive pruning, but sometimes one feels some vital kernel has been missed.

We come to that again when war and marriage take Madge (now with baby) to India. This is the British Raj on the eve of partition and independence. Madge writes amusingly of the servant problems a British officer's wife faces, but servants at least give time for fun – bridge, picnics, club parties. Into the text creeps new vocabulary: vernacular, a feature of colonial life which will be particularly pronounced when the family move to Kenya (and for which a glossary would be very useful for readers). The story here is divided between Madge and her father, Bert, whom we have met as a child in Wales. Bert is now on his way to join his daughter and become a landowner in the White Highlands (banned to indigenous settlement); on his journey there he records reading, but doesn't comment on, *Race and Politics in Kenya*, by Elspeth Huxley and Marjorie Pelham, in which the latter castigates white racism. The family settle into colonial life, enjoying similar social diversions as in India. Having escaped her marriage and remarried, Madge now prospers, setting up a highly successful secretarial college.

Enter Jane Bwyne, Madge's daughter, and with her the connection with LMH. Bwyne starts a history degree in 1960, her experiences recorded in a series of letters to her boyfriend in Kenya. This is the year of the birth control pill, the year of Macmillan's 'Wind of Change' speech, the year Kenya's Mau-Mau rebellion is finally, brutally, put down. None of these things is mentioned in the book, though between the lines one can feel their impact. In Bwyne's Oxford, Bede and De Toqueville fight a losing battle with the sexual revolution, and after three terms she returns home to marriage, children and the tragic drowning of her husband, movingly described.

Politics – Mau-Mau – in fact makes a brief oblique appearance in the form of a reference to 'oathing', the Kikuyu oath-taking used to seal commitment to the anti-British cause. At one point Madge, expert typist, misprints a document which then has to be torn to shreds to avoid being found: political 'dynamite', we are told. Under the surface a lot is going on. But we are led to believe that the daily socialising so minutely described is all that's happening – reminding me of the cheerful unquestioning Eloi at the end of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*.

Bwyne, though, has the last word. In a brief coda she returns the story to its personal core, with a critique of her mother and a loving message to her children: a mantra for family, present and future.

Elizabeth Nussbaum
(*Cairns 1951 History*)

Fatal Legacy

by Lindsey Davis. Hodder & Stoughton, 2023, ISBN: 978-1529354775, £9.99 (p/b) and ISBN: 978-1529354737, £20 (h/b)

Death on the Tiber

by Lindsey Davis. Hodder & Stoughton, 2024, ISBN: 978-1399719582, £22 (h/b)

In March 2024 I attended the Classical Association (CA) conference at Warwick University where I heard Lindsey Davis being interviewed on the subject of CA branches, an area where she has done a great deal of work to promote the classics. I was impressed by Lindsey's love of the ancient world and her wonderful sense of humour.

The occasion at Warwick prompted me to catch up with Lindsey's books and to acquaint myself with the heroine of her latest series of Roman crime mysteries, Flavia Albia. This is the successor to the previous series starring M. Didius Falco, that remarkable informer who operated in the Rome of Vespasian. As many readers will know, Falco has now retired from sleuthing and runs the family auction business. His adopted daughter Flavia Albia has taken his place as informer and as leading protagonist at the centre of the second series of novels.

In *Fatal Legacy* we follow a complicated plot which begins with a couple in a bar failing to pay the bill. The hunt for the culprits seems straightforward, but it leads to a search for documentation that will ultimately prove whether one of the cast of characters was legally freed from slavery: his daughter's marriage depends on it. A complex inquiry into two families follows, in the course of which I made frequent reference to the essential family trees provided. I saw the matter of inheritance from the angle of a family who assert the fact that they were all given their freedom. It was clear how devastating it would be for the individual if this assumption were to be overturned. This is one of the things that Lindsey does brilliantly: she allows the reader to experience classical Rome in all its injustice, squalor and diversity, and to understand the life of citizens who are not members of the political elite.

In the latest book, *Death on the Tiber*, we enter the world of rival gangs in the Rome of Domitian. A group of visitors arrives in Rome, but before they leave, the body of a woman in the party is dredged from the Tiber. This prompts an investigation set in the multi-generational gangland of the city where the warring factions battle for supremacy and individuals suffer. The reader is invited to follow the twists and turns of the plot, but there is a more emotional strand in this mystery, as Albia comes face to face with a dreaded enemy from her British past. In addition, her desire to find the victim's killer relates to the fact that they have shared British origins. In this book, the reader empathises with the leading character and learns more about her. Intriguing questions about her early years are raised which may perhaps be answered in a subsequent novel.

A woman informer? Is it possible? Could a young woman make a living solving crimes in such a violent context? Perhaps women were more influential than we know: the lack of literature and sources penned by women may be masking the truth. If not, it is still a fascinating idea to place a woman outside the domestic setting in the male-

dominated world of ancient Rome, and cause her not only to succeed but to prosper – and be taken seriously.

The world of Flavia Albia is authentically Roman, and always based on detailed and scholarly research. Yet at the same time the amusing idea of a private eye living in the late first century AD is certainly part of the successful formula of the books. The reactions and experiences of the characters are remarkably modern, but are completely convincing in the Roman setting. I have to say that it would be amazing to hear the dialogue in Latin.

As for Falco, I had the impression that he would not be involved in the novels again, except in cameo appearances. But no – Falco Redux! He and his comrade Petronius are involved in a comedic raid in *Death on the Tiber*, as inimitable as ever.

Judith Garner
(*Literae Humaniores* 1977)

A True Impediment

by S. J. Christie. Grosvenor House Books, 2022, ISBN 978-1839758904, £14.00

With extensive coverage in the mainstream media – previews and reviews – not to mention social media and book bloggers, it is very rare to open a book these days without expectations, which may be sustained or sometimes dashed. So I feel very privileged to have been asked to review *A True Impediment* with no presumptions; to have opened it, read the first few pages, and to have had the delight of finding it to be an absolute treasure. I will be pressing it into the hands of friends and probably even strangers from now on.

Jane Darwin (Christie 1954 English) has quietly published this novel under the name S. J. Christie (her maiden name and an inversion of her initials). It is a long novel, taken at a slow pace, and yet it is as gripping as any work of suspense. The central character and narrator, Alan Pearce, is an academic, specialising in Middle English literature. For much of the novel he is working, with a colleague based elsewhere, on a previously undiscovered cycle of Mystery plays. His is a solitary life – long days are spent alone at his desk – and while he makes a living from his work (he gives the occasional lecture and tuition) he cannot be profligate with his money. Christie makes his working life and the rigorous schedules he devises for himself completely credible but at the same time not dull. The story covers a period from the end of the 1950s (Alan had to do National Service after university) to the early 1970s and captures the slight shabbiness of those times and the delight when even small treats can be indulged in.

There is a reason for the exactness of the period – dates are given throughout, on letters and diary entries – because at the beginning of the events recounted, homosexuality was still a crime. In 1967 the Sexual Offences Act was passed decriminalising private homosexual acts between men aged over 21. Until 1970, the ‘age of majority’ was still 21. Both are important to the story.

Alan becomes acquainted with a local family and agrees to coach their older son in Latin for the Common Entrance examination. Almost immediately, a sympathy

develops between Alan and Ben. Imperceptibly, the teacher–pupil relationship becomes a real friendship, despite the difference in their ages. The only tensions in their perfect understanding come when Ben acts his age (drinking too much; needing to borrow money; setting out on apparently aimless travels) and Alan appears heavy-handed and unkind in dealing with this. But he has his own insecurities that he gradually makes us aware of.

Alan realises that he is in love with Ben, but is cautious, knowing that he cannot declare himself. And at the moment when it finally seems that he could speak, something happens to make it appear impossible.

The pace of the novel is judged exquisitely – it is slow, yet always compelling; very little happens, and yet everything does. I urge you to read it.

Alison Gomm
(1974 English)

The Truth Has Arms and Legs

by Alice Fowler. Fly on the Wall Press, 2023, ISBN 978-1915789082, £9.99

Alice Fowler tells us: ‘My path to publication has come from entering competitions.’ Her debut collection of short stories brings together a number that have been successful in an impressive range of competitions over a period of five years, as well as some new ones. It is clear that in the course of this apprenticeship she has found her voice.

The stories include several set in wartime and a couple with the recent pandemic as background, in addition to others where the time is immaterial. Often a physical journey gives someone a chance to reflect and to make a metaphorical journey – a structure that works well for these contemplative, inward-looking stories. The central characters – always women – are given the opportunity to ponder decisions that will change the course of their lives. In ‘Incident on the Line’, Katja, waiting for a tube train on the Piccadilly line, receives a phone call that means ‘the wind will change direction’. Thirty-eight and unable to conceive, she is offered an egg donation by a friend’s younger sister – an unexpected, spontaneous act of generosity. She boards her train and, as each stop is enumerated, the author’s voice tells us of the stages to come in her new life as a mother, unknown as yet to Katja. In ‘Becoming Your Best You’, Jenny, who has been intimidated by a father and then a husband, defiantly does something for herself and then finds the courage to extend her generosity. In ‘The Race’, set in 1928, Maggie, a gypsy child, competes barefoot in a race against village girls in their plimsolls. A school has been established to educate the gypsy children and their teacher, Mr Milner, is cheering her on. As she runs, Maggie considers the changes that have come for her generation and which Ma and, especially, Pa will find it hard to assimilate. As she breasts the tape, she thinks: ‘I’m the girl who’ll reach the end and discover it’s the start.’

‘Something You Need to Know’ shows us a family of three, on holiday in Greece, being introduced by a guide to the nests of sea turtles and observing the precarious journey of the tiny hatchlings as they make their way across the sand to the sea

– vulnerable to predators up until the moment they enter the water. ‘Do not touch’ commands their guide as they are tempted to assist. The scene is beautifully observed, but has a further resonance. As the parents, Linz and Tim, watch their daughter Maya’s concern for the creatures and her desire to adopt them, they realise that the moment has come to tell her something of her own origins.

There is poignancy to most of these stories – but there’s one that’s a little mischievous. ‘A Strange Case of Railway Madness’, set in 1879, deals with a cunning scam carried out to facilitate theft from a whole carriage-load of rail passengers. Annie Bretherton, our focus in the story, is a young woman – a ‘blue stocking’ according to her brothers – *en route* to take her place at the University of Oxford. And now we see the importance of the date: Annie will be one of the first women students. Sadly, she is also taken in by the scam: ‘she had learnt a useful lesson: that she was not, after all, quite as clever as she thought’. But Alice Fowler – loyal alumna as we must agree she is – has Annie headed for Somerville, rather than LMH.

Alison Gomm
(1974 English)

Fervour

by Toby Lloyd, Sceptre, 2024, ISBN: 978-1399724616, £16.99

Fervour is a story about a dysfunctional Jewish family, set over ten years at the turn of this century. Eric and Hannah Rosenthal are devout Jews, he is a lawyer, she a writer. They have three children, Gideon, Elsie and Tovyah, and live in their large North London house with Eric’s father Yosef. The book starts with Yosef’s last days. He is a holocaust survivor, haunted by the past. He talks to each of the children, giving them his final messages. He tells Elsie, his favourite, that he doesn’t want to be buried, which is the Jewish tradition, he wants to be cremated. But Eric and Hannah are determined to give him a traditional burial and Elsie, aged 13, is deeply disturbed by this. Her mother gives her a stone to put on the grave but she keeps it and plays with it all the time. Over the next year her behaviour deteriorates and Eric and Hannah are called into school again and again. Hannah refuses to believe her daughter has problems but it becomes hard to ignore, and then Elsie disappears for several days.

We jump forward to 2008 when Tovyah is starting at Oxford (possibly LMH). Kate, who has the room next to him, takes over narration of the story. Tovyah is withdrawn and touchy. Kate tries to befriend him and bring him out of his shell but it is difficult. She is torn between being with the ‘in crowd’ and spending time with Tovyah. From this point the story flips between third person narration of the family at various times from before the death of Yosef through to Elsie’s return as a changed person, with no explanation of where she has been, and Kate’s narration of undergraduate life in Oxford. We learn why the family doesn’t work. Eric is serious, religiously observant, with flashes of anger when the children push him too far – at one point he grabs Elsie’s stone and throws it away. Hannah has strong religious faith and is single-minded about her writing which takes priority over listening to her children’s concerns. She makes

Yosef tell her of the horrors of the Polish ghetto and Treblinka. The resulting book is a best-seller but the family feel she has betrayed his secrets for the sake of her career.

The family's Jewish heritage underpins all aspects of the book. Eric and Hannah follow all the traditional observances and justify their decisions with lessons from Jewish literature. Tovyah has lost his faith and is very bitter. Kate is part Jewish and her friendship with Tovyah leads her to explore her beliefs. She attends a meeting of Hassidic Jews to hear a speaker she has admired for some time, after which she starts attending the liberal synagogue in Oxford. Elsie has found Kabbalist books on Jewish mysticism on the top shelf in her father's study and has been reading about ancient methods of communing with the dead. In Oxford, Tovyah experiences some anti-semitism but then the Israeli Defence Force targets Hamas military bases in the Gaza strip and kills some thirteen hundred Palestinians. The JCR votes to condemn the IDF and stand with Palestine. Tovyah appears disinterested but Hannah writes a piece defending Israel and relating stories from Gideon who had done active service in Tel Aviv. This incenses some of the students, including one of Kate's early friends, and Tovyah experiences increasingly nasty attacks.

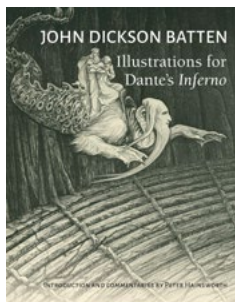
Reading this book against the backdrop of the current situation in Israel and Gaza, and with a student camp pitched outside the University Museum in Oxford, made the Jewish history and Hannah's reaction to the situation in Gaza particularly relevant. I learned a lot about different aspects of Judaism and their vast historical literature. By the end of the book we know most of Elsie's story, although not all. She has strange mystical experiences, as does Kate on occasion, and we are left to make our own conclusions about those. I found that I was most interested in Tovyah and his relationship with Kate and his mother, more than the mystery of Elsie's disappearance. This may be because Elsie's story comes out in short bursts and a random order of time and because I could identify with Kate and Tovyah's life in undergraduate Oxford. The description of Tovyah's Oxford interview gave me goosebumps of remembered trauma and I knew the pubs and restaurants they went to. Hannah gives her opinion of some of the colleges (which might upset some Oxford alumni) and refers to their college as 'Slackersville' due to its position in the Norrington table – an interesting choice of name I thought!

This is a wide-ranging and thought-provoking book, sadly relevant in this time when mental health issues and trouble in the Middle East are both prominent in the news.

Carolyn Carr
(*Jones 1977 Chemistry*)

BOOKS FOR SALE

***Illustrations for Dante's Inferno*, John Dickson Batten (2021)**



John Dickson Batten's *Illustrations for Dante's Inferno*, with an introduction and commentaries by Peter Hainsworth, is available to buy from College.

The illustrations were left to LMH on the artist's death in 1932 and are of considerable historical importance for the understanding of the British reception of Dante towards around the end of the nineteenth century and are of great interest in themselves. They were originally produced to accompany an idiosyncratic (now largely forgotten) translation of the *Inferno* by George Musgrave which appeared in 1893. Although they have not been available for public viewing, the illustrations were for many decades hung on the walls of what is still known as 'Hell Passage'. The college has recently mounted an exhibition of the full collection in the Jerwood Room. This first modern edition of the illustrations has an Introduction and Commentaries by Peter Hainsworth, retired professor of Italian and an Emeritus Fellow of LMH, and contains almost full-size versions of all the prints as well as translations of relevant passages in Dante.

Copies are £20.00 plus postage and packing and proceeds from sales will contribute towards the college's development fund. To order your copy, please email development@lmh.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1865 274362.

***Pathways: Reflections of a Female Scientist*, by Margery G. Ord, Tutor and Fellow in Biochemistry 1952–88 (2024)**

This special publication, released in 2024, is a revision of Margery Ord's self-published memoir. The book concentrated largely on two areas: Margery's own life story and her travels. However, woven into these were accounts of her research, much of which would probably baffle the general reader. In this edited text, the science has been given its own section with references included to allow those who are interested to delve more deeply into this aspect and to appreciate the developments in her chosen subject over Dr Ord's long career. This is a unique record of an interesting woman.

This publication has been produced by Margery's former student Nicky Bull (Harper 1972 Biochemistry), who discovered the existence of the book at Margery's funeral in January 2020 and believed it should be preserved and made available to scholars and general readers.

Copies of ***Pathways: Reflections of a Female Scientist*** are available from the Development Office for £25.00 plus postage and packing. To order your copy, please email development@lmh.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1865 274362.



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FELLOWS AND ACADEMICS 2023/24

Principal

BLYTH, Professor Stephen

Vice-Principal

HUFFMAN, Professor Todd, Tutorial Fellow and Professor in Physics

Fellows

ABOUBAKER, Professor Aziz, Fellow and Tutorial Fellow in Biology and Professor of Functional and Comparative Genomics

ASHTON, Mr Bart, Domestic Bursar, Official Fellow

BANU, Professor Roxana, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Law

BASHFORD-ROGERS, Dr Rachael, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Biochemistry

BATES, Mrs Anna, Director of Development, Official Fellow

BENNETT, Dr Joshua, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in History

BIGGIN, Professor Phil, Margery Ord Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Computational Biochemistry

BOGOJEVIC, Professor Sanja, Tutorial Fellow and Professor in Law

CAMPBELL, Dr David, Tutorial Fellow in Law, and College Dean

CHADHA, Professor Monima, Tutorial Fellow and Professor in Indian Philosophy

CHILDS, Dr Ann, Supernumerary Fellow, Associate Professor in Science Education

DI TRAGLIA, Professor Francis, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor of Economics

DOMINGOS, Professor Ana, Tutorial Fellow in Medicine and Professor of Neuroscience

ECKHOFF, Dr Hanne, Tutorial Fellow in Russian and Linguistics and Associate

Professor in Russian Linguistics and Comparative Slavonic Philology

FERREIRA, Professor Vanessa, Supernumerary Fellow, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine

FRASER, Dr Michael, Supernumerary Fellow, Director of Infrastructure Services, University of Oxford

GALIONE, Professor Antony, Professorial Fellow, Professor of Pharmacology

GERRARD, Professor Christine, Barbara Scott Tutorial Fellow and Professor of English Literature, Director of TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities)

GOLDSCHMIDT, Professor Christina, Tutorial Fellow in Statistics and Professor of Probability

GREGORI, Professor Gianluca, Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Physics

HANKINS, Professor Nick, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering and Professor of Chemical Engineering

HARDING, Professor Robin, Gillian Peele Tutorial Fellow in Politics and Professor of Politics

HE, Professor Li, Professorial Fellow, Statutory Professor, Rolls-Royce/Royal Academy of Engineering Professor of Computational Aerothermal Engineering

HIGGINS, Dr Ben, Tutorial Fellow in English and Tutor for Graduates

KANADE, Professor Varun, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Computer Science

KILLEEN, Professor Marie, Eve Dawney Tutorial Fellow in French and Professor of French Literature

KOENIGSMANN, Professor Jochen, Tutorial Fellow and Professor in Mathematics

KUHN, Professor Christina, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Ancient History

MACDONALD, Professor David, Supernumerary Fellow, Professor of Wildlife Conservation and former Director of WildCRU

MACDONALD, Mr Andrew, Treasurer, Official Fellow

MCKEOWN-JONES, Professor Shelley, Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology and Professor of Social Psychology

MONOYIOS, Professor Michael, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Financial Mathematics

MULLEN, Dr Anne, Senior Tutor, Official Fellow

O'REILLY, Professor Jill, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Experimental Psychology

OUZOUNIAN, Professor Gascia, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Music

QING, Professor Yujia, Tutorial Fellow in Organic Chemistry and Associate Professor in Organic Chemistry

QUINN, Dr Natalie, Tutorial Fellow in Economics

RATCLIFFE, Professor Sophie, Tutorial Fellow in English, Professor of Literature and Creative Criticism

SPENSLEY, Dr Fiona, Tutor for Graduates, Official Fellow (to December 2023)

STAMATAKIS, Prof Michail, Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry and Professor of Computational Inorganic Chemistry

STEVENS, Professor Robert, Professorial Fellow, Herbert Smith Freehills Professor of English Private Law

STUDD, Professor James, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Philosophy

TAPSELL, Dr Grant, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in History

THOMAS, Professor Adrian, Tutorial Fellow in Zoology, Professor of Biomechanics

TURNER, Professor Marion, Professorial Fellow, J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language

VAN DER KAMP, Professor Denise, Non-Tutorial-Fellow and Associate Professor in the Political Economy of China

WESTERHOFF, Professor Jan, Tutorial Fellow in Theology and Religion; Professor of Buddhist Philosophy

WESTWOOD, Dr Guy, Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Classics

Visiting Fellows

EVANS, Dr David, Beaufort Visiting Fellow (French, University of St Andrews)

PASCU, Professor Sofia, Beaufort Visiting Fellow (University of Bath, Bioinorganic and Materials Chemistry)

STUCHTEY, Professor Benedikt, Beaufort Visiting Fellow in History

Senior Research Fellows

LOVERIDGE, Dr Andrew, Senior Research Fellow in Zoology
 MALIK, Dr Adeel, Co-Founder and Academic Lead, Oxford Pakistan Programme; Senior Research Fellow
 MANNACK, Professor Thomas, Senior Research Fellow, Classical Archaeology
 MURPHY, Professor Shona, Senior Research Fellow, Medicine; Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 RIGOPOULOU, Professor Dimitra, Senior Research Fellow, Physics
 SILLERO-ZUBIRI, Professor Claudio, Senior Research Fellow in Zoology
 THATTE, Professor Niranjana, Senior Research Fellow, Physics
 WAGNER, Dr Claudia, Senior Research Fellow, Classical Archaeology

Emeritus Fellows

ABULAFIA, Professor Anna, Study of the Abrahamic Religions
 ADLINGTON, Dr Robert, Organic Chemistry
 ARDEN, Professor Nigel, Rheumatic Diseases and Consultant in Rheumatology
 BARR, Professor Helen (Chignell 1979 English Language and Literature), English Literature
 BROERS, Professor Michael, Western European History
 BROWN, Dr Garry, Biochemistry and Medical Geneticist
 DAY, Professor John, Old Testament Studies
 DE ROS, Dr Xon, Modern Spanish Literature
 DOIG, The Revd Dr Allan, Chaplain, Tutor for Graduates
 GILLESPIE, Professor Vincent, J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English (Medieval)
 GRIFFITHS, Professor Robert, Mathematical Genetics
 HAINSWORTH, Professor Peter, Italian Literature of the Renaissance
 JENKINS, Professor Richard, Classics
 KENNEDY, Miss Ann, Law
 LORD, Dr Gordon, Engineering Science
 MACROBERT, Dr Mary, Russian Philology and Comparative Slavonic Philology
 MATTHEWS, Professor Margaret (Bleas 1950 Physiological Sciences), Human Anatomy
 MCKENDRICK, Professor Ewan, English Private Law and Anglo-American Law
 PEELE, Professor Gillian, British, American and Comparative Politics
 PROBERT SMITH, Professor Penny, Engineering Science
 SANDERS, Professor Jeffrey, Computation
 SHRIMPTON, Dr Nicholas, English Literature
 SMITH, Professor Anthony, Pharmacology
 SOMMERS, Mr Richard, Treasurer 2008–2016
 STOY, Dr Gabrielle, Mathematics
 STROUMSA, Professor Guy, Study of the Abrahamic Religions
 WATSON, Mr Peter, Development Director 2000–2016
 WOLLENBERG, Professor Susan (Bookin 1966 Music), Music

Honorary Fellows

BELL BURNELL, Professor Susan, Astrophysics
 BUCKINGHAM, Professor Margaret (Cross 1964 Biochemistry), Developmental Biology
 BURROWS, Lord Andrew, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 CAMPBELL, Mrs Juliet (Collings 1954 Philosophy, Politics and Economics), British Diplomat, Mistress of Girton College
 DE CHASTELAIN, General John, British-Canadian Diplomat
 DUFFIELD, Dame Vivien, Philanthropist
 FALL, Sir Brian, Principal 1997–2002, British Diplomat
 FRASER, Lady Antonia (Pakenham 1950 History), Author
 HARRISON, Professor Carol (1979 Theology), Theology and Religious Studies
 HARTER, Mrs Caryl (Churchill 1957 English Language and Literature), Playwright
 HOGG, Baroness Sarah (Boyd-Carpenter 1964 Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Economist, Journalist and Politician
 JACOBUS, Professor Mary (1962 English Language and Literature), Literary Scholar
 KENDALL, Ms Bridget (1974 Modern Languages), Journalist
 LANG, The Hon Beverley (1974 Jurisprudence), Justice of the High Court
 LANNON, Dame Frances (1969 Modern History), Principal 2002–15
 MACGREGOR, Dame Judith (Brown 1971 Modern History), British Diplomat
 MACMILLAN, Professor Margaret, Historian
 MANNINGHAM-BULLER, Baroness Eliza (1967 English Language and Literature), Intelligence Services
 MANOHAR, The Hon Sujata (Desai 1954 Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Justice of the High Court (Bombay)
 MONTAGU, Dr Jennifer (1949 Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Art Historian
 NEVILLE-JONES, Baroness Pauline (1958 Modern History), Politician and Civil Servant
 RUSBRIDGER, Mr Alan, Principal 2015–21, Journalist
 SLADE, Dame Elizabeth (1968 Jurisprudence) Justice of the High Court
 STALLINGS, Ms Alicia (1991 Greek and Latin Languages and Literature), Oxford Professor of Poetry 2023–27
 THAPAR, Professor Romila, Indian Historian
 TREGGIARI, Professor Emeritus Susan (Franklin 1958 *Literae Humaniores*), Scholar of Ancient Rome
 WARNER, Professor Dame Marina (1964 Modern Languages), Historian and Author
 WEST, Mr Samuel (1985 English Language and Literature), Actor, Director and Narrator
 YOUSAFZAI, Ms Malala (2017 Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Peace Activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Honorary Research Fellows

BARNES, Mr Michael, KC, Queen's Counsel of Wilberforce Chambers in Lincoln's Inn, Bencher of the Middle Temple
 BRAUN, Professor Alexandra, Lord President Reid Chair of Law, University of Edinburgh
 BURROWS, Lord Andrew, Justice of the UK Supreme Court

CARLEY, Professor James, Distinguished Research Professor, York University, Toronto
 CHANNON, Professor Keith, Field Marshal Earl Alexander Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Oxford
 CLARK, Mr David (1987 Modern History), Managing Director, Academic, Oxford University Press
 DAVIS, Professor Colin, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, Royal Holloway, University of London
 DAVISON, Professor Anthony, Chair of Statistics, EPFL, Lausanne
 DOUGLAS-SCOTT, Professor Sionaidh, Anniversary Chair in Law, Queen Mary, University of London
 HART, Professor George, Honorary Professor of Cardiovascular Science, University of Manchester
 PAREKH, Professor Anant, Professor of Physiology, University of Oxford
 POULTON, Professor Joanna (1973 Physiological Sciences), Professor of Mitochondrial Genetics, University of Oxford
 QUIGLEY, Mr Conor, KC, Arbitrator, Serle Court, Research Fellow, Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford
 † REDMAN, Professor Christopher, Emeritus Professor of Obstetric Medicine, University of Oxford
 ROBSON, Mr Mark, Treasurer 2004–08, Governing Council Member, Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation
 SHIELDS, Professor Christopher, Professor of Philosophy, UC San Diego
 SLATER, Dr Catherine (Phillips 1964 Modern Languages), Freelance Language Consultant, France

Foundation Fellows

COOMBE, Dr Margaret (Mallaband 1971 History and Modern Languages)
 DUFFIELD, Dame Vivien (Clore 1963 Modern Languages)
 FOTHERGILL, Mr John (1980 Jurisprudence)
 MCNAIR SCOTT, Mrs Anna (Colquhoun 1964 English)
 MONSON, Mr Guy (1981 Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
 O’SULLIVAN, Mr Michael (1982 Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
 SIMPKINS, Mr Neil (1984 Physics)
 WANG, Mrs Mei
 WANG, Mr Jinyu

Chaplain

BURETTE, Reverend Dr Stephanie

Junior Research Fellows

BUCK, Dr Sophia, Manby Junior Research Fellow in Modern Languages (German)
 BURNAP, Dr Sean, Chris Dobson Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow, Molecular Biophysics
 BUTTI, Dr Silvia, Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow in Computer Science

CONOLE, Dr Eleanor, Junior Research Fellow in Applied Artificial Intelligence
 KHALID, Dr Aliya, Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow in Education
 KLUZEK, Dr Stefan, Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow in Medicine
 KOCZOR, Dr Balint, Glasstone Research Fellow and Associate Professor in Quantum Information Theory
 PAMBOS, Dr Oliver, Chris Dobson Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow, Molecular Biophysics
 PIRZADA, Dr Talha, Co-Founder and Development Lead, Oxford Pakistan Programme, Junior Research Fellow
 SAUTER, Dr Melanie, Levin Junior Research Fellow in Peace Studies

Lecturers

AINSWORTH, Dr Tom, Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy
 ARRUDA, Ms Beatriz, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 ASHCROFT, Dr Caroline, Stipendiary Lecturer in Politics
 BARNES, Dr David, Departmental Lecturer in English, with College Association
 BARTSCH, Dr Anna, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy
 BATEMAN, Dr Chimène, Stipendiary Lecturer in Modern Languages (French)
 BATES, Mr Sebastian, Stipendiary Lecturer in Law
 BATH, Dr Ellie, Stipendiary Lecturer in Biology
 BELL, Dr Jordan, Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy
 BENNETT, Ms Jewel, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 BHANDAL, Ms Leah, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 BROWN, Ms Alexandra, Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics
 CLARKSON, Dr Oliver, Departmental Lecturer in English, with College Association
 CUBBIN, Mr Dan, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics for Chemistry
 DE GASPERIN, Dr Vilma, Stipendiary Lecturer in Italian
 DONG, Professor Xiaowen, Tutor and Associate Professor of Engineering Science (Information Engineering)
 DOWNS, Dr Jacob Kingsbury, Departmental Lecturer in Music, with College Association
 EL-GABY, Dr Ibrahim, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 FEIX, Dr Birte, Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 FLETCHER, Dr Ai, Stipendiary Lecturer in Chemistry
 GARNETT, Professor George, College Lecturer in History, Tutorial Fellow, St Hugh's College
 GELDBACH, Mr David, Stipendiary Lecturer in Statistics/Probability
 GIORDANI, Dr Domenico, Stipendiary Lecturer in Classics
 GUEROUlt, Mr Quentin, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Chemistry (Maths)
 HARRISON, Ms Ava, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 HELMRICH, Mr Fabian, Stipendiary Lecturer in Linguistics
 JOHNSON, Mr Samuel, Stipendiary Lecturer in Maths (Applied)
 LAIDLAW, Dr Michael, Stipendiary Lecturer in Chemistry (Inorganic)
 LALANDE, Ms Emma, Stipendiary Lecturer in Study Skills

LEGER, Dr Marie, Stipendiary Lecturer in Modern Languages (French)
 LIN, Mr Kida, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy
 LITTLETON, Ms Suellen, Stipendiary Lecturer in Management
 MCFARLANE, Mr Ian, Stipendiary Lecturer in Maths (Applied)
 MELLON, Dr Stephen, Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering; Senior Researcher in Oxford Orthopaedic Engineering Centre (OOEC) at the University of Oxford.
 MORGAN, Professor Ben, College Lecturer in German, Tutorial Fellow, Worcester College
 NEELY, Mr Oliver, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 NICHOLLS, Dr Sophie, Stipendiary Lecturer in History
 O'DWYER, Dr Manus, Departmental Lecturer in Spanish, with College Association
 O'NEILL, Dr Michael, Departmental Lecturer in Chemistry, with College Association
 PACKHAM, Dr Jonathan, Stipendiary Lecturer in Music
 PAPIEZ, Dr Bartłomiej, Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering, Associate Professor in Machine Learning, Oxford Big Data Institute
 READER, Professor John, Stipendiary Lecturer in Biochemistry
 REES-ZIMMERMAN, Dr Clare, Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering
 ROBINSON, Dr Lucian, Stipendiary Lecturer in History
 ROSSI, Ms Ysaline, Stipendiary Lecturer in Modern Languages (French)
 ROWNTREE, Dr Annabel, Stipendiary Lecturer in Spanish
 SAPUNTSOVA, Ms Anna, Stipendiary Lecturer in Russian
 SCHETT, Dr Marita, College Lecturer in Modern Languages (German)
 SCHORN, Dr Brittany, Departmental Lecturer in English, with College Association
 SHEPPARD, Dr Dean, Departmental Lecturer in Chemistry, with College Association
 SOUTHERDEN, Professor Francesca, College Lecturer in Italian, Tutorial Fellow, Somerville College
 SUABEDISSEN, Dr Rolf, Stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics
 SUTCLIFFE, Dr Edward, Stipendiary Lecturer in Study Skills
 SWEENEY, Dr Owen, Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 SZANYI, Dr Szilvia, Departmental Lecturer in Theology, with College Association
 TARRANT, Mrs Ruth, Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics
 TRIMING, Dr Lee, Stipendiary Lecturer in Fine Art
 VIOLET, Dr Alice, Stipendiary Lecturer in Modern Languages
 WALKER, Dr Lisa, Stipendiary Lecturer in Medicine
 XIAO, Miss Julie (Huiyuan), Stipendiary Lecturer in Biochemistry

EDITOR'S NOTES

The following is a reminder about *Brown Book* contributions.

News items

News can be sent by post or e-mail to the Development Office and will be passed on to the Editor. Please quote your year of matriculation. News need not be confined to what has happened over the past year; if you have not sent anything in for some time, the Editor welcomes a report of what you have been doing since you were last in contact, but requests that it is succinct. The Editor normally exercises only a light editorial hand on News items, but it may be necessary to shorten, for example, lengthy entries and details of children's careers.

Articles

Planning for articles starts almost before the previous *Brown Book* is sent out. Ideas may emerge from News items or discussions with alumni. Suggestions for the sort of items you would like, or would like more of, should be sent to the Editor.

Reviews of publications

Potential publications for review are usually identified by books being sent to the Reviews Editor, from the News forms or from press notices; the publisher/author will be asked to provide a review copy. The Reviews Editor has discretion over the selection of a reviewer, and advises the potential reviewer on the format for the copy, word length and deadline. Word length is determined by the nature of the publication, the appropriate balance within the review section and the amount of space available. Some publications submitted for review may be given short notices or listed as 'Publications Received'. Publications for review in *The Brown Book* should be with the Reviews Editor by the end of March at the latest.

Obituaries

Obituaries are normally written by alumni, or in some cases by family members. Obituary requests are sometimes made by a friend or by the family, in these cases the Obituaries Editor would appreciate suggestions for a writer. The Obituaries Editor advises on format and length. As an alternative to a full obituary, we may include a short obituary notice, using material from the Register or available from College records with, where possible, some comments of a more personal nature.

Editor

NOTICES FROM LMH

Conferment of Degrees

The Development Office handles the administration of all degrees and they can be contacted on 01865 274362 or at graduation@lmh.ox.ac.uk for more information. Full details, including dates of degree ceremonies, are on the alumni section of the website: <https://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events/graduation-information>.

Alumni holding BA degrees become eligible to take their MA in Trinity Term 21 terms from their term of matriculation. A fee (currently £105) is payable. Please note that we do not offer conferral in person. If you would like to receive your MA please contact the Development Office via graduation@lmh.ox.ac.uk.

Degree Transcripts

If you matriculated *before* Michaelmas Term 2007, you can order an official academic transcript from the Academic Office at LMH. Please e-mail academic.office@lmh.ox.ac.uk allowing three weeks for processing.

If you matriculated *in, or after*, 2007 and require an academic transcript, degree certificate, degree confirmation letter, or diploma supplement, please refer to the University website <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation/edocuments>. For students and alumni there is a one-off fee of £16. This fee provides unlimited access to all available documents, and will include any further documents that are issued in the future. The service can also be used to print copies of documents at home.

If you require a replacement certificate because yours is lost, damaged or destroyed, please visit <https://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/product-catalogue/degree-conferrals/degree-certificates/dc-replacement-certificate>. The cost of a replacement certificate is £45. Please note that you are only permitted to have one copy of your certificate in your possession at any one time; multiple copies cannot be requested. If you are currently in possession of your certificate, but you require proof of your degree or need a certificate for an application, please use the degree confirmation letter available through the eDocuments Service. Once a new copy of your certificate is printed, previous copies are rendered invalid.

Gaudies

Following a recent review to the schedule, annual Gaudy celebrations will take place in September and will coincide with the University's Alumni Meeting Minds weekend to enable alumni to enjoy a longer and more varied visit to Oxford. The event will include an Anniversary Lunch (to mark the 50th and 60th anniversary of matriculation), a garden party, and a Gaudy Dinner. Accommodation will be available when possible.

Please note that alumnae who matriculated in or before 1960 will also be invited to join us for the Anniversary Lunch each year.

Information and dates for the 2025 Gaudy are below, along with a note about those matriculation years which will celebrate in 2026 and 2027.

LMH ALUMNI EVENTS 2024/2025

2024 Beaufort Circle Lunch for Legators

Saturday 19 October 2024

Celebration of Dr Margery Ord

Saturday 19 October 2024

Principal's Circle – Michaelmas Round Table (by invitation)

Friday 15 November 2024

Alumni Winter Carols

Friday 6 December 2024

Founders and Benefactors Dinner (by invitation)

Friday 7 February 2025

Alumni City Networking Event

Thursday 6 March 2025

Wordsworth Lecture: Professor Michael Broers on 'Napoleon' Film

Sunday 9 March 2025

2016 and 2017 MA and Reunion Dinner

Saturday 22 March 2025

LMH College Ball

Saturday 10 May 2025

The Principal's Summer Lunch (by invitation)

Saturday 28 June 2025

Alumni Garden Party for all alumni and guests

Saturday 28 June 2025

Gaudy 2025

Saturday 20 September

1965, 60th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

1975, 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

1984–1988 Gaudy Dinner

2025 Beaufort Circle Lunch

Saturday 18 October 2025

FUTURE GAUDY DATES:**2026: Saturday 19 September**

1966, 60th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

1976, 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

1997–2001 Gaudy Dinner

2027: September 2027 (exact date TBC)

1967, 60th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

1977, 50th Anniversary Reunion Lunch

2002–2006 Gaudy Dinner

Receiving your invitations


Information about upcoming events is posted online and all dates are circulated within our regular eBulletins. You will also be informed of specific event invitations by email, so do please ensure we have your up-to-date email address.


For further information and for all events organised by the Development Team, please visit: www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events and for any questions, please contact +44 (0)1865 274362.


SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

LMH has a number of social media accounts and encourages you to keep in touch with College news in this way:

 Facebook: Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (www.facebook.com/lmhoxford)

 X/Twitter: @LMHOxford (www.twitter.com/lmhoxford)

 Instagram: @LMHOxford (www.instagram.com/lmhoxford)

 YouTube: LMH Oxford (www.youtube.com/lmhoxford)

 LinkedIn: @LMH:BuildingLinks

DINING IN COLLEGE

The Senior Common Room of Lady Margaret Hall is pleased to invite alumni to dine at High Table at a Guest Night once a year. Alumni may also bring one guest.

Each Tuesday in term is alternately a Guest Night (three courses) or a special Guest Night (four courses plus dessert), as is each Friday. A list of Guest Nights and Special Guest Nights is available on the LMH website. Please be aware that 1st Week and 8th Week dinners are very busy and are often fully booked. Pricing information can be obtained from the Development Office.

College rules require alumni who dine at High Table to have an SCR host. If required, the Development Office will link alumni to an appropriate host.

There is a limit of three alumni and their guests (or six alumni without guests) per Guest Night. If you would like to book, please contact the Development Office, with at least one month's notice, on 01865 274362 or email development@lmh.ox.ac.uk.

Alumni may also book SCR guest rooms, subject to availability. To confirm availability and to book a guest room please telephone the Conference Office on 01865 274320 or email conferences@lmh.ox.ac.uk.



Lady Margaret Hall
Oxford OX2 6QA

Tel: +44 (0)1865 274362

Email: development@lmh.ox.ac.uk

www.lmh.ox.ac.uk