

# Mansfield

A photograph of a church interior. A large, fluted column is illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. To the left, a stained glass window with colorful patterns is visible. The background is dark, emphasizing the light from the column and window.

Autumn/Winter 2005

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# Principal's Report

Mathematics has been on my mind recently. Not just because our four Maths finalists achieved a clean sweep of firsts this year. No. My thoughts have been all about the magical power of 10. Raise a humble digit to the power 10 and – lo – it is transformed into a mighty numeral. So, it is perhaps not surprising that, in our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year as a College, we are standing tall. Nineteenth in the first official version of the Norrington league tables (versus 29<sup>th</sup> a year ago); almost £2 million more in our endowment pot than this time last year; an IT infrastructure to be proud of, where, until recently we lagged behind; and the biggest undergraduate intake ever. Add to that, the increasing success of our ground-breaking Further Education Access Initiative, with two more colleges joining the Mansfield-led nine-college consortium this year and - to cap it all - our new Garden Building which is going up on time and on budget.

The Garden Building will be a great new asset. This is the third major building enterprise on the main college site since Champneys' neo-gothic masterpiece first rose on this hidden corner of central Oxford in the late 1880s. The new building forms an important departure from previous ones in that it has been designed very much with a dual purpose. It will not only afford much needed undergraduate accommodation, but also a bespoke conference facility that will help generate new income streams for Mansfield, a means of securing a healthier annual balance sheet.

One of the particular merits of the Garden Building is that its two seminar pavilions will open out on to some of the prettiest and quietest parts of Mansfield's garden land. Conferees will thus be able to take their refreshments alfresco, well away from the hum of the college's day-to-day operations. At this present moment, the College is close to having fully funded the building, very much a first for Mansfield compared with its recent building projects. Just one final push is needed and alumni and friends continue to give generously.

But buildings, important though they are, are not, after all, central to the College's mission. What matters above all is the calibre of our academic staff and the quality of our students. So it is a delight to report the arrival, this academic year, of a brilliant new cadre of academics. We welcome Dr Jonathan Marchini, Senior Research Fellow in Statistical Genomics, who, fortunately for us, chose Oxford in preference to Cambridge, where he was also much sought-after. Ms Katrina Navickas comes to us as Joint Faculty/College Lecturer in Modern History, her two year appointment facilitated by the award, to Dr Kathryn Gleadle, Tutorial Fellow in Modern History, of the Philip Leverhulme Prize. This frees up part of Dr Gleadle's time to continue the highly-regarded research which won her this coveted award. We also welcome Ms Irit Samat Porat, as Lecturer in Law for two years. She joins our Tutorial Fellow in Law, Dr Pavlos Eleftheriades, who, this summer, was presented with the Bodossaki Foundation Academic Prize for Law, in a ceremony presided over by the President of Greece.

Whilst on the subject of accolades for our academics, I should mention that Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Professor of Astrophysics, who was profiled in the last edition of the Magazine, has since been elected a Foreign Associate of the US Academy of Sciences, the highest honour that august body can bestow upon a non-US citizen. Joining her, and other distinguished Fellows, for this academic year, are two Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellows (JRFs), Dr Peter Magill whose research is in the field of Neuroscience and Dr David Earl (Computer Simulation and Statistical Mechanics). Their arrival means that, this year, we shall have had five JRFs in the SCR, when Dr Yvette Fuentes-Guridi (Physics) returns from maternity leave next term. Finally, a British Academy Research Fellow, Dr Nuzhat Bukhari will be combining her British Academy-funded research on T.S. Eliot with some teaching in English, for the next two years. By offering these highly talented young researchers a College-association, and by supporting our more senior academics in their own research endeavours, Mansfield College is making a significant contribution to the research vibrancy of Oxford University and, in the process, enhancing the breadth of interdisciplinary discourse within the SCR.

A further testament to the calibre of our SCR came, last term, with the appointment of our Lecturer in History, Dr Zoë Waxman, to a Fellowship in Holocaust Studies and Twentieth Century History, at Royal Holloway College, University of London. This is a splendid achievement and justly deserved. Dr Waxman's contribution to the teaching of Modern History at Mansfield, as well as her dedicated work as Tutor for Women, has been immense and she will be sorely missed.

So, in our tenth year as a full College, we can look with pride, but not complacency, at what we have achieved. Mansfield is - and always will be - a small college, but we have huge aspirations. We have come such a long way in the last ten years and there is more, much more, to come.

# Fellowship Profiles

In this issue of the Alumni Magazine, we begin a series of profiles of College Fellows in which each describes his or her research activity and what led them into academia

## Dr. Alison Salvesen

### Tutor in Oriental Studies

I am a “homegrown” Oxford product, having started out in Classics at St Hilda’s College in 1979. I later switched to Hebrew with Aramaic and Syriac, taught at the Oriental Institute here. The reasoning was that if I was to read for a “useless” Arts degree, then I should pick a subject I would never have the chance to learn when I went out into the big wide world. A few months before Finals, while awaiting the outcome of an interview for chartered accountancy and reading a fourth century Syriac commentary on the Book of Genesis, I realized that I was hooked and wanted to carry on working with this sort of material. I had had all sorts of prejudices about people who couldn’t leave Oxford, and about graduate students whose hearts and souls and egos were bound up with their doctoral theses, and I was about to join them...

Looking back, it isn’t so surprising that I went in this direction. I remember being fascinated by a report on the Today programme one morning when I was nine years old. It concerned the recently published New English Bible version of the Old Testament. The interviewer asked why new translations were necessary, and one of the translators responsible gave the example of the Hebrew word *rimmonim* in Song of Songs, traditionally rendered “apples”, which modern scholarship had shown to mean “pomegranates” instead. I had only recently found out what pomegranates were, so this stuck in my mind.

Almost all of my subsequent research has centred on the problems faced by translators of the Old Testament, particularly in the early period of Judaism and Christianity, when no one had dictionaries and grammars to guide them. Once the Hebrew Bible had been translated into Greek, or Latin, or Syriac or Aramaic (these last two are languages related to Hebrew, and to the language spoken by Jesus), the text still has to be interpreted. How did Jews and Christians understand documents that were written hundreds of years previously, by people who lived in a different cultural and religious world? Since these Scriptures were held to be holy and eternally valid, early interpreters tried to make sense out of difficulties in the text and the meaning. They had to reconcile contradictions between statements in different books, and dates that were incompatible. They also needed to show how what was in the Old Testament was relevant for their communities, whether Jewish or Christian, and to reconcile their current practices with what the Bible seemed to teach.

Many of these questions are still live issues for any religious community that cherishes ancient Scriptures today. Even those who reject religion altogether cannot help but be affected by the way in which powerful religious groups interpret their sacred writings. For instance, the debate on abortion and euthanasia in the United States and the interpretation of *jihad*, holy war, in the Koran have an impact far beyond the members of those particular religious communities. Yet it may not be the use of Scripture itself that is a problem, but the way in which it is interpreted and the way in which certain parts are weighted more heavily than others. In most cases, scriptural interpretation is not an arbitrary process, but follows methods developed and established within a particular group. These rules are often implicit rather than stated, and evolve over time to meet changing situations, like rules for playing certain games.

It could be argued that without sacred writings the world would be a more peaceful place, but even secular governments and institutions tend to look to their own revered “canons”. For instance, the American Constitution can and is interpreted in different ways that affect the way that people lead their lives. It is unlikely that modern societies will ever be able to shed some form of revered text, or ignore the various ways in which such documents can be interpreted. The multiple readings of Karl Marx’s various writings afford another classic illustration of the phenomenon.



## Dr. Jason Smith

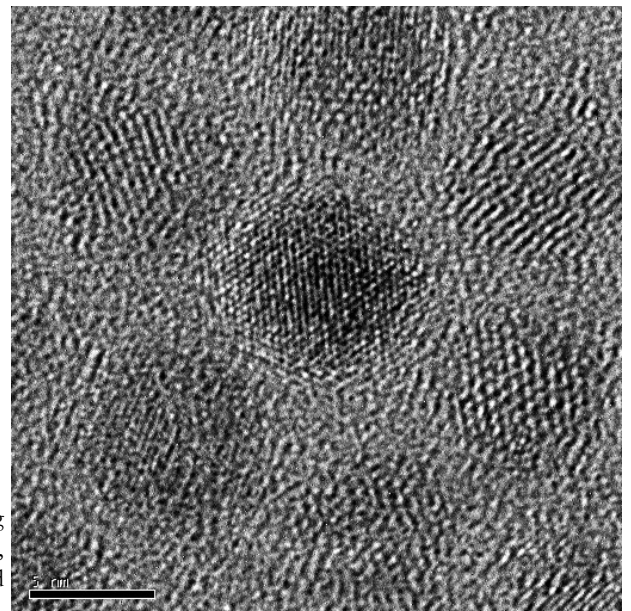
### Tutor in Materials Science

I became a Lecturer in the Department of Materials and a Fellow at Mansfield in June 2004, but like many, this is not my first time at Oxford. That started in 1989 when I matriculated as an undergrad in physics at Wadham College, and continued until 1996 when I departed to South Korea for my first postdoctoral research job. Those seven years as a student gave me a lot more than two qualifications - I gained confidence in myself and in my work, made a few good friends, and became a reasonable darts player.

My DPhil project was in the field of semiconductor physics. I was one of many researchers world-wide studying crystalline materials such as gallium arsenide, which was then rapidly becoming the material of choice for optoelectronics applications (and is now used to make the lasers in CD and DVD players). My project involved performing sensitive electrical measurements on specially grown samples whilst applying pressure of tens of thousands of atmospheres. The experiments were challenging and gave me prolonged periods of extreme frustration, but in the end my perseverance was rewarded with a few hours when every piece of equipment behaved itself simultaneously, and I got the data I needed for my thesis. Those few hours, and a few more like them since, are the fuel for my love of experimental science.

When I went to Korea it is probably true to say that I didn't expect to return to Oxford - I was ready to explore and to see where life led me. My job was at the government funded Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) in Taejeon, where I worked for the first time using optics, and specifically on lasers for optical fibre telecommunications. I spent weekends climbing mountains (anyone who has spent time in Korea will know that this does not imply any great reserves of skill or courage - a pair of sandals and a taste for rice wine are enough). Most importantly, I met my wife Cari, who was teaching English Literature at Hoseo University in Chonan. In 1999 we moved to Edinburgh, where I worked at Heriot-Watt University first as a postdoc and then as a Research Fellow supported by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Scottish Executive. Aside from enjoying the wonders of the Scottish capital, during these five years I became increasingly interested in materials and devices which exhibit effects caused by single photons of light and single electrons. This led me naturally to the new science of quantum information processing, which aims to utilise the ability of quantum particles to be in two states at once as a means to perform massively parallel computing.

Oxford is one of the world's leading centres for research into quantum computing, with some leading figures in both theoretical and experimental aspects of the science. It is a very exciting place to work, and I am grateful to Hewlett Packard and to Mansfield College for their roles in facilitating my appointment. One of the many things that I like about Mansfield is its attitude towards widening access. As a former state school student who studied at Oxford this is something close to my heart - I remember how difficult it was to take time out from the comprehensive school that I attended so that I could study for the (since discontinued) Oxford entrance exams. Now, sixteen years later, it feels wonderful to be able to contribute to Mansfield's strong access tradition.



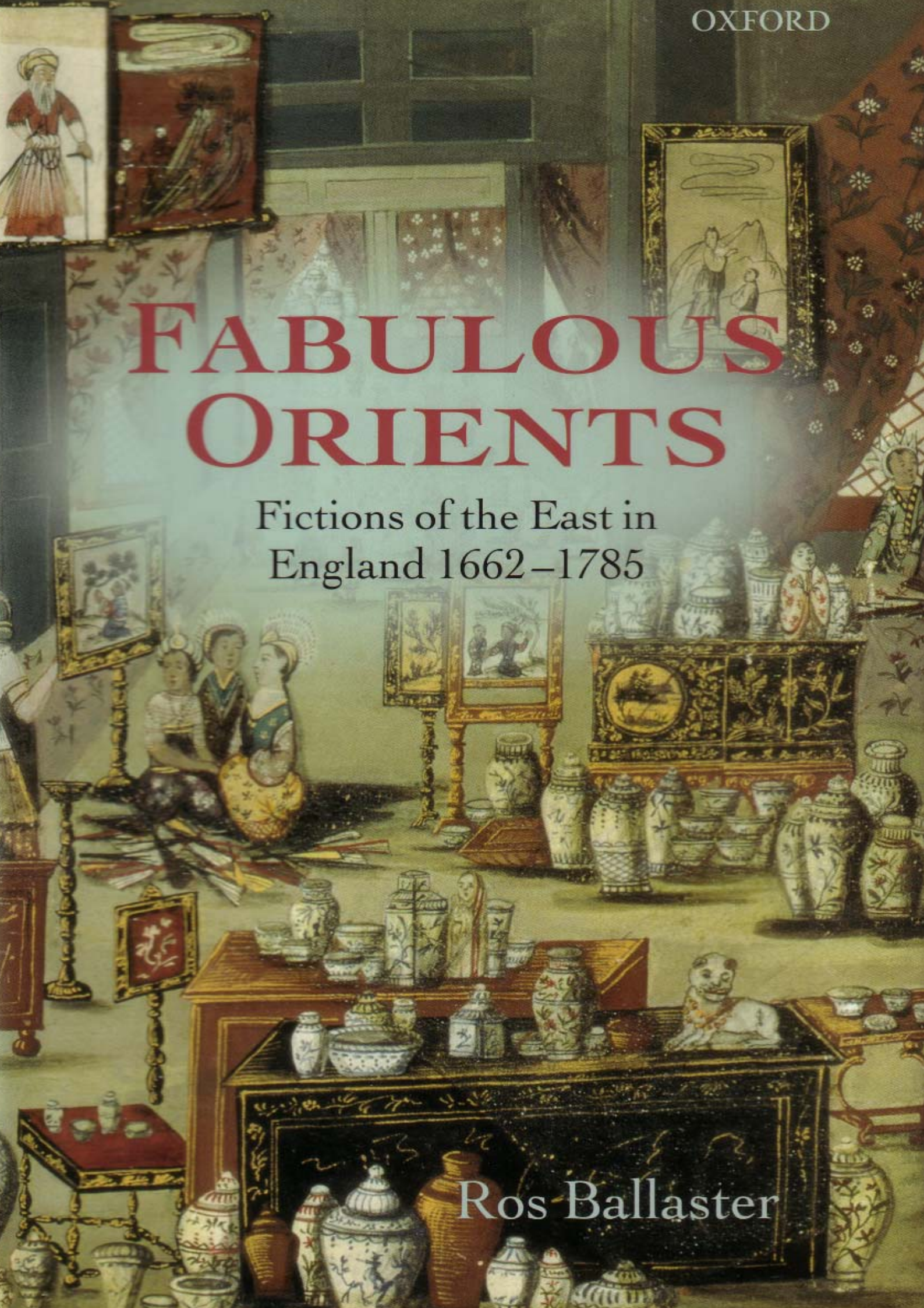
Semiconductor nanocrystals like these, imaged using transmission electron microscopy (scale bar 5 nanometres), show strong single electron and single photon effects and have potential for use in quantum information processing.

OXFORD

# FABULOUS ORIENTS

Fictions of the East in  
England 1662–1785

Ros Ballaster



# Tales of the Orient

Fellow and Tutor in English, **Ros Ballaster**,

introduces her new books on the Orient

I suffer from an addiction to stories and have done so ever since I was a child. Between 2000 and 2003, I was given the opportunity to indulge my addiction through receiving a three-year award from the Leverhulme Trust to complete the research and writing of a long planned book on fictional representations of the Orient in eighteenth-century England. The starting point of *Fabulous Orient: Fictions of the East in England 1662-1785* was my attachment to a much-loved and hugely influential collection of Arabic tales first translated into European languages in the early eighteenth century by the scholar-traveller and orientalist Antoine Galland. We know the collection as 'The Thousand and One Nights'.

In this proto-colonial period, the English encounter with the East was largely mediated through the import and consumption of material goods such as silks, muslin, indigo, spices and jewels, together with more 'moral' traffic of narratives about the East, both imaginary and ethnographic. My book demonstrates the ways in which the East came to be understood as a source of story, a territory of fable and narrative. It does so through analyses of fictional representations of four oriental territories (Persia, Turkey, China and India) and embraces travellers' accounts, letter narratives, prose sequences of tales and dramatic texts.

*Fabulous Orient* is structured according to territory rather than genre. Each section opens by re-narrating an oriental story in which a feminine character serves to 'figure' western desire for the territory she represents: the courtesan queen of the Ottoman seraglio Roxolana; the riddling Chinese princess Turandocté; and the illusory sati of India, Canzade. The book goes on to explore the range of fabulous writings relating to each territory in order to illustrate how certain narrative tropes can come to dominate its representation; the conflict between the male look and female speech staged in the seraglio in the case of Turkey and Persia, the inauthenticity and/or dullness associated with China and its products such as porcelain, and the illusory dreams that are woven in the space of India and associated with its textile industries.

This is the first book-length study of the oriental tale to appear for almost a century. Informed by recent historiographical and literary re-assessments of western constructions of the East, it develops an original argument about the use of narrative as a form of sympathetic and imaginative engagement with otherness, a disinvestment of the self rather than a confident expression of colonial or imperial ambition. In so doing, it challenges the assumption that has dominated since Said's *Orientalism* (1978) that narrative traffic is always one way.

*Fabulous Orient* is accompanied by a companion volume, an anthology of representative oriental tales entitled *Fables of the East*. This is the first anthology to provide textual examples of representations of oriental cultures in the early modern period drawn from a variety of genres: travel writing, histories, and fiction. Organized according to genre in order to illustrate the diverse shapes the oriental tale adopted in the period, the extracts cover the popular sequence of oriental tales, the pseudo-oriental tale, travels and history, and letter fictions. Authors represented range from the familiar - Joseph Addison, Horace Walpole, Montesquieu, Oliver Goldsmith - to authors of great popularity in their own time who have since faded in reputation such as James Ridley, Alexander Dow, and Eliza Haywood. The introduction addresses the importance of the idea of 'fable' to traditions of narrative and representations of the East.

The selection has been devised to call attention to the diversity in the ways that different oriental cultures are represented to English readers. Readers of this anthology will be able to identify a contrast between the luxury, excess, and sexuality associated with Islamic Turkey, Persia, and Mughal India and the wisdom, restraint, and authority invested in Brahmin India and Confucian China. *Fables of the East* redraws the cultural map we have inherited of the eighteenth century, demonstrating contemporary interest in gentile and 'idoltrous' religions, in Confucianism and Buddhism especially, and that the construction of the Orient in the western imagination was not exclusively one of an Islamic near and Middle East.

*Fabulous Orient: Fictions of the East in England 1662-1785* is published by Oxford University Press at £25.00 hdbk (ISBN 0-19-926733-2) and *Fables of the East: Selected Tales 1662-1785* by OUP at £50 hdbk (ISBN 0-19-926734-0) and £16.99 pbk (ISBN 0-19-926735-9)

# 2005 Examination Results

## The path to academic excellence:

The Senior Tutor writes .....

We are sure that you will all be delighted to hear about the outstanding set of exam results obtained both by our first-years and our finalists in 2005. In the First Public Examination, Mansfield undergraduates registered no fewer than 15 firsts or distinctions. In the Second Public Examination or Finals, Mansfield's tally was 14 firsts, 35 upper seconds and 9 lower seconds. It is the best performance recorded by the college in its present size and helped us to climb from 29<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in the Norrington Table, the league table of Oxford colleges' performance in examinations that annually continues to attract media attention, despite all its imperfections. This year, for the first time ever, the University has published a definitive version of the table, in response to the inaccurate versions constructed in the national presses. The 2005 finalists further distinguished themselves by scoring a range of university academic prizes. Leighton Cardwell won the Gibbs Prize for the best performance in Geography across the university. Anthony Dewell won the Aon prize for the best performance in Mathematics and Statistics and David Bienert won the James Mew Senior Prize for his performance in the Arabic language papers in Oriental Studies. William Tyzack (Geography) received a Gibbs Book Prize and Leighton Cardwell also received a Herbertson Book Prize for his dissertation. Across the full range of undergraduate colleges, Mansfield is beginning to lead the field in a number of subjects. This finals year, for example, saw both Maths and Geography at Mansfield achieving the best results of any college. Examination performance, of course, will always contain an element of unpredictability and given Mansfield's small numbers there will inevitably be fluctuations. Among the College's graduate students, there were four examination distinctions and Marc Brown won the Vinerian Scholarship for the best overall performance in the BCL in the University.

Four years ago Mansfield led a consortium of Oxford Colleges in establishing an access initiative to encourage increased applications from students from Further Education and Sixth Form colleges. This is the first cohort of students to reach graduation since the scheme was launched, and we are delighted that three of the Mansfield students who achieved firsts this year were entrants from this sector. Altogether the college has a mix of high achievers with outstanding performances from students from both the state and independent sectors. The hope is naturally that we will be able to build upon this latest success, notwithstanding the ever-tightening purse-strings being wielded by the central university.

### **Doctorate (DPhil)**

Christopher Hoskin  
Christine McCulloch  
Jayne Nicholson

### **BPhil**

Rosalind McDougall  
Jorg Willhoft

### **MPhil in Medical Anthropology**

Katherine Morris (Dist)

### **Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL)**

Aatif Ahmad (Dist)  
Marc Brown (Dist)  
L Middleton-Guerard (Dist)

### **Magister Juris (MJur)**

Najiba Benrahhah

### **MSc in Biodiversity Conservation & Management**

Maria Navas  
Noriyo Kaneko

### **MSc in Economics for Development**

Xiaobei Zhang

### **MSc in Environmental Change & Management**

Koben Christianson  
Edward Mishambi

### **MSc in History of Science**

Erica Lilly

### **MSc in Nature Society & Environmental Policy**

Sky Davies

### **MSc in Water Science, Policy & Management**

Stella Thomas

### **MSt in Jewish Studies**

Matthijs Kronemeijer  
Esther Jilovsky  
Celia Siegel

### **MSt in Modern History**

Jonas Twitchen

### **MSt in The Study of Religion**

Danielle Town

### **MSt in Theology (by research)**

Andrew Holden

### **MBA**

David Brooks

### **Master of Engineering (MEng)**

#### **Engineering Science**

Class 2.i Timothy Hirst  
Timothy Hsu  
Alison Withers

Class 2.ii Nicholas Eacott  
Adam McCulloch

#### **Engineering & Computer Science**

Class 2.i Shreena Kotecha



**Materials Science**

Class 2.ii David Forrest

**Materials, Economics & Management**

Class 2.ii Arvi Luoma

**Master of Mathematics (MMaths)**

Class 1 David Blower

**Master of Physics (MPhys)**

Class 2.i Sally Close

Class 2.ii Cyprian Njamma

**Bachelor of Arts (BA)****English Language & Literature**

Class 1 John McTague

Christopher Salamone

Class 2.i James Harris  
Joanna McBride

Laura Roberts

Class 2.ii Alexander Huitson

**Geography**

Class 1 Leighton Cardwell

Matthew Dewar

William Tyzack

Class 2.i Daniel Gordon

David Hartwell

Isabel Regan

**Human Sciences**

Class 1 Jemima Jewell

Class 2.i Alexis Faulkner

Stephanie Okell

**Law**

Class 2.i Dawood Ahmed

Ryan Amesbury

Clare Dobson

Jenny Heap

Nicholas Levine

Taj Uddin

**Mathematics**

Class 1 Stephen Paines

**Mathematics & Statistics**

Class 1 Anthony Dewell

Jennifer Knight

**Modern History**

Class 1 Sarah Hayes

Class 2.i Samantha Brady

Uther Charlton-Stevens

Jonathan Lord

Natalya Luck

**Modern History & English**

Class 2.i Victoria Towler

**Modern History & Politics**

Class 2.i Ngozie Azu

Aled George

Katherine Pateman

Matthew Smith

**Oriental Studies (Arabic)**

Class 1 David Bienert

Class 2.i Louisa Macmillan

**PPE**

Class 1 Torsten Henricson-Bell

Georg von Kalckreuth

Class 2.i Riaz Ahmad

Richard Bazzaz

Hannay Wright

Class 2.ii James Coatsworth

**Theology**

Class 2.i Katherine Howard

Laura Tomes

**Philosophy & Theology**

Class 2.i Christopher May

Class 2.ii Benjamin Murphy

**Bachelor of Theology (BTh)**

Class 2.ii Sheena Dickson

**Honour Moderations****Geography**

Class I William Brewster

Victoria Mason

Alice Noakes

Class II Stephen Cumberland

Alexandra Jezeph

Alexander Rankine

Carina Watney

Class III Darren Baker

James Hurrell

**Mathematics**

Class I Timothy Davies

John McCarthy

Class II Wing H Chu

Nathaniel Fenton

Ross Hibberd

Class III Colin Taylor

**Mathematics & Statistics**

Class II Valentina Iotchkova

**Moderations****English**

Dist Amir Feshareki

Pass Anna Hawker

Jodie Pennacchia

Anna Ridler

Felicity Roberts

Julie Skeat-Smith

Gemma Skevington

**Law**

Pass Rebecca Biggin

Rachel Brown

Paul Joyce

Jennifer Maloney

Thomas Oliphant

Oliver Richardson

**Preliminary Examinations****Engineering**

Pass Matthew Morris

Daniel Smith

Zhengjia Zhou

**Human Sciences**

Pass Oliver Palasmith

Clare Sutton

**Materials, Economics & Management**

Pass Stanley Li

**Materials Science**

Dist Semjon Terehhov

**Modern History**

Dist Nezam Bahezade

John Elliot

Richard Saynor

Lydia Smears

Pass Natalie Brown

Peter Philips

**Modern History & English**

Pass James Gilhooly

Felix Grenfell Bozek

**Modern History & Politics**

Pass Giacomo Fassina

Caitlin Higgins Nt Chinneide

**Oriental Studies**

Pass Laic Khalique

Tehmeena Hussain

Samuel Plumbly

**PPE**

Dist William Jefferson

Pass Emily Carrigan

Benjamin Jones

Rebecca Linnett

Sophie McBain

Helen McKenzie

**Physics**

Dist Paul Davies

Philip Merchant

Andrzej Nowojewski

Pass Laura Branagan

Alyssa Heath

Stephen Jackson

**Theology**

Pass Charles Howarth

Jonathan Nickson

Claire Robison

**Philosophy & Theology**

Pass Olivia Stones

# College Essay Prize



The 2005 College Essay Prize was won by **John McTague**. This is an abridged version of the original prize-winning essay.

“I hail from Bury, near Manchester, where I went to school at St. Gabriel’s RC High and Holy Cross College. Three years at Mansfield apparently wasn’t enough to scare me away, so I’m still loitering with some intent to complete MSt in English Literature (1550-1780). I hope to go on to do a DPhil, so long as I can gull someone into funding me again.”

## A fine canter and a clear whinny: Jonathan Swift, making men, and not beasts, his prey.

Jonathan Swift, as a politically active writer working in the turbulent opening of the eighteenth century, was well aware of fiction’s importance to modern political society, and its ability to propound an illusion of coherence and stability. As a divine, however, he was also aware that mens’ fictions, like Nimrod’s tower of Babel, can prove to be their undoing, and are often a sign of their weakness or folly. Pride in these fictions, the illusions of civilisation, leads Swift to what Milton termed “obscur’d” reason in *Paradise Lost* (XII.86); insistent upon their superiority, it is Swift’s hypothesis that men do not see the wood for the trees. They do not perceive their fallen status, a status which Swift extols as *animal rationis capax*: an animal not inherently rational, but only *capable* of reason. *Gulliver’s Travels* is a full expression of Swift’s thoughts regarding human civilisation and its status as a veneer upon mankind’s inherent animality. Gulliver’s follies throughout the travels stem from his deluded insistence upon the superiority of society, an insistence upon reason. In displaying what reason is able to obscure, Swift presents rationality not as man’s saving grace, but his downfall. Underlying his exposition of mankind’s hypocrisy, however, remains a playful awareness of the hypocrisy inherent in his own career as a political writer and satirist, which from the stronghold of reason and impartiality (but exploiting a factious discourse), preyed upon some of the most important public figures of the early eighteenth century.

Lemuel Gulliver is overtly proud of his linguistic competency. In Lilliput he is master of the tongue inside three weeks. Learning the language of Brobdingnag from the day he arrives, in a few weeks he is competent enough to argue for his own rationality before the King. On Laputa “in a few days, by the help of a very faithful memory” he makes sufficient headway to construct, in the Laputian mechanising tradition, a bi-lingual lexicon. It is this voracious adoption of foreign languages which leads Gulliver to imbibe so wholeheartedly the cultures he washes ashore upon, and which leads inevitably to subjugation. One of Gulliver’s first unforced uses of Brobdingnagian is to declare himself “her Majesty’s most humble Creature and Vassal”. A vassal Gulliver certainly is, but it is also useful to conceptualise him as “vessel”. As ‘animal rationis capax’, Gulliver is capable of reason. To be capable implies a *capacity*, as if fallen man is indeed a vessel not quite replete. In each voyage the vessel Gulliver is not filled with reason; rather, he contracts the deficiencies apparent in his destinations. For example, when he is accused of dalliance with a Lilliputian lady he does not respond rationally by pointing out the pragmatic difficulties, as a fully grown man, of a coital embrace with even the most willing of six-inch females, but rather follows the Lilliputian courtly tradition and asserts he is too honourable to commit such a crime. In the second book of the *Travels*, in Brobdingnag, a land of giants, Gulliver is equally unable to credit the discrepancy between himself and his gargantuan company. He admits, ‘I winked at my own Littleness, as People do at their own Faults’. Gulliver’s fault here lies not in his littleness but in winking at it, ignoring this obvious differential and insisting on presenting himself as an equal to a culture driven only by large ideas and high virtues. For an Augustinian like Swift, man can never be too aware of his incompleteness. Thus, Gulliver’s inability to recognise his own ‘faults’ in the first two books of the *Travels* is parodistically exteriorized; man’s unawareness of the state of his “obscur’d” reason (due to his pride) is compared with Gulliver’s refusal to acknowledge the glaringly apparent discrepancy between his size and the size of his hosts (due to his pride). In Houyhnhnmland, Gulliver’s re-training at the hooves of the Houyhnhnms is

explicitly concerned with rationality, yet again the outcome is physicalized; Gulliver returns home proudly adhering to his newly adopted equine gait and elocution as tangible manifestations of his “Superiority”.

Houyhnhnmland appears as an image of a pre-lapsarian civilisation, where reason flourishes as fundamental law. Beneath the surface, however, lie the bones of a post-lapsarian environment which complicate interpretation of the voyage. In this half-fallen paradise, Swift extols his thoughts upon post-lapsarian reasoning and man’s susceptibility to propaganda. He discusses the earthly institution of rulers in *Further Thoughts on Religion*

the First was Nimrod, the mighty hunter, who, as Milton expresseth it, made men, and not beasts, his prey. For men were easier caught by promises, and subdued by the folly or treachery of their own species. Whereas the brutes prevailed only by their courage and their strength [...] lions, bears, elephants, and some other animals[...] never [degenerate] in their native soil, except they happen to be enslaved or destroyed by human fraud: But men degenerate every day, merely by the folly, the perverseness, the avarice, the tyranny, the pride, the treachery, or inhumanity of their own kind.

Recalling the “general tradition” among the Houyhnhnms in the *Travels* that the Yahoo race was propagated by a couple who “appeared together on a mountain”, this examination of post-lapsarian civilisation becomes pertinent. The Houyhnhnms subdued the Yahoos by way of a “general Hunting”, and, ironically, “made men, and not beasts” their prey. The parallels between the Houyhnhnms and Nimrod are not accidental, but neither should they be pushed too far. The Houyhnhnms *are* rational, and to a certain extent their language and civilisation *is* pre-lapsarian and innocent. However, in composing his exposition and condemnation of the deceptiveness of fallen language, Swift could not resist showing that the Houyhnhnms’ apparent innocence can be seen as just another device of proselytization. Nimrod led to the confusion of tongues, and may be seen as the progenitor of faction. However, it should not be ignored that through his capacity as a “mighty hunter” (which Swift above relates to language), Nimrod is able to exploit the *pre*-confusion language to persuade enough men to help him build his Babel, “for men were easier caught by promises”. Rationality is an effective rhetorical mask, one which Swift himself employs in much of his political prose. The rationality and gentleness of the Houyhnhnms smooths over cracks, notably over their insistence upon the eventual eradication of the Yahoos, disturbingly devoid of moral and emotional tone. Gulliver’s conversion to the Houyhnhnms’ ‘rational’ doctrine may be read as either enlightenment or inveiglement, the latter suggested by Gulliver’s ridiculous imitation of the Houyhnhnms’ mannerisms. This performance reveals the nature of his re-education, as Gulliver is led to a disavowal of his status as a human; the speech of his Portuguese rescuers is “as monstrous as if a Dog or a Cow should speak in *England*, or a *Yahoo* in *Houyhnhnmland*” (yet, in Houyhnhnmland, Gulliver confesses himself, speaking, “a miserable *Yahoo*”). A paradoxical pride in reason leads Lemuel to neigh, admonishing humankind for their own pride. Seduced by the apparition of reason which the Houyhnhnms present him with, Gulliver’s gullibility is concretely realised. He parades what his “obscur’d” reason has led him to believe the accoutrements of rationality are: a fine canter and a clear whinny.

Swift presents reason as an effective form of persuasion, one which panders to men’s pride. The Hack writer of *The Tale of a Tub* accuses it of “coming officiously, with Tools for cutting, and opening, and mangling, and piercing, offering to demonstrate, that [Objects] are not of the same consistence quite thro’”. Swift’s works affirm that Man *would* be “the same consistence quite thro’” (albeit a consistence of corruption), if it weren’t for the folly of sublimation. Rationality itself, we have seen, can be a form of delusion, obscuring man’s flawed nature. Located in pride, it exploits mankind’s narcissistic weakness. Inherent in factious discourse is the need to appear coherent, to display “consistence quite through”. Nimrod personifies this hypocrisy:

...from rebellion shall derive his name,

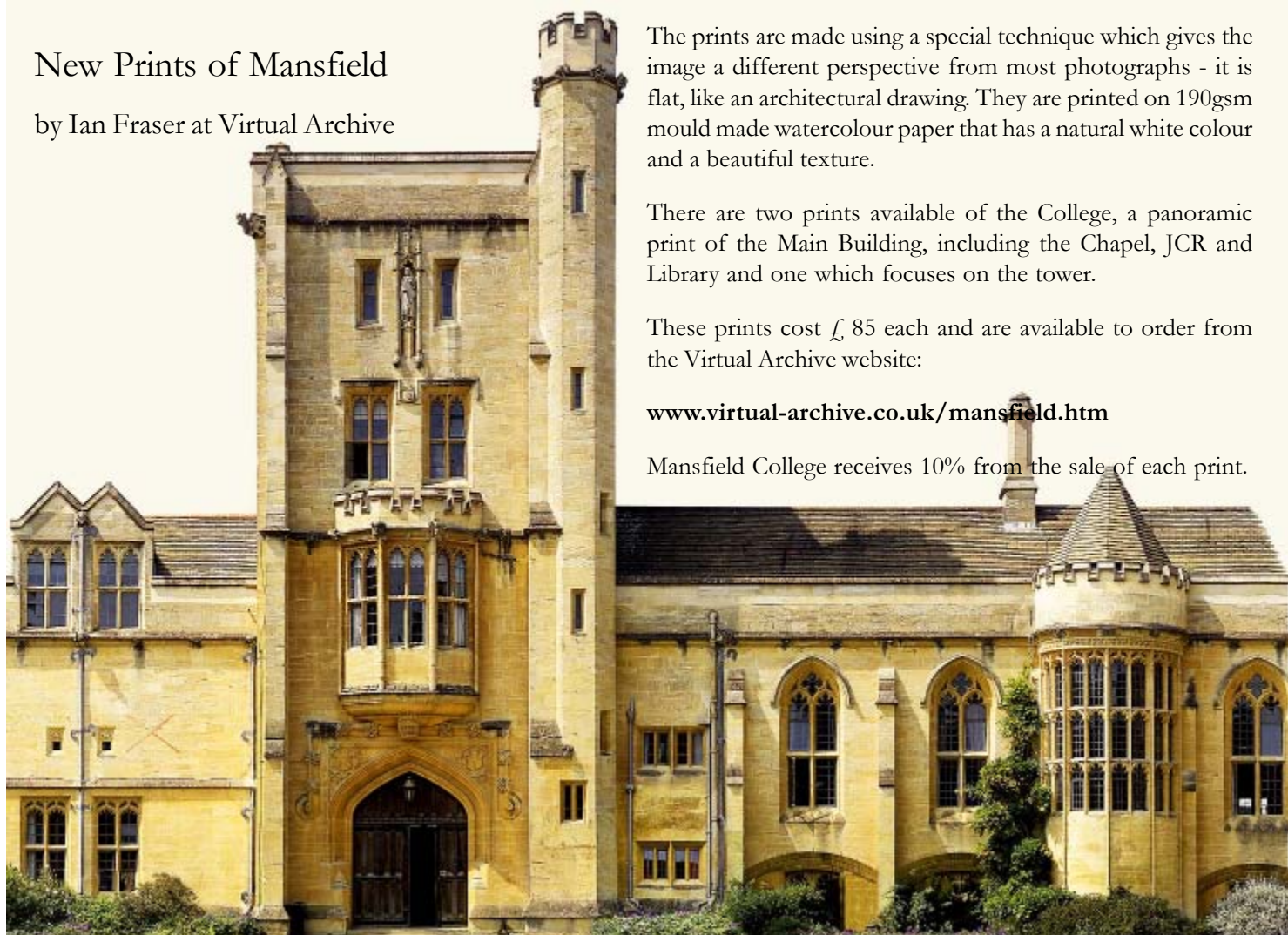
Thought of Rebellion others he accuse. (*Paradise Lost*, XII.36-37)

Swift’s assault upon hypocrisy is not as straightforward as it seems. It must be remembered that, not unlike Nimrod, Swift himself participated in faction, and that ‘Faction’ itself is an appellation specially reserved for opposing parties. Swift, like Nimrod, was a capable wielder of rhetorical and persuasive language, which, like Nimrod’s words, had tangible political effects (as but one example, his *Conduct of the Allies* is widely thought to have been instrumental in precipitating a change in government). Even more significant is his adherence to the edifice of the established church and the illusion of consistency as a political stabiliser. He writes “The want of belief is a defect that ought to be concealed when it cannot be overcome”; apparent coherence is a vital weapon in Swift’s rhetorical armoury. Swift’s Augustinianism, which denies the perfectibility of humankind, renders impossible models for earthly happiness which do not involve a degree of self-delusion (through pride); the arrogant supposition that humanity can refine itself. Apparently incongruous with this is his admission of certain deceptions as necessary to the maintenance of civilisation; he acknowledges (and laughs at) fiction’s role in making society *appear* coherent, subsequently engendering coherence itself. Perhaps it is not just the appearance-crazed Hack, but also the Dean of St Patrick’s, who propounds that “sublime and refined Point of *Felicity*, called, the *Possession of being well deceived*”

# News from the College

## New Prints of Mansfield

by Ian Fraser at Virtual Archive



The prints are made using a special technique which gives the image a different perspective from most photographs - it is flat, like an architectural drawing. They are printed on 190gsm mould made watercolour paper that has a natural white colour and a beautiful texture.

There are two prints available of the College, a panoramic print of the Main Building, including the Chapel, JCR and Library and one which focuses on the tower.

These prints cost £ 85 each and are available to order from the Virtual Archive website:

[www.virtual-archive.co.uk/mansfield.htm](http://www.virtual-archive.co.uk/mansfield.htm)

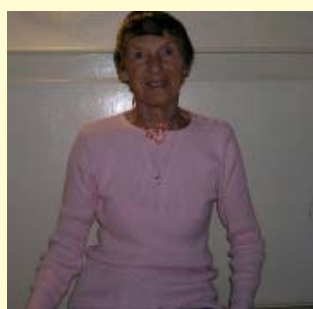
Mansfield College receives 10% from the sale of each print.



## Civil Weddings

In the last edition of the Magazine, we brought you news of three alumni weddings at Mansfield. We have just received confirmation that the College is an approved Oxfordshire County Council Venue for Civil Marriages which means that people thinking of holding a wedding at the College are not limited to traditional Chapel Marriage services.

The College makes a beautiful venue for weddings and our Catering, Accommodation and Conference team will work together to make the day perfect. If you would like more information about holding a wedding, or other event, at Mansfield, please contact Lynne Quiggin on 01865 282888 or [lynne.quiggin@mansfield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lynne.quiggin@mansfield.ox.ac.uk).



## Sue Keane's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

Despite being in August - in the depths of the long vacation - the college bar was packed with staff from all departments of the college, come to wish Sue Keane well at her 70th birthday party. As the Bursar, Steve Waterman, revealed during the presentation of flowers and gifts, it would have been (or possibly was) Elvis Presley's 70th birthday on that very day. Wine flowed, the birthday cake was cut and affectionate tributes were made to Sue's long service at Mansfield (24 yrs). Despite our growth in recent years, Mansfield retains its family atmosphere!

## Hands Lecture 2005

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, gave the most recent Hands Lecture on 11 October 2005. You can read the full transcript of the lecture at [http://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/hands\\_lecture05.PDF](http://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/hands_lecture05.PDF).

A full report on the lecture will be included in the next issue of the Magazine.



Diana Walford, Guy Hands and Shami Chakrabarti

## Mansfield College Boat Club

We're looking into buying new boats to replenish our newly re-opened boathouse down at Longbridges. We're also getting some new blades as ours are a little sooty! Many thanks to the generous donations from all of our alumni that are helping us make the best of the recent fire - it's more of a fresh start really!

The women's novices are currently training for Christ Church regatta under the watchful eye of Rob Ryan, a coach who has volunteered his services to the women for Michaelmas and Hilary terms. We are running a squad of 10 this year, which is slightly unusual but seems to be working fairly well!

Alyssa Heath, Physics 2004

## College Memorabilia

There are a range of items available, many of which feature the Mansfield College Crest. There are t-shirts in both men's and women's styles, postcards, keyrings, mugs, ties, cufflinks and decanters. The most popular items amongst our students and visitors have been the teddy bear, sporting a hooded Mansfield sweater, and shot glasses.

All of the items can be viewed on the following page of the website

[www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/shop](http://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/shop)

There is also an order form available on this section of the website.



Featuring college-specific bar areas, the event promises a spectacular night of dance, jazz, and live music, all washed down with champagne and accompanied by some of the UK's best entertainment, from aerialists and burlesque, to comedy and magic.

The music line-up features May Ball favourite Chesney Hawkes, DJ Yoda and a Duran Duran tribute, along with jazz, acapella, funk and disco – plus a main act still to be announced.

All-inclusive non-dining tickets, at £72 single, £140 double, are released on 1 November 2005. Tickets are limited and are primarily aimed at graduates leaving Oxford within the last 10 years.

## The Oxford Reunion Ball 2006

London

Saturday 15 July 2006

For further details or to book, please visit  
[www.oxfordreunionball.com](http://www.oxfordreunionball.com)

# Recent Events

## Gaudy for matriculation years 1965 -1975

Saturday 25th June 2005



John Byrne (English 1975) and John Creaser (Senior Research Fellow)



Judy Harris, John Harris (Geography 1968) and Nick Atkinson (Geography 1975)



Stephen Sheedy (English 1970) and Walter Houston (College Chaplain)

## Anniversary Garden Party

Sunday 26th June 2005



Over 140 people gathered together on Sunday 26th June to celebrate Mansfield's Tenth Anniversary of full College Status. We were delighted that former Principals Donald Sykes, David Marquand and Dennis Trevelyan could join us on this important occasion, along with many staff, current students, alumni, parents and friends.

The weather was perfect for sipping Pimms in the quad whilst listening to music provided by local band, 'The Noisy Oysters'.

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, gave a fascinating talk, entitled 'Our Universe in Pictures, Poetry and Music'. This was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the combination of photographs of stars, galaxies and planets, accompanied by music and poetry with astronomical themes.

Celebrating 10 years of full college status



After lunch, there were two presentations by the President of the Mansfield Association, Revd Geoffrey Roper. The first was a presentation to the Principal and Fellows of Mansfield College on behalf of all the members of the Association on the occasion of the tenth Anniversary of Full College Status. The Association also presented the 'Student of the Year' award to Jonathan Lord (Modern History 2002).



Diana Walford, Principal with Evan Harris, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon



(From L to R) David Marquand, Diana Walford, Judith Marquand, Jenny Worsley, Carol Trevelyan, Paul Worsley and Dennis Trevelyan



Some of our younger guests enjoying Croquet on the Quad

## Parents' Dinner

Saturday 17th September 2005



For the 2006 events calendar, please page 21...



The new Garden Building obviously takes centre stage in this year's report. In the last edition you will have seen photos of the building work in its infancy. As you will see from the photos, things have progressed at an incredible rate and the shell of the building is now virtually complete. Thanks must go to Chris Morris, our Special Projects Manager, and Kinglerlee, the contractors, who have worked so hard to keep the project to the scheduled completion date of December 2005. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the amazing, continued support of alumni, parents, friends and charitable trusts. In particular, we are very grateful for substantial gifts from the Wolfson Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation and Mr & Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement. This generosity has left us within touching distance of our target of £1.8 million, with less than £100,000 left to raise.

Mansfield's students have also played their part in securing support for the Access to Excellence Campaign. The annual telephone campaign took place in September and October this year, with well over £50,000 having been pledged to date. The campaign also provided us with a wonderful opportunity to inform alumni of forthcoming events. The eleven undergraduates were a credit to Mansfield and I thank them for all of their hard work.

I would also like to thank the MCBC committee for their assistance in setting up a campaign for new boats following the arson attack at the boathouse early in the summer. The campaign has been very successful to date, with over £12,000 raised and a further £8,000 pledged. If you would like more information on supporting the MCBC Appeal please contact the Development Office.

In addition to these successes, our events calendar continues to expand. On Saturday 25 June we were delighted to welcome back alumni who matriculated between 1965 - 1975. A small, but select group enjoyed another typically excellent meal in Hall followed by a few nightcaps in the bar. The following day, over 140 members of College and their families attended the Summer Garden Party to celebrate Mansfield's tenth anniversary as a full College of the University. Fellows, alumni, staff and friends were able to enjoy music from local group "The Noisy Oysters" while enjoying a barbeque in the sun-drenched, if a little blustery, quad. A presentation was made by the President of the Mansfield Association to the Principal to mark the occasion, before virtually all of the guests crammed into the Council Room to hear a fascinating talk by Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell on "Our Universe in Pictures, Poetry and Music". Further photos of the event can be found on the website.



To round off a hectic summer, we held the 8th Annual Parents' Dinner in Hall, hosted by Dr Tony Lemon. Over 50 parents of current and former students met in the foyer for pre-dinner drinks before literally getting a taste of student life at Mansfield. Many guests stayed on for drinks in the SCR afterwards and we look forward to welcoming parents (old and new faces!) in September 2006.

Another successful drinks evening was again held in London, this time at the Pitcher & Piano on the Strand, where we welcomed over 70 alumni to another post-work get-together. This formula was also successfully repeated in New York in June, where a small group gathered for a rather hastily convened drinks evening to coincide with my visit to the city. We hope to be able to spread our wings a little in the coming year, in conjunction with the Mansfield Association, to host other informal events around the UK and US. To be kept up to date, please make sure we have your e-mail address!

I'd like to finish by offering a huge thank you to Anu Dawson, our Development Officer, who has put in a tremendous amount of work this year to provide these events for alumni, parents and friends, as well as producing another excellent magazine.

Best wishes,  
 Andy Wood  
 Development Director



You may have read the article on “Adam von Trott – A Living Memorial” in the last issue of the Magazine. A small working party, led by Elaine Kaye, author of the College History, has been working hard on the launch of the appeal, which aims to raise funds for a scholarship for a German student to study politics at Mansfield. Further information will be available from the Development Office in the New Year.

## Making Your Mark

### Name a room in the Garden Building

A gift of £2,000 gives the donor the opportunity to name one of the new study bedrooms in the Garden Building.

Gift Amount	Value to College once Gift Aid reclaimed	Actual cost to Higher-rate taxpayer
£1,560	£2,000	£1,200

Your donation can also be made monthly or quarterly over a year. £130 per month or £390 per quarter for 1 year would result in a gift to the College of £2,000, once we have reclaimed the Gift Aid.

A gift by a UK taxpayer of listed shares, unit trusts and securities can be a more tax-efficient way of naming a room in the Garden Building. Gifts of the above attract full relief from Capital Gains Tax and allow the donor to claim income tax relief on their full value at the time they are transferred, representing a double tax saving.

Please contact the Development Office for further information.

# Rooted Interest

Michael Margolis was an associate student at Mansfield during the 1995-1996 academic year, serving the JCR as the associate representative for American students. Currently residing in New York City, he is the Senior Editor of Publications for the New York Yankees, writing and editing for Yankees Magazine as well as for the team's annual yearbook.



Mike at Mansfield in 1995 and in 2005 at Yankee Stadium

The disappointment that pervaded my workplace on Monday morning, Oct. 10, had nothing to do with substandard earnings forecasts or impending layoffs. New owners were not looming on the horizon, nor had anyone passed away. Nonetheless, the previous evening, my employer had suffered a heartbreaking setback.

I work for America's most popular baseball team—the New York Yankees—who are perennially in the hunt for a title. But that Sunday night, they were defeated in the first round of the playoffs, thereby ending their run at this year's championship. The city was clearly deflated after the loss, but in a matter of days, supporters began looking toward next season for solace.

The dejection fans felt after the defeat likely puzzled those who have no interest in the game. It's not as if followers are simply cheering for their mates. Most have never even come within 20 meters of any of the players. The devotion of fans - from the accessorizing of homes, cars and body with team paraphernalia to the sheer amount of time spent attending games and watching on television - seemingly defies logic. Why do millions of supporters dedicate themselves to players who are essentially strangers?

In my year and a half of working for the club, I have done some informal research on the topic—none of which was at my behest. Typically, when I'm initially introduced to people, I'm immediately regaled with details regarding their relationship with the Yankees - when they went to their first game, how long they have been a fan, who their favorite players are, etc. In the cases of those who aren't fans, a full listing of any and all friends and relatives who support the club is quickly forthcoming.

For some reason, unlike other small talk staples, people who have just met are comfortable navigating into conversations about sports. Discussions of other umbrella topics, like politics or the arts, are typically trod with greater delicacy. If a person you've just met at a party reveals a political affiliation to your dislike, chances are you'll hold your tongue and wait until the next etiquette-satisfying lull in conversation before making a break for the nearest hors d'oeuvres platter. But discovering that someone roots for a team other than your favorite doesn't create a rift—it usually turns into a playful question and answer session to discover how that happened.

Most club allegiances are formed in childhood, passed down in the family as if it were genetic prophecy - like good cheekbones or obsessive - compulsive disorder—depending on whether you're asking a fellow season ticket holder or a girlfriend whose dinner plans have been forsaken because of an 'important' game. For fans of any team, the club is more than just a collection of players. The team symbolizes time spent with loved ones or is a reminder of friends both present and past. For every famous game the Yankees have played over the last 20 years, I could tell you with whom I watched it just as well as I could tell you who scored the winning run.

At 30, I can be self-consciously nostalgic about the 'good old days of baseball' from when I was younger. But in truth, not much has changed. In fact, the game has been more or less the same for the past 85 years. As succeeding generations embrace the game, baseball's faithfulness to itself allows succeeding generations to embrace each other on common ground.

I'm lucky to work for the club that I've always supported. My grandfather, who was raised in the Bronx where the team plays its home schedule, started going to games at Yankee

Photograph courtesy of NYY/Ariele Goldman



Yankee Stadium from the Air

Mariano Rivera, Pitching



Photographs courtesy of NYY

Jason Giambi, Batting



Derek Jeter, Fielding



Stadium when he was a kid. As soon as I was old enough to go, he took me. I don't ever remember wondering if I should be a Yankees fan, nor do I recall ever not rooting for them. My support has always been blissful and free of existential questions.

Going into the 1995 - 1996 academic year at Mansfield, I was happy to be in a new environment, far from familiar elements. I easily accepted being away from baseball for a year. Actually, at university in Philadelphia, Yankees games were rarely televised, so I already was used to following the team through the newspapers.

In between episodes of Neighbours, I cultivated an interest in football, watching Premiership games and Euro 1996 on the JCR couch. I also went to a few matches, including an FA Cup tie between Oxford United and Nottingham Forest.

Although I still follow football from the States, I don't have a team. I'm resigned to pulling for English squads in Europe and for the underdog in most domestic matches. The only kinship I feel is toward the English national team. It was their matches that my friends and I watched together, gasping and cheering in unison.

There is a huge distinction between supporting a particular

team and being a fan of a sport. When I attend the U.S Open tennis tournament in New York each September, I prefer watching the less desirable matches on the outer courts just so I can sit as close to the action as possible. At such proximity, I'm always stunned at how talented even the lower-ranked players are. But I go to the matches only to be entertained-my intentions and expectations are no different when I go to a rock concert or to the movies.

When I watch a Yankees game, however, I'm hoping for victory. If they play poorly but win, I'm still pleased-even though I might become worried about the team's prospects for next time. As for other baseball games, I root for the results that will most help the Yankees in the league standings.

For supporters of any team, collectively directing their hopes toward club success is satisfyingly and refreshingly void of self-interest. In following the same athletic drama together-game-after-game and season-after-season - fans often feel less alone and more connected to a communal spirit.

After the Yankees were knocked out of the playoffs this season, I got condolence calls from friends and family. When my mom rang up, she said, "I'm so sorry." But I told her not to worry about me. I'd be all right. After all, like any diehard fan will tell you - there's always next year.

# Alumni News

## **Lothar Schreiner**

*Theology 1947*

"In a biographical sketch I described my encounter and life-long friendship with Joshua Russell Chandran of South India, *Theology 1947* (1918 - 2000): 'Wegweiser von Oxford nach Sumatra', published in 'Momente der Begegnung'. Festschrift für B Klappert, 2004 - I met Russell for the first time in the JCR at Mansfield College, Michaelmas Term in 1947."

## **Jonn Geyer**

*Theology 1956*

"I retired from the pastorate of Dundee Congregational Church in 2000. My book, *Mythology and Lament* was published by Ashgate for the Society of Old Testament Study in 2004 and a copy was presented to Mansfield College Library. My diaries (1947-) now at volume LXVIII and continuing, are on deposit with the archives of Queen's College, Cambridge."

## **Peter Cutts**

*Theology 1961*

"Having retired from both my positions in the USA I have returned to the UK to enjoy the ministrations of the NHS and the beauties of Yorkshire."

## **Geoffrey Roper**

*Theology 1962*

"I retired in 2005 from the post of Associate General Secretary (Free Churches) of Churches Together in England. For over 9 years I did substantially the same job linking Free Churches in England and Wales but since we were on a journey the job title changed four times. Now I am working part-time for Council for World Mission on their endowments and other restricted funds. As president of the Mansfield Association I hope to see a reasonable amount of activity and build bridges between the generations and groups of Mansfield alumni."

## **Donald Rudalevige**

*Theology 1962*

"In July 2005, Sue and I celebrated our 40th Anniversary. I plan to retire from Pastoral Ministry in June 2006 but will continue to work in Urban Ministry Training, Interim Ministry Teaching and Anti-Racism work. The latest book by our eldest son, Andrew, 'The New Imperial Presidency' is available in the UK from Amazon and .... Tesco!"

## **Robert Porrer**

*Modern Languages 1963*

"Having taken early retirement from the University of Edinburgh, where I was Director of Student Services, I undertook some part-time consultancy, while being an active member of the Scottish Committee of the Royal Society of Arts. A short consultancy in Auckland, New Zealand, resulted in an offer to help the University of Auckland develop an enhanced Careers Centre to meet the needs of its 40,000 students and as a result I have been working on a full-time contract there, spending sixteen months establishing the new service. My wife Sheila has held an Honorary Research Fellowship at the University and has been continuing her research into 16th Century humanism. We return to our home in Edinburgh in January 2006. Until then I can be contacted via email at [r.porrer@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.porrer@auckland.ac.nz)"

## **Sidney Blankenship**

*Theology 1967*

"As a charter member of the National Museum of The American Indian, I attended the grand opening of the Museum in September 2004 marching in procession with the Cherokee Nation. The Museum is located on the National Mall in Washington DC."

## **Philip Wise**

*Theology 1973*

"Dr Fisher Humphreys (*Theology 1965*) and I have written a book together, entitled

*Fundamentalism* which was published by Smyth and Helwys."

## **Ivy Halden**

*Theology Diploma 1976*

"I am 91 years old and disabled through a fall. I was Minister in Charge of a United Reformed Church for many years and chaplain to five hospitals (to Christians and Jews) for 15 years. I still conduct services very frequently. The Bishop has also authorised me to officiate in a C. of E. Church."

## **Philip Jones**

*Geography 1978*

"Having worked as far afield as London, Northwood, Bath and Plymouth in the last 5 years, I began work in Fleet HQ in January this year, on promotion to Commodore. The job brings with it responsibility for Navy-wide end-to-end CIS provision, a staff of over 100 and a budget of over £22M. It's a fast moving world, and I have much enjoyed the variety, the challenge and the joint and international." Philip is married with three children, aged 9, 11 and 14.

## **David Kell**

*Law 1978*

"I moved to Denmark 2 years ago and live here with my son Daniel, who is 15. It was a great pleasure to revisit Mansfield this Summer for the Anniversary Garden Party, the only disappointment was the absence of contemporaries from my time at Mansfield. I am looking forward to meeting old acquaintances next time."

## **Pamela Clemit**

*English 1979*

In October 2005, Pamela was appointed Professor of English Studies at the University of Durham. In 1999-2000 she was a member of Peter Gay's inaugural class of Fellows at the New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers.

## **Lost Alumni**

A list of those we have lost touch with is on the College website. If you know where any of our 'Lost Alumni' are, get in touch with their contact details. If you know someone who hasn't heard from us for a while, encourage them to contact the Development Office.

## **Looking for Someone?**

If you have lost touch with someone you knew at Mansfield, get in touch with the Development Office. Although we cannot pass on the contact details of our alumni without their permission, we are happy to contact them on your behalf.

Send your news to [development@mansfield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@mansfield.ox.ac.uk)

## Interrogated by John Humphreys A Mastermind survivor reports!

Appearing for the second time on Mastermind, Andrew McLuskey (Theology, 1988) writes about his experience: "Compared with my first time on the programme under the genial and leisurely hosting of Magnus Magnusson, the new Humphreys' dispensation was quite a shock. Instead of a slow lead up with lots of time to practice and get to know everyone we were bundled into a brilliantly lit studio and, with our eyes barely adjusted, the first 'victim' was ushered into the famous black chair. I suppose I expected a few casual questions to set me at ease before the real 'business' started. However, John's style seems to begin with an in-depth interrogation on one's life and times before coming to anything so mundane as timed questions. In my case, because of my ministerial and RE background, it was all about the role of religion in a multi-faith society and the precise relations of the first two persons of the Trinity. By the time we came to what I had prepared for I was quite wrung out. However, I suppose it's a case of 'if you don't like the heat...' Andrew's programme was broadcast in August.

In 2002-2003 she was a Visiting Fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. She has held a Leverhulme Research Fellowship and a University of Durham Sir Derman Christopherson Fellowship. She is a member of the Advisory Editorial Board of *Enlightenment and Dissent*. She received her doctorate from the University of Oxford, where she also took her BA and M. Phil. She is a specialist in English Literature of the Romantic Period, with principal research interests in William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and their wide circle of literary/political acquaintances. She has further research interests in the revolutionary prose of the 1790s, biography and autobiography of the Romantic era, and George Eliot.

### **Patricia Dean (née Brown)**

*PPE 1979*

"I fulfilled a dream and was married in Mansfield Chapel in July 2004. Our reception was in a Marquee on the quad and many Mansfield memories were shared over the champagne! I now live in Singapore with my husband, Mike and three stepchildren, Tommy, Charlie and Jasmine."

### **Lindsey Mitchell**

*English 1983*

"After 14 years as a commercial lawyer, I have jumped ship and am retraining to become a person-centered counsellor/psychotherapist. In my final year of a three year qualification and loving it".

### **Elizabeth Gray King**

*Theology 1985*

"After leaving Mansfield, I spent 11 years in Ministry at Temple Cowley, Oxford. In 2000, I set up a Community Development Company ([www.gkgld.co.uk](http://www.gkgld.co.uk)) with my husband Pete, whom I married in 1995. In 2004, I

was appointed to the part-time post of Education for Ministry Phase two Officer of the United Reformed Church. My son Jeffrey is a professional bassist and my son James is a graphic designer."

### **Mia Hilborn (née Kyte)**

*Theology 1985*

Formerly a URC minister, Mia is now an Anglican Priest (from 2002). She is Head of Spiritual Healthcare and Chaplaincy Team Leader at Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation NHS Trust, London, Honorary Assistant Curate at Lambeth North Parish (London), Trustee (non-exec) at Mildmay Mission Hospital/Mildmay International (HIV/AIDS) (London and worldwide) and a Governor of Evelina Hospital School (part of Guy's and St Thomas'). Mia has two children, a boy and a girl, aged 12 and 9 and a small Jack Russell.

### **Giles Atkinson**

*Geography 1986*

Congratulations to Giles and Abigail on the birth of their first baby, Norah, last August.

### **Agnese Fidecaro**

*English Literature 1987*

Agnese teaches Gender Studies at Geneva University. She is married with two children, Naim 9 and Malik 18 months.

### **Dana Carver Levitties (née Carver)**

*Politics 1987*

"I was a visiting student in 1987-88 in English and Political Science. My husband John and I have recently gutted and renovated a modernist house from the thirties and we moved in with our children, Sophia and Wexler this month. I work as a marketing and design consultant and still make it back to the UK for a few days each year. I loved my time at Mansfield and still keep in touch with

friends from those days."

### **Peter Foster**

*Geography 1988*

"In a nutshell, after leaving Oxford I did an MBA at Manchester Business School. After that I worked for Booker Plc in Turkey and Thailand for 10 years and then I left to set-up my own food distribution business here in Bangkok. Having sold the food distribution business last year I now divide my time between IT consulting and my new venture, a meat packing operation supplying retail multiples (Tesco etc) here in Bangkok. I go back to the UK as infrequently as possible."

### **Neil Thorogood**

*Theology 1988*

"On 1st September 2005, I take up this new post at the United Reform Church's College in Cambridge. Working in the Cambridge Theological Federation. I will be involved in Ministerial Training and Theological Education amongst URC, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Orthodox students."

### **Elizabeth Katchka**

*Visiting Student 1989*

Elizabeth is currently an Attorney in the Office of General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Dept. of Homeland Security), USA

### **Toby Purser**

*History 1989*

Toby is currently Head of History at Shiplake College, Oxfordshire. After a spell travelling and writing, Toby returned to Mansfield in 1994 to study for a Masters degree which led on to a PhD at Southampton University, in Medieval history. Following a stint researching and publishing at the Society of Genealogists, Toby began teaching at Oundle School, where he was also Deputy Housemaster. He

went on to become Head of History at Sexey's School and is now at Shiplake College. Toby has published several academic articles and a book, *Medieval England 1042-1228*, and is an Examiner for A level. In December 2004, Toby married Cerys, a mezzo-soprano who tours Europe.

**Richard Markham**

*History 1990*

Richard has a son, Harry, who was born in October 2004.

**Max Hyde**

*History 1992*

"I married Eliza Daphine Howell on April 17, 2004 and we are expecting our first child on December 23. George York, also a visiting student 1993-94, served as a groomsman in the wedding. I have been practising law in my hometown of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and cherish my many fond memories of Mansfield. I would love to hear from old friends by e-mail at [maxhyde@spartanlaw.com](mailto:maxhyde@spartanlaw.com)."

**Tiffany-Alice Ewins (née Perschke)**

*Theology 1994*

"I have been married to James Ewins (New College, Law, 1992) since 1997. Our first son, Badger, was born in August 2003 and on 11 May this year we had our second child, a little girl called Clementine. We live in Battersea and can often be found at St. Mark's Church Battersea Rise."

**Ian Jackson**

*Jurisprudence 1994*

"I have now joined Addleshaw Goddard's Manchester office as an Associate Solicitor. I am also about to be appointed a Director of Sovereign Trustees Limited, Addleshaw Goddard's independent trustee company."

**Lucy-Jane Michel (née Gaunt)**

*English 1995*

Lucy-Jane lives in France with her husband and three children and works as English teacher and translator. She would love to get in touch with others who also matriculated in 1995.

**Miriam Kennet**

*MSc Environmental Change & Management 1998*

"Since studying at Mansfield as a very mature student, I have started a charity, of which I am a Co-Director, called The Green Economics Institute, as well as having a full-time job, starting a PhD and being a mother! The Institute has flourished over the last year and we have held three conferences. Our next conference will be held at Mansfield in April 2006 and the speakers include a number of Mansfield alumni. The theme of the conference is "Long Termism in Green Economics, Exploring Sustainability: Futurity: Stakeholder Theory and Green Economics - two contrasting approaches." For more information e-mail [greenomics@yahoo.com](mailto:greenomics@yahoo.com) or visit [www.greenomics.org.uk](http://www.greenomics.org.uk).

**Gemma Lowndes and Daniel Vinton**

*Mathematics 1999 and Engineering 1999*

We are delighted that they have decided to hold their wedding at Mansfield on the 8th July 2006.

**Alexander Wright and Catherine Wall**

*Modern History 1999*

Congratulations to Alexander and Catherine who recently announced their engagement.

**Neale Harvey**

*Physics 2000*

"I am now at LMH (Lady Margaret Hall) reading for a DPhil in Chemistry following a year

working in Unilever Research and Development."

**Alasdair Harris**

*MSc Environmental Change 2002*

Al's conservation charity, Blue Ventures, has won a prestigious international award in recognition of its work in Madagascar. Selected from over 260 entries from 66 countries, representing 1,200 organisations, the Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development (Seed) Initiative Awards 2005 were announced and celebrated on 20th April 2005 at a ceremony during the UN Sustainable Development Commission meeting in New York. Blue Ventures' partnership project 'Madagascar's first community-run, experimental Marine Protected Area' was chosen as a shining example of how economic development and environmental protection can go hand in hand, according to the international panel which made the selection.

[Alasdair Harris al@blueventures.org](mailto:Alasdair@blueventures.org)



**John-Daniel Laurence**

*Physics M.Phys 1997*

"My wife and I had a baby son, Caleb, on October 8th 2004. He is growing fast and bringing lots of joy."

"Aled Davies (Maths 2001) came to visit New York City this past July and was greeted by both American JYA '01-'02 friends and Simon Wicks (Physics 1999). We all got together for an Independence Day barbeque at my house in Jersey City, New Jersey."

**Justin Kiczek**

*Visiting Student 2001*

The people in the photo are: Front row: Aled Davies, Quinn Shean, Katie Daniels, and Melissa Wojciechowski Back row: Simon Wicks, Mark Cummins, Justin Kiczek, Rich Cording, Todd Barosky, Matt Levine, and Ben Schrader.



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Mansfield Association Dinner**

Speaker : John Caird, Theatre Director and Writer

*Mansfield College*

For Further details, please e-mail  
mansfield.association@andart.org

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April

**University of Oxford North American Reunion**

*Waldorf = Astoria Hotel, New York*

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Mansfield Association Vllls Week event**

*Boathouse*

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Gaudy for all those who matriculated before 1965**

*Mansfield College*

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

**Summer Garden Party**

*Mansfield College*

For all current and former students, parents, staff,  
former staff, friends and their families.

The **Commemoration of Benefactors** Service and  
the **Mansfield Association Annual General Meeting**  
will be held during the day.

September

**Ninth Annual Parents' Dinner**

*Mansfield College*

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006

**Gaudy for Matriculation Years 2000 - 2005**

*Mansfield College*

Up-to-date information on all our events, including booking forms, will be added to the website as soon as it becomes available. You will find the on-line events calendar in the 'Alumni and Friends' section of the site.

[www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk](http://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk)

