

# Worcester College

MAGAZINE



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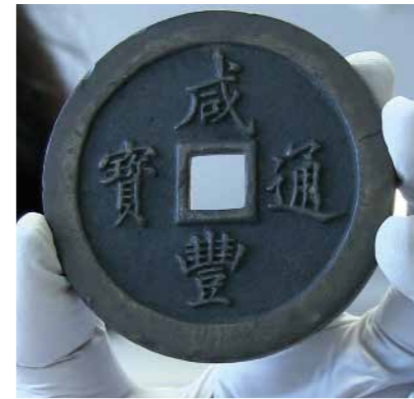


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Not interested in social media?  
Don't despair!

# Who says we can't do social media?

The Development and Alumni Relations office has gone live!  
**Coleen Day**, Director of Development, Alumni Relations and Fellow

**T**he Development and Alumni Relations Office is now fully active on social media. We are tweeting (@WorcesterAlumni) and posting on Facebook, (www.facebook.com/WorcesterCollegeOxford), on Instagram (www.instagram.com/worcestercollegeoxford) and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/groups/2311057).

We tweet regularly about events and activities happening in College, Old Member and student news, and much more... It is a very quick and easy way to follow what is happening at Worcester. Our Instagram page is full of wonderful images which I'm sure will bring back many memories, and we may even surprise you with photos of the changes that are happening on site – such as the nearly completed Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre.

We have more than 800 Old Members in our dedicated LinkedIn alumni group, which is a great way of keeping up with your contemporaries, networking and connecting with others in your profession.

We have a presence on the newly developed Worcester College website. If you look under 'Alumni' you will see our events programme, which is regularly updated. You will also see that it is very quick and easy to update your contact details using our online form. Whilst you're on the site, you might take a look at the Lost List, to see if you can help the Development Office reconnect with Old Members the College has lost touch with. Under 'Support Worcester' you will find details of our annual giving programme, and there is also the facility to make a donation online.

For those of you who are not interested in social media – don't despair! You will be pleased to know that we continue to mail out the College Magazine twice a year, which includes an events programme and booking form. The annual College Record is due to be mailed out later this year.

We try hard to put on a variety of events which will be of interest to everyone. We are very keen to develop our programme, and if you have any thoughts about possible speakers or alternative events please do get in touch. Although we have not yet established a regional events programme, we are investigating the possibilities, and if you think you could assist us with this we would love to hear from you.

You will see on page 23 that there are opportunities for Old Members to book the College for their own personal celebrations. We recently held a 50th wedding anniversary and an 80th birthday lunch in the Linbury, which were enormously successful. If you are ever visiting Oxford there is also the opportunity to book a guest room in College, which includes a great breakfast in Hall – tinned tomatoes are a thing of the past!

We do hope we'll see you soon, either at one of our events or in College.

We are saddened to report the deaths of Lord Briggs of Lewes on 15th March, Professor James Campbell on 31st May and Professor David Bradshaw on 14th September. Full obituaries will appear in the College Record.

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# The Wilkinson Trust



**Edward Wilson**, Emeritus Fellow and Trustee of the Wilkinson Trust, explains in brief the background of the Trust and the support it continues to give to the College.

**T**he commissioning by the Wilkinson Trust on behalf of the Senior Common Room of a collage of wood engravings from our distinguished alumna Anne Desmet, R.A., is an opportune moment to examine the work of the Trust over the last 20 years.

Cyril Hackett Wilkinson (1888-1960) came from a family whose connexions with the College go back to the 18th century (his father had matriculated here in 1848), and he had entered the College as an undergraduate in 1906, taking English Schools in 1910, and going on to be elected Fellow in English in 1918, and subsequently becoming Librarian, Garden Master, Dean and Steward of the Senior Common Room. 'Wilkinson' is indeed, in Byron's words, 'a name great in story', but as I am concerned here with the operation of his Trust, those interested in the stories should turn to *C. H. Wilkinson 1888-1960* (OUP, 1965), an anthology devoted to his life, including a reminiscence by Roger Fulford and a memorial address by Provost Masterman; there is also a fine anecdotal recollection by Harry Pitt in the *College Record* for 1989 of a man who 'was above all a presence, and his power was to leave his impression on all those who knew him as a member of the College, junior or senior', a power well captured in Allan Gwynne-Jones's portrait.

The Wilkinson Trust was formed by the terms of Wilkinson's will whereby one third of his estate was to form a Trust to be administered by Trustees 'for such of the purposes of the College [i.e. Worcester] as I should if living have approved'. We have good evidence of the matters of which Wilkinson would have approved from the sources noted above; of the three current Trustees, James Campbell, Daniel Lunn and Edward Wilson, Professor Campbell knew him from 1957-60, and in 2005 he drew up a memorandum which now forms part of the terms under which the Trustees operate, noting that 'he would not have approved of the use of his benefaction to meet expenditure which might normally be expected to be met from the ordinary revenues of the College or from other dedicated funds'.

Pre-eminent in Wilkinson's concerns were the Old Library and the history of the College, and the Trust has reflected them in its expenditure. Thus in 1993 it made a contribution to the purchase of items from the library and archive of the Fairfax family; in 1998 it helped with the acquisition of *The Closet* (1671) by Sir Kenelm Digby (of Gloucester Hall), an author of particular interest to Wilkinson (in 2006 the Trust bought a portrait of Digby, studio of Van Dyck), and *Antonii Perezii ad Comitum Essexium ...* (1683), Perez being thought by some to

Over 50 years after Wilkinson's death, his Trust continues to be a source of regeneration and new enrichment

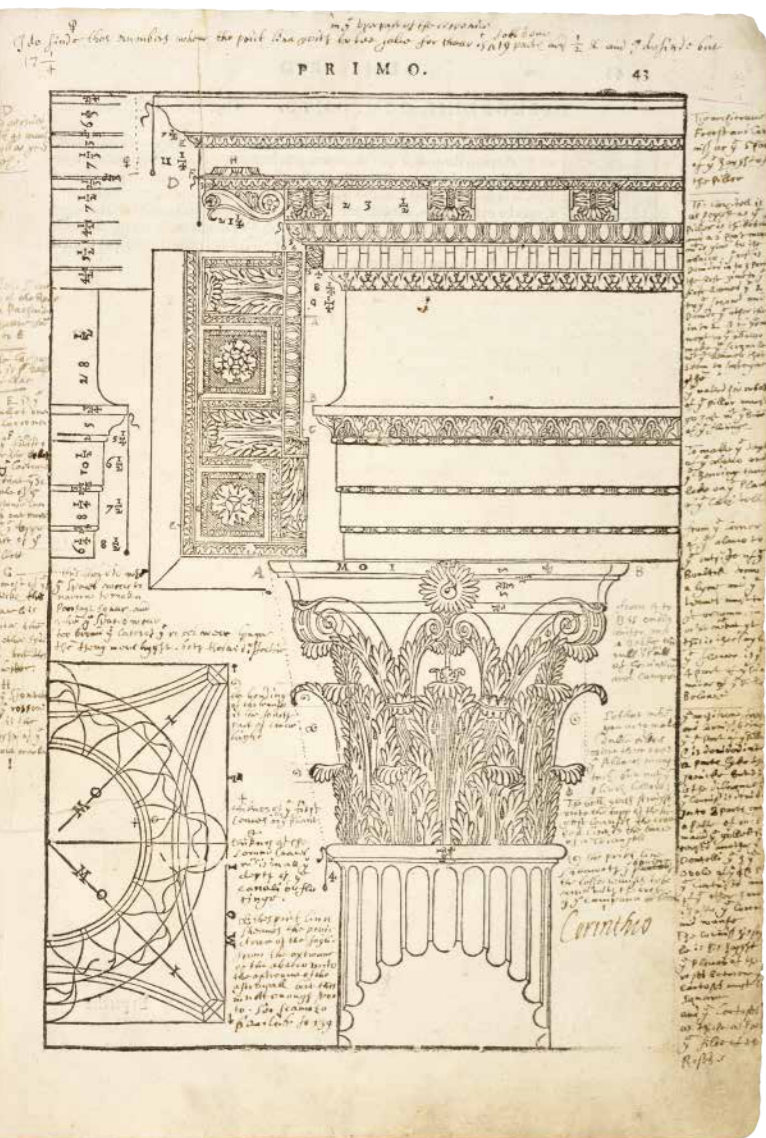


Robert Pine's portrait of Sir Thomas Cookes, 1773

be parodied in Shakespeare's Don Adriano de Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*. In 2015-16 the Trust made a contribution to the cost of the digitisation of the annotations made by Inigo Jones to books which he owned, which will aid scholars and preserve the books. Its greatest single book benefaction to date has been the purchase in 2016 of a first edition (and first impression) of John Gerard's *Herball* (1597) which has on its title-page a portrait of Shakespeare first identified in 2015.

Roger Fulford said that Wilkinson's 'understanding of painting and appreciation of pictures were conspicuous', and thus it was particularly appropriate that in 1998 the Trust bought a plaster bas-relief of Thomas De Quincey by Shakespeare Wood (1827-86), and paid for the restoration, pictures and frames, of Guido Reni's 'The Penitent Magdalene' and Robert Pine's portrait of Sir Thomas Cookes contemplating the bust of King Alfred (picture above), both in the Old Library. Appropriately, the Trust made a contribution to the engraved window in the Old Library by Simon Whistler in memory of Wilkinson's successor as Fellow Librarian, Richard Sayce.

As Wilkinson was a scholar, editor, and one possessed of, in Masterman's words, a 'vast store of knowledge', the Trustees have thought fit to make subventions to the costs of two conferences in College: one on Milton and one on the Greek College which Gloucester Hall became in 1699-1705 (and also to the costs of publication of the subsequent book ed. by Peter Doll, our former Chaplain, *Anglicanism and Orthodoxy: 300 Years after*

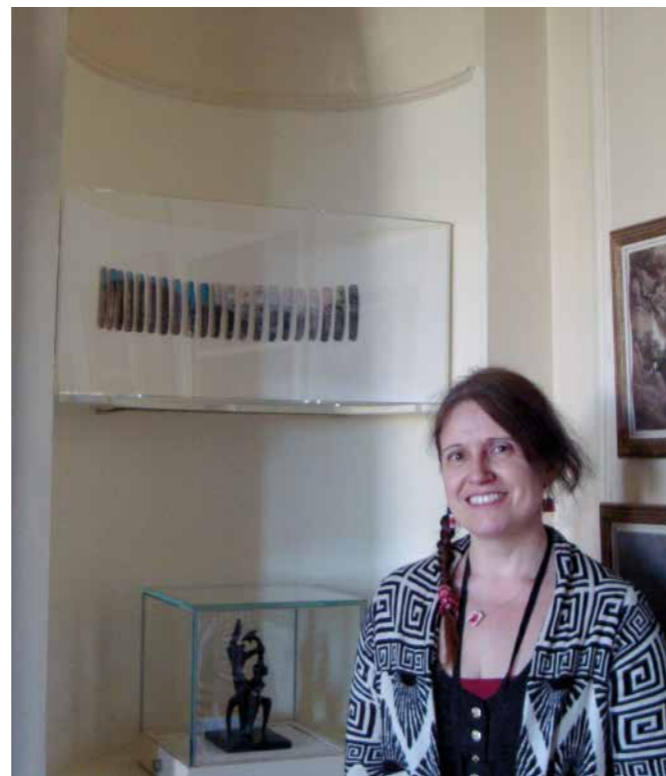


Inigo Jones's copy of Palladio's *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura* (Venice, 1601) p. 43, with Jones's annotations

*the Greek College in Oxford*, 2006). From time to time the Trust has also funded Wilkinson Lectures (9 so far), almost always on some topic connected with the College, or drawing on material held by it, and given usually by an Old Member, Fellow, or someone closely connected with the College (the Lecturer is paid in guineas). Wilkinson's historical interests were further supported when it funded our Archivist's salary for two years, and by a subvention to the College's tercentenary *History*.

As a former Garden Master and one who, in Fulford's words, 'was versed in garden-design and also arboriculture' it was appropriate that his Trust should, with the College Society, pay for the construction of a pedestal for the new statue of Mercury (itself the gift of Robert Kime) in the Provost's Rose Garden.

As Dean for 34 years, Wilkinson brought to the role firmness and humour, and he was always actively concerned for undergraduate welfare; for many years the Trust has made a contribution to Travel Funds to enable junior members to undertake vacation travel of an educational or adventurous nature.



Anne Desmet beside her collaged razor-shells; below them is a maquette for Henry Moore's *Mother and Child*

Finally, in remembrance of Wilkinson as Steward of the Senior Common Room, the Trust, on the suggestion of the current Steward, Dr Grant Ritchie, commissioned a piece of art for the Common Room from Anne Desmet, R.A., who entered Worcester in 1983, graduating in Fine Art in 1986. She has exhibited and won awards both here and abroad, and her work is in major public and private collections world-wide; in 2011 she was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Arts, only the third wood engraver to be elected to the Academy in its history.

The commissioned work is entitled 'Echoes of Empires': a semi-circle of 21 razor shells, suggestive of 21 centuries, on which are collaged on Japanese paper engravings of buildings which depict an Ovidian metamorphosis from Rome's Temple of Vesta through to a suggestion of Oxford's Radcliffe Camera; the progression is reminiscent of a Grand Tour, and was suggested by the paintings given to the College by former Wilkinson Trustee, Harry Pitt, and exhibited in the Woodward Room where Anne Desmet's 'Echoes' is situated. Behind the modernity of the razor-shells are echoes of Piranesi's engravings of the Roman Forum and the Colosseum, c.1751, and of the projected ruins of London in Doré's 'The New Zealander' from London, 1873.

Over 50 years after Wilkinson's death, his Trust continues to be a source of regeneration and new enrichment, one of the ways in which, as he himself observed in his last speech at the College Dinner on 29 June 1957, 'though the College grows older, it does not grow old'.

*Professor Campbell died after this article was completed; his place as a Wilkinson Trustee has been taken by Professor Paul Ewart.*

# 'Tantum non fundator'

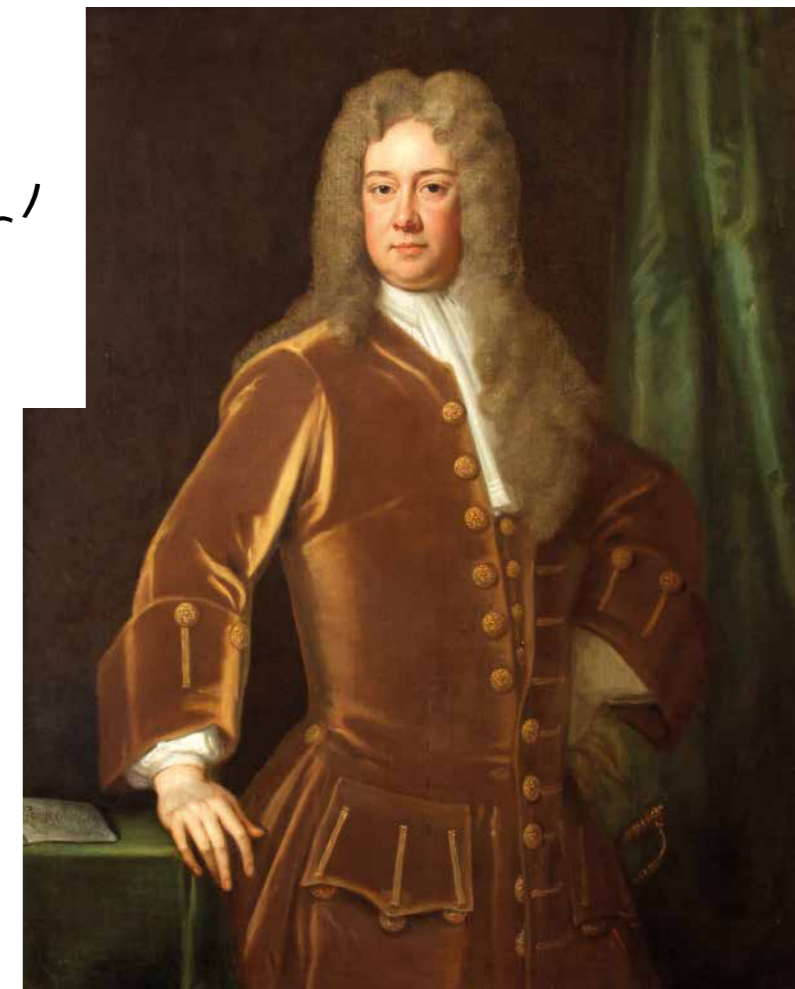
Dr. Frances Henderson (1996-1998) and Mark Bainbridge, College Librarian

"Almost our Founder". This often-quoted reference to Dr George Clarke (1661-1736), and his part in the foundation (1714) and early development of Worcester College, reflects those aspects of his interests, life and character for which we most often remember him today: munificent benefactor, patron of architecture, architects and the decorative arts (particularly in Oxford), and collector of books and prints on a grand scale. Much has been written to celebrate George Clarke's achievements in these fields.

However, apart from Timothy Clayton's necessarily brief account in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, little has appeared in print to paint a more rounded portrait of George Clarke – politician, Member of Parliament, holder of such high public offices as Judge-Advocate for the army from 1681, Secretary at War under William III, secretary to Queen Anne's husband, Prince George of Denmark. To discover more about these, we have little more to rely on than Clarke's own autobiography, published – by the greatest good fortune – in *The Historical Manuscripts Commission's Report on the Manuscripts of F W Leyborne-Popham Esq* in 1899; shortly after this the whereabouts of this manuscript, like so many others formerly at Littlecote House, became entirely unknown. Happily, the printed transcript appears to be complete, without omissions or redactions.

Clarke started writing his life history in November 1720, beginning with his own birth at his parents' house in Pall Mall on 7 May 1661 and continuing up to the death of King William III in 1701. A second section carried the narrative forward to 1727, with the final extension taking his readers up to the Parliamentary election of 1734. By then, when he was aged over seventy, in very poor health, blind in one eye and with failing sight in the other, the picture is a melancholy one; Clarke recorded his dismay at being elected Member of Parliament for Oxford University for a further, fifth, time and marked the sadness of losing old friends in Latin – *Homo toties moritur, quoties amittit suos*.

The recent ordering of Clarke's archives by our Archivist, Emma Goodrum, along with other recent discoveries about Clarke's life, has presented a new opportunity for assessing

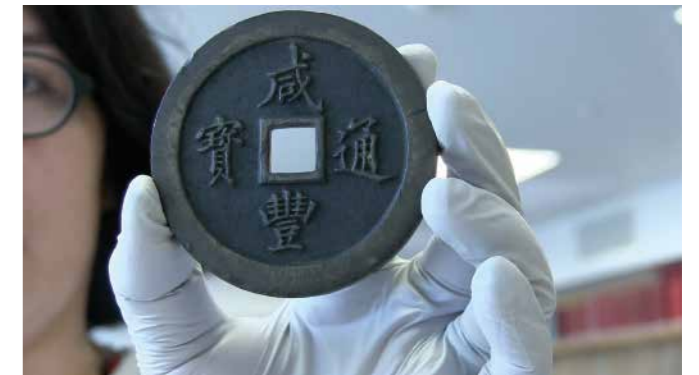


George Clarke 'in the round', setting the wealth of material housed in our College and, particularly, in its library into the context of holdings elsewhere, and following as many aspects of his rich life as can still be tracked down. The work has already begun with a study of Clarke's final days in Oxford, as well as some aspects of his life in London. It is intended to provide an introductory chapter which will cover the life of George's father, the army secretary William Clarke, again relying on the rich sources for his life which – by courtesy of his son's benefaction – are still available to us in Worcester College library.

The study – still in its early stages – will be undertaken as a collaboration: Frances Henderson will concentrate on the text; Mark Bainbridge will contribute a number of appendices relating to, for example, Clarke's library, his collection of pictures and other known possessions, the beneficiaries of his Will, etc. It is hoped the volume will provide not only a more representative account of our benefactor's many-faceted life, but also a fresh tool for others wishing to follow the history of our College, or of George Clarke himself.

# Money, money, money ...

Dr Lyce Jankowski, Sackler Research Fellow, tells us more about her research



**T**oday, when using coins and banknotes, seldom do we pay attention to the objects themselves. They are nevertheless full of symbols and mottos, which tell a lot about a country's identity. If our monetary tradition goes back to Greece starting with the silver Lydian coins in 7th century BC, on the other side of the world, China too started to cast bronze coins at the same period. Chinese cash coins circulated widely in society and the mintage even reached 327 million units per year during the Tang dynasty (7th-9th century AD). Chinese bronze cash coins then spread to all neighbouring countries (Korea, Japan, Annam, Java and even Sogdiana, in Central Asia). By the 11th century, the Song were producing 6 billion coins a year and their currency was used for international as well as local trade in all East Asia. What message do Chinese coins convey about their civilization and most importantly what can we learn from the historical success of Chinese coinage as a supranational currency? These are some of the questions that my research aims to answer.

The Ashmolean Museum's unique collection of East Asian coins opens a window on a relatively unknown part of the world coinage history

The history of Chinese numismatics was the subject of my PhD in art history completed in Paris-Sorbonne University. I joined Worcester College in October 2014 as a Sackler junior research fellow to research the East Asian coin collection of the Ashmolean Museum. It had been so far little exploited, for lack of a dedicated curator, and was in need of a thorough assessment. The Sackler research fellowship generously funded by the Sackler Foundation enables me to work hands-on in the Museum's Heberden Coin Room for three years. Through a complete inventory of the 20,000 specimens I was able to assess the quality and strength of the collection. It offers a comprehensive illustration of all the historical periods of East Asian history from 7th century BC to 20th century AD, including China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. It ought to be a major reference point, as it is the largest collection of Korean coinage in the UK; the Chinese coins collection proves to be very rich with an exciting great number of varieties for the medieval period; the Japanese cash coins are a fine primary source and

I identified a unique collection of Japanese and Vietnamese imitations of Chinese coins, which were circulating in these countries between the 10th and the 16th century AD.

The Ashmolean Museum's collection of East Asian coins is also unique thanks to its provenance: it was largely formed in Japan during the 18th century by Kutsuki Masatsuna, a daimyo also known as Tamba prince, who had a passion for coins. He patiently gathered Japanese issues of all periods, starting with the first Japanese coin cast by Empress Gemmei in 708 AD. He also collected ancient and medieval Chinese coins, which constituted a large part of the monetary mass in medieval Japan. Last he selected odd-looking coins, which were either unofficial Japanese or Vietnamese coins. Gathered during the Edo period his collection gives a unique insight on East Asian coinage. Through these coins patterns of circulation appear: some Chinese Song coins produced during the 10th century circulated in Japan and were copied there four centuries later; the Japanese copies were traded in South East Asia and were eventually copied in Vietnam. The crudeness of the calligraphy makes it very obvious that these are copies, but the needs of the local market and the poor quantity of official coins

available made them tradable at the same value as any other official coinage.

The Ashmolean Museum's unique collection of East Asian coins opens a window on a relatively unknown part of world coinage history. The Chinese numismatic tradition, being one of the most ancient and the most important in terms of quantities produced over history, is well worth exploring. The cataloguing of the 20,000 specimens is ongoing and constitutes the first step in the study of the historical success of Chinese coinage as a supranational currency. The systematic study of the coins' variations will enable us to discriminate between issues, will provide a sequence of dating and contribute to a better understanding of circulation of bulk metal and coins between the countries bordering the China seas. More broadly it will contribute to the knowledge of the economic history of the region.

The 3,000 coins of the Korean collection of the Ashmolean Museum's Heberden Coin room will be accessible online this summer on <http://hcr.ashmus.ox.ac.uk>.

16. 29. 1739 Whereas Samuel Foote Scholar of Worcester College having by a long continuance of ill behaviour rendered himself obnoxious to frequent censures of the Society publick & private, & having, whilst he was under censure for lying out of College, insolently & presumptuously withdrawn himself, & refused to answer to severall heinous crimes objected to him, tho' duly cited by the Provost by an letter under a Jura, in not appearing to the said citation, for the above reasons his Scholarship is declared void, & he is hereby deprived of all benefit & advantage of his said Scholarship.

Wm. Gower Prov.  
R. Bourchier Vice-Prov.  
J. Torre Fellow.  
J. Wauley Dean

# Samuel Foote at Worcester College

Emma Goodrum, College Archivist, delves into the archives to discover more about the infamous Samuel Foote.

Samuel Foote's notoriety has faded somewhat since his death in 1777. Once one of the more infamous former members of the College, both for his conduct while here, which culminated in him being sent down, and for his subsequent career as an actor and writer of satirical comedies, Foote has only recently returned to public interest thanks to a recent play produced at the Aldwych Theatre by Sir Michael Codron (1948) and book by the writer and actor Ian Kelly, both titled *Mr Foote's Other Leg*. Foote's career is largely accountable for this, as his comedic writing was based on personalities of the time or contained central parts for one-legged actors (Foote had a leg amputated in 1766) and therefore has limited appeal for revival. Given this upturn in interest, it seemed appropriate to provide further details on his time at Worcester in the College Magazine.

Born in January 1720 or 1721 (the date and year are not

clear), Samuel Foote was the fifth child of Samuel Foote, MP for Tiverton, and his wife Eleanor Dinely, the daughter of Sir Edward Goodere. Through his mother Samuel Foote was distantly related to the founder of Worcester College, Sir Thomas Cookes, and applied for a scholarship on 8 June 1737 under the terms of the original statutes that entitled 'Founder's Kin' to a scholarship on the Cookes Foundation. Samuel Foote's connection to the Founder was so distant (his maternal great-grandfather, Sir Edward Dingly [sic], was related to Sir Thomas Cookes' grandfather) that the Provost and Fellows referred the case to Henry Brooke, Professor of Law; the Provost's accounts record he was paid £1.1.0 for his opinion. Perhaps to the surprise of the College authorities, when Brooke sent them his opinion he found in favour of Samuel Foote, describing him as "cognatus et consanguineus of the Founder of Worcester College" (i.e. descended from the same



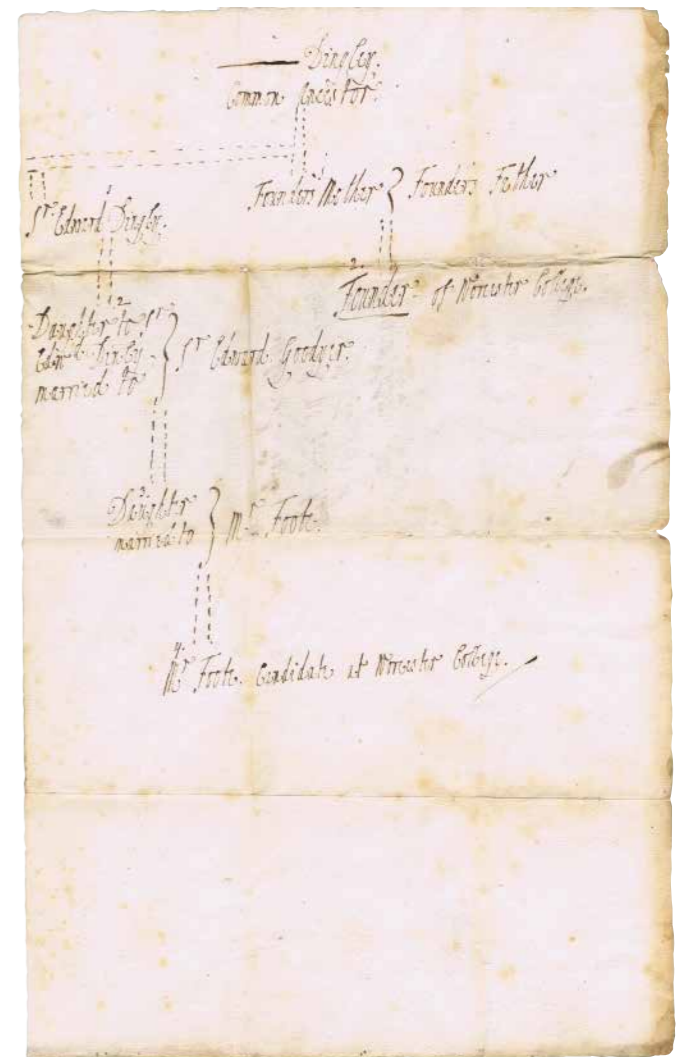
It appears that the College authorities soon came to regret Foote's admittance, as he was lax in his studies, flouted rules about residence, and subjected the Provost, William Gower, to ridicule

ancestor and of the same blood as the founder). Foote was therefore awarded his scholarship, worth £5.12.3 per quarter, and matriculated on 1 July 1737.

It appears that the College authorities soon came to regret Foote's admittance, as he was lax in his studies, flouted rules about residence, and subjected the Provost, William Gower, to ridicule. After three tumultuous years of bad behaviour and punishments, Foote was finally expelled from his scholarship on 25 February 1740 "after a course of many Irregularitys" which he refused to return to the College to answer. There is no further information about Foote's misdemeanours in the College records, which is unusual given the detail in other entries relating to undergraduate discipline.

Tales of Samuel Foote's time at Worcester have passed into College legend, even without archival evidence to confirm them. A friend of Foote, William Cooke, wrote *Memoirs of Samuel Foote, Esq* in 1806 (thirty years after Foote's death) and included a couple of stories of Foote's persecution of William Gower, a man he describes as of "a grave, pedantic turn of mind; and pedantry was to Foote an irresistible bait for every kind of wit and humour". One legend, briefly alluded to in the play *Mr Foote's Other Leg*, relates how Foote tied "a wisp of hay" to the bell rope of "the church belonging to the college" several nights in a row to entice cows grazing nearby to chew on the rope, ringing the bell in the early hours of the morning. Finally Provost Gower agreed to sit up to find the cause of the noise, rumours having spread that "several spectres were seen walking about in the church-yard". When the cause was discovered "the laugh of the whole town was turned upon [the Provost]". Those who know the College will recognise that this story must have been much embellished over the years of Foote's telling it, as the College does not have a church connected with it, much less a churchyard in which spectres could have room to wander. However, the recent discovery of receipts for bell ropes in eighteenth-century Bursary accounts, coupled with the acquisition of a 1970s BBC recording of the Worcester College bell, have led me to wonder whether this story may have more of a basis in truth than previously suspected.

The College History written by C H O Daniel and W R Barker in 1900 provides perhaps the best known story about William Gower's sufferings at the hands of Samuel Foote:



Scholar  
may 5 Recd five pounds twelve shillings & three pence  
halfpenny for ye same 2<sup>d</sup> J. Foote. 05 12 05 1/2

*He used to act Punch through the streets of Oxford, and amuse the crowd with his ridicule of the pomposity of the Provost, who was the object of his especial persecution. On one occasion, when summoned to receive a reprimand from the insulted dignitary, he presented himself with the greatest appearance of gravity and submission, but with a dictionary under his arm. No sooner had the pompous harangue begun than at the first long word "Foote interrupts the doctor, begs pardon with great formality, and turns over the dictionary to find out its meaning, and after a moment's pause requests the Provost to proceed".*

Such acts undoubtedly made Foote popular among sections of the student body but can hardly have endeared him to the authorities. The real surprise is not that he was expelled from his scholarship, but that it took three years – years that set a precedent for the scandal-filled life Foote would go on to live.

# Twelfth Night

This year's Buskins production

**T**rinity term's special Buskins production in honour of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death was *Twelfth Night*, played in promenade around the Lodgings garden. It was co-directed by the Provost and second-year English undergraduate Georgia Figgis. As is customary, the production team was from Worcester, but the play was cast from across the University. Auditions and callbacks revealed the tremendous strength and versatility of Oxford student acting. The *Twelfth Night* cast was uniformly strong: a review by Peter Kosminsky (1976), who produced a legendary OUDS production of the same play himself, will appear in the College Record. From the first words spoken by Alex Millen, a Worcester graduate student playing Duke Orsino, to the haunting final song, composed and delivered by Indyana Schneider's Feste, the verse was animated with utter clarity, comprehension and emotional depth. The prose in the comic scenes was equally vigorous. Many audience members said that they had never seen such a good rapport between Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Playing them young – students out for a night of laughter and a few drinks – made them less seedy than is sometimes the case.

The Provost is a great believer in "short Shakespeare". He did not want the show to exceed what the prologue to *Romeo and Juliet* calls "the two hours traffic of our stage". The text was accordingly trimmed to exactly one hour each side of the interval – during which Pimms was consumed in a beautiful circular Moroccan tent in the middle of the Lodgings lawn, a structure which doubled as Orsino's court and the wet weather plan. Unbelievably, given that it was the wettest June in recorded history, none of the six performances had to be played in the confined space of the tent, save for half of the dress rehearsal that was opened to College staff because the entire run had sold out within hours of tickets being made available online.

The most radical cut to the text was the removal of the (very dull) part of Fabian, a follower of the Lady Olivia. His lines were redistributed among Sir Toby, Sir Andrew and Maria, and his place in the household was taken by Coco Chanel, the Provost's children's sixteen-week-old Havanese puppy, billed in the programme as "Fabian, the Lady Olivia's loyal servant". Coco put in a remarkable performance, looking beautiful (and very white) in the arms of the equally beautiful Lady Olivia (clad in mourning black), playing fondly with Sir Toby, and refusing to be walked by Malvolio.

The show was a triumph thanks not only to the immensely hard work of all the actors and production team, especially the indefatigably perfectionist Georgia Figgis, but also to the stunning setting of the Provost's garden and the exquisite Elizabethan costumes hired from the Royal Shakespeare Company, thanks to a generous donation from Sir Michael Codron (1948). The production was dedicated to Professor David Bradshaw, upon his taking ill-health early retirement after more than thirty years as a Fellow in English. Sadly David passed away on the 14th September.





# Sounds from the Chapel

Tom Allery, Director of Chapel Music and former Organ Scholar, gives us an insight into the activities of the choirs

“O Enter into his gates with thanksgiving”. With its unique nineteenth-century design, Worcester’s Chapel is a celebration of text, imagery and colour. These words from psalm 100 are written high above the Chapel’s imposing door, although curiously they are written so that they are visible only on the visitor’s way out of the building. People continue to enter the Chapel at Worcester for a variety of reasons: it provides a place of rest and peace in the middle of a busy day for staff and students, and it provides a focus for the many and varied musical activities of the College. Four choral services are sung each week, as well as an array of concerts and recitals which take place throughout the year. The Chapel’s community includes two separate Chapel choirs which continue a long tradition of music in worship in the Chapel: a choir of boy trebles, and the undergraduate mixed choir.

Both of the Chapel choirs keep busy in addition to their College duties, and maintain a performance profile both in the local area and further afield. The mixed choir has recently given highly successful concerts in the Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy and in St Martin in the Fields in London, to packed audiences: they will be returning to perform in London again in the autumn. Recently, the boys’ choir has sung evensong

in Winchester Cathedral, made a CD recording of music for Evensong (due for release in the autumn), and toured the Italian Riviera during the summer.

In the Hilary term of 2015, members of staff at Worcester made history in the University by forming a new staff choir: this is now Worcester’s third choir in the Chapel, and the first staff choir in the University. From its beginning as a one-off workshop during the College’s health and well-being week, the choir has now become a permanent fixture, meeting for lunchtime rehearsals once a week and performing at the end of each term. Made up of around twenty staff members from different parts of the College, the staff choir has performed at the College Carol Service, and Music for a Summer’s Evening, and has even presented its own evening concert in Hilary term 2016.

The choral and organ scholars of Worcester belong to a distinguished line of musicians who have passed through the College, including Cathedral organists, conductors, record producers, and composers. Recent organ scholars have taken up posts in major UK cathedrals including Guildford (Kathleen Silverman – née McDermott), Southwell Minster (Edward Turner), Wells (Nicholas Freestone), Ely (Alexander Goodwin), and Westminster Abbey (Benjamin Cunningham).

The next academic year looks to be another busy one for the Chapel choirs, featuring CD releases from both choirs (including a disc of English music from the first half of the twentieth century), European tours, concerts, and reunion services for former choir members.

We are always pleased to see friendly faces and former members at services and events in Chapel and elsewhere. The choirs’ activities, upcoming concerts, and events can be found on the Chapel website [www.worcesterchapel.co.uk](http://www.worcesterchapel.co.uk). Services are held on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the College Chapel.

*Please see back page for upcoming Chapel events.*

*Right:* The Chapel Choirs performing an outdoor concert in Bordighera. This was the final performance of their tour of Italy and France during July 2016.

*Below:* Senior Organ Scholar Ben Cunningham (2013) conducting an impromptu singalong in an Italian cave-church.





# Reflections in the Lake

Time past, future and present

The Reverend Dr Jonathan Arnold, Chaplain and Senior Research Fellow (2008–2016), moves on to Magdalen College, Oxford.



*An ending in one place only serves to bring about a new beginning in another ... our experiences combine within us so that our present selves, in the here and now, are a culmination of the all that we have been, what we are, and all the potential of the future.*

Such are the sentiments I uttered to students, fellows, choristers and parents in my leavers' sermon on the last Sunday of the Trinity term. But this year I was also preaching to myself as I became one of the leavers. My new role as Dean of Divinity at Magdalen College will no doubt bring new delights and challenges but the potential of the future is mixed with memories of the past. Thus, I remember the words of a great poet who was baptised by former Chaplain of Worcester College William Force Stead, in 1927: T.S. Eliot. In his poem *Burnt Norton* from the *Four Quartets*, Eliot explored the nature of time and how all existence, past, present and future is only explicable in the eternal:

*Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future,  
And time future contained in time past.*

It is in the 'now', however, that I see the reflections of the past visible in the present, like the reflections in the beautiful Worcester lake.

I came to Worcester in 2008 as Chaplain but my association with the College has been much longer. As many of you will remember, the Rev'd Dr. Emma Pennington, my wife, was

Chaplain from 2003-2008. When I covered Emma's maternity leave in the summer of 2006 as acting Chaplain, I gained a sense of the privilege, complexity and joy of College Chaplaincy and, from 2008, I have been able to build upon the firm foundations that Emma laid. It has been a wonderful time and there have been many highlights for me: the music and the liturgy; research, writing and publishing as a Senior Research Fellow; teaching ecclesiastical history for the College and the Faculty; working with parishes to appoint incumbents to College livings; convening the new 'Music and Theology' seminars, Woodroffe lunches and dinners with so many interesting speakers and preachers; organising special events, such as the Tercentenary concert in St. John's Smith Square with current and former members; several BBC live broadcasts from the Chapel and from Manchester; founding the new girl choristers' choir *Frideswide Voices* and see it grow and flourish; organising the Chaplains' mission week on 'Christianity and the Arts'.

But of course the real joy of being part of Worcester College is the people: staff, fellows and students alike bring fresh energy to the family of Worcester each day. Tom Allery's new staff choir and the concerts by the lake will be a special memory for me because it will remind me of how harmonious (literally!) College life can be. Every member of College, be they scout, fellow or JRF, brings their own distinctive contribution to the whole.

Most of all I will treasure those moments that very few people see and of which one never speaks: confidential encounters when someone, from whatever part of the College structure, puts their trust in you, shares their troubles and speaks from the depths of their soul. There is no greater privilege in Chaplaincy than these moments. As I look at the present generation of students, staff and fellows, I see the faces of those who have gone before and anticipate those who will come after.

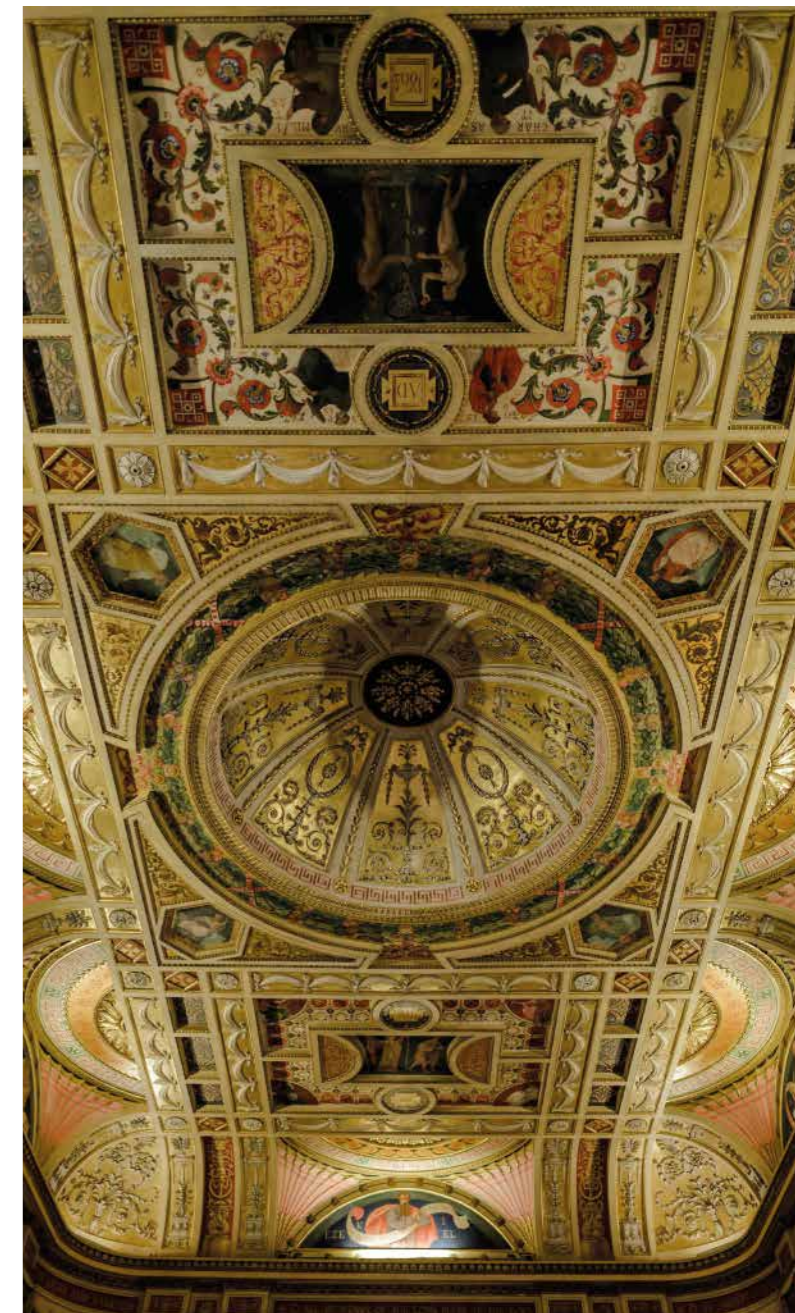
And then there is the Chapel itself: a place of peace, of coming together, of music and of silence – the spiritual heart of the College and a sacred space where, to quote T.S. Eliot again, 'prayer has been valid'. The very walls of the Chapel are alive with the prayers and memories of those who have worshipped and prayed in that space and it will always be a very special place to me.

The next Chaplain of Worcester will be a lucky person because they will find support and affirmation in this College. There is not room for me to thank everyone that I should here, but no one could have been more fortunate than I to have the advocacy and encouragement of Provost Dick Smethurst and likewise Provost Sir Jonathan Bate and Lady Paula's confidence, assurance and support, as well as, of course, Prof. Susan Gillingham's friendship, collaboration and expert leadership of the Chapel Committee. My life has been made immeasurably easier by Chapel Warden,

Dr. Matthew Cheung-Salisbury, co-convenor of 'Music and Theology', liturgist, musician, ambassador for Worcester and its Chapel. I have depended upon the astonishing commitment and skill of generations of organ and choral scholars, sacristans, readers, preachers, seminar and Woodroffe dinner speakers, as well as the camaraderie and encouragement of members of the SCR, MCR, JCR and alumni – too many special individuals over too many generations, but I am grateful to you all and in your debt.

As I leave Worcester Chapel for the last time, I will remember the words above the Chapel door, from psalm 100: 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving'. The genius of Burges was to make these words only visible as one exits the Chapel, for God is not contained only within the consecrated Chapel, but He is to be found in the new and unexpected:

*What might have been and what has been  
Point to one end, which is always present.*  
(T.S. Eliot, *Burnt Norton*)



# Past Events



Introduced by the Provost Sir Jonathan Bate, Senator Bill Bradley (1965) in conversation with Barrie Wigmore (1964) at the University Club, New York, on Monday 11th April 2016.

Senator Bradley served in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 1997, representing the state of New Jersey. In 2000, he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.



Bill Bradley answering questions from the audience.



Barrie Wigmore (1964).



## Dinner in Hall – 50 years on

A 50th Reunion for those who matriculated in 1966 was held on Thursday 15th September 2016. Following a drinks reception in the Provost's garden, Old Members enjoyed a superb dinner in Hall, including a barley risotto, slow-cooked lamb, and vanilla poached pears, before finishing the night in the Buttery with a selection of wines and spirits.

# Benefactors' Garden Party

Another successful Benefactors' Garden Party!  
Rain threatened, but we survived.



Following the Shakespeare tradition, the Provost speaks from the Nuffield balcony to all of our generous benefactors.



Where would we be without Oxford City Silver Band? In the classic garden party fashion, their delightful background music could be heard by all across the Nuffield lawn.





# College Varsity report

Jake Langmead-Jones (2013, Earth Sciences)

Following the success of the inaugural College Varsity in Oxford last year, Worcester once again took on its sister college, St Catharine's Cambridge (St. Catz), across a range of sports during Hilary term. This year, 100 undergraduates from Worcester travelled to the wilderness of Cambridge in an attempt to claim the title of sportiest college. Spirits were high as the Worcester coaches pulled into the St. Catz playing fields and students looked forward to sixteen contests, including new fixtures such as badminton and tug of war.

The day kicked off with a depleted men's rugby team taking on a resurgent St. Catz team. A well-contested fixture ultimately ended in defeat for Worcester, despite a notable last-minute score for finalist and long-time clubman Sam Treon, who managed to find his first ever try in his final game for Worcester. At the same time as the rugby, a makeshift Worcester women's hockey team were taking on St. Catz, who had won the Cambridge college league. Worcester's women fought defiantly but a

well-drilled St. Catz team took the game 3–0. Losses were also suffered by similarly depleted teams in the men's and mixed hockey fixtures.

Just when it looked as though this might be a painful day for Worcester, mixed lacrosse began. The growing appetite for this sport at Worcester showed, as the team dispatched their opponents 2 goals to 1 in a dramatic comeback win,

## Worcester takes on St. Catharine's Cambridge

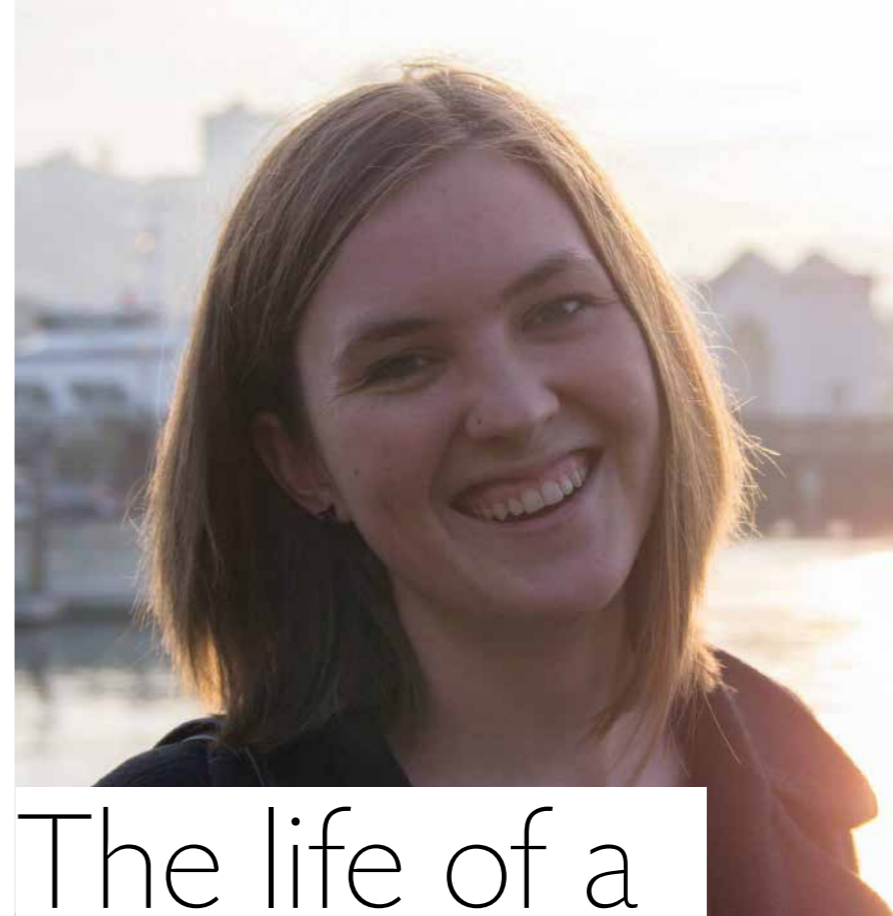
sparked by combination play by Toby Stables and Antonia Murray, to be finished off by Sam Davies Udina. Any hopes that this might trigger an early turnaround for Worcester were dashed, however, when Worcester's tennis team was beaten resoundingly by a superior St. Catz team in straight sets.

Netball, captained by Isabel Tol, marked the turning point of the day as the two women's teams worked to achieve a seemingly effortless victory over St

Catharine's. The mixed netball team had an equally successful outcome in front of a growing crowd.

Next on the pitch was football. The Worcester men's team expertly dispatched St. Catz 5–0, rekindling fond memories of the 11–0 win they enjoyed last year. Arguably the greatest story of the day was the women's football team who, missing almost their entire team, recruited a band of enthusiastic recruits on the bus and managed to edge out a nervy 1–0 victory over an experienced St. Catz team.

The day of sports ended the traditional Worcester way – in the bar, with fierce debate and wildly exaggerated tales of sporting prowess. After enjoying the spectacle of inter-college table football and darts, the Worcester teams returned triumphantly to Oxford, already excited for the return of St. Catz next year. Many thanks must go to the College for their support in organising this great event, as well as the Worcester charities rep Rosemary Walmsley, who managed to raise £400 on the day.



# The life of a visiting student

Claire Coleman (2016, PPE) tells us of her experiences on her Junior Year Abroad at Worcester.

Having studied abroad before, I expected my time at Worcester to be characterized by the ups and downs of culture shock, but the downs never came. From getting up at 5am to go rowing to engaging with political and academic ideas with complete strangers, I have loved every minute of my time here at Oxford. How extraordinary to be able to pursue my true academic interests and then to find friends interested in hearing about it. For many Americans, study abroad is a time for relaxation and partying in a new country, with perhaps a few language classes thrown in, but my experience has been one of academic and athletic rigour alongside the requisite parties and adventures.

It takes a certain type of personality (perhaps a touch of insanity?) to wake up before the sun to put yourself through immense physical exertion, and yet the many hours I spent rowing at Worcester have been some of my favourite. The ex-

ceptional women I have had the pleasure of rowing with are the primary reason I get up in the morning to row despite freezing weather or late-night essay crises. From team brunches at Combibos to pub crawls and crewdates, the hours we spent off the water together were as important to me as the hours spent training.

At the end of May, despite rigorous training and immense progress from the challenging races of Torpids, we competed in Summer Vllls in what might have been the worst performance of all time by Worcester rowing in terms of rankings. All four of the boats entered by the Worcester College Boat Club got spoons, and yet it was one of the best weekends I can remember. The long hours of training and close team bond may not have achieved us a bump, but we raced hard and had a great time in the process.

Coming from California where black tie events are exceptionally rare, the May Balls were everything I could have

imagined. After taking endless photos with Worcester students attending balls at 4 different colleges, I proceeded to the LMH Ball with a few fellow Visiting Students and was amazed by the events. Fireworks displays, multiple stages, rides, and all the features expected by avid ball-goers dazzled those of us from the other side of the Atlantic, and we danced the night away, minus the few hours we spent seated in an ornate tent resting our aching feet. If I can manoeuvre my plans into place next summer, I plan to return for Worcester's own ball and visit my friends here.

If I could do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing. I cannot remember a time in my life when I was as happy as I have been here at Oxford, and for that I am immensely grateful. I know the relationships I have built will last a lifetime, and that when I leave Worcester in a few weeks I will always remember this wonderful place with a smile.



Congratulations to our amazing students!

EXAMINATION RESULTS  
August 2015 – August 2016

117 took Schools in 2016  
42 got Firsts, 69 II.is, 6 II.iis,  
0 IIIs, 0 Passes, 0 Fails

# WCB 2017

## WORCESTER COLLEGE COMMEMORATION BALL

"I think we shall keep for ever in the heart of us,  
you and I,  
that first Arcadian evening"

June 23rd, 2017

£195 non dining  
£235 dining

Further information regarding ticket sales TBA.  
enquiries contact: [thomas.rheinberg@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.rheinberg@worc.ox.ac.uk)

## Why not meet at Worcester?

**A**s I'm sure you'll agree, Worcester is the most beautiful College in Oxford. We are extremely fortunate to be in the heart of the city and offer first-rate facilities which can be hired out for many occasions.

Our varied and flexible meeting spaces are perfect for board meetings, presentations, fine dining and canapé receptions from 20–120 guests. The exciting addition, in 2017, of the Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre will increase our capacity to 150 in a beautiful auditorium with 2 smaller seminar rooms and exhibition space, overlooking the cricket pavilion and lake.

With a long-standing reputation for one of the finest kitchens amongst the Oxford Colleges, Worcester's chefs and hall staff listen to conference organisers to ensure their delegates experience a high-quality and friendly service. The conference team are happy to tailor bespoke menus to suit any event.

Outside of term time, the College can host residential conferences with up to 250 wi-fi-connected, single en-suite study bedrooms.

We actively welcome bookings from College members for private and corporate events.

Our new website [www.meetworcester.com](http://www.meetworcester.com) will tell you more of the story and for further information please follow the enquiry link on the website or email us at [meet@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:meet@worc.ox.ac.uk). Alternatively do give us a call on 01865 278345.



# Events Programme 2016/17

**Tuesday 22nd November 2016**

**Young Worcester Winter Drinks**

Drinks at The Folly, London, EC3V 0BT.

**Thursday 8th December 2016**

Varsity Rugby Match

**Saturday 11th March 2017**

**Law Dinner**

For all those who read or are practising law. The guest speaker will be Lord Justice Colman Treacy.

**Saturday 18th March 2017**

**College Gaudy**

For those who matriculated in 2007, 1965, 1966 and 1967.

**Friday 24th – Sunday 26th March 2017**

**Oxford University Asia Alumni Weekend**

A programme of lectures and presentations to be held over the weekend.

**Sunday 2nd April 2017**

The Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Races

**Friday 5th May 2017**

**Medical Society Alumni Dinner**

A dinner for former medical students and those associated with the Medical Society.

**Saturday 10th June 2017**

**Benefactors' Garden Party**

**Friday 23rd June 2017**

**Commemoration Ball**

**Saturday 30th September 2017**

**College Gaudy**

For those who matriculated in 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1960 and earlier.

**Saturday 22nd September 2018**

**Theology Dinner – save the date!**

The events programme is constantly being updated – keep checking our website, [www.worc.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.worc.ox.ac.uk/alumni), for further details.

Events highlighted in red are College events.

## Chapel events – Michaelmas 2016

**Wednesday 2nd November**

Performance of Faure's Requiem for All Souls in the Worcester College Chapel, at 6 p.m.

**Wednesday 16th November**

Chapel Choir Concert at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, London, at 5.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 22nd November**

Choral Evensong at Worcester Cathedral at 5.30 p.m.

**Sunday 27th November**

College Carol Service in the Worcester College Chapel, at 5.45 p.m.

**Thursday 1st December**


College Carol Concert (choristers, mixed choir, staff choir) in the Worcester College Chapel, at 6 p.m.

## Events information and booking

Please visit [www.worc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.worc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events) or contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office:


Email: [development@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@worc.ox.ac.uk)


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