

# Mansfield

January 2010





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We welcome suggestions and contributions from our Alumni & Friends

Printed on Recycled Stock

# College News

## Principal's Welcome

Running through the College news section of this Magazine is a general theme: endless committee meetings – even for our student members! How can this be? Ivory Towers have libraries, not committee rooms and towering intellects have academic imperatives, surely, not boring Agendas? Alas, life is not that simple and ensuring that College life runs smoothly; that despite an economic recession our finances remain buoyant (well done, Bursar!); and that a quart of new students can fit comfortably into a pint pot (ditto Senior Tutor); can't be done without an element of bureaucracy. The trick is to keep our eye on the ball, by which I mean focusing on our academic objectives, to ensure that all our efforts are devoted to the ultimate aim of providing the best possible education for our students, in the most congenial and supportive environment possible.

Of course, this year we have had to keep our eye not just on the academic ball but on *the* Ball also and I am pleased to report that, thanks to the careful planning of the Ball Committee (you see



what I mean!) this was a really superb event, which I hope you will enjoy vicariously by reading about it on page 22.

We also keep a careful eye on yet another ball: the goings-on in the wider University. At the beginning of this term, I was privileged to attend a notable event: a special meeting of Congregation to hear the valedictory Oration of the departing Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, and the inaugural Oration from the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Andy Hamilton. Professor Hamilton, a distinguished research chemist, comes to Oxford from his post as Provost of Yale University. He has already visited Mansfield to find out what makes us tick, as a College, and we shall be hosting him and his wife to dinner in February. Professor Hamilton has a formidable task to do in providing leadership to this great University, particularly in a time of extreme financial stringency, and we wish him every success in so doing.

Finally, we are keeping our eye on the biggest ball of all - the environment - which is why this edition of the Magazine is printed on a type of recycled paper and we very much hope that readers will appreciate this small attempt to do our bit for the planet. We are also inviting the Carbon Trust to audit our energy use and to provide us with advice on how we can do more to conserve energy. Can you please help us with this also, by letting us have your email addresses, if you have them, and if you are not already receiving our regular email updates? Although the Magazine will continue to be available in hard copy – so much nicer for browsing – we aim to make most of our contacts with alumni by email, to save trees.

So, let me take this opportunity to record, on ecologically friendly paper, my warmest good wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year and I hope very much to see as many of you as possible at the various events we have lined up for you in 2010.

Dr. Diana Walford CBE





# College News

## Senior Tutors' Report

*Lucinda Rumsey*

I am writing at the start of the new academic year, rather nervously looking forward to the arrival of the largest year of students Mansfield has ever had. With seventy-two undergraduates, over fifty new graduates and around thirty-five visiting students from North America, we will have a total student body of about three hundred and sixty. We also have several additions to our academic staff, with new tutors in English, Theology and Geography. The increase in numbers means we have to be creative in how we use our limited space.

Three years ago we found there were too many of us to have our Freshers' dinner comfortably in Hall, and we moved it into the Chapel, so that now, instead of jabbing each other in the ribs as we eat, we celebrate the start of the year with elbow-room in one of the most beautiful spaces in the College.

However, we still have the smallest number of students of any Oxford college, and we do not want to expand significantly above our current size. We continue to focus on a small number of subjects that form coherent groups: Materials, Engineering and Physics; Geography and Human Sciences; Theology and Oriental Studies. We also concentrate on joint schools that overlap with our larger core subjects: Philosophy and Theology, Maths and Statistics, History and Politics, History and English. These groups are strengthened by graduates in complementary research areas, so our Law undergraduates benefit from working alongside BCL, M.Juris and doctoral students in Law. These subject

families seem to us the best way of fostering a flourishing academic environment.

We are very proud to see this flourishing translated into academic success for our undergraduates and graduates. In Materials Science Helen Jones (1st year Materials Science) was awarded the Rolls-Royce Prize for outstanding marks in Prelims, Manuel Schnabel (4th year Material Science) was awarded the IoM3 Department prize for outstanding performance in Materials, and Katie Moore (D.Phil Materials Science) was awarded the Hetherington Memorial Prize for the best second year D.Phil talk. In Law David Thomas (3rd year Law) was awarded the Wronker Prize for Jurisprudence, and Adam Sagan (M.Juris) was Proxime Accessit for the Clifford Chance M.Juris prize.

In Mathematics and Mathematics and Statistics we have had a year of excellent results, with three of the finalists awarded firsts, three third years getting firsts in their third year examinations, and two first years getting distinctions. In all, twelve Mansfield finalists were awarded firsts, and Robert Wellburn (third year Geography) was runner up for the A J Herbertson Prize, three of our Masters graduates were awarded distinctions, and eleven of our first years got distinctions. In each of the subjects we offer at Mansfield, students were rewarded for distinguished academic work. We look forward to similar successes for those freshers who join us this year.



## Bursar's Report

**Steve Waterman**

Mansfield continues to remain financially buoyant, notwithstanding the usual challenges, but then again it wouldn't be Mansfield if life was too easy in the bursary department.

To help boost our income we have joined up with University Rooms a few months ago which readers may have seen profiled in the travel sections of the national press. This is a web site set up by an enterprising Oxford graduate and allows anyone to book a bed and breakfast experience in a student room during the vacations at what are called 'competitive rates'. Mansfield is one of about nine Oxford colleges who participate and thus far we have had a very successful experience with this new initiative and we are proud of our four star feedback rating. I hope that there are no copyright issues in providing the following quotes.

"It was a very special experience, we love it. We feel like students again. Central in Oxford and the service was very good. I left my jacket and they sent it to my home. Many thanks."

"Very kind staff and superb breakfast."

Of course, our rooms and services are also available to Mansfield students during term time at even more competitive rates!

Our fresher undergraduate and graduate entry was the highest ever in 2009 which meant that we took on additional housing in order to deal with the increase in numbers, and it does emphasise the need to continue with our quest for purpose built accommodation on the main site as and when funding will allow.

It's quite alarming how quickly the triennial Mansfield Ball reappears. This year it was themed as the 'Circus of the Macabre' featuring fire eaters, belly dancers and magicians. As usual the members of the Ball Committee put a great deal of effort into its organisation and I hope that it turned out to be the success that it deserved.

We continue to make steady improvements to the estate as part of our rolling programme, with a comprehensive redecoration of Ablethorpe carried out during the summer break, together with the installation of a much enhanced upgrading of the IT networks to both Ablethorpe and Rhodes Wolfson. On the main site we have completed improvements to the Hands Building and will now be turning our attention to the John Marsh staircases next year.



## MCR President

**Graeme Johnstone**

**Physics 2007**

I have only been MCR President at Mansfield since the start of the summer. Since then,

an almost endless list of meetings with various people and groups in the MCR, college and the whole university seems to have taken a considerable part of my time. These meetings are important to ensure that MCR are being treated well by all of these groups. I like to go to as many MCR social events as I can; we have another interesting year group with people from all over the world, studying a wide variety of subjects, and socialising with them is great fun.

I would say that the role of an Oxford common room is to make time at the university easier and more enjoyable for our members, this is what I hope to achieve during my time as MCR President.

## JCR President

**Sara Bainbridge, Human Sciences 2007**

As I come to the end of my year-long term of office as JCR President, a lot of people have asked if I've enjoyed the experience, and as much as I would like someone to reimburse me the hours of my life I've spent writing emails and attending OUSU Council meetings, I would recommend the job to (nearly) anyone. I have enjoyed gaining an insight into how college works 'behind the scenes'. Being a voice for the student body is thoroughly rewarding, discussing all topics from rent to coffee machines. Representing the underdog that is Mansfield College JCR at a wider level is even more gratifying, especially when our achievements in everything from sport to access are there to be showcased. And all in all, getting to know the members of our JCR is a privilege, and one I'm glad to have had.



*The JCR Bench*

# College News

## New Development Team

Since last year's magazine, there have been several significant changes to the Development Office. Emily Henderson has moved on to work in International Development abroad, Susannah Forkun (below left) joined in February as the new Development Director and in August Charlotte Hancock (below right) started as the new Alumni Relations



Manager. The Development office is in a very exciting stage with the coming of the college's 125th anniversary in 2011.

## President of Oxford Union

### *James Dray Politics 2005*

Anyone who's seen the current Oxford Union term card will know just how busy an institution it is. Almost every day we have several events running, ranging from speaker meetings, debates, and public speaking training sessions to receptions, balls and live music performances. Running all this requires endless meetings, committees, officers and staff, and my job as President is to somehow exert some degree of control on all this activity and to impose order on what could easily degenerate into chaos. But of course there's another side to the job, and as President I also have the privilege of



*James Dray*

chairing heated debates, meeting an incredible array of fascinating guests and making some great friends on committee.

## University Assessor

John Muddiman, Mansfield George Caird Fellow and University Lecturer in New Testament Studies, was selected as an Oxford University Assessor earlier this year. The main responsibility of his new position is to ensure the University operates according to its statutes. John has enjoyed a hugely successful academic career, studying at Keble College, Oxford, Selwyn College, Cambridge, and at New College, Oxford. John is a clergy member of the Church of England, previously chaplain at several Oxford colleges, and also has the role of Vice-Principal of St Stephen's House. He was a member of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission, Chairman of the Theology Faculty Board and holds visiting fellowships at Louvain and Princeton.

Dr Muddiman's current research interests include early Christian and Jewish pseudepigraphy, the gospel of Mark, and the setting of Paul's epistle to the Galatians. He is the general editor, with Professor John Barton, of the Oxford Bible Commentary.

He comments, "The Assessor is sometimes called the nice proctor. He or she (formerly always she) is concerned with student funding and welfare, not discipline and examinations. So I spend some of my time handing out little bits of money for hardship or childcare or to impoverished graduates; and sitting on committees for clubs, sports, health



*John Muddiman*

and safety, environment, carparking (!) and so forth. For the rest, with the Proctors, I sit on dozens of the other committees and boards of the Univer-

sity, Council, Education, Personnel, Planning and Resources, the Press, the Ashmolean, divisional boards right down to the lowliest steering groups and working parties. All this opens for us a quite unique window into the workings of this great University. I have, by and large, been very impressed by the efficiency and dedication of our administrators and support staff and it has been a particular privilege to hold office during the first months of the tenure of the new Vice Chancellor."

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## Teaching Awards

Steve Blundell has been awarded another Teaching Excellence Award from the Learning Institute and Ros Ballaster has been awarded a £14k project grant.

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## SCR Leavers & Newcomers

### *Leavers:*

#### *Prof Robert Adams*

Returning to USA but will retain his Senior Research Fellowship

#### *Dr Carl Anderson*

Non-stipendiary JRF

#### *Michelle Buckley*

Finishes as stipendiary lecturer but will remain a graduate student

#### *Dr Ian Griffiths*

Non-stipendiary lecturer in Maths

### *Newcomers:*

#### *Dr David Lincicum*

Faculty Lecturer and Fellow in Theology from 1 October 2009

#### *Dr Derek McCormack*

UL and Tutorial Fellow in Geography from 1 October 2009

#### *Dr Matthew Bradley*

Faculty lecturer in English from 1 September 2009 until 31 December 2010

#### *Cara Morgan*

Non-stipendiary lecturer in Maths 2009-10



# College Life

## Rugby Society

*Matthew Hitchings, Mathematics 2008*

### Merton/Mansfield Rugby

On a rainy Thursday afternoon, you may think that students would like nothing better than to stay inside and procrastinate. You would be wrong. Come 2.30, every week without fail, a bunch of brave and hardy warriors strides onto the rugby



pitch to do battle, and put their bodies on the line for the sake of our dear college. After the match, we stride off, sometimes bloodied but never bowed, and head straight for the comfort of the pub. The M&Ms, as we are known, are a spirited and dedicated team, who combine the odd bit of talent with a great deal of passion, and who have the ability to perform at the highest level of college rugby. This was proven by our superb run to the final of the Bowl competition last year, where we thrashed Exeter 85-7 and humiliated the mighty St Peter's, formerly league champions, in the semi-final. During our campaign, the boys showed courage and class, and a great intake of Freshers this year has promised another exciting season ahead.

## Football Society

*Daniel Camp, Material Science 2008*

This year has been a fantastic year for football at Mansfield. The 2008/09 season saw the first team gain another promotion, this time to the JCR Premier league, with a vital win on the last day of the season. They also managed to reach the quarter-final of the cup, only losing out in extra-time, and semi-final of the 5-a-side cup, this time lost on penalties! The second team has also had a great season, cementing their place in the top reserve division and making it to the semi-final of

the reserve cup, which was again lost on penalties (England anyone?).

Last year also saw the creation of the very first women's football team at Mansfield, and they have been going from strength to strength with high ambitions for next season.



## Netball Society

*Laura Charles, Human Sciences 2008*

The Mansfield College netball team is enjoying the new season in the 4th division having been promoted at the

end of last Hilary term. After a strong performance in Cuppers beating first division teams and with a healthy intake of freshers this term, the team looks set to continue its winning form.



# College Life

## Mansfield Film Society

*Duncan Lugton, PPE 2007*

*& Martin Wood, Law 2007*

"Mansfield film society is dedicated to underrated and overlooked films, dead set against the clichés of film societies. With regular screenings and occasional theme nights, the society is an oasis of calm where students can come together to enjoy good film and tasty snacks.

We aim to show films spanning a wide range of genres and recent screenings have included everything from last year's Swedish horror film 'Let the Right One In' to the 70's nostalgic comedy 'Almost Famous'."





## Visiting Student Programme

*Dr Carolyn Morningstar,  
Director of the Visiting Student  
Programme*

Mansfield's VSPs: a cosmopolitan bunch

It would be easy to think that the vast majority of the students who participate in the Visiting Student Programme are American nationals because their home universities are based in the United States. This year's visiting students, however, are a much more cosmopolitan bunch than the usual assumptions would suggest. Just as research faculty, administrators, matriculating students and staff come to Mansfield from all over the world, so too do Mansfield's visiting students. This year Mansfield welcomes VSPs from a range of countries including Kazakhstan, China, Hong Kong, Ghana, South Korea, Israel and Pakistan. Eleven out of thirty-four students hail from countries other than, or in addition to, the US.

Meet Sarah Zaidi. Sarah is a Mansfield VSP who is studying International Relations and History at Wellesley College. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, and living most of her life in Saudi Arabia, Sarah comes to Mansfield with an extensive range of practical work and academic experience in her chosen field of study. Between her Freshman (1st) and Sophomore (2nd) year at Wellesley College, Sarah interned with an NGO dedicated to poverty alleviation and the empowerment of women in rural Pakistan. This internship involved extensive amounts of travel, and Sarah observed ways in which people translate various NGO initiatives into political practice at the grass roots level.

This summer, Sarah took an internship position which allowed her to study the practice of International Relations at a very high level indeed when she worked as Advisor on behalf of the Government of Pakistan at the United Nations. In this post she worked as personal intern to H. E. Ambassador Farukh Amil. As a member of the delegation, she actively participated alongside Ambassador Amil in meetings with a range of dignitaries including Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon, Assistant Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet H.E. Vijay Nambiar and Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. She also had the opportunity to attend numerous Security Council and General Assembly meetings. Looking back, Sarah directly connects these opportunities to work at the UN with her own academic affiliations; she says that working for the UN was 'a life-changing experience that wouldn't have been possible without a strong connection to world-renowned institutions' such as Oxford and Wellesley. Sarah was able to discuss her plans to study at Mansfield



*Sarah Zaidi with Henry Kissinger*

through the Visiting Student Programme during her interviews with the Ambassador.

Sarah aims to bring her first-hand experience of twenty-first century politics and diplomacy to bear on her own academic studies while here at Mansfield. Though she plans to continue to study the politics and history of the Middle East and South Asia, Sarah would also like to immerse herself in topics such as Medieval English history, studies which will give her a chance to develop a deeper connection to her new 'home away from home' in Oxford.

Mansfield's visiting students are, like the matriculating students, a diverse and interesting bunch and Sarah is one of the thirty-four VSPs who are studying at the College this year. Each one of our visiting students brings unique perspectives and experiences which enrich the larger college community, and while it would be correct to call almost all of the visiting students 'VSPs who are studying at US-based universities', it definitely would be a mistake to call them all American VSPs! Whether they come from North America, the Middle East, the Far East, Europe or Africa, these students all have one thing in common: they hope to make the most of the opportunities that studying at Mansfield offers them over the upcoming year.

Mansfield may be one of the smallest of Oxford's colleges but the diversity of its student body makes it one of the most dynamic and cosmopolitan places to live, work and study. Incoming visiting students have commented on Mansfield's open and friendly atmosphere and there is no question that visiting students such as Sarah will receive a warm welcome while studying here.

# College Life

## Lodge Legend: Hugh Flint Interview

*Steve Blundell, Physics Fellow*

Those at Mansfield between the late 1980's and a couple of years ago will have fond memories of Hugh Flint, whose porters' lodge tutorials covered everything from world music to Buddhism. But Hugh was not always a porter and his not-so-secret former life has been for many a source of awe: for Hugh, as "Hughie Flint", had been a rather famous drummer.

When I arrived at Mansfield twelve years ago, someone tipped me off about Hugh's celebrity musical past (Hugh himself hid his light under a bushel) and I hot-footed it off to the HMV shop in Cornmarket to obtain a copy of the "Beano album" by John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. I confess that I'd never previously heard of John Mayall but Hugh played drums on this album and that was enough. When I got the CD home and played it, I was staggered to discover an amazing collection of blues songs played quite brilliantly. Eric Clapton's extraordinary guitar playing marks the album out as something special and after the album was released in 1966 graffiti began to appear

in London stating: "Clapton is God".

Hugh retired from Mansfield a couple of years ago, but I caught up with him recently to talk to him about his rich musical past. Hugh was born in Manchester and first met his future musical boss, John Mayall, in a youth club in Wythenshawe that Mayall was running. Hugh soon joined Mayall in a group called the Blues Syndicate that played a mixture of jazz and blues (Hugh's forte was jazz, but Mayall was into the blues). Mayall moved to London in 1963 to start a new group called the Bluesbreakers, and Hugh joined him a year later, replacing Mayall's drummer who wasn't prepared to give up his day job. The group provided backing for the UK tour of John Lee Hooker, the legendary blues guitarist from Mississippi. Shortly after this, John Mayall recruited Eric Clapton from the Yardbirds to play guitar, dismissing the Bluesbreakers' former guitarist. Hugh told me that he only met the new guitarist as they were introduced in the back of the van on the way to a gig. Consequently the first time the new lineup played together was on stage. Clapton's playing impressed Hugh enormously and he recalls that if Clapton was on an off-day, his face might look a bit

bored but his playing was nevertheless faultless, but that if Clapton was fully engaged his playing was simply inspirational. Hugh's roots in jazz meant that he particularly took to Clapton's improvisational style and the Bluesbreakers quickly became a must-see live act.

The album the Bluesbreakers recorded together became known as the "Beano album" since the album cover showed the four band members sitting in front of a graffiti-covered concrete wall looking somewhat grumpy with Clapton immersed in a copy of the Beano. I wondered if this cover design had been elaborately staged, but Hugh insisted that the media image management that is endemic in today's music industry was totally absent in that more innocent and amateurish age. Hugh remembers that the group were all rather cheesed off with the lengthy photo shoot and Clapton was immersed in the Beano simply out of boredom, with Mayall grumbling at him to put it down.

The recording proved to be one of the most influential British albums of the 1960's. Though largely comprising covers of blues standards, Clapton's searing guitar







overdriven through a Marshall amplifier backed by the other instruments produced an electrifying effect.

Hugh's own feeling about the album is bittersweet. He explained to me that it was his first experience of recording in a studio and he obediently followed the dictats of the recording engineers who wanted the playing restrained and not too loud since they could adjust the sound levels later. The more experienced Clapton refused to cooperate and insisted on recording his guitar at full volume to produce the desired aggressive overdriven effect and recreate the sound he had on stage. This method of recording was entirely new at the time, shocking the rather staid recording engineers. The net result is that Clapton's live sound was reproduced faithfully, but Hugh feels the energy the rest of the band had live was less well captured (though it is heard to better effect on a live album recorded the previous year, prior to Clapton's tenure). By the time the Beano album came out (to huge acclaim) Clapton was long gone, having joined the band Cream. Though Clapton was replaced by Peter Green, himself an accomplished guitarist, and the band made further albums, Hugh became rather disillusioned by the loss of Clapton and communicated this to Mayall, who promptly told him his services were no longer needed after Friday that week. Hugh thus joined what became a long and distinguished list of musicians sacked by Mayall.

After spells in various bands, Hugh teamed up with Tom McGuinness, a guitarist with the group Manfred Mann, to form "McGuinness Flint". With songwriters Benny Gallagher and Graham Lyle on board, the band achieved commercial success: their first single "When I'm Dead and Gone" got to number 2 in the charts in Christmas 1970 and further hits, including the

entertaining "Malt and Barley Blues" followed. Their first album showcases a huge range of musical styles and invited comparisons with the Beatles.

However, lasting success was not to be. Hugh feels their timing was all wrong: initially the recordings went well and sold well, but the band failed to gel in live performances. Later live success coincided with less commercially successful recordings. They somehow never got it all together at the same time. Nevertheless, the music from the McGuinness Flint era is extremely interesting and worth getting hold of. I told Hugh that I had particularly enjoyed "Lo and Behold", an album of Bob Dylan covers, and he visibly brightened, saying that it was the album of which he was most proud. He explained that McGuinness Flint and Dylan had shared the same record company, and they were given access to various demos of Dylan songs, many of which Dylan himself had not yet recorded (though he did later). Dylan apparently liked the McGuinness Flint versions and had said they were the best covers of his work that he'd heard. They display really tight and disciplined playing, are beautifully recorded and are in my view a thoroughly good listen. The title of McGuinness Flint's final album, "C'est la Vie", rather summed up the feeling of disappointment that a more resounding commercial success had proved elusive.

Hugh's next project brought him into contact with Richard Branson whose Virgin empire was then in embryonic form as Virgin Records. Branson opened his recording studio in Shipton-on-Cherwell in the early 1970's and the first act to record there was the Bonzo Dog Band who drafted in Hugh to play drums on their contractual obligation album (Hugh was terribly impressed by the

four poster beds available at the Branson mansion). The album that resulted, "Let's Make Up and Be Friendly", is completely insane but strangely entertaining.

In 1979 Hugh, together with McGuinness and other friends formed "The Blues Band", which recorded and toured successfully. However, by the early 1980's Hugh was becoming disenchanted with the music business. Though giving concerts was enjoyable, the grind of constant touring, staying in hotels and often sharing rooms with bandmates, endlessly waiting in airports and dressing rooms, all became too much and he longed for a greater stability in his life. Hugh's growing interest in Buddhism took him for a while to India and then to Oxford, where he stayed at the centre for Buddhist studies. A steady job was needed, and though he considered a career in bus driving it was an advert for a porter's job at Mansfield College that caught his eye.

Music's loss was Mansfield's gain, but Hugh was not completely lost to music and Mansfield played a part in that. It was one of the College's English tutors Lucinda Rumsey (now the Senior Tutor) who introduced Hugh to some musicians playing in her pub in Tackley and this led to the formation of "Muscadin", a band playing traditional European folk music in a modern style, Hugh leaving his drums behind and taking up instead the bodhran, djembe and dumbuck. The day job was at Mansfield and here Hugh found an environment that seemed to have suited his temperament, and students and staff who became friends. In retirement, Hugh can now look back on an unusually varied career but I know many of Hugh's friends from his time at Mansfield will join me in being grateful for the two decades he spent with us. It was, after all, his longest gig.

# College Life

## **Mansfield Staff in the Spotlight** ***Vinca Boorman*** ***Porters' Lodge***

I initially came up to Mansfield as a fresh faced undergraduate to read Human Sciences in 2000, and, like so many people, fell in love with the College. I currently work in the Lodge as a Porter. As I am sure you can imagine, there is a lot of work to be done, however I have another passion that takes up most of my free time, and is, dare I say it, even more important to me than Mansfield. I have, for the last 14 years, been breeding horses to sell for competition using selected bloodlines from British and Continental studbooks.

I no longer often ride horses any more after a severe head injury as a teenager, but love having them around and so breeding foals to sell seemed the obvious choice. After all, as beautiful as they are, horses do make very large and expensive pets, so keeping them all is not possible. My ambitions have heightened over the years, meaning that the breeding direction has been constantly evolving, and today my broodmare herd consists mainly of Trakehner (German Warmbloods of East Prussian origin) and KWPN (Dutch) mares from proven sport lines and exceptional mare families. Although my studies at Mansfield were obviously not directly relevant for my chosen path, I am sure my tutors would be delighted to know that the grounding in genetics that the Human Sciences course gave me has greatly facilitated the realisation of my dreams.

## ***Monika Dziasek*** ***Hall Supervisor***

I came up to Oxford more than 4 years ago only for a summer holiday, and I've lived here ever since. My family comes from a small town, called Srem in Western Poland. Before coming to Oxford I'd moved from my town to one of the largest cities in Poland, Poznan, to do my studies. I only managed to complete 3 out of 5 years, when I decided to settle in Oxford. I took two years sabbatical from my university, packed the rest of my stuff, and I arrived at Oxford for good.

I've been at Mansfield since September 2005 and believe it or not I still enjoy it. All the members of College Team are great people to work and party with and they always have been a big support to me.

Last academic year was exceptionally busy for me. As well as working at Mansfield as a Hall and SCR Manager, I was doing my final year at Poznan University of Economics. Almost every single month, sometimes even twice a month, I was flying back to Poznan to see my tutors, to participate in some projects and to look for some articles for my thesis. In my dissertation I focused mostly on new forms of consumption and new trends in consumers' behaviour that may be used by different companies to build up their market position or create a product or a brand around those trends. In June this year I took my final exam and now I can proudly say that I was awarded the title of Master of Economics.

When I'm not overloaded with work and I have some free time I like to read fantasy books and play squash with my sister Basia. The thing I'm really looking forward to now is a snowboarding week, probably in Italy this winter. Although I'm not an exceptional snowboarder, I still think this is the best fun in whole world.





# Alumni and Development

## Message From Charlotte Hancock

Over the past 12 months, the Alumni Office has been involved in over 20 events, produced 4 quarterly e-updates, reconnected with hundreds of lost alumni and raised nearly £60k in the first College telethon campaign in 5 years. Throughout the course of the year there are other smaller occasions when the Principal and members of the Development office attend events. In June, the Principal attended a University event in Edinburgh, in November a group of Mansfield alumni attended the University European Reunion in Berlin and I will be hosting a few alumni at the Varsity Rugby match in December.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who make our office a success. Firstly a huge thank you to Lynn Partridge and the catering team. Without their hard work, commitment and time, we would not enjoy the same fine feasts and excellent service at the dinners. Lynne Quiggin and Amanda Ward are central to the venue and accommodation facilities for our events, so thank you to them for making the occasions possible. Lastly a thank you to all of our alumni, Fellows and students, who help our office in so many ways whether it is updating us with alumni news, attending dinners, or writing for the magazine.

Over the coming months, we are looking forward to building on the foundations of the Alumni & Development office, re-engaging with many alumni we have lost

touch with and strengthening existing relationships. As many of you know, we currently produce one annual hard copy magazine and in addition produce quarterly e-updates. Although we are aware that these are only sent to alumni we have emails addresses for, we do send a hard copy update once every six months to those of you for whom we only have home addresses.

If you would like to receive the electronic updates, please email Charlotte Hancock. [charlotte.hancock@mansfield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:charlotte.hancock@mansfield.ox.ac.uk).

We hope that you will be able to join us for the various events throughout the year. Please see the events calendar towards the end of the magazine for further details.

## The Telethon, Student Experience

“ The most enjoyable part of this year’s telethon was talking to all the different alumni, from around the world, about their experiences at Oxford. It was really interesting to hear about what had changed and what has stayed the same over so many years of Mansfield history. Whilst speaking to various alumni, it was clear that the close-knit atmosphere that makes Mansfield feel so special was a crucial aspect of their time here also. This is what made many so happy to hear from a current student and what I know will make me pleased to hear from the college in the future. ”

**Isobel Plant**

History & English 2008

“ I absolutely loved doing the telethon, and look forward to doing more for Mansfield. The telethon provided the development office with a fantastic atmosphere, and I hope everyone else had the same great feelings about giving something back to the college. ”

**Henry Carter**

Physics 2008

“ If it were possible, I’d make it mandatory for every undergraduate to call up some alumni from their college and have a chat. It’s really inspiring to find out about the lives of people who have been in your position at Mansfield, what they remember, and what they have gone on to do. And the careers tips aren’t bad either! ”

**Sara Bainbridge**

Human Sciences 2007

### The Mansfield Student callers



# Alumni and Development

## Development News

*Susannah Forkun*

### The half way mark... and half way to our goal!

We are now half way through our 125th anniversary campaign and I am delighted to say that we have reached £1.4m of our £2.8 m total.

The past year has been difficult for many due to the dramatic economic downturn at the end of 2008 and fundraising for Mansfield has been especially challenging but, as the economists appear to be more confident, I remain optimistic that our £2.8 million goal can be achieved by the end of 2011.

As we approach the Christmas break it enables me to reflect on my first 10 months at Mansfield.

Arriving each morning at the College I still can't quite believe that I work here – the corporate days in London seem a long time ago now! How wonderful it is to be part of the University of Oxford, in a College renowned for its informal and innovative culture, surrounded by some of the leading academics in the country and a group of enthusiastic students. If you then add to the mix the wide ranging group of alumni and friends, who could really ask for more from an occupation?! I have so enjoyed my one-to-one meetings, whether visiting alumni at their place of work or being part of the Mansfield team welcoming guests back for events at College. It is clear many of our alumni have memories of happy years spent at College and still feel gratitude for their Mansfield and Oxford experience, leading many to the decision that the time is right to “give something back” to the College.

My arrival has brought about some subtle changes in our alumni and development strategy - one of the achievements in my short time here has been our successful telethon in September/October 2009 – resulting in new funds of just over £60,000.

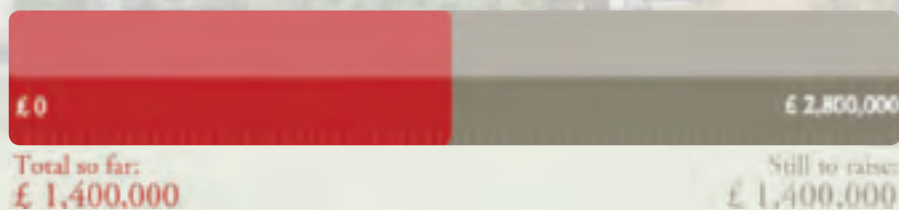
For Mansfield this was the first telethon in five years so for me it had a number of objectives with fundraising clearly near the top! For the College, it also enabled us to make personal contact with our alumni, some of whom hadn't been contacted for some years, whilst also engaging our current students in the fundraising needs of the College. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If you did receive a call during our telethon and didn't pledge at the time but have subsequently thought further on this then please do get in touch with me.

2009 has seen some further change to our alumni relations and development team with the departure of both Emily Henderson and Vinca Boorman to pastures new and the arrival of Charlotte Hancock as our new alumni relations manager together with me as the new Development Director. I'm keen to now bring some stability to the team so that we can build lasting and valuable relationships with our alumni and friends and secure the future of the College. For me the key for Mansfield moving forward is to continue to develop stronger relationships with our alumni.

2010 will no doubt be a year of challenge for us – we continue in our efforts to reach the magical £2.8 m total and we need the support of our alumni and friends. As a younger college we don't have the larger alumni base that some have and therefore I ask you all to think about whether you could support us in some way and ensure that your College continues to provide a wonderful experience for future generations of students. During the year we will also be starting work on fundraising for our new building as part of a larger capital campaign and putting plans in place for our 125th anniversary celebrations in 2011. More on this as the year progresses.

Finally thank you to the staff, students, fellows and our alumni and friends for making me feel so quickly part of this historic place. I look forward to the years ahead and meeting many more of you.

#### 125th Anniversary Fund





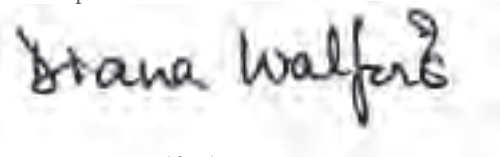
## Legacy Campaign 2010

Legacies have played a key role in ensuring that the University of Oxford has flourished through the centuries and almost every facet of the Collegiate University has benefited from gifts in the wills of old members and supporters. Over the years Mansfield, too, has benefited from the generosity of alumni and friends who have left legacies to the College. In 2010 the College will be putting renewed emphasis on legacy fundraising and we hope that many of our alumni may consider supporting the College in this way. Apart from the benefit to Mansfield, the College's charitable status offers you the opportunity to reduce the tax due on your estate.

Our key objective continues to be to put Mansfield on a firm financial footing for the future. Our greatest priority is to build up our endowment for Fellowships and, in so doing, to secure the future of the tutorial system. We also wish to be able to offer our students the best possible support in terms of bursaries, hardship funds and scholarships. Lastly but by no means least, we continue to need support to ensure we can provide the best facilities for our students.

A legacy is a wonderful way of helping us to achieve these aims and is often a way for people to make a larger contribution than their current circumstances would otherwise allow.

If you are interested in discussing a legacy then please contact Susannah Forkun, our Development Director, in the first instance. Any discussion will, of course, be kept confidential.



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The Principal

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Jane Whitworth (née Sinclair),  
Mansfield College 1985-1988

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# Alumni and Development

## Mansfield Association

*Gill Kirk, English 1991*

This l'il ole alumni organisation has had a busy time of it recently. And with a new team in the College Development and Alumni Office, we've been working closely to make sure we come up with bigger and better ways of helping alumni stay close to Mansfield.

At our AGM this summer, we presented our annual Student of the Year award to Michael Coulon from the MCR, who was a very active member of College and has now taken up a post-doctoral position at Princeton University.

Also at the AGM, the alumni voted to give the Committee the go-ahead to run an exciting new project which we'll be launching in January (this replaces the Easter vac – East End students scheme, which sadly hit the buffers the year before).

Simply put, we're asking groups or individuals from the alumni, JCR, MCR or SCR to come up with schemes to improve equality of access to university – particularly to Oxford.

We'll give up to £2,500 for the best project, and provide access to alumni or College-linked mentoring to help get the scheme up and running. This is very much in the spirit of the Mansfield House / Settlement project, which has been run time and again by the JCR,

and also reflects the College's own leadership within the University in improving under-represented groups' access to Oxford.

As I said, the Association Committee will launch this scheme in the new year, and the deadline will be 31st March. We'll be making detailed information available throughout College, through alumni e-newsletters and the Association website, as well as on Mansfield's Facebook and LinkedIn pages, so please look out for that in mid-January. We'll also be looking for people to join a judging panel, so if either of those interests you, keep your eyes open at the same time.

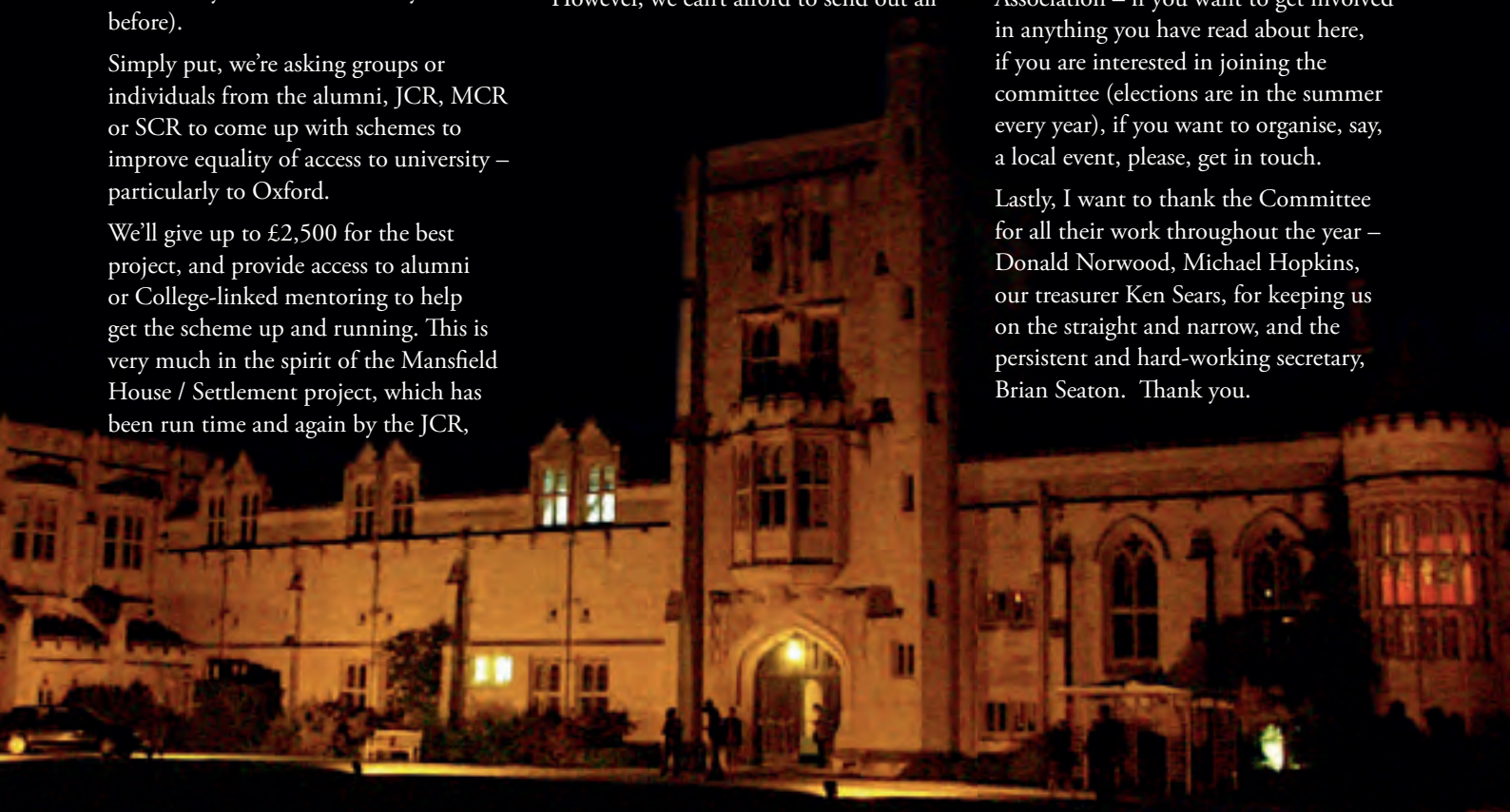
While we're on the subject of communications, we feel it's really important that as many alumni as possible are touch with what this organisation does – and have an input. However, we can't afford to send out all

information by post, and I just wanted to remind everyone that we'll only send hard-copy information to people who specifically request it (i.e., not by default to everyone who hasn't given us an email address). So, if you think we might not have your current email address, but want to be kept in the loop, please, make sure you fill in the contact details form that comes with this fine mag. And if you want to receive a paper copy by post, please write directly to "The Secretary, Mansfield Association, Mansfield College, Oxford OX1 3TF" to request that.

Saturday 26 June is the date of the 2010 Association Dinner. We can't confirm the speaker just yet, but you can be sure that it will be another great event. Put the date in your diary now.

And lastly, as I always say, this is your Association – if you want to get involved in anything you have read about here, if you are interested in joining the committee (elections are in the summer every year), if you want to organise, say, a local event, please, get in touch.

Lastly, I want to thank the Committee for all their work throughout the year – Donald Norwood, Michael Hopkins, our treasurer Ken Sears, for keeping us on the straight and narrow, and the persistent and hard-working secretary, Brian Seaton. Thank you.





# Events

## Law Dinner

*Giles Rabbitts, Law 2007*

Mansfield College Law Society's Annual Dinner is a chance for alumni to impart their wisdom and experience to current students, with a smattering of anecdotes from their time studying at Mansfield. At the 2009 dinner we were fortunate to receive speeches from three alumni; Amanda Sanders (Law 1987), Richard Ellison (Law 1976), and Martin Collier (Jurisprudence 1978), alongside an update on law at Mansfield from Fellow in Law, Pavlos Eleftheriadis. All the speakers gave a great insight into their professional lives with a few tips for aspiring lawyers amongst the current students. The night was a resounding success, stimulating lively discussion and undoubtedly enjoyed by all.



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The exclusive, eighteenth century hall provides a unique ambience for formal and informal dining. An excellent standard of cuisine and a wide selection of menus are available. Whether a lunch gathering or a celebration dinner, every event will be treated as a very special occasion.

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# Events

## Theology Dinner

*Joel Rasmussen, Theology Fellow*

Almost 80 theologians and their guests gathered in the Mansfield Hall for a splendid reunion dinner celebrating the study of theology at Mansfield on 28 February 2009. Among those present were ordinands and theology undergraduates, alumni, SCR members, and College friends. Geoffrey Beck, who matriculated at Mansfield in 1942, set the bar for revelers with respect to the temporal span of his relationship with the College, and Arnold Klukas and Sidney Blankenship, hailing from Wisconsin and Texas respectively, journeyed farthest across land and sea to enjoy the occasion. John Muddiman, the George Caird Fellow in New Testament Studies, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and we enjoyed short and generally lively speeches from Former Principal Donald Sykes, Former Chaplain Charles Brock, Tutor in the Study of Religions Peggy Morgan, and myself. All in all, spirits were high; conversation was substantive, new friendships were begun, and old ones rekindled. In the words of one reviewer, "A fine do, done!"



## Gaudy

*Julian Mansfield, PPE 2005*

As one of those elegant, candle-lit, bibulous Oxford college dinners, the Gaudy is part of what makes Oxford great. As anyone who counts Oxford as her alma mater will know, these traditions and rich heritages are what distinguish Oxford from its youthful Atlantic cousins. But aesthetics alone cannot fund the tutorial system or build research institutes. If Oxford is to compete with the Ivy League it must compete with their funding.

Clearly there are two ways to bridge this financing gap: public and private. But is it fair that people who've never even been to university, let alone earned an Oxford graduate's salary, are made to pay through general taxation? Unlike welfare or secondary education where taxpayers are helping reduce harm to the weakest

members of society, Oxbridge funding usually delivers benefits to the socio-economic groups who need it least. As with any luxury product, the people who derive the direct benefit are really the people who should pay for it.

However, private financing is not without its difficulties. If annual tuition was increased it seems likely this would undermine fair access to the university. But alumni who've benefited financially from an Oxbridge-label are not unemployed students anymore, don't need to worry about debt, and can pay. Think of it like a museum. There's free entry, but this exists to provide access for those who'd struggle with the entrance cost. The 'suggested donation' is for those who don't.

Supporting Mansfield College is more though than just a payment for goods received; it's about promoting a culture and value-set within the university. Mansfield leads Oxford in its admittance of students from non-traditional backgrounds, and both tutors and students alike share a unique passion and commitment for delivering diversity. This culture is what drives our innovative access schemes, and the fact that they are now being replicated by other colleges underlines the need to support Mansfield, and thus give it a prominent voice and influence in the university.



## 1887 Society Dinner

*Christopher Fort, Geography 2007  
& Richard Bater, Geography 2007*

Geography is a subject that is well-represented at Mansfield, in terms of its student population, tutors and the Society which unites them all. Each term, the 1887 Society organises academic and social events, with the diversity of the discipline reflected in their variety. For instance, in Trinity Term 2009 the Society was privileged to welcome Dr. Dariusz Wójcik, who gave an excellent, engaging presentation on the global financial crisis from a geographical perspective.

Earlier that term, the Society held its Annual Dinner to which all Mansfield geographers past and present are invited. Traditionally we welcome a guest speaker to bestow an after-dinner speech, and this year Professor Heather Viles delighted us all with her presence, along with her insight as to the fruity nomenclature of Mansfield's geography tutors! The Dinner also marked the inauguration of Dr. Derek McCormack here, concluding a wonderful year for the 1887 Society.

## Boat Dinner Club

*Joanna Williams, English 2007*

Mansfield College Boat Club held its annual Summer Viii's dinner in the beautiful setting of the college chapel. The dinner was to celebrate the achievements of all the men's and women's crews throughout the year, which included 'blades' for the Men's 1st VIII in Torpids and for the Women's 1st VIII and Men's 2nd VIII in Summer Viii's, as well as a number of Mansfield oarsmen competing

at university level. The evening included speeches from the captains and president of the boat club, and former Mansfield alumnus Donald McDonald entertained the guests with an account of his famous and controversial presidency of the University Boat Club. The dinner was a great success, drawing in current and previous oarsmen, family and friends. The club wishes to extend its relations with former oarsmen, and hopes to see many more alumni at this highly enjoyable event in the future!



## Mansfield Association Dinner

*Donald Norwood,  
History 1959 & Theology 1962*

The Association Dinner was held on 26th June 2009 and the highlight of this well-supported event was the speech by Dame Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Professorial Fellow of Astrophysics and Mansfield Fellow. Those who expected a guided tour of the Galaxy were brought down to Earth by the moving and challenging account of what it feels like to be a female academic in a world of men. She is famous for discovering pulsars but it was her male superior who was honoured with the Nobel Prize. Dame Jocelyn is a Member of the Society of Friends.

## 1999 Reunion Dinner

*Stephen Davies, Theology 1999*

Ten years ago, Eiffel 65 were at number one with "Blue (Da ba dee)". It was also when the class of 1999 "came up" to Mansfield College for the first time. A group of us decided it would be good to mark our tenth anniversary by meeting up again. Thanks to the Development Office (originally Emily Henderson and Vinca Boorman and latterly Charlotte Hancock), we had a great reunion in Hall to celebrate. College did us proud with a lovely meal. It was great to be back in "our" College to celebrate, and a chance to reconnect with the "Kylie Minogue of Oxford Colleges".

It was good to meet up after ten years with people we hadn't seen for several years and to reminisce on the good times at Mansfield. After dinner we continued the trip down memory lane at the KA before heading to Park End – some things never change. Despite some slightly fuzzy heads the next day, everyone agreed we'd had a good time. Many thanks to those who made it possible at College. Here's to the next reunion – roll on 2019!





# Events

## Summer Reunion

*Thomas Best, Theology 1965*

Summer Reunion has a special place in the Mansfield calendar. There are many events which focus on specific groups within the Mansfield family (lectures, class reunions, the boat dinner), but the Summer Reunion is the principal occasion each year when these groups are brought within the larger context of the College as a whole, as it gathers to celebrate its past and look toward its future.

Thus the morning of Summer Reunion was marked by several regular events: meetings of the Mansfield Association Annual General Meeting, the Parents' Network, and the Ministerial Education Training Committee; an encouraging and challenging annual report by the Principal, Dr. Diana Walford; and the announcement by the Mansfield Association of Michael Coulon (DPhil in Mathematics, 2005) as the Student of the Year award winner.

But this year's Summer Reunion had another dimension as well, as it marked a milestone – and a conclusion. Mansfield was founded in 1886 as a centre of academic excellence and it was nothing if not innovative, bringing to Oxford a “dissenting” theological voice which had been silenced for more than 200 years. But changing times have required the United Reformed Church to consolidate its resources at fewer locations and so from 2010, ordination training may no longer be undertaken at Mansfield. (The College has stressed that this was not by its own decision, and that the study of theology as an academic discipline will continue apace!)

Thus the afternoon was given over to the commemoration of 123 years of ordina-

tion training at Mansfield. Fittingly this featured two of Mansfield's most distinguished theological graduates, beginning with a brilliant lecture tracing the study of the historical Jesus by the New Testament scholar Marcus Borg (Professor in Religion and Culture at Oregon State University) and continuing with a Commemoration Service featuring a moving sermon on the themes of remembrance and hope delivered by Susan Durber (formerly Chaplain at Mansfield, and newly appointed Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge). These events were complemented by a very engaging exhibition (thanks for this to Alma Jenner, Oliver Mahony and Sheila Mawby) tracing the course of ordination training at Mansfield, the launch of a substantial book on the subject (*Mansfield's Ministry*, edited by Anthony Tucker), and a lively documentary film on Mansfield done by Peter Armstrong in 1969.

It was the vision of excellence, independence, and innovation which led to the founding of Mansfield in Oxford. Throughout the weekend I was struck by the fact that these are the very values which motivate Mansfield today, as a full College of the University. For me this brought Mansfield's past, present and future together, offering a fine context in which to enjoy this unique and important Summer Reunion.

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## Degree Day

*Charlotte Hancock,  
Alumni Relations Manager*

It was a delight to see so many recent college graduates back in college on Saturday 26th September for Degree Day. The sun was shining, the

conversation with old friends flowing and thanks to the catering team, the food was a fabulous success.

I personally enjoyed meeting many of the alumni as it was my first college event. It was a pleasure to meet parents and alumni so supportive of Mansfield and all that the college entails.



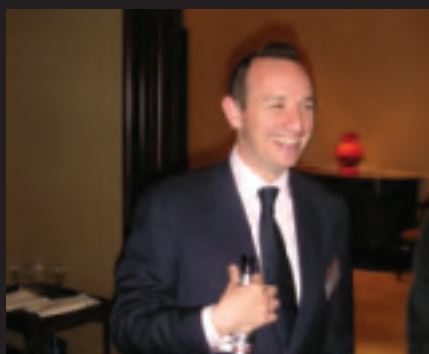


## London drinks

*Arvi Luoma,  
Materials, Economics &  
Management 2001*

October 8th saw the 11th Mansfield alumni drinks take place in London. Having registered months in advance and subsequently navigated past security personnel, several gates and a maze of elevators, Alumni were greeted with a glass of wine and astounding views across the City. We experienced what was once the late Lehman Brothers' executive dining floor, kindly arranged for us by Giles Harrison, Geography 1986 and James Pearson PPE 1993 (pictured right).

Having attended several of these events, it was great not only to have a change of scenery but also to see a few other regulars and an equal or greater num-



ber of first-time attendees. Our college was generous enough to provide drinks throughout the evening which gradually improved conversation as the evening rolled on and probably explains why I dined at Kessy Fried Chicken that evening. There was also unusually high attendance by some of the more permanent College members which added to the nostalgia. Mansfield's Principal, Diana Walford, updated alumni on the College, its successes and the progression of fund raising. It was good to hear that while the college has yet to reach its targets, its finances are in order and so far £1.4m of a targeted £2.8m has been raised (as can be seen on the snazzy new website). Something perhaps more dear to my heart was the news that students had taken over the operation of the Col-

lege bar which was often found empty during my time at Mansfield despite the outrageously low price of £1 for a pint of golden manna. A student-run college bar sounds like a recipe for a headache, but it seems that the proactive group have been able to turn it into a successful operation and on that point I hope that the triennial Mansfield College Ball this November achieved the same.

I find that working in London one rarely gets to meet such a varied group of people in one place, from tv production to finance to the high courts (on second thought maybe that mix is more common than I realise...). Not to mention an event where everyone has the same thing in common to break the ice – an unending supply of alcohol. So here's to the next one and the continued growth of the Mansfield network.





# Events

## 2009 College Ball

*Nicholas Gomes, History 2007*

Over six hundred guests helped make Mansfield's triennial ball, held this year on 7th November, a fabulous success. Widely described as the best social event ever to have been held at the our College, the delicious food, plentiful drink, three stages of live music, big top, dodgems, swing boats, silent disco and casino ensured that our 'Circus of the Macabre' more than held its own against the high standards set by much larger (and richer) colleges' Balls.



## Adam Von Trott lecture

*Elaine Kaye*

Nearly one hundred people gathered in the College Chapel on 27 October to listen to a lecture on 'Adam von Trott and the British' by Dr Benigna von Krusenstjern. Dr von Krusenstjern is the author of the first full-length biography of Adam von Trott in German, published this year to coincide with the centenary of Adam's birth. Before introducing the speaker, the Principal announced that the first Adam von Trott Scholarship would be awarded in 2010 to a German student wishing to take a Master's degree in Politics.

Dr von Krusenstjern began by recalling Adam's first impressions of Oxford when as a 19 year old student he spent a term at Mansfield as a guest student. She then moved on to his years as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol, where he made a great

impression on his fellow students and many others. Finally she considered his years in Germany in opposition to Hitler, which led to many misunderstandings, and which eventually cost him his life. The lecture ended movingly with a quotation from a hitherto undiscovered letter from Sir Stafford Cripps in 1946 to the wife of Adam's younger brother, Heinrich, referring to his 'undying admiration for his heroic conduct and self sacrifice in the cause in which he so profoundly believed. His name will always be honoured whenever men seek freedom and justice.' The response from the audience indicated agreement with that judgement.



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# Fellows' Articles

## Pam Berry Research

*Pam Berry, Geography Fellow*

Several recent studies have reported on the possible annual costs of adapting to climate change, including one by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), estimating it to be US\$40-170 billion. These have been influential in discussions, but they have a number of deficiencies and we set out to examine these, given any underestimate of the costs of adaptation threatens to weaken the outcome of UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen in December. Through an examination of the sectors included by the UNFCCC, we estimated adaptation costs to be 2-3 times higher, and when omitted sectors are included, such as energy and manufacturing, the true cost is much greater. I was involved in costing adaptation in ecosystems, a particularly methodologically challenging sector and one which was eventually omitted from the UNFCCC study. Nevertheless, the costs of improving conservation in protected areas to enable ecosystems to adapt to climate change could add \$65-80 billion



per annum to the above costs, and this figure could increase 4-5 times if protection in the wider countryside is included.

## Swimming Lessons from Microorganisms

*Jörn Dunkel, Physics Fellow*

The world looks quite different when viewed from the perspective of a swimming microorganism. While governed by the same fundamental laws of nature,

the effective interaction forces between a bacterium and its liquid environment are very dissimilar to those experienced by larger animals, say, humans in a swimming pool. Roughly speaking, the motion of a bacterium in water is comparable to that of a fish swimming through a bath of treacle. Surprisingly, despite being exposed to such unfavourable conditions, natural microswimmers manage to reach respectable velocities up to a few times their own body length (typically a few micrometres) per second. The driving mechanisms are manifold: sperm cells move by inducing a wave-like deformation in a thin filament, called a flagellum. Some bacteria like *Escherichia coli* propel themselves by rotating helically shaped flagella, much like a corkscrew penetrating a cork. Paramecia, also known as Lady Slippers, move by beating tiny hairs (cilia) in unison. Even more remarkably, ensembles of microorganisms can exhibit rich collective dynamics and may form complex macroscopic patterns (a particularly beautiful example is shown in the figure) such as vortices or spirals. The spatial extent of these structures typically exceeds the size of a single organism by several orders of magnitude. Collective behaviour can increase the mobility of individual microorganisms and may thus yield an evolutionary advantage for their overall population.

Pattern formation in bacterial systems typically emerges due to a combination of environmental factors (e.g. varying nutrient resources), biological competition, chemical communication (deposition and detection of messenger substances), and physical interactions. Our work in Prof. Julia Yeomans' group at the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics focuses primarily on under-

standing the physical processes (e.g. hydrodynamic interactions) that may trigger collective dynamics. To this end, we study mathematical models both analytically and by means of computer simulations. Such theoretical investigations provide a valuable complement to biological experiments. Specifically, we hope that our research will contribute to answering questions such as: Which generic or specific mechanisms are responsible and/or necessary for the collective behaviour of microorganisms? What are the most relevant internal and environmental control parameters? How can collective motions be suppressed or enhanced by external manipulation? The answers will not only yield new insights into inter-bacterial communication and self-organisation in biological systems, they also carry a vast potential for novel technological applications. Examples range from new types of micropumps to small-scale mixing and transport devices as required by the pharmaceutical and medical industry. Thus, ironically, micro-machines that mimic the physical behaviour of bacteria could eventually help us to fight their biological counterparts.

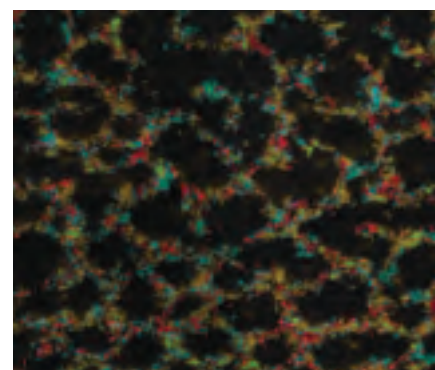


Figure caption: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria form cooperative structures when resources are scarce. With kind permission of Xavier et al., The American Naturalist, 174 (1), 1-12 (2009)

# Fellows' Articles

## Women At Mansfield

*Ros Ballaster, English Fellow  
& Tutor For Women*

Many people think the role of 'tutor for women' in an Oxford college is redundant or outdated now that women are admitted in all colleges in all subjects in Oxford, now that there are a good handful of women heads of house (our own included), now that articulate, persuasive, brilliant women from Oxford are so visible in public life (Baroness Susan Greenfield, Sarah Outen, Nicola Horlick). The recent alumni weekend at Oxford (25-27 September 2009) was entitled 'An Equal Citizenship' and celebrated the fifty-year anniversary of the women's colleges achieving full college status in the year that the last all-female college, St. Hilda's, saw its first mixed entry of men and women. Mansfield, like all the other Oxford colleges except those former women's colleges, nevertheless has a minority of women in each of its common rooms: JCR, MCR and SCR. And in each of those common rooms we appoint a woman officer with a special responsibility to consider the position of women in the college and represent their interests precisely because that minority

can be overlooked in the decision-making and planning processes we undertake. I am honoured to take up that role in the senior common room.

The tutor for women works with representatives from the middle common room and the junior common room on a number of fronts: pastoral, academic and social. In some subjects women find themselves very much in the minority and women students may be the only female in a group of men and find themselves taught exclusively by male tutors. The collegiate system—as opposed to the largely faculty-based experience of students in most other universities—ensures that women do have contact with other women students on a daily basis if not in relation to the specificities of their subject. And some of the ways in which women find their minority experience effects their academic experience can be hard to measure. It is not overt sexism that we are often countering (although as in all large institutions it is not hard to spot!) but rather the subconscious ways in which we all find it easier to recognise talent, distress, competence, problems, in those whose behaviour is like our own. Asking our fellow students and our

academic colleagues to be self-conscious about the extent to which they judge according to such subconscious norms and expectations of gender is one aspect of the ongoing work of women's officers in colleges.

There are more practical tasks as well, of course. Providing a listening ear for those who find it difficult to confide in their male peers or tutors, helping to make introductions to counselling or medical services where appropriate. Mansfield has a strong pastoral team and the tutor for women works closely with the tutor for welfare and the junior deans to monitor and address the quality of the social and academic life of our students so that they can maximise their potential in the challenging intellectual environment of Oxford. And the women's officers in college also seek to provide opportunities for women students and alumni to meet and share their experiences. Social events such as speaker meetings and the (what we hope will be) bi-annual women's dinner are occasions for networking, as well as for our alumni to judge whether and how they think the college is changing for the better. And there is always room for improvement, even in the warm and egalitarian culture we so cherish at Mansfield.

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## Chaplaincy

*Rev'd. Tanya N. Stormo Rasmussen,  
Chaplain*

The role of the Chaplain-Fellow is in transition, most notably because—as of this past summer—there are no more students training for United Reformed or Congregational ministry at Mansfield College. For many years, the Chaplain-Fellow was (among other things) in charge of overseeing the programme for Ministerial Education and Training for students pursuing ordination. At the Commemoration Service and surrounding activities on 27th June this past summer, we honoured 123 years of training ministers here, and with poignancy marked the discontinuation of that programme. It was a very mixed moment for many people: sad, because Mansfield was founded specifically for the purpose of training Nonconformist ministers; grateful and hopeful, because the College itself now has a wider ministry. It was an altogether memorable weekend, and a highlight of my first year.

I am a minister in the U.R.C. (I also serve the Wheatley United Reformed Church half-time), and one of the things I appreciate most about this Christian denomination is our fundamental commitment to ecumenism, to working tirelessly toward deeper understanding and shared ministry. Personally, I am equally committed to understanding other faith traditions as well, and I aim to foster an atmosphere where open conversation between people of all religious traditions or none can happen. Basically, my goal is to nurture meaningful community—to facilitate opportunities for individuals and groups to discover, reflect, talk about and engage in the things that produce value, meaning, joy, enrichment, generos-

ity of spirit, and purpose in life. I also hope to contribute to the ability of others to engage a sense of the sacred, to connect with and grow in their awareness or understanding of the divine. If I accomplish any of this, then I'll be gratified.

Being at one of the Oxford colleges puts me in touch with some of the brightest and best minds in the world, young and old, and that's at least as humbling as it is invigorating. As an American raised in the Continental Reformed tradition, I resonate with the Nonconformist roots that gave rise to this College; I appreciate the openness of thought, the commitment to dialogue with traditions other than our own, and the courage that leaders of this College have historically shown to go against the grain. Mansfield has a rich history of testing the edges, of pushing the boundaries, of not accepting the party line as being the final word. (That's saying something in an academic city that cherishes tradition like few others!)

Practically speaking, we're experimenting with a couple of new initiatives in order to live into those commitments. I am working with our Organist and Director of Music, John Oxlade, to promote our weekly Wednesday Lunchtime Recital Series (from Weeks 2-7 each term, 1:15-1:45 p.m.): these are opportunities to refresh the mind and the spirit, and to show appreciation and support to students and members of our community (and friends from beyond our community!) in their musical expression. We are also collaborating to encourage more concerts and arts-related events in the Chapel. Alumni participation is both welcome and encouraged!

On Wednesday nights following the Formal Hall dinner, I have been facili-

tating an egalitarian forum for dialogue and debate on current affairs issues, open to anyone interested, called 'The Topical Symposium'. Generally speaking, it's been an open event and students do a great job of taking the chosen subject and running with it. However, we've periodically had guest presenters, who have covered topics like: 'An Insider's View of Oxford'—the students ate up the gossip and insider knowledge about Oxford Colleges presented by one of our Lodge Porters; Feminism (a very popular topic, handled without equal by Prof. Ros Ballaster); Somalia and Sommelier (presented by Dr. Tony Lemon, Mansfield's Senior Fellow, whose expertise is in African studies and who is also the College wine steward); British Politics Today (Dr. Tudor Jones); and a couple different conversations on Obama's Presidency and the run-up to it. Most recently, Prof. Neville Brown presented on the question: 'Ridding the world of nuclear weapons: a sound Obama objective?' Always, the aim is that the subject matter is briefly outlined, after which there is free-form questioning, dialogue, and debate on the issue. So far, it's been fun, educational, and frequently provocative!







*Flats in Sushi abandoned by their Azeri occupants after the conflict with Nagorno Karabakh*

## Armenia

*Tony Lemon, Geography Fellow*

‘Why Armenia?’ and ‘Where exactly is Armenia?’ were the two questions that cropped up most frequently when I made known my holiday intentions this year. To the first the answers are the fascination of the world’s first country to adopt Christianity as a state religion, in 301, the Soviet inheritance, dramatic if often bleak mountain scenery and the unique political geography of this landlocked state and its renegade neighbour, the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno (mountainous) Karabakh. Armenia’s neighbours comprise Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran, which both answers the second question and points to Armenia’s fraught external relations.

Along with two companions – Stuart Notholt, a Mansfield geographer from the early 1980s who organised the trip, and Mike Tettenborn, a retired pediatrician – we packed an amazing amount into ten days that were utterly absorbing. Armenia is a small country with some 3.5 million people, but perhaps another million have left the country since independence in 1990. This diaspora has generously supported the homeland, con-

tributing to its strong economic growth – some 35% in 2005–7 alone. This helps to explain the fine new buildings which grace Republic Square and neighbouring streets in the centre of Yerevan, the capital, where our visit began. Yerevan has a million people, most of whom live in depressing Soviet flats with crude asbestos sheets protecting tiny balconies – these homes are found even in many small towns and villages too. One-third of Armenia’s population still lives below the official poverty line and living conditions are overcrowded, many young couples living with parents. This may help to explain the thriving café culture we discovered in central Yerevan, much of it in the city’s parks. Republic Square boasted spectacular floodlit water fountains whose repertoire was attuned to classical music recordings at night, drawing large crowds of Armenians to enjoy the magical atmosphere. The Genocide Memorial and Museum provide a sombre contrast, recalling the Turkish genocide of 1915 in which 1.5 million Armenians died. Turkey still refuses to acknowledge its guilt, despite abundant photographic and archival evidence displayed in the museum, and Armenia’s border with Turkey remains closed, although the two

governments announced in August 2009 that they would work towards normalising bilateral ties.

The fourth-century cathedral, founded by St. Gregory the Illuminator, is a short way from Yerevan at Ejmiatsin – here we were fortunate to visit on Sunday and observe an Armenian Orthodox eucharist. On leaving Yerevan our route took us south and east, visiting several ancient monasteries – some now just monuments, others housing living monastic communities – including Geghard, a UNESCO World Heritage site in a dramatic gorge setting, Khor Virap with its magnificent view of a snow-clad Mount Ararat across the Turkish border (but to Armenians part of ‘Western Armenia’), the remote and spectacularly located Noravank monastery, Tatev and the Vartan gorge, and Gandzasar and Dadivank monasteries in Nagorno Karabakh.

The main road to Goris took us through the wine-producing district of Areni, where roadside stalls obligingly sell wine disguised as Coca Cola for the benefit of Iranians wanting to smuggle it back home. We went on to visit Karahunj, an Armenian Stonehenge, which is thought to have been an astrological observa-



*The altar in the tiny chapel amidst the city of khactars*

tory c. 7,500 BC. Later the same day we transferred to an old Russian jeep to bump across meadows and mountain slopes to seek the petroglyphs or 'goat letters' at Ughtasar, walking the last few miles through snow-covered mountains at an altitude of 3,300 metres. Here, as in many places, there was a wonderful profusion of wild flowers.

Nogorno Karabakh is an Armenian-speaking region, awarded by Stalin to

Azerbaijan, in which it was an autonomous region until this status was annulled by a newly independent Azerbaijan in 1991. This led Nagorno Karabakh to declare its own independence, which it has managed to retain thanks to help from Armenia, supported by Russia in the ensuing conflict (Russia sees Armenia as a useful ally, thanks to its border with Turkey, a NATO country). Nogorno Karabakh is now a de-facto independent

state with only 160,000 people, recognised only by Armenia, analogous to the relationship between North Cyprus and Turkey. We stayed in its Ruritanian capital, Stepanakert in the brand-new Hotel Armenia, adjoining an equally new Parliament building. In the former capital, Shushi, the former Azeri inhabitants have fled, leaving many blocks of empty flats as a bleak reminder of recent conflict. Nagorno Karabakh has also annexed occupied areas of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan might be willing to hand over Nagorno Karabakh to Armenia in exchange for Armenian territory along the Iranian border, but Armenia is unwilling to lose its important direct link to Iran. Meanwhile the Armenia/Azerbaijan border remains closed.

The final part of our trip took us to a fourteenth century caravanserai in the Selim Pass, one of the best preserved in the world; to Noraduz, with over 900 khactars (stone crosses) in a single field; along the shores of Lake Sevan and finally to Dilijan, a hill station amidst forests, once favoured as a weekend retreat by the Soviet elite. Here, in a guesthouse full of character, we sampled the famous Armenian brandy with which Stalin reputedly plied Churchill.



*Tony with an abandoned tank from the Nagorno Karabakh-Azerbaijan war*



# From the Archives

## Gallery Revealed

*Alma Jenner, Librarian*

Browsing in the Gallery of the College Library, before Health and Safety regulations stopped such adventures, will bring back memories to some Mansfield students: the great pitched roof, carvings of animals, fruits, flowers; stencilled Latin mottoes and elaborate bosses; portraits of the divines, creaking floor boards and a distinct sense of vertigo. It looked for all the world like a second-hand bookshop; there were surprises and treasures to be found, but with illumination no brighter than a candle and a yawning chasm between Gallery rails to the alcove below, retrieving a book from the lower shelves was not for the faint hearted.

Book spines displayed a motley array of



numbers written in white ink or on labels typed with tiny numbers or with biro on sticky brown tape or sometimes no identification at all.

After the ordination course at Mansfield ended in June 2009, it was decided that the older theology books in the Gallery should be dispersed and the only way to examine them in safety was to bring them all down to the lower floor.

Almost three thousand books and pamphlets were passed down from the Gallery through the gaps in the Gallery rails to the vast oak floor of the Main Library where the full extent of the collection was finally revealed. A fifty volume set of Luther's works in red and gold covers lay in state next to sets of Calvin and Wycliffe; prayer books and hymn books of all denominations; histories of Dissent ranged through all the counties of England, Wales and Scotland and countries in Europe;



histories; missionary reports from China and India; theology tomes in German and French; Hebrew and Greek grammars; philosophical books; biographies and sermons of the divines, plus a few obscure journals which had escaped previous purges; polished leather books next to pictorial Victorian bindings. But open any book cover and a common thread was in evidence, the names of some of the great Mansfield men and early supporters of Mansfield. Bookplates from the libraries of Fairbairn, Selbie, Buchanan Gray, Vernon Bartlet, Daniel Proctor, Henry Rogers, John Angel James, Robert Dale and J. L. Cherry to name but a few. Letters, notes and news cuttings spilled out of the pages which showed both affection and praise for Mansfield and its alumni.

It was sad to see these eclectic dusty tomes, so familiar to me over the years, appearing for the last time as one great faded but proud body. Nostalgically I gathered a dozen or so books from the floor, and took them to the Tower Room where they stand on the shelves of the old Dale bookcase: the black and white photos and drawings of alumni and Fellows looking down at them from the walls.

For the rest, I dusted their spines and pushed them close together and they lay on the Library floor in full light for all to see, awaiting their final journey from Mansfield.

*Note: Pastoral teaching materials from the Theology Library and historical material from the Gallery were given to the Congregational Federation, Nottingham. Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies, London, took charge of the histories and pamphlets of the Congregational churches. Mansfield Fellows selected some volumes for personal use and the remainder was purchased by Gage Books, Essex.*

*Appreciation is due to Elaine Kaye, Tony Tucker and Donald Norwood who selected books by Mans-*

*field members to remain in the Library. They also examined the entire theology collection and made recommendations for disposal. Gratitude is also due to Library staff, Oliver Mahony and Sheila Mawby, who helped me to discharge a very physically demanding and dusty project during the summer vacation with their usual efficiency and good humour.*

## Opposing Hitler

### *Kenneth Sears, Public & Social Administration 1948*

Adam Von Trott Zu Solz  
1909–1944, Sussex Academic Press

Adam von Trott zu Solz was a boy when Germany was defeated militarily in 1918 and in his youth witnessed its economic collapse. He was studying at Oxford University when Hitler came to power in 1933 and was convinced that opposition to the Nazis must come from within Germany and not outside it.

Hitler enjoyed enormous support as the economy improved and, after 1939, as the German armies ravaged at will through Western Europe. Yet von Trott, by now a senior official in the Foreign Office, travelled frequently to Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey to talk with British and American contacts,

pleading unsuccessfully for recognition of the resisters. In July 1944, he was one of the leaders of the group which attempted to assassinate Hitler. Refusing all offers to smuggle him out of Germany – “I shall take the blame for everything” – he was executed on 26 August, aged only 35.

Based on extensive research and talks with some who knew him, this book details the life of a man of brilliant intellect who refused to compromise his conscience and sacrificed himself in a noble cause.

*Kenneth A.E. Sears is a retired Education Officer. He read Modern History, followed by post-graduate studies in Government at Lincoln College, Oxford and is also a member of Mansfield College. His schoolboy diary records the events of 20 July 1944 and the subsequent weeks as the news was received. His interests include Parliamentary procedure, psephology, classical music, poetry and art. He leads an annual pilgrimage to Ypres in Flanders and also visits Waterloo, the Somme and Agincourt.*



*Oliver Mahony sorting books in the Library*

# Alumni News

## Reflection On Mansfield

*Ian Bellis, Theology 1958*

Earlier this year I visited Mansfield, some fifty years after I arrived as a twenty-three year old Theology Student having travelled from South Africa by mailship. What better prompt for reflection – on my time at Mansfield and on the realities of change. My wife and I stayed a night in the guest accommodation and were warmly welcomed in meeting with Emily Henderson the following day.

Standing at the entrance to the Alumni Office in April'09 I realised that I was standing where in the summer, the tennis court had been laid out, there being no other buildings on that side of the Quad. I looked across to the main buildings where on the ground floor, far left, the last two windows had been those of my room. Windows I was asked to leave open on several nights as everything was locked at 11pm and certain students needed later access!

Moving into the College building, walking down to the staircase up to the library I looked left and realised that my room was gone, the passage widened and it dawned on me that my room had been a temporary walling off. An irregular shape but comfortable. The College had very limited residential places.

I thought too of the fact that at that time (1958) having students from other disciplines at Mansfield was a very recent development. Several became my close friends and team-mates (Mansfield cricket and hockey). Having studied theology in South Africa all my close associates had been of similar conviction, similar outlook and thus Mansfield really began the enriching and broadening experience it was to prove.


Arriving politically aware, it was exciting to feel how Oxford was at the heart of intellectual life, of debate in all fields, a magnet for aspiring academics and politicians. I became involved with both the Africa Society and JACARI (Joint Action Committee against Racial Intolerance). The former provided meetings with young emerging

leaders and with experienced commentators on the continent experiencing “the winds of change” – as Harold MacMillan later described it. The JACARI experience opened up the nature of challenge to established ideologies.

Caird, Marsh, Cadman, Sykes as lecturers and tutors fuelled an awareness of critical reflection as central to learning. With weekend and Vac work at Cumberland Lodge (a student centre in Windsor Great Park) I revelled in an enormous cultural enrichment from both of these diverse experiences.

Returning to South Africa in July 1960 I took up, successively, appointments to a congregation in Durban, the General Secretaryship of the Methodist Youth Department, and a Chaplaincy to a school in Johannesburg while becoming active in the anti-apartheid political life of the time. In August 1969 I resigned from the Ministry and despite offers of teaching jobs too badly paid to take up, went into Human Resources work. After roughly ten years' experience in various industries I was appointed to a lectureship in Organisational Behaviour and Training and





Development at the Graduate School of Business at the University of the Witwatersrand. Later I set up a Training and Development Consultancy, being invited to do teaching at Johannesburg University and Cape Town University and being offered in, 1991, a Chair in Human

Resource Development in the broad faculty of Business, Economic Sciences in Johannesburg.

These several career changes and with the rapidly changing

political scene in South Africa after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the release of Nelson Mandela, and the inclusion of others into political and educational processes, I found myself welcomed onto national bodies in that field. I played a role in the reconstruction of education and training for the emerging post-1994 South Africa; retired from the University in 1995 at sixty years of age; consulted to businesses, educational bodies, local government; talked to trade unions on the implications of new legislation for the development of people and their skills; a few writings published, many presentations at Conferences in South Africa and abroad; and then four years later, together with my wife Patricia whom I had married in 1989, moved permanently to Scotland.

Initially I continued to work on development projects in South Africa and from 2001 developed and presented a programme in Leadership to business in Scotland. Just before my 70th

birthday I was given an opportunity (which I admit I sought eagerly) to become a student again, undertaking a very intense academic and practical clinical programme to train as a practitioner in Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy (CBT) at Dundee University. After graduating I set up a private practice in this area of great need in our society and feel greatly privileged to do work that, as I said to my wife a while back, really seems to use “the whole of me”, using the variety of experience, range of skills and the same passion for the care of the person that has been at the heart of my fifty years of working life.

A life for which I owe Oxford and Mansfield an enormous debt.

We hope to visit again soon.



# Alumni News

## Manhattan Island Swim June 2009

*Leighton Cardwell, Geography 2002*

Anyone who plays or follows sport knows it has that uncanny ability to get the best out of you. Little did I or the three other former members of the Oxford University Swimming Team know what was coming when at one (drunken) reunion it was suggested that having done a number of challenging and open water swims across a variety of continents, none of the current, or alumni team had ever broken America!

Having recovered from varying states of physical decrepitude after leaving Oxford - through some very enjoyable North-Sea training in Scotland and Lincolnshire during the winter months - four of us found ourselves on a flight out to New York to swim a competitive race in the Hudson River around central Manhattan Island earlier in June this year.

Whilst Manhattan conjures up many images of grandeur and success, it is fair to say that the Hudson River has never quite shared this glory, and armed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (2007) report into river quality, which informs swimmers that the main pollution issues affecting the river include: accidental sewage discharges, urban runoff, heavy metals, furans, dioxin, pesticides, and



polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, we were all thankful that the start of the race was located next to the largest sewage treatment works on the island at West 125th Street.

As ever with challenges, the race itself with hindsight was thoroughly enjoyable, and along the way certainly produced some of the greatest sights of Manhattan at a truly breathtaking scale; when of course the obligatory fog in your goggles allowed! Cheered along by a whole host of curious on-lookers and bystanders, the



international field of close to 200 swimmers, distinctly marked by our hideously fluorescent swimming caps, slowly made their way along the Manhattan shoreline, advancing towards a rocky finishing post next to the rather impressive George Washington Bridge.

Each of the Oxford men came within the top twenty finishers, receiving trophies for first, second places or third places respectively within the 20-29 Age Group. As a result, the mad 'vacationers' from England have been invited back to swim around the Statue of Liberty in June next year - a challenge, which along with our sense of adventure and wonderful American hospitality, we are all relishing!

## Kilimanjaro

*Nigel Binks, Law 1977*

Turning 50 is self-evidently a momentous milestone in anyone's life and one that requires a hearty celebration with family and friends - the only difficult question is where to open the champagne....

For Mark Synnott, the answer was clear - go to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro (all 19,340 feet of it). For the uninitiated, apart from the dramatic geological features, a Kilimanjaro climb encompasses a wide range of ecosystems - glacier, snow-fields, desert, alpine moorland, savannah and tropical jungle. Where else would a Mansfield geographer want to go?

So it was that Mark, together with eight "volunteers" (including me), set off for Tanzania in late July to climb to the Roof of Africa. A fair amount of planning (and fitness training) had been undertaken before getting on the plane with the objective of increasing the likelihood that all nine of us would reach the summit. This included engaging the services of Henry Steadman (author of the definitive text on climbing Kilimanjaro) to organise the climb but, as Henry made very clear, even this was no guarantee of success as the main reason why most people fail to reach the summit is altitude sickness rather than lack of necessary strength or stamina. Typically, although drugs can help, by the time you find out that you are susceptible to altitude sickness, it's too late.



Undeterred, the expedition set off (with 30 odd porters as company). The straight forward route – the Marangu Route (otherwise known as the Coca-Cola route) - was naturally eschewed in favour of a longer and (I have to admit) significantly more interesting route devised by Henry. This saw us approach from the north and arrive five days later – via Mawenzi Tarn and Horombo Huts – just below the summit at Barafu Huts. All that was left was to set off at midnight and watch the sunrise from the top.....

We did lose three members of the party along the way (thankfully, recovery from altitude sickness is swift) but the Birthday Boy made it to the summit and is now considering what to do when he reaches 60!

The champagne? .....that had to wait as it's not a good idea at altitude.

**Fivos Papadimitriou,  
D Phil Geography 1990**

Fivos teaches Geography at the University of Athens and is Evaluator of National and European Programmes for the Greek Government. His research is in two areas: (1) social and educational aspects of geospatial technologies and (2) the development of new mathematical and computational models for landscape analysis.

**Edward Cox, Geography 1989-1992**

Edward was Policy Adviser to Hazel Blears MP, and also Chair of the Mission Committee of the United Reformed Church. In the former capacity he has been involved during 2008 in negotiating and rewriting *Communities in Control: the Empowerment White Paper*, and has also been involved in strengthening the relationship between government and faith communities and the approach to tackling violent extremism. In the URC his responsibility is to develop a Mission

Strategy to guide the church from decline to new growth. In his local URC church at Levenshulme, Manchester, Ed has been involved in raising nearly £3million to redevelop the building into a vibrant, arts-based community centre.

**Rupert Hill, Geography 1978-1981**

Rupert continues to head the geography department at Dover College. He also runs both cricket and football at the school, referees junior teams at Dover Rugby Football Club and finds time to take Chapel services regularly at school.

**Anthony Christopher,  
Academic Visitor Geography 1984**

Professor Anthony Christopher was an Academic Visitor in Geography at Mansfield for the Michaelmas Term 1984, while on sabbatical leave. The College provided a very friendly and helpful base from which to conduct research in Oxford. The main outcome, *The British Empire at its Zenith*, was published in



1988. Since his term at Mansfield, he continued research and lecturing at the University of Port Elizabeth, now Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, being appointed Professor and Head of Department from 1987 until his retirement at the end of 2004. During that period he wrote several books and more than seventy articles in the disciplinary journals within the fields of political and historical geography. Since retirement he has continued with his research and writing, with time to read more widely than was possible under the pressure of depart-

mental and university administration. The College was also highly welcoming to his wife, Anne, who subsequently participated in the emergence of post-apartheid South Africa through her work at the Black Sash Advice Office, the 1994 elections and the ensuing Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**Thomas Best, Theology 1967**

I have recently retired as Director of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland. At Mansfield I did the Theology Schools in 1967. Otherwise I stroked the 1st VIII in 1966 and the "schools boat" in 1967.

**James Raven, History Fellow 1996**

It was always clear when I arrived as Fellow in History at Mansfield in 1996 that the college inspired wonderful loyalty from its former members. My predecessor, Mike Mahony had been a legendary tutor and his students were



spread far and wide across the globe. Before Mansfield, I'd been a Fellow at two other Cambridge colleges, but since my move to the University of Essex it has been Mansfield students who have been most in contact – for the inevitable references, yes, but also for very happy and extremely diverse emails, letters and meetings – news of careers,

# Alumni News

new appointments, travels, marriages (and new marriages) and births. I'm struck by the range of things that Mansfield alumni do – and how many take on new and inspiring challenges. The London drinks have been a tremendous success in the 'Mansfield calendar,' but of course not everyone can easily get to London – so what a good idea also to have subject dinners back at the college in addition to general reunions. The college don obsessed by the success of his or her students has become something of a literary and filmic stereotype (authors and directors fondly recalling college days or getting their own back). But university times have moved on and the life of an academic is very different to how it was some decades ago. I remember a tutor at my undergraduate college who devoted his life to teaching and to keeping up with former students – he could remember the name of every student in a particular year and it was said that he began writing Christmas cards in October. He didn't, I believe, publish a thing – but he was an essential and hugely respected member of the college. He wouldn't be able to keep his job today, but we do need to ensure that tutors can continue to keep their contacts with former students. We all value and benefit from that. Such communication on practical issues but also for our mutual enjoyment (and pride) – is vital to the future of the college and its thinking about future generations of students.

(jraven@essex.ac.uk)

## ***Sonnie Piyaphol Vudhivorn, MBA 2007***

In 2007, I came to Oxford to study business at Said Business School. Mansfield College made my time there a special year for a Thai student.

The college helped with all necessary requirements for an international student. That was my first impression. While I was in Oxford, the college continued providing good advice academically and socially. At college dinners, I met friends, with diverse interests, who love engaging in productively challenging discussions. I visited the Chapel when I need a quiet space and, afterwards, in a good fashion, the University Club for a pint.

After I finished my MBA courses and fellowship at Isis Innovation, around April 2009, I came back to Thailand and found that one of my mentors works as an advisor to the deputy prime minister. He later invited me to join the team and to work on a nation-wide retraining programme. Over a year, the project targets 500,000 unemployed citizens and aims to provide them new skills and alternative options in order to relieve financial difficulties, which have been worsened by global economic situation.

In fact, the current prime minister, the finance minister and the governor of Bangkok are Oxford alumni. I will do my best for this honourable position and will keep learning from my fellow Oxonians. I currently work for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Bangkok.

## ***Sonnie Piyaphol Vudhivorn pictured far right***



## ***Harrie Leyten, Social Anthropology 1973***

I was a student at Mansfield between 1973-1976, while reading Social Anthropology at Banbury Road. My career has always been connected with Africa, both as an Africa curator at the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam and as a lecturer in the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. Now, during my retirement, I am teaching courses in African Art to senior citizens at an academic level (I know there is an equivalent in England, but forget its name) and am taking groups of them on trips to Africa.



as 'a genuine anthropologist' while visiting a chief in North Ghana in December 2008.

## ***Tiffany-Alice Ewins, Theology 1994***

Tiffany-Alice (Mansfield, Theology 1994), James (New College, Law 1992), and their three children Badger (age 5) Clementine (age 4) and Florence Ewins (age 9 months) moved from London to Bangalore in April this year. James, a Barrister, is now the Bangalore Field Office Director for The International Justice Mission ([www.ijmuk.org](http://www.ijmuk.org)). IJM exists to protect people from violent forces of injustice by securing rescue and restoration for victims and ensuring



public justice systems work for the poor. In Bangalore, IJM is working in collaboration with local law-enforcement agencies towards the eradication of forced labour slavery and people-trafficking, addressing victim relief, perpetrator accountability, victim aftercare and structural change. In July 2008 Tiffany-Alice was selected to be trained for ordained ministry in the Anglican Church, but is deferring the start of training until she and the family return to the UK in a few years.



### **Chris Rivington, English 1990**

The year 2008 got off to a very good start, with Chris appearing in the New Year's Honours list, getting the OBE for his services to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The picture shows Chris at Buckingham Palace, after his investiture, which was undertaken by HRH Prince Charles, in October.



## **Obituaries**

### **Philip Wise 1949-2009**



I first met Philip Wise one misty autumn evening in 1973 as we left a theology seminar in Christ Church. As we made our way through Peckwater and Tom Quads we reflected on the seminar and I was immediately impressed by this American's intellectual clarity and confidence. We discovered that we were both members of Mansfield College, where he later initiated the establishment of the MCR. It was one of those meetings that seemed destined to happen. Philip had just arrived in Oxford, having come ahead of his wife, Cynthia, and baby daughter, Myra, who joined him later.

Philip Wise was born in Andalusia, Alabama on 3rd January 1949. He became an All-State basketball player and National Merit Scholar. He received his B.A. from Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, and his Th.M. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (both with honours). After his time at Oxford, he returned to New Orleans to complete his Th.D.

His academic gifts issued in his leadership on the editorial board of the journal *Christian Ethics Today* and his co-authoring of two books. The better known of these is *Fundamentalism* (2004), which he co-authored with Dr Fisher Humphreys (also of Mansfield College). He taught at Culham College, Abingdon, and at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and was a trustee of his alma mater, Samford.

Philip's greatest impact was as a pastor and church leader. During his ministry he was senior pastor of Baptist churches in Alabama – Selma, Montgomery and Dothan and finally in Lubbock, Texas. He held numerous leadership positions in Baptist circles, in Alabama, nationally, and in the Baptist World Alliance. His most lasting contribution, however, may well lie in his forthright and courageous leadership in the non-fundamentalist Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

He was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma cancer in May 2008 and died on 30th March 2009. Philip's death has diminished us, but by knowing him we have gained immeasurably.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia, daughter Myra, and sons Doug and Fisher.

*Neville Richardson M.Phil. in Theology c. 1970-72*

## **Obituaries**

### **Rev David Fox 1956-2008**

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that the Rev David Fox (1956-2008) failed to return from his holiday last June when visiting the mountains of Slovenia. Rev Fox studied Theology at Mansfield from 1980-1983.

*Mostyn Davies, on behalf of the Elders of Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan.*

## Weddings

### **Congratulations to some of our alumni who were married in College this past year**

Wendy Wood (Physics 1994)  
and James McDonald  
29th March 2009

John Taylor (PPE 1992) and  
Anna-Marie Fielding (Philosophy and  
Theology 1994) (see right)  
15th August 2009

Praveena Joseph-de Saram (Physics 2002)  
and Markus Mittermaier (Materials,  
Economics and Management 2002)  
22nd August 2009

Jamie Vicary (Physics 2001)  
and Laura Wormald  
12th September 2009



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### **Congratulations also to the following couples who were also married this past year.**

Lucy-Jane Michel (English 1995)  
and Herve Michel  
19th April 2009

Rachel Winter (PPE 2003)  
and Lee Meadows (pictured right)  
5th June 2009



# Exam Results 2009

## Doctorate (DPhil)

<b>Biochemistry</b>	Anne Jakel
<b>Law</b>	Prince Saprai
<b>Materials Science</b>	Matthew Habgood Ting Qin
<b>Neuroscience</b>	Kevin Allen
<b>MLitt in Geography</b>	Tom Simchak
<b>MJuris</b>	Dist Adam Sagan Pass Elke Cloots Ragna Bjarnadottir
<b>MSc in African Studies</b>	Pass Lena Siemon Peter Wright
<b>MSc Applied Statistics</b>	Pass Qian Wu
<b>MSc Biodiversity Conservation &amp; Management</b>	Pass Chloe Joyeux Chun Yuen Wong
<b>MSc Computer Science</b>	Pass Shu-Chuen Huang Ricardo Engel
<b>MSc Maths Modelling &amp; Scientific Computing</b>	Dist Benjamin Franz Pass Lina Joseph
<b>MSc Maths &amp; Foundations of Computer Science</b>	Pass Oliver Holloway
<b>MSc Nature Society &amp; the Environment</b>	Dist Devin McDaniels Pass Hui Leng Tan
<b>MSt in History</b>	Pass Erin Null

## MSt in Jewish Studies

Pass Amy Icke

## MSt in English

Pass Ben Shockley

## MSt in English & American Studies

Dist Alice Ferns

## MSt in Theology

Dist Thomas Illsley-Fedrick

## MSt in Theology (Old Testament)

Pass Benjamin Clark

## MBA

Pass Molly Dunn  
Ken Jguan Tee

## PG Dip Theology

Pass Taraneh Wilkinson

## Diploma in Legal Studies

Dist Marie Victoire Joubeau

## Master of Engineering (MEng)

### Engineering Science

Class 1 Martin Moran  
Thomas Smith  
Class 2.i Xie Feng

### Engineering, Economics & Management

Class 2.ii Mengru Qu

### Materials, Economics & Management

Class 2.i Sebastian Webb

### Materials Science

First Jennifer Brown  
Manuel Schnabel  
Class 2.i Luke Hanson Pettengell

## Master of Mathematics

### MMaths Part C

Class 1 Daniel Harvey  
Class 2.i David Sims

### MMaths & Statistics

Class 1 Valentina Iotchkova

## Master of Physics (MPhys)

Class 2.i Wojciech Rzepala

## Bachelor of Arts (BA)

### English Language & Literature

Class 2.i Katharine Boon  
Felicity Hawksley  
Paul Maiden  
Lucinda May  
Charlotte Spurrell

### Geography

Class I Richard Pope  
Class 2.i Jamie Blythin  
D Butchart-Kuhlmann  
Alexander Hadrill  
Ruth Harris  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Frederick Price  
Ruth Swift  
Robert Wellburn

### History

Class I Jessica Barker  
Class 2.i Alex Brayson  
Richard Lavelle  
James Naish  
David C Thomas  
Kesar Virdi

### History & English

Class 2.i Katharine Harris  
Lois Thomas

### History & Politics

Class 2.i Alexander Bowles  
Rebecca Molyneux

### Human Sciences

Class 2.i Radhika Mehra

### Jurisprudence

Class 2.i Nicholas Broomfield  
Irene Claeys  
David A Thomas  
Sukhneel Toor

### Mathematics

Class 1 David Putnins  
Class 2.i Reuben Holt  
Class 2.ii Lucy Mase-Robinson  
Benjamin Rule

### Maths & Statistics

Class 1 Clayton d'Souza  
Elizabeth Rae  
Quang T Tran



# Exam Results 2009

Class 2.i Helbert Tsang

## Oriental Studies

Class 2.i Daniel Brodie  
Richard Phelps

## PPE

Class 1 Leah Wolfe  
Class 2.i Ernie Bell  
Tobias Buckle  
Siddhartha Haria  
Laurence McGivern  
Class 2.ii Paul Fleming

## Physics

Class 3 Anna Antoniou  
Paul Lam

## Philosophy & Theology

Class 2.i Joe Freiesleben

## Theology

Class 1 Thomas Carpenter  
Caroline Roberts  
Class 2.i Freddie Paterson Morgan

## Unclassified Honours

### Engineering, Economics & Management Part I

Pass A Kottamasu Rao

### Engineering Science Part I

Pass Shuo Liu  
Paul Silcock  
Yiyong Zhong

### Materials Science Part I

Pass Simon Bowcock  
Shaolong Cheng  
Nicholas Ingram

### Mathematics Part A

Pass Perry Asbury  
Paul Carter  
Melanie Hah

### Mathematics & Statistics Part A

Pass Jiaojiao Zhang  
Tristan Gray-Davies  
Bobby Sun

### Physics Part B

Pass Timothy Clarke  
Rory Morrison

Vassilis Pandis  
Thomas Swinburne

## Physics Part A

Pass Joseph Barnard  
Tom Goodman  
Louise Kwok  
Robert Legg  
Kira Virdee  
David Wilkinson

## Honour Moderations

### Mathematics

Class I Matthew Williams  
Class II Camilla Gardner  
Charlotte Hindley  
Matthew Hitchings  
Florence Oakley

### Mathematics & Statistics

Class 1 Shu Zhou

## Moderations

### English

Dist Katherine Miller  
Pass Louis Goddard  
Charlotte Gorman  
Joseph Hone  
Bryony Makin  
Bethan McCarthy  
Grace Simonet  
Freya Smith  
Adina Wass

### Law

Pass Christopher du Boulay  
James Illingworth  
James King

## Preliminary Examinations

### Engineering

Dist Aditya Kasliwal  
Shabbir Khan  
Pass Sineth Weerasinghe  
Simon Williamson  
Runze Liu  
Hao Wang

### Geography

Pass Andrew Campbell  
James Cooper

Emily Hamer  
Heather Stephen  
Ashley-James Turner  
Yannick Young

## History

Pass Benjamin Featherstone  
Emma Sullivan  
Ben Wythe

## History & English

Dist Isobel Plant  
Pass Nicholas de Taranto  
Thomas Young

## History & Politics

Pass Benjamin Kindler  
James Nettleton  
Eilise Norris

## Human Sciences

Dist Holly Krelle  
Pass Richard Batty  
Laura Charles

## Materials Science

Dist Helen Jones  
Pass David Camp  
Ryutaro Hiratsuka  
Alasdair Morrison  
Anna Turskaya

## PPE

Pass Joe Chrisp  
Edward Finch  
Annika Froese  
Wiebke Junk  
Mark Scott  
Rina Soloveitchik

## Physics

Dist Henry Carter  
Jonasz Slomka  
Pass Michael Bagshaw  
Benjamin Hickman  
Raquel Velasco  
Mia Blundell

## Theology

Dist Elizabeth Evans  
Alexander Hyde  
Pass Alice Codnor  
Austin Jones  
Thomas Mayou

# Events Calendar

Month	Events
23-Jan	Guardians' Dinner
28-Jan	London Drinks
19-Mar	Finalists' Family Dinner
16-17 April	Oxford University Reunion, New York
16-17 April	Mansfield NY event
May	London Drinks
08-May	1887 Society Dinner
29-May	Boat Club Dinner
Jun	John Sykes Alumni Retirement Dinner
26-Jun	Summer Event
26-Jun	Mansfield Association Dinner
Sept	OU Alumni Weekend
18-Sept	Fresher's Family event
Oct	Adam Von Trott Dinner
02-Oct	Tony Lemon Alumni Retirement Dinner
Nov	Patrons' Dinner

There will be additional events planned as the year progresses. Please keep an eye on our website as it will be updated as soon as other events are organised.



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