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An opportunity to reflect, celebrate and look ahead

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## From the Editor

With so much turmoil worldwide, we hope Lincoln is a haven for our students and community. In acknowledgment of this, it feels appropriate that this year's *Imprint* theme is Global Lincoln, one of the five pillars of our 600th Anniversary Campaign, summarised in Jane Mitchell's article.

In his 'Retrospective', Henry Woudhuysen – newly retired after 12 years as Rector – charts the many changes across College over the centuries. In College News, we honour our longest-serving staff who witnessed the more recent changes, including renovations, sustainability

projects and new student initiatives such as the Hartley Leadership Programme. We also introduce Nigel Clifford, joining us as our 40th Rector.

The global theme extends to our Fellow and alumni features. J.P. Park reveals how an 18th-c Frenchman posing as a Formosan fooled European audiences. George Green discusses an interdisciplinary collaboration that sheds new light on Aksumite gold coins. We also follow Molly Hassell's (2015) exploits to stop artifact trafficking, Marian Knight's (1995) research on maternity outcomes across populations, and

George Artley's (2005) insights about the International Bar Association.

We're proud of our students' dedication to academics and extracurriculars. The Sports and Societies section provides a snapshot of their achievements in theatre, sports and more. In My Lincoln, we meet the impressive SRF-WHT Scholar, Sara Compaore (2023).

Thank you to alumni who shared news with us. We appreciate you connecting with us in this way!

**Halley Cohen**, Communications Officer

# College News



## The 50th anniversary of Egon Wellesz's death

Born in Vienna in 1895, Egon Wellesz, a Jew though a Catholic convert, had to flee Austria in 1938. When Lincoln College in November 1938 elected him to a Fellowship, it was the beginning of a new and very productive phase of his life. He felt a deep emotional attachment to the College and regarded it as his home. Oxford University has him to thank for the foundation of a systematic study of musicology, close to the Continental methods, and for the significant intellectual input in shaping the prestigious *New Oxford History of Music*. (The Lincoln community is deeply saddened that Dr Bojan Bujic (1963) – who wrote this piece – passed away in September 2024.)



## New Hartley Leadership Programme

Last December, 16 students completed our first Hartley Leadership Development Programme. The Programme, held over two days, supports students in their personal development to ensure they are ready to transition from college life to the wider world post-graduation so that they can be more impactful, pursue their goals and make a difference as leaders in their chosen sphere. Funded, created and run by Alison Hartley (1980) and Jane Jenkins (1982), this is a fantastic and generous example of stewardship in action. If you are interested in supporting the next programme as a mentor, please contact Susan Harrison.



## Honouring long-serving staff

We live in an era when people change jobs frequently, so we'd like to pay special tribute to staff who have worked at Lincoln for over 20 years, including: Katy Ali (26 years, Buttery), Tony Daly (40 years, Buttery), Eliterio dos Santos Cruz (20 years, Kitchen), Simon Faulkner (41 years, Deep Hall), Fida Hussain (27 years, Buttery), Richard Malloy (38 years, Kitchen), Joshua Singh (21 years, Housekeeping), Ann Suraj (20 years, Buttery), Paul Green (23 years, Maintenance), Robert Williams (26 years, Maintenance), Celia Harker (26 years, Accounts), Carmella Elan-Gaston (21 years, formerly College Office), Rachel King (25 years, Bursary), Mike White (25 years, IT), Sue Williams (26 years, Accounts) and Rohan Ramdeen (22 years, Lodge).



## Nigel Clifford starts as 40th Rector

We're delighted that Nigel Clifford has now begun his tenure as our 40th Rector. He succeeds Henry Woudhuysen who fulfilled the position for 12 years. A graduate of Downing College, our sister College, he has held senior roles in a number of high-profile organisations – including as President of the Royal Geographical Society – and has been particularly attracted to historic institutions that make a difference to the world. Nigel will steer us through our 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and looks forward to meeting the Lincoln community at College and events around the world.





## Peter Nitsche-Whitfield shortlisted for VC Award

Although he has now left the College to pursue graduate studies, we owe a heartfelt thank you to Peter Nitsche-Whitfield who was shortlisted for an Environmental Sustainability Award in this year's Vice-Chancellor's Awards. The Sustainability Officer for Lincoln, Exeter and Corpus Christi Colleges, he was nominated by all three for his holistic and innovative approach to addressing sustainability issues.

Peter's leadership helped secure *Gold Green Impact Awards* for all three colleges. At Lincoln, his considerable input helped us better understand our emissions and energy use, and formulate the next steps on our sustainability journey.



## Renovations across Lincoln

With so many old buildings, there are constant building works, renovations and redecoration needed. This year has been no different.

The Library was made fully accessible with the installation of a platform lift and an accessible toilet. The Williams room was redecorated in an 'Arts & Crafts' style and the adjoining bathroom fully refurbished, while the Beckington room got new lighting, new furniture, a proper heating system and secondary window glazing, and was fully redecorated. As part of our sustainability efforts, Museum Road houses were adorned with new roofs and solar panels to generate electricity for the EPA Centre across the courtyard.



## Resurgence of conferences and events

The College's Conference and Events business had a welcome resurgence in 2023-2024, which helped us generate revenue during the Easter vacation and second half of the summer vacation.

During Easter vacation 2024, we hosted IMAGINE's bi-annual Oxford Experience, as well as delegates, meals and events associated with the Skoll World Forum. During summer vacation 2024, the Bread Loaf School of English returned to Lincoln for the 44<sup>th</sup> time, and the Challenge of Globalisation (COG) and Summer Academy Programmes (SAP) took place in August. IMAGINE returned in September. Concurrently and in between, we hosted other internal and external events and short programmes.



## Accreditation for the Archives!

We are proud that the Lincoln Archive has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation. Alongside New College Archive, we are the first of the Oxford colleges to receive this prestigious national accolade, the UK-wide quality standard that recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. The Accreditation Panel specifically congratulated the Lincoln Archive for delivering a comprehensive service in support of the College. In particular, it commented on its excellent digital work, strong student engagement and ambition of the service. We thank our former Archivist, Lindsay McCormack, for her hard work to make this possible.





LINCOLN'S 600TH ANNIVERSARY:

# Celebrating our global reach

Our 600th anniversary not only gives us an opportunity to celebrate our achievements and thank our generous supporters, but also to look ahead to the next 600 years.



### ***The Future Unleashed* Lincoln's new podcast series**

Nearly a year ago, Dr Sara Althari (2014) observed the photos of inspiring alumnae in Hall and thought that it would be great to bring their stories to a wider audience. Over the coming months, Sara provided not only funding, but also generously lent her expertise and time to work with the Development Office to create and implement the overall concept for a new video podcast series.

Dr Althari said, "I am thrilled to be a co-founder of *The Future Unleashed* podcast - developing an idea from dinner with Susan on High Table to an immersive conversation with leading Lincoln alumni. It's an honour to be part of Lincoln's diverse and inspiring global community, and to support this engaging series as part of our 600th Anniversary."

The series, entitled *The Future Unleashed*, provides us with an opportunity to lift our gaze to the horizon of the next six centuries to ask, "What does the future hold?". Hosted by journalist and author, Helen O'Hara (1996), we present this question to our esteemed alumni, all experts in their diverse fields. Professionally produced, each episode beautifully showcases a different College location.

The episodes in the first series include: 'On the Future of Entertainment' with actor, writer and director Emily Mortimer (1990); 'On the Future of Global Medicine' with Dr David Walcott (2011), founder of Novamed; 'On the Future of the Novel' with best-selling author Lynn Shepherd (1982), aka Cara Hunter; and 'On the Future of Space Exploration' with Dr Adam Camilletti (2002), physicist and engineer at Airbus Defence and Space.

More episodes will be released in the autumn to coincide with the launch of our 600th Anniversary celebrations on topics such as the future of the constitution, prison reform and human rights.

All video podcasts can be found on the College website and YouTube channel, and audio-only versions can be heard on most major podcast platforms. We hope you enjoy the series as much as we do!

Lincoln's 600th Anniversary Campaign officially launches this October and runs through to the 2027-2028 academic year. Our overall goal during this period is to secure the College's academic mission and be able to face both challenges and opportunities with confidence. The College was founded on 13 October 1427 so the major anniversary celebrations will be held in the 2027-2028 academic year and culminating, we hope, with an alumni ball in College in the autumn of 2028.

Throughout the launch this October, our regional chapters will hold 'Toasts across the Coasts' events. Our big celebration will take place at Tate Modern, London, which will be a time to hear from the new Rector about the College's priorities and the ways we plan to honour our rich history while looking towards the future.

The Campaign will run for four academic years and each year we will spotlight aspects of Lincoln that make it unique. We will start this year with the theme 'Global Lincoln' that will highlight the global reach of Lincoln students, Fellows, staff and alumni. Our fundraising priorities this year will involve raising funds for student scholarships, travel awards, teaching posts and a visiting Fellowship, so we can continue to attract and retain the best and brightest people from around the world.

We plan to showcase the work of the Lincoln community in many different ways, including having a new virtual globe on our website featuring 600 alumni, students, Fellows and staff. You will be able to scroll around the globe to read about the impact the Lincoln community has around the world. It was hard to winnow the field down to 600 as Lincolniters tend to excel, but we felt this was a good sampling of the diverse group of people who have come through these doors.

Our new video and audio podcast series, *The Future Unleashed*, which launched in June 2024, is another way we're celebrating the inspiring work of our alumni. You can read more about the series in the side bar on the left.

Throughout the year, we will also hold several global-themed talks plus a symposium in conjunction with Lincoln Leads. The talks will be hybrid so people may join virtually or in person.

While exploring our global present and future, we will also seek to learn more about Lincoln's historic exchanges with the world beyond the Turl. For example, Alice Parkin (2013, MSt - Classical Archaeology) has completed a database of 375 students before the 1920s who lived or worked overseas, many of whom built extraordinary careers. Perry Gauci's forthcoming book, *Lincoln Lives*, will seek to illuminate these global exchanges with new archival discoveries, drawing upon collections from California to Canberra.

We have also commissioned Hurvin Anderson (2017 Turner Prize winner) - a brilliant artist recently elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2023 - to create a tapestry to be hung in the Langford Room. Hurvin's piece will portray our community, academic studies and conversations in Hall, and how the ebb and flow of ideas and conversations have changed over time along with the history of the College. The tapestry will not only be an eye-catching focal point, but will also improve the room's acoustics.

We hope the 2024-2025 academic year will be a time to explore our international heritage, celebrate our current reach and reflect on how we can have a positive global impact going forward. To learn more about the Campaign, please visit [lincoln.ox.ac.uk/600](http://lincoln.ox.ac.uk/600).

**Jane Mitchell**  
Deputy Development Director



**Indira Rao MBE (1991, BA Law)**

Indira started her legal career at a 'Magic Circle' law firm, then became a Civil Service legal adviser in EU, public international and constitutional law. She held roles in HM Treasury, the Department for Education, and as the UK's Agent to the EU Court. She joined the Diplomatic Service in Brussels, advised on Brexit and worked at the Attorney General's Office. Awarded an MBE in 2020, she is now Counsel for Select Committees in the House of Commons.

**Dr Rebecca Gould (2005, Medicine)**

After two years as a GP in rural Devon, Rebecca returned to Oxford in 2018 for Sport and Exercise Medicine training, gaining Fellowship to the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine in 2023. A former Cochrane UK Fellow, she's passionate about physical activity and health, contributing to Moving Medicine projects and presenting at conferences worldwide. She's been the Team Doctor for Oxford University Rugby Football Club and a Sports Doctor at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Now, she's the Women's and Girls' Team Doctor at Southampton FC and a consultant for the Ministry of Defence.

**Dr Jean-Paul Carrera (2019, DPhil Zoology)**

In 2008, JP began researching undifferentiated febrile illnesses, discovering the Madariaga virus and identifying imported cases of chikungunya and clusters of Punta Toro fever in Panama City. By 2011, his research expanded to mosquito-borne viruses in Latin America, linking deforestation to virus emergence. As an adviser for the Pan-American Health Organization, he dedicated himself to capacity building in Health Ministries. During his DPhil at Oxford, JP modeled outbreaks, especially during Panama's COVID response, and led the national serosurvey during lockdown. He's also the President of the Panamanian Society of Epidemiology and Mathematical Modeling, and co-founded the Carson Center.





# Henry Woudhuysen: A retrospective

We are incredibly grateful to Professor Henry Woudhuysen who has guided the College – with steadiness and good humour – as Rector for the past 12 years. He leaves the College on firm ground, ready for the next 600 years.







It comes as something of a surprise to remember that the ‘amalgamation’ of Lincoln with Brasenose to become ‘a unit’ was being seriously proposed just 80 years ago. When Keith Murray joined the College as Bursar in 1937, it consisted of the Rector (J.A.R. Munro), six Tutorial and two Professorial Fellows (Sir John Beazley and Sir Howard Florey), and Egon Wellesz, an Extraordinary Fellow. There were just over 100 students, with a few graduates among them. The College was spending down its capital, and the Fellows agreed to a temporary cut in their salaries. It was only Keith Murray’s heroic efforts as Bursar and Rector that saved our College from the dreadful fate of a forced marriage in which Lincoln would undoubtedly have been the poorer partner. It is rather unlikely that Governing Body would,

nowadays, agree to having a Rector who was also Bursar, but the combination of roles worked then and laid the foundations for the College’s independent existence and survival. It was able to make changes to its life, direction and especially its property – the conversion of All Saints to the Library, the repossession of rooms in the Mitre Hotel to become student accommodation, the development of Bear Lane and Museum Road, all come to mind. The number of Tutorial Fellowships has grown to around 37; we have been able to be generous with Junior Research Fellowships (from which I so greatly benefited when I first joined the College in 1979) and Career Development Fellowships. Our student numbers have grown considerably to nearly 700, with a slight preponderance of graduates.

Among many other changes, key positions in the College – Bursar and Senior Tutor – have not been filled by Tutorial Fellows for nearly quarter of a century. We were one of the first colleges to appoint a professional Development Director, and the work of our Development Office has hugely expanded. Many of these changes were initiated by my predecessor, Paul Langford, who had a very clear sense of what the College needed to do to adapt and survive in the new century.

With the financial crisis of 2007–8 and the pandemic of 2020–2, it has been quite a difficult time for the College. We have, however, been extremely fortunate in our loyal domestic and administrative staff and our extraordinarily generous alumni. No college can fulfil its educational mission without the essential work undertaken by





its staff in all their different departments. The support of our alumni and the three remarkable trusts to which we are linked (Lord Crewe's Charity, the EPA Trust and the Berrow Foundation) have been central to such success as we have enjoyed. That support has allowed us to build and transform our property (the Berrow Foundation Building in the Fellows' and Rector's Gardens; the former NatWest building in the High Street; Little Clarendon Street; and the Mitre), to add research Fellowships, expand the number of subjects we teach, and to become one of the most generous of Oxford colleges in our provision of bursaries for undergraduates and scholarships for graduates. More than that, our alumni have given freely of their time to encourage our students through Linc Up and to give us good advice about the College

and its future. All of these elements have played a part in improving our academic and (occasionally) our sporting success.

Nor have we neglected the past. The College's 600th anniversary, to be celebrated in 2027–8, will soon be on us. We took advantage of the pandemic to restore the Hall and the Chapel. The Lower SCR is no longer sinking into its non-existent foundations; the Beckington Room – scene of Governing Body meetings, the twin terrors of Rector's Collections and Fellowship interviews – is finally being attended to after successful work on the Williams Room. Cataloguing of the Senior Library is progressing and has given birth to Lincoln Unlocked, our centre for teaching and research set up to support and encourage the study of historic collections. Descriptive catalogues of our Western and

Greek manuscripts are in preparation, along with books on the College's history and on its architectural history, a new piece of music (commissioned with the Dunn School for its centenary) and a tapestry to mark our anniversary.

Perhaps the ending of Antonio's speech in *The Tempest* ('what's past is prologue, what to come | In yours and my discharge') to Sebastian at the start of Act 2 has become a cliché, but it is a convenient formula for our responsibility for the daily making and remaking of the College. Of course, we want to look back on our 600 years of existence, but we must remain mindful of our duty to ensure that the next 600 years keep the College as it is, but make it better.

**H.R. Woudhuysen**  
Rector



# Sports and Societies

## Lincoln Drama Society



In Michaelmas, Lincoln College Drama Society performed the musical *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. As usual, this was an incredible feat, with rehearsals beginning in 1st week and the performance at the start of 8th week. The cast and crew worked together brilliantly, and the end result was a show that we could all be proud of.

Hannah Newman (2021) took on the role of director for a second year, and refused to let final year stress impact her commitment and determination to create a magnificent show. People from all years were involved in the production. Michaelmas musicals are always a great opportunity for first years to get involved in college life. We had several freshers join the ensemble, with special mention for Toby who, eight weeks after arriving in Oxford, was seen sporting a gold chain and sunglasses during his solo. Finalists were also involved, enjoying the light-hearted break from revision.

No performance of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* would be complete without the coat. We were lucky enough that Peter the porter had the most extraordinary dreamcoat lying in wait for this very moment. This kind gesture



epitomises the whole College's support for, and involvement in, the musical, which we truly appreciate.

The cast of 21 were ably supported by a crew of six who managed the lighting, sound, costume, props and front of house. The backstage crew had a brilliant time, notwithstanding the few hours of stress when the sound broke during our technical rehearsal. With over 200 family and friends coming to watch the show, we put smiles on the faces of the Lincoln community at the end of a challenging term.

Highlights from the show included Olly Turney (2022) dressed as Elvis as he performed the role of Pharaoh. He showed that just because you are in a band, it doesn't mean you always look cool when

singing. Other highlights included our French accents, some excellent cowboy choreography and the perfect puppetry.

My role in the musical involved dressing as Joseph's oldest brother, complete with fake ginger beard. I knew that I had performed the role well because, even after a term as JCR President, the Rector did not recognise me on stage.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of College for supporting the production and to everyone who was involved. Every year the musical is a staple of the Lincoln calendar, highlighting our great community, and this year was no exception.

**Fiona Townsley (2022)**  
President, Lincoln Drama Society





## Lincoln Salsa Society

This year has been an exciting one for the Lincoln Salsa Society. After much interest in a taster class run in Trinity Term last year, the Society decided to branch out into a second Latin Dance style – Bachata. Many of our keen Salseros got involved with the Bachata classes in Michaelmas, and the classes were a hit especially amongst our new members.

Hilary term saw our first ever inter-college Social Salsa Dancing Event. This took place in the Oakeshott Room, with students attending from Lincoln, St Edmund Hall, Kellogg, St Catherine's and Magdalen. It was

fantastic to be able to work with people from many different colleges and to develop a wider dancing community here in Oxford.

After two terms of practice, Trinity saw several of our dancers join and successfully perform with the Oxford University Salsa Society Dance Team, who put on a grade-A display at the annual Salsa Ball at Oxford Town Hall in May. I am so proud of our terrific committee, who despite all their other commitments, have run an incredibly tight ship this year, which has allowed us to put on more classes and events for the Society. Thank you!

This was my final year at Lincoln, so I will sadly be saying goodbye to being President of the Lincoln Salsa Society. I am, however, confident that my successor will continue to arrange entertaining classes and social dancing events for all members of the College. Salsa at Lincoln is a brilliant way to get to know new people within College and the wider Oxford dance community, and it has been a privilege to work with so many brilliant and talented people.

**Philippa Warman (2019)**

President, Lincoln Salsa Society

# Sports and Societies

## Rugby

No matter how often it's been said throughout the years, Lincoln Rugby has again this season faced the challenge of putting out a full 15, on account of the relatively small size of the College. Nonetheless, co-captains Felix Palmer (2022) and Peter Braybrook (2022), in a bid to provide at least some Cuppers Rugby, arranged to partner with Worcester, which proved very successful.

The opening game of the season was set to be a tough fixture against Balliol/Hertford. Lincoln rose to the challenge and even off the back of no training, strung together some neat play and effective set pieces, earning a resounding victory.

The annual Old Boys game saw the return of some familiar faces and some rather older faces. Despite some inspired play and well-worked tries from Oliver Dixon-Szul (2021) and Oliver Preest (2021), the current side just fell short of a win. Following a fortunate yet determined Cuppers run, LCRFC, bolstered by a few Worcester players, met with Brasenose



in the final of the shield at Iffley Road. Despite an honourable performance, with notable contributions from freshmen Alasdair Shaw (2023) and Luca Moretto (2023), Lincoln fell short to a slicker, well-drilled and Blues-riddled side.

Lincoln's own OURFC Blue, Harry Bridgewater (2022), although missing from this game, has built on his experiences from last year and cemented his place in the University team. Games against Harlequins and Leicester Tigers Senior Academies were watched by great crowds at Iffley, as was the return of the 'Battle for the City' against Oxford Brookes, which resulted in a convincing 48-3 victory. Notwithstanding

the disappointment of the Varsity result, Harry continues to perform and train to a high standard and is now a prominent and flexible player within the Blues team.

Lincoln Rugby continues to be a unifying force within college life and, as the popularity of the Old Boys fixture is testament to, often ranks amongst the fondest memories of time spent at Lincoln. It is hoped that engagement with and interest in Lincoln Rugby shall last, and that a side independent of a joint college team may again be fielded.

**Peter Braybrook (2022)**  
Co-Captain



## Lincoln's new Running Club

Lincoln College's new Running Club has become a vibrant part of our college life this year with both the JCR and MCR coming together to form a rapidly growing club. Our most popular event, the 'Dash and Danish,' combines a 5K run through Oxford with a Danish pastry at the finish line. It's been a fantastic way to encourage participation from runners of all levels.

Our members have also taken on bigger challenges with the help of a full subsidy by the College and Club. This has allowed members to compete in events like the Rome Marathon, the Paris Half Marathon, and the Town and Gown. These races have showcased our runners' dedication, and

notable successes include the Blenheim 7K with co-founders Alexia Korosidi (2021) placing 2nd in her category and Peter-Rory Hall (2022) placing 2nd in his category and 6th overall.

Looking forward, we plan to continue this momentum. More events – such as competitive races like the Oxford Half Marathon, and maintaining our friendly, inclusive atmosphere – are all on the agenda. Whether aiming to compete, get fit, or simply enjoy a pastry after a run, everyone is welcome to join.

**Peter-Rory Hall (2022)**  
President and Co-Founder





Yoga practice is deeply intertwined with meditation, guiding practitioners to focus on the present moment and develop skills to manage energy and emotions effectively. Micon Garvilles (2019), a DPhil student

## Yoga at Lincoln

in molecular medicine and certified yoga teacher, has shared her passion for yoga and meditation since her MSc studies began. Her mission is to cultivate self-awareness, foster kindness and nurture a sense of belonging within the Oxford community.

Micon has led weekly yoga and meditation classes with diverse styles, welcoming students of all levels. Participants have appreciated exploring new poses and leaving feeling grounded and relaxed. Attendance varied between 3 to 20 members from the MCR and JCR each week. While most classes were held at Lincoln College, some sessions took place at other colleges or outdoors, which students particularly enjoyed.

Students often expressed gratitude to Micon after class, sometimes with hugs. One student expressed thanks in trying yoga and plans to continue practising at home. Another credited the class for helping enhance their yoga practice and intends to maintain it after returning home. Another student mentioned that she found meditation calming and plans to incorporate it into her daily routine.

Micon acknowledges the influence of her teachers and is grateful for the opportunity to impact students' lives. She remains committed to nurturing this community with mindfulness and compassion.

**Micon Garvilles (2019)**

## Sports day

The sports day between Lincoln College and Downing College took place on 11 May in Oxford. It was the first since 2019, due to COVID and other external factors, and was organised by Rabbi Sharif (2022). The aim was to foster camaraderie and healthy rivalry between the two sister colleges. A variety of sports was played on the day, including football, netball, ultimate frisbee, etc, and students were involved in multiple sports from both colleges.

Lincoln dominated badminton and hockey with stellar performances all round from members of the College, especially from our more experienced players. Downing College, however, did well in the football with an impressive 3-0 win against the Lincoln team, and won a tight encounter in the netball game. In terms of social sports, Lincoln did well against our nemesis with a win in rounders and a very close game in frisbee. However, after taking into account all results, Downing College was victorious

and Lincoln College will be hopeful of a more positive result in our next encounter.

There were some incredible sporting feats achieved and the quality of sport was excellent from both sides. Participation levels were high, with students competing enthusiastically in all events even if they didn't play that sport regularly, which was a lovely sight to see. There was strong support from tutors, friends and the local community, including students from different Oxford colleges. The cheering sections from each side added to the vibrant atmosphere at 'Barties', our lovely college grounds.

Overall, students from both colleges expressed enjoyment and satisfaction with the event, highlighting the friendly competition and opportunity to make new friends and to meet some familiar faces. The pitches were located all around the city of Oxford, enabling the students of our sister college to have a scenic view of



Oxford. The sports day was a resounding success, showcasing the talents and sportsmanship of all who took part, and fostering a spirit of unity through friendly competition. The photo of the combined Lincoln-Downing football team is a great example of this sportsmanship since we loaned players to Downing when they didn't have enough to field their own side. Hopefully this special meeting can happen again and again for many years to come.

**Rabbi Sharif (2022)**  
JCR Sports Rep

# Sports and Societies

## On the river

This year was a rather unusual one on the Isis for Lincoln College Boat Club (LCBC) and other college boat clubs alike. Due to the stormy weather in southern England last winter and spring, there was flooding all along the Thames, with Christ Church Meadow looking much more like a lake than a meadow for all of January. As a result, many Isis Winter League races and Torpids were unable to go ahead.

However, LCBC rowers are not easily deterred by poor conditions. After a big taster day and barbeque organised by the LCBC committee and managed by grill-master and Lincoln MCR president Grady Owens (2021), the Club hooked some enthusiastic novices who were ready

to get on the erg machines in the face of the weather. And erg they did! At the University College novice “ergatta” (as indoor rowing races are affectionately called), the women’s side took third place while the men’s side took second. Not to be outdone, the seniors also put on a great showing at the New College ergatta, with the senior men claiming a second-place finish.

Hilary term did not bode much better for the weather, as the dreaded flag stayed red for all of January and February. At one point, it even went to black flag, which means that the river got so high that no one could access boathouse island, forcing everyone to go to the gym instead!

Women’s captain Sophie Layden (2022) devised a bad weather schedule for the Club and at one point in the leadup to Torpids, the men’s first boat went on a trip to the Olympic rowing lake at Dorney. They had to get all the laps in they could, leading to men’s captain Zebedee Bell’s (2022) infamous catchphrase, “one more lap!” In the end, Torpids and our annual training camp in Shrewsbury could not go ahead due to the weather, but as a silver lining, treasurer Rollo Orme (2020) was able to use the money LCBC saved from these cancellations – along with sponsorship funds from rEvolution – to purchase some much-needed new coxing equipment.



Left: Spectators at Summer VIIIs  
Top: LCBC VIIIs W1 crew  
Bottom: LCBC VIIIs M2 crew



LCBC came back strong in Trinity, with the river finally calming down. The green flags meant captain of coxes Amelia Kopacz (2021) could finally send some novice coxes out on outings, and our novice rowers were finally allowed to row!

Even though they got much less water time than usual, our novices were the star of the show at this year's Summer Eights. Just look at the crab hat-sporting M2-W3 composite boat: their quest to reach the promised land of Donnington Bridge captivated the hearts and minds of everyone on boathouse island (and certainly everyone who followed the dedicated LCBC M2 Instagram). Although they never quite made it past Donny Bridge, intrepid cox and committee secretary Madeline White (2019) nonetheless triumphantly led M2-W3... to spoons. W2 unfortunately did not have much better luck, as they also went down a few places, but they put in a valiant effort as one of the highest W2 crews in the starting order. Like M2-W3, they were at a disadvantage for water time, but they made up for it with enthusiasm and excellent face paint.

Our other more senior crews put on a solid performance in Eights. M1 had a bit of a rough first two days, getting caught off the start shortly before reaching the gut. However, on day three, M1 rallied and held off Oriel M2, a quick crew who before that day were on their way to blades. M1 rowed over again on Saturday, so they ended up at -2 for the week, a difficult week of racing but one to be proud of nonetheless.

W1, on the other hand, went +3! They were a talented, experienced crew and it showed on the water, with bumps on Hertford, GTC and St. Annes. With that stellar performance, they ended the week at the second position in Division II, which means that Division I is in the sights of next year's W1 crew.



To cap it all off, LCBC held a barbeque on the roof of the boathouse on the sunny Saturday of Eights, organised by social secretary/vice-captain Katy Thomas (2022) and once again managed by grill-master Grady, with some notable appearances from our alumni. After the final day of racing, LCBC once again returned to the Lincoln dining hall with the alumni society (LCBCS) for the traditional Eights dinner, organised by LCBCS secretary Kate Freeman (2005). This year, the Club commemorated the achievements of last year's blades-winning crews – W1 and W2 in Torpids and W3 in Summer Eights – with a presentation of the blades at the end of the dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Club to come together and celebrate its achievements, for both this year and last.

The festivities were not over! After Eights is perhaps the most fun-oriented event of the Oxford rowing calendar: Oriel Regatta, where crews are encouraged to don costumes and enter composite eights with other colleges – no training allowed. Predictably, LCBC had excellent theming, with a Hawaiian shirt 8+, a formal-wear 4, and a Jojo Siwa 4+.



But, for some more serious racing, the LCBC women's squad once again headed to Henley Women's Regatta this year (June 21-23rd). They put up a time of 5:31.1 on the iconic Henley course and although they didn't make it past the first round, they put up a heroic effort in an unusually competitive and internationally attended HWR!

All-in-all, it was a tough but rewarding year for LCBC. Special thanks goes to welfare officer Kathryn Woodward (2022), equipment officer Ruby Firth (2021), and the rest of the LCBC committee for making the Club run. Special thanks also goes to Darren Marshall (1984) and rEvolution who make financing the Club possible, and LCBCS President Marc Howe (1980) for his invaluable wisdom and support.

**Ellis Capp (2019)**

LCBC President, 2023-2024



## A EUROPEAN FORMOSAN GEORGE PSALMANAZAR AND HIS INVENTION OF ASIA

In this incredible story of George Psalmanazar, Professor J.P. Park reveals how a Frenchman duped 18th-century London into believing he was a native of Formosa, fabricating an entire Asian persona that enthralled and misled European audiences.



In the summer of 1703, a rather unusual sensation broke out in London. A young man who declared himself to be a native of the island of Formosa (modern Taiwan) began making public appearances. Londoners were immediately curious and excited about this first Formosan visitor who had travelled all the way from an island in the Far East to the other end of the Eurasian continent. Known by his newly adopted name, George Psalmanazar (1679–1763), this young man entertained enthusiastic Britons with the dramatic story of his adventurous journey across the ocean while impressing them with his immaculate command of English and French. He also was fluent in Latin, which he was alleged to have learned from a Jesuit priest in Formosa. He announced that he had given up his former barbaric paganism and was baptised and converted to Anglican Christianity. Highly Europeanised in manner, he nonetheless demonstrated his East Asian identity by speaking in a strange foreign language and eating a peculiar diet of raw meats, roots and herbs. He told exotic or ghastly stories of his homeland, including accounts of mass child sacrifices followed by cannibalism. Engaging, gratifying and appalling by turns, his tales satisfied Londoners' desires for unfiltered knowledge of the mysterious Far East, previously only known through the accounts of European authors.

This instant celebrity, however, was not the person he claimed to be. Psalmanazar was neither Taiwanese nor even an Asian, but a Frenchman who had never traveled east of Germany. He had simply invented a Formosan persona, and his impersonation resulted in the fictionalisation not only of his own identity but also of East Asia. To a modern audience, this story may sound like an entertaining incident of a racial disguise or an underhanded ploy envisioned and managed by a cunning poseur. But it was not simply a fraud staged by one man, but an orchestrated performance whose success depended on any number of motivated participants, unsuspecting supporters and even leery skeptics. The sensation was propelled by a host of social, cultural, racial, political, and religious concerns and interests shared widely among early modern Europeans.

Psalmanazar's early life was marked by poverty and instability. Raised in southern France by his mother while his father lived separately in Germany, he received his education in Catholic schools, excelling particularly in Latin. However, at sixteen, he lost interest in academics and drifted into temporary tutoring jobs. Lacking higher education and connections, he struggled to secure stable employment and was soon left with no other option than returning

to his mother. Resorting to deception, he posed as an Irish pilgrim to beg his way home, relying on clergy and wealthy travellers for sustenance. Unable to find opportunities in his hometown, he then journeyed to Germany to reunite with his father. However, his father could not take him in and suggested he move to Holland and find a teaching job.

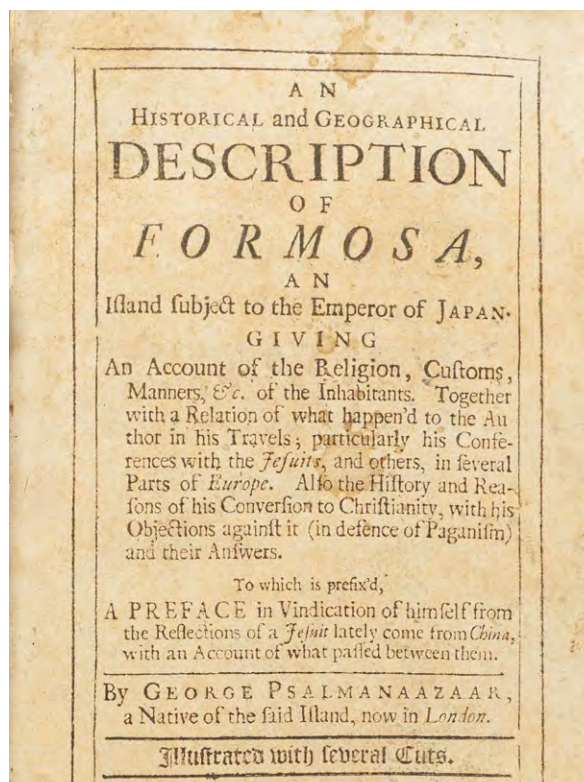
Forced back onto the road, he decided to stop posing as an Irish wanderer due to his limited knowledge of Ireland. Instead, he adopted a new identity as a visitor from Japan, one of the most mysterious and inaccessible Asian nations. Using his limited knowledge of the Far East from his education, he bolstered this new persona by falsifying his passport to show himself as a Japanese convert to Christianity. Surprisingly, his ruse was successful, allowing him to navigate Europe with ease. Building upon this facade, he boldly presented himself as a pagan Japanese, even performing invented religious rituals while serving as a soldier in Holland. His portrayal as a Japanese pagan quickly gained attention, earning him invitations and favourable treatment from clergy and nobles who sought to convert him to Christianity. Rather than a threat, Psalmanazar's persona offered European elites an opportunity for religious glorification and merit.

Psalmanazar's encounter with Reverend Alexander Innes marked a significant turn in his deception. Despite Innes's recognition of the fraudulent nature of Psalmanazar's invented language, he chose not to expose him. Instead, Innes became an accomplice, helping Psalmanazar refine his deception. Under Innes's guidance, Psalmanazar underwent another baptism and became his protege. Innes seized the opportunity to present Psalmanazar as an Asian Christian to Bishop Henry Compton (1632–1713) of London, seeking recognition for his discovery.

Psalmanazar's invitation to London in the summer of 1703 marked a pivotal moment in his deception. Following Innes's advice, he switched his fabricated identity to being from Formosa, maintaining a connection to Japan by claiming Formosa was a vassal state. Presented before the esteemed Royal Society, Psalmanazar defended his story under scrutiny, asserting that European exploration hadn't reached the inner regions of Formosa. When his non-Asiatic complexion, i.e., pale skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes, was questioned (Fig. 1), he justified it by claiming the upper class of Formosa lived underground to avoid the sun. The rarity of Asian visitors to Europe at the time meant his appearance didn't discredit his identity. Remarkably, despite potential evidence against him, the Royal Society refrained from further investigation, likely influenced by political and religious factors.

Figure 1 (left)  
Portrait of George  
Psalmanazar in  
*Memoirs of \*\*\*\**,  
1764. Bodleian  
Library, University  
of Oxford.

Figure 2 (right)  
Title page of  
the first edition  
of *Description of  
Formosa*, 1704



In 1704, Psalmanazar published a book, *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa, an Island Subject to the Emperor of Japan* (Fig. 2), which was dedicated to the Bishop of London. The book was largely the brainchild of Innes, who sought reward for their deception. It highlights Innes' pivotal role in Psalmanazar's life, recounting how Psalmanazar studied with a Jesuit priest named Father de Rhode in Formosa before following him to Europe. After resisting pressure to convert to Catholicism in Avignon, Psalmanazar escaped and eventually encountered Innes. He was baptised by Innes into the Church of England, drawn by its perceived purity compared to other Christian sects. Innes' efforts were rewarded with a prestigious position in Portugal for converting Psalmanazar to Anglicanism.

Psalmanazar's forgery presented a captivating narrative that catered to Britons' fascination with exotic Oriental customs. The book, comprehensive and detailed, covered a wide array of topics, both real and imagined, including idol worship, festivals, marriage, music and human sacrifice. It quickly became a bestseller in London and was translated into several languages. The book is also heavily illustrated with pictures of Formosan people, customs and architecture that Psalmanazar himself devised. One illustration, for example, supposedly portrays outfits and accessories worn by different members of society (Fig. 3). It displays a degree of hybridity, merging distinctive

elements of the ancient and medieval Middle East and Europe, but it seriously lacks any Asian characteristics. Some of Psalmanazar's tales, such as the sacrifice of young boys' hearts, were particularly gruesome and dramatic, designed to shock and captivate readers. George Candidius (1597–1647), a Dutch missionary who lived in Taiwan for over ten years, wrote a book depicting the Formosans as peaceful, with simple religious practices and rare crime. However, despite this accurate account, the British public preferred Psalmanazar's book for its bizarre, scandalous and violent stories.

In early 1705, Psalmanazar received sponsorship from the Bishop of London, enabling him to study at Christ Church in Oxford. His objective was to conduct research for an improved second edition of his book, financed by his supporters. Despite this backing, it's likely that many scholars at Oxford were aware of his deception. Upon his return to London later in the same year, he persisted with his scheme while facing increasing skepticism. He published the second book, *Dialogue between a Japonese and a Formosan* in 1707, and a group of his advocates released *An Enquiry into the Objections against George Psalmanazar of Formosa* in 1710, attempting to defend his reputation. However, within a few years, Psalmanazar became a subject of ridicule, exemplified by a prank published in Joseph Addison's (1672–1719) *Spectator* (March 16, 1711), marking the decline of his novelty and credibility.





Figure 3  
People of Formosan  
Kingdom in  
*Description  
of Formosa*.  
Illustrations  
inserted between p.  
230 and p. 231.

Despite his insistence on his fabricated Formosan identity, Psalmanazar gradually faded from public attention. He drifted from odd jobs to odder ones, such as marketing chinaware with the curious tagline “a White sort of Japan”. He even debuted as a painter creating “White Formosan Work” but when it failed to bring in a steady income, he tutored Latin and later re-entered military service as a clerk. Psalmanazar lived the rest of his life as a plodder – one of the many East London writers that churned out encyclopedia entries, histories and prefaces for minimum wages to eke out a living.

In around 1728, George Psalmanazar confessed to friends that he had perpetrated a fraud by fabricating his Asian identity, concocting stories and inventing a language. He admitted that much of what he had presented in his books was purely imaginary. These confessions were published posthumously in 1764 under the title *Memoirs of \*\*\*\**. Commonly known by the Name of **GEORGE PSALMANAZAR**. In his *Memoirs*, he described himself as a “poor sinful and worthless creature” who had engaged in a “base and shameful imposture”. He lived a life of repentance and poverty until his death as a British man in 1763 aged 83.

Psalmanazar’s deception was not a random fluke but a calculated attempt to deceive, driven by his desperate need to secure a livelihood. It also tapped into various cultural and geopolitical currents of his time. First, Psalmanazar tailored his deception to appeal to an Anglican audience predisposed to disdain

the Catholic Church. In the preface of his first book, he criticised the Jesuits and Catholics, highlighting their alleged imposition of false stories and fallacies about Formosa to excuse their own misconduct. He portrayed himself as a devout Anglican, providing religious and national assurance to British citizens, which aimed to garner support for his fabricated identity. What’s more, he exploited the popularity of travel literature and capitalised on anti-Dutch sentiment, portraying them negatively in his accounts. He also played into growing Sino-phobia by depicting the Chinese as sly and untrustworthy. His emphasis on paganism and barbaric practices in Formosa, such as human sacrifice and cannibalism, reflected Christian stereotypes of non-Western cultures as morally inferior. References to polygamy echoed medieval European views of Islam as demonic. Moreover, his exaggerated descriptions of wealth in Formosa likely fueled European greed, and contributed to colonial ambitions in Asia. All in all, Psalmanazar’s narrative perpetuated Western prejudices and fueled imperialistic endeavors.

An original edition of his extremely rare book is housed in Lincoln’s Library. Interested students, Fellows and alumni are welcome to peruse its pages and journey back to when this French-British man crafted an entirely new world for his contemporaries.

**Professor J.P. Park**

June and Simon Li Professor in the History of Art



# Engineering for Archaeology: Gold, muons and Aksumite history

One of the many benefits of the collegiate system is how it facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration. Here Dr George Green explains how an innovative collaboration between engineering and archaeology researchers led them to discover new insights into the history and composition of ancient gold coins.





Ordinarily, a scientist sitting at a college lunch would be correct to assume that the new classics fellow must have said they work on the letter *mu* ( $\mu$ ), not subatomic particles. Indeed, this is a college lunch still under pandemic restrictions. Plexi-glass screens separate the diners – think less collegiate conversation, more visiting hours at the local nick – so misapprehensions abound. Thankfully, due to a mixture of time-served and good behaviour, the Fellows and students were soon on The Out, and clarifications could finally be sought. It was in Trinity Term of 2021 that I was at last able to tell Paul Stavrinou, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science, that I really did use a particle accelerator to shoot muons ( $\mu$ ) at ancient gold coins.

A muon is a type of subatomic particle called a lepton, but it is much easier to think of it as a ‘fat electron’, an electron with mass. By accelerating the muons, we can give them varying levels of momentum and, depending on that momentum, we can implant them at specific depths within the objects we want to analyse. Once they’re implanted at a specific depth, they get captured by the atoms there. Muons don’t particularly like this, so they release most of their energy in the form of a muonic X-ray. The energy of this X-ray is indicative of the element that captured the muon, meaning that by detecting all these muonic X-ray emissions, we can work out the composition of our sample deep beneath the surface, totally non-

destructively. There are a handful of muon sources in the world, and only two or three that can do this sort of elemental analysis, so we are very lucky to have a direct bus route to the (unfortunately named) ISIS Neutron and Muon Source at the Harwell Science Campus (Fig. 1).

For archaeologists, being able to non-destructively analyse the insides of expensive objects is a bit of a dream come true. We don’t want to cut things up, so we often rely almost exclusively on surface analysis. But, if there are any worries that the very surface of the object isn’t representative of the core, then these analyses get called into question. For ancient gold coins we can have lots of these worries: surface contamination, environmental leeching, deliberate gilding, or a naturally ‘messy’ alloy. The muon technique can help us get around all of these problems. Understanding exactly what an archaeological object is made of can give us an insight into the society that produced it. Coins especially are ‘documents’, and scientific analyses allow us to ‘read’ the history hidden within these ‘documents’ in a new way.







Left: Fig1. An aerial shot of the ISIS facility, showing the target stations, beam line and synchrotron

Above left: Fig 2. Gold coin of Endybis produced *c.* AD 295-310

Above right: Fig 3. Gold coin of Noe produced *c.* AD 400-433

I have applied this philosophy to objects produced all over the ancient world, but it was my work on the gold coinage of ancient East Africa where mine and Paul's double-act began.

From AD 100 to AD 700, the Aksumite Empire covered what is now modern-day southeastern Sudan, Eritrea, northern Ethiopia and Djibouti. During its *c.* 300-year 'Golden Age' it produced a series of thin gold coins, inscribed at various times with Greek or an Ethiopic script called Ge'ez and adorned with distinctly east-African imagery. Traditionally, these received very little scholarly attention, but they are a hugely important evidence base for understanding the Aksumite Empire. We have vanishingly little written evidence from the Aksumite period. The only reason we know many of their kings even existed is because we have the coins they produced, and we work out their chronology, in part, by using the composition of their gold coinage. In the Ashmolean Museum we have, by far, the best collection of Aksumite gold coins in the world, so the job at hand for Paul and me was to squeeze as much Aksumite history as possible out of the chemical analyses. My secret weapon here was Paul's decades of experience applying advanced statistical and machine learning techniques within materials science.

One of the first things we noticed was that the results were messy. While the first

gold coins produced under Endybis (Fig. 2) clustered very tightly around 95% pure gold, by the end of the century coins were being produced anywhere from 76% to 94% pure under Noe (Fig. 3). This level of variance continued until the end of Aksumite coinage in the 7th century. Such 'messiness' can cause problems when we try to argue that the purity has changed over time, or that two 'groups' of coins have different purities. Are the differences we are seeing real, or are they the product of the natural chaos of the data?

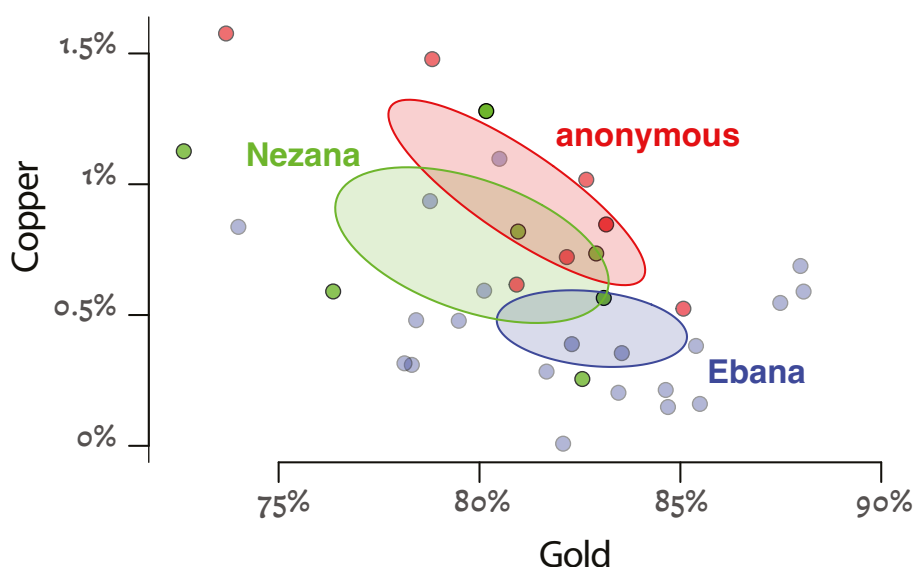
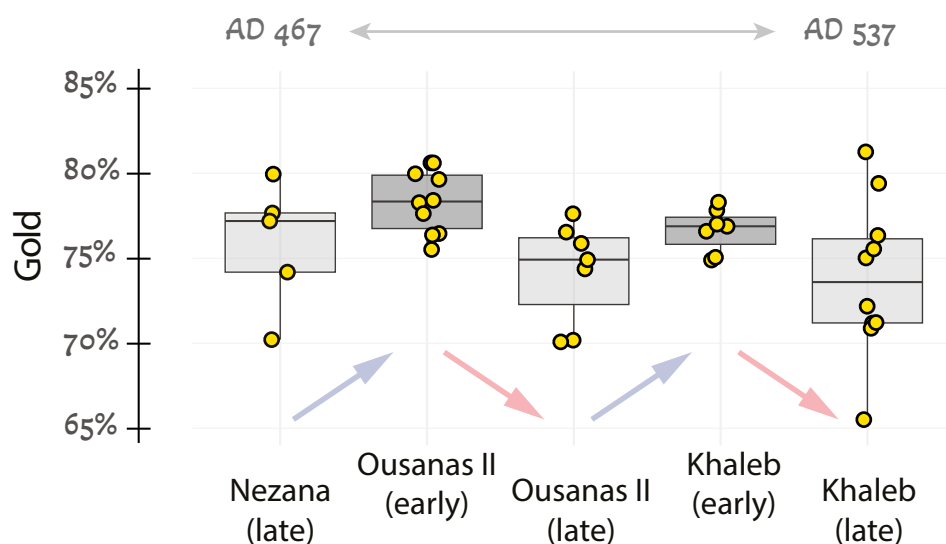
One of our first hypotheses was that the early coins of many kings were of noticeably higher purity than their later issues, with the purity bouncing back up again slightly when a new king ascended to the throne, before dropping back down again in his later coins (Fig. 4). The difference between these 'early' and 'late' coins within a reign was normally only a few percent on average, but the range of purities within a reign was often much larger than this. So, we needed a way to test whether the 'early' and 'late' coins should be considered as two separate groups or left simply as the coins of a certain king.

Our solution was to use a permutation test to show how similar the purity of a particular king's 'early' and 'late' coins were. First, we started with our two proposed 'real' groups of coins and then shuffled the coins between them. This created two fake,

random 'early' and 'late' groups, which we observed the difference between. We did this shuffling 10,000 times. This allowed us to simulate what the difference between our 'early' and 'late' groups would look like if it was not meaningful and simply made up of our data's natural chaos and messiness. We could then compare the 'simulated nonsense' to the actual difference between our real 'early' and 'late' groups to determine how meaningful the real difference was. The two kings we were particularly concerned about when it came to this pattern were Ousanas II and Khaleb. Using Paul's permutation tests, we were able to show that the composition of the 'early' and 'late' coins of Ousanas II was only 4% similar, and for Khaleb, they were only 8% similar, meaning we could be confident that the pattern we had observed was real.

This pattern is important because it speaks to a rather long-lived practice within Aksumite rulers of performative restorations of their gold coinage. The economic impact of these small increases in purity has got to be quite small, so this is probably something more cultural than economic. These look like the performative restoration of 'standards' when a new king takes the throne, attempting to set the tone for his reign as the return to the better times, which ultimately fall by the wayside later in his reign, only for the game to be played again by his successor.





Top: Fig 4. Performative restorations of 'early' and 'late' coins within a reign. Gold compositions from the individual coins are displayed as yellow data points.

Bottom: Fig 5. Confidence ellipses suggest the anonymous coins were more strongly associated with Nezana's reign. Data points from individual coins illustrate the typical variance (messiness).

## Our next problem was about proving similarity rather than difference.

The Ashmolean contained a set of 'anonymous' Aksumite coins. These coins had all the same features as the others but did not contain the name of the king in the legend. The portraits, lettering and iconography all looked to be 5th century AD, but exactly where was still unknown. Unlike previous analytical work on Askumite gold, Paul and I could measure accurate numbers for the very small amounts of copper in these coins,

now considered on equal footing with the silver and gold compositions; this added an extra dimension to our statistical testing. Previously, it had been thought that these 'anonymous' coins had been produced either under or between kings Ebana and Nezana. However, our multivariable view clearly suggested the alloy from these 'anonymous' coins had more in common with the reign of Nezana than with Ebana – 53% similarity vs a mere 4% (Fig. 5).

This has allowed us to develop much more precise chronologies for Aksumite history.

Such interdisciplinary work really highlights the strength of the collegiate system. In departments, you're generally surrounded by people who do the same thing as you but in slightly different ways. In colleges, you're exposed to new ideas, talents and perspectives from across the sciences and humanities. Of course, you need an environment where people want to work together, and we're very lucky to have that at Lincoln. A small section of the Aksumite work will serve as the 'Fourth Year Project' for one of the College's engineering students – Gaurav Mediratta (2021) – and will be jointly supervised by Paul and me. There are very few environments in the world where we could offer such opportunities to students.

The research landscape, broadly speaking, is slowly coming around to our way of working. There is now much greater acceptance that invention and innovation require risky and unusual projects. Our task is to convince various funders that what has traditionally been too difficult for everyone else, is an average afternoon for us – so far, we've been pretty successful at it. Paul and I won highly-competitive central University seed funding to kick off our project designing new analytical equipment to be used by museum curators and archaeologists. We are currently at the very final stage of a government funding competition to scale this up with staff and further R&D money. More proximately, I have convinced both the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source and the University to better support the kinds of work we did with the Aksumite gold coins. As of October, I will be in a new Classical and Scientific Archaeology post that will allow for the much better integration of muon and neutron techniques into Classics, Archaeology and the Ashmolean Museum. This will, hopefully, provide further opportunity for Lincoln's finest double-act to continue engineering new solutions for archaeology.

### Dr George Green

Lavery-Shuffery Early Career Fellow in Roman Art and Archaeology

# Inside the International Bar Association





**“With its global headquarters in Chancery Lane, London, the organisation can now boast over 80,000 individual lawyers as members, as well as over 190 Bar associations and law societies, along with a growing number of law firms.”**

Below: Banquet of the First International Conference of the Legal Profession, Hotel Plaza, 21 October 1947



**Alumnus George Artley (2005) affords us a behind-the-scenes look at the International Bar Association, exploring its global impact, rich history and the sense of community it fosters amongst legal professionals worldwide.**

If, like me, you had the pleasure of reading modern history at Lincoln, then there's more than a small chance that today, you're probably working as a lawyer. Or at the very least, you likely thought about, or even tried being, a lawyer at some point, only to decide it wasn't for you. I'm no different. At my Rector's Collections immediately before finals, I remember being asked about my plans for life after Lincoln. When I said I'd secured a vacation scheme at a prestigious magic circle law firm, one of my exasperated tutors suggested to Paul Langford that the College was best off moving itself to Bunhill Row.

As it happened, I didn't stay in corporate law for long (an experience familiar to many). Lincoln's grip on me was too strong, and I soon found myself back in College in 2014 studying for a DPhil in history. I hadn't totally abandoned the law though. My thesis, on the political and intellectual world of the first Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench post 1688, allowed me to interrogate the origins of what we now term 'The Rule of Law' in its early English (and by extension, US) context. This subject, which hadn't seemed particularly relevant to our daily lives when I started the thesis, became politically charged almost overnight following Brexit and Trump's victory in 2016. The exercise of executive power, and the role of an independent judiciary and legal profession in both enabling and resisting the use of that power, have been major areas of interest ever since. They are also of central importance to the history of the organisation

that I now work for, the International Bar Association, and how it came into being.

In 1947, one year after the first meeting of the UN General Assembly, 24 national Bar leaders gathered in New York to establish a new, International Association of Bars (IBA). The idea was to emulate the mission of the United Nations, but to focus specifically on the role of lawyers and the legal profession in crafting and upholding the post-war world order. It also provided an excellent opportunity to make and meet friends and colleagues from around the world, as is still very much the case today.

For many decades the IBA only had Bars and law societies as its members. The conferences were relatively small affairs, but always included an entertainment package for the wives of delegates, including cooking lessons in the local cuisine, and shopping expeditions. At a London summer conference in the early 1950s, there was even a day trip to Oxford provided, which was somewhat ruined by torrential rain according to reports. How much has changed, and how little hasn't!

Of course, today, the IBA is a very different institution. With its global headquarters in Chancery Lane, London, the organisation can now boast over 80,000 individual lawyers as members, as well as over 190 Bar associations and law societies, along with a growing number of law firms. We also have offices in Washington DC, Seoul and São Paulo, making us an organisation upon which the sun truly never sets.



Above: Author in Jakarta  
Below: IBA delegates enjoying special access to the Louvre at the opening party of the IBA's 2023 conference in Paris

The life blood of the IBA is our conferences, gatherings which have already required me to circumnavigate the world more than once. My first was in Seoul in 2019, just three days into the job. Having spent the previous six years with the extent of my geographic horizons stretching only as far as the distance between my flat in Lincoln House, and the end of SF's bar in Deep Hall, this came as quite the shock to the system. Five years later, I've travelled to cities I would never have imagined visiting, including Jakarta, Atlanta, Miami and Vilnius. The conferences themselves are hectic affairs: think freshers' week, but without the stamina of youth to get you through them. In Bucharest this year, we found ourselves at a drinks reception in the Palace of Parliament, a monumental building originally commissioned by dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu as a monument to his rule. The reception was hosted by the local Bar association, whose president was extremely keen to show off the quality of the local wines to the assembled delegates. All I will say is that he succeeded.

The importance of the social side of the organisation's events and purpose shouldn't be trivialised, however. One reason I feel so at home at the IBA is the same reason why I felt so at home at Lincoln: it has a fantastic sense of community and belonging, both of which are enhanced and fostered by the shared experiences its members are able to have by joining together as a group. As a staff member, and now legal manager of our projects team, I've had the privilege of singing karaoke with a senior member of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in the shadow of Mt. Fuji (now there's a sentence you probably never expected to read!). I've enjoyed Guinness in Dublin with Indian high court judges, cocktails in Miami with the Dutch Ambassador, and fine dining in Paris with the world's leading figures in the fight against corporate corruption. It is precisely by facilitating these experiences, and the sense of community and international friendship that they inculcate, that allows the IBA to harness the efforts and skills of its volunteer members to work to achieve its central mission.







Above: President Zelensky of Ukraine addresses the opening ceremony of the IBA's 2022 Annual Conference in Miami

This work takes many forms, far too many to mention here. Particular highlights for me, though, have included providing assistance to lawyers forced into exile by the Taliban takeover of the Afghanistan in 2021. Many of these individuals have found themselves living as refugees, scattered across the globe. Yet even in the face of such hardships, the IBA was able to re-establish some sense of international community and belonging by helping to create an Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile. Established formally at an event in Brussels in 2023, I was immensely proud to welcome the president of the new Bar to his first IBA Council meeting in Bucharest in May of this year. Given the sacrifices he and members of the new Bar have made in the name of defending the Rule of Law, I cannot think of any better representatives to remind us all of the value of what it is the IBA was founded to protect.

Of course, the events that unfolded in Afghanistan were followed by yet more horror in Ukraine only a short time later. I have had the privilege to work with our chief executive in leading the IBA's capacity-building support for a number of different Ukrainian institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and Supreme Court. Depressingly, Russia's invasion has sparked some areas of development in international law. One area in particular has been the effort to incorporate deliberate damage to the environment into the existing international laws and frameworks governing the prosecution of war crimes. As a result, I am currently organising a world-leading training event with the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine. The aim is to create a new generation of environmental war crime investigators, whose job it will be to catalogue the environmental damage done to their country, with a view to one day seeing the perpetrators brought to justice.

All of that sounds quite heavy, which is appropriate, so another major project I've been involved in is investigating how working in the profession affects the wellbeing of lawyers. One of the key findings from our global survey into the mental health of lawyers, which was the first of its kind, was that not only do lawyers score worryingly low on all mental health assessment indexes, but that this phenomenon is repeated around the world. We all know that the business model of international 'big law' is a brutal one where people are subjected to long hours, insane workloads, tight deadlines, demanding clients and bullying bosses. Some are able to thrive under the pressure, but we know that many, if not most, do not.

The 'cure' for this, at least in London and New York, has been an explosion in the salaries that lawyers, especially those newly qualified, are paid. 'Selling your soul' as we used to call it (and I assume students still do) has never come with such upfront financial rewards. The longer-term consequences remain to be seen though. Across all the professions, law, medicine, teaching and others, I think what we're seeing is a crisis of commodification with all the corrosive effects that can bring. One has been to remove a sense of belonging and identity within the profession of the law, especially in the corporate sphere. Work without community, whether it's as a university student or legal practitioner, can be a sad, lonely and stressful place. It lacks meaning. That is why I'm more convinced than ever of the vital role that special places, like Lincoln and the IBA, have to play. Long may they flourish!

**Dr George Artley (2005)**  
BIC Project Lawyer at the IBA







# Disparities in maternal deaths and severe pregnancy complications

Both a global and a national problem

Marian Knight MBE (1995) is Professor of Maternal and Child Population Health at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) at Oxford University whose work focuses on the prevention and treatment of severe pregnancy complications. In this article, she discusses why particular population groups have worse maternity outcomes in both high- and low-income countries.

**A**head of last July's elections, the Labour Party pledged in its manifesto to set an explicit target to close the Black and Asian maternal mortality gap. Understanding the reasons for differences in maternity outcomes between women from different population groups – and making changes to prevent these disparities – is the focus of my research, and I hope this article might help explain to fellow Lincoln graduates why pledges such as this are important.

I should reassure all readers that it is very uncommon to die during or after pregnancy in the UK – around 1 in every 10,000 women giving birth. However, this single figure masks a significant disparity. In the UK, Black women are almost three times more likely to die during pregnancy or in the six weeks after the end of pregnancy than White women; for Asian women the difference is two-fold. My team's research has shown that these differences are not limited to maternal deaths, for we also observe similar patterns amongst severe complications, such that women from Black and Asian ethnic groups are more likely to have pregnancy complications than White women.

Similar differences exist between women of different racial groups in other high-income countries. Overall maternal mortality rates in the US, for example, are two to three times higher than in the UK but show a similar disparity between Black women and White women. The world was shocked yet again last year by the untimely death of a young woman in the late stages of pregnancy, the US gold medal winning sprinter **Tori Bowie**. She died from complications of pre-eclampsia – high blood pressure in pregnancy – and as we mourned her loss it emerged that two of her three teammates on the 2016 Olympic winning sprint relay team had also experienced life-threatening pregnancy complications. All the team members are Black. **Tori's** death, and the experiences of her fellow athletes, are the very real evidence of a disparity we know about, but still do not fully understand.

My research focuses on prevention and treatment of severe pregnancy complications and hence one of the important areas that my research team are investigating is why women from different ethnic groups are more at risk. There is no simple answer. **Allyson Felix**, one of **Tori's** fellow sprinters who herself had severe pre-

eclampsia, describes one of the reasons. She explains that she was not aware of the worrying signs of pre-eclampsia, and when she described her symptoms to others, they were assumed to be part of normal pregnancy. Concerning symptoms in pregnant women are often dismissed as being due to pregnancy itself, rather than being recognised as reflecting serious illness. Pregnant women from ethnic minority groups are more likely than White women to report that their concerns have been dismissed. This in turn may mean that conditions such as pre-eclampsia are diagnosed late or not at all.

Another reason women's symptoms may be dismissed is because doctors, midwives and nurses as well as friends and families do not recognise that young pregnant women can have conditions such as heart disease. Heart disease has been the leading cause of maternal deaths for many years, yet still women describe typical symptoms of chest pain and breathlessness when lying flat, and their cardiac condition is not recognised. Pregnancy puts added strain on the circulatory system and not infrequently leads to heart disease being revealed for the first time.

We know that women who die during or after pregnancy, or who have severe complications, are more likely to have pre-existing health conditions, such as diabetes, epilepsy or mental health problems. Women with multiple health conditions need complex care from different clinical teams and often this care is not joined up. Advice may not be culturally appropriate and tailored to individual needs, for example, consideration of African, Caribbean or South Asian foods for diabetes and weight management. Our research has identified that many Black women who die do not receive the tailored, culturally appropriate care that they need.

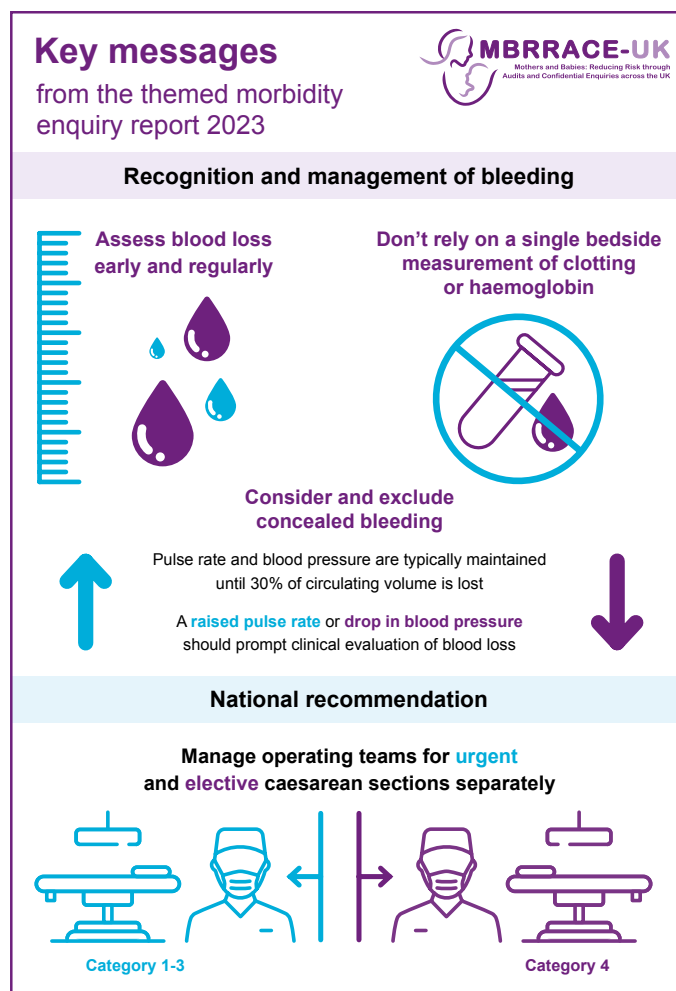
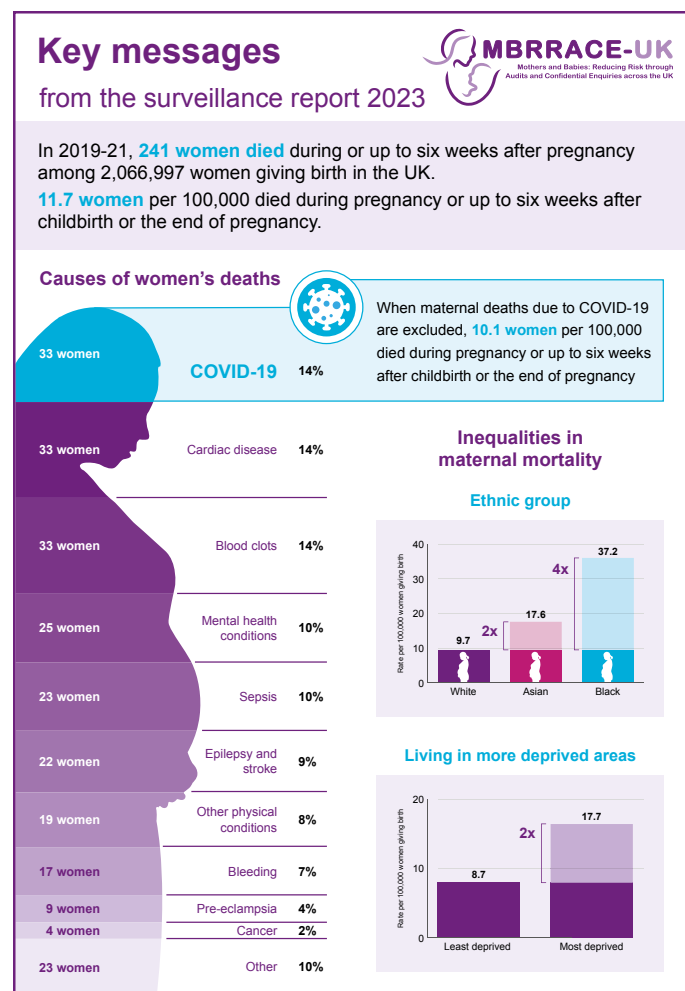
I have focused mainly so far on differences in rates of complications amongst women from different ethnic backgrounds. However, we also know that differences exist between women from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Women who live in the 20% most deprived

areas in England are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or up to six weeks after pregnancy than women who live in the 20% most affluent areas. One of my current DPhil students is focusing on understanding this further to try to develop interventions to particularly help women from disadvantaged backgrounds. What is clear is that the disparities in death and complication rates between women of different ethnic groups are not explained by differences in their socioeconomic backgrounds.

Much of the research we carry out uses medical records, or electronic hospital data, to try to understand why these disparities exist. However, we have to recognise the limitations of what medical records and data can and can't tell us. We cannot identify from records whether women have met with racist attitudes or where their previous experience of prejudice has impacted on their trust and

confidence in their doctors and midwives. Work from charities such as Birthrights and Fivexmore has identified many women who describe such negative experiences and we have to recognise that this is a contributor.

The most important next step in the UK is to try to work out how we can act early to prevent severe pregnancy complications, and how we can do so in a way that will ensure women from ethnic minority and disadvantaged backgrounds benefit the most to reduce these disparities. We have just started a project to develop a new optimised electronic maternity early warning system to help recognise when women are becoming unwell and to escalate their treatment to prevent severe complications. I very much hope that this will be one route in the coming years to ensuring all those who give birth here have an equal chance of a happy and healthy outcome.





However, I have not yet touched on the greatest disparity in maternity outcomes, and specifically in maternal deaths, which is between women who become pregnant and give birth in low-income countries compared to high income countries. In some areas of the world, maternal mortality rates are almost 100-fold higher than in the UK. This means that in countries like Ethiopia, for example, one in 17 women is estimated to die from a pregnancy-related complication. Nevertheless, one of the biggest gaps we have is basic information on the women who die or have severe complications during or after pregnancy in these settings. We have worked in partnership with colleagues at Haramaya University, in Eastern Ethiopia, to develop a system to collect information on all women who have died during or shortly after pregnancy and to review the care they received to identify how we

can make improvements. All hospitals in the province are also, for the first time, collecting information on women who have specific severe pregnancy complications – often described as “near-misses”. This research allows us to target actions where they will have the most impact, which is essential when resources are limited. We have shown through this work that the leading causes of both death and “near-miss” complications are bleeding at or around the time of childbirth, and the Haramaya team are now focusing on improving the detection of, and response to, bleeding to prevent future maternal deaths.

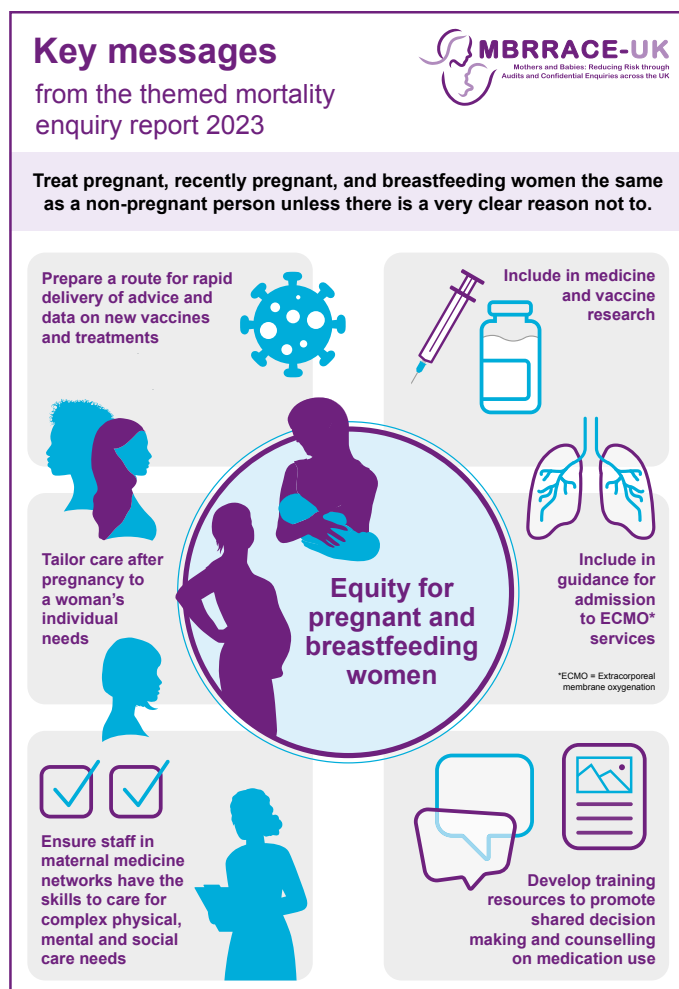
It will, I am sure, have been a thought in the minds of many of you, that a need to prevent women from dying from bleeding at or around the time of childbirth is not “rocket science”, so why do we still need research to show this? Clinical trials have already identified simple and effective

interventions. While our work adds to the understanding of which activities to target in resource limited settings, preventing maternal death globally, as in the UK, will require political will. It seems appropriate to end this article with a quote from Professor Mahmoud Fathalla, a lifelong champion for maternal health, who died late last year. “Mothers are not dying because of diseases we cannot prevent or treat”, he said. “They are still dying because societies have yet to make the decision that their lives are worth saving.” Worldwide political pledges like those seen recently in the UK are essential to save women’s lives in the future.

### Professor Marian Knight MBE (1995)

Professor of Maternal and Child Population Health, University of Oxford

Below: Left to right: Key messages from the MBRACE-UK Maternal Report 2023  
Below right: Marian presenting at NPEU 45th Anniversary meeting in Oxford



# Dispatches to Ithaca

Molly Hassell (2015) is a real-life Indiana Jones. As a master's student at Lincoln, she smuggled 3D cameras into regions to preserve artifacts threatened by terrorism, and later went on multiple deployments with the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan and Iraq to help thwart terrorist organisations illegally trafficking artifacts. Here she recounts her many exploits.

I have carried a copy of the *Odyssey* on each of my seven deployments for U.S. Special Operations Command. In Afghanistan, it often sat overturned by my bunk, its cracked spine pointing skyward in poetic echo of the surrounding mountains. In Iraq, I nearly threw it at a massive camel spider who stood with writhing limbs outstretched, as Scylla ready to attack those who dared pass it. On a sortie from Mogadishu, I resisted sleep's siren call by rereading Odysseus' tales to the Phaeacians. Notes in fading ink along the margins now read like letters from home, as though the untidy scrawl could transport me back to my peaceful life in academia. The words beneath my pen, conceived in time long past, conveyed my present nostalgia: "I am Odysseus...sunny Ithaca is my home...I know no sweeter sight on earth than a man's own native country" (9.21-32). The narrative endures long after the book's bindings fail; its spilling pages serve as waypoints, marking familiar paths even in foreign lands.

The *Odyssey*'s principal theme is *nostos*, or homecoming. Its cognate "nostalgia" (*nostos* and *algos*, or grief) names the desire to return to a place that now exists only in memory. Odysseus' *nostos* is the prevailing narrative, but with the help of interlocutors, his story is woven against the backdrop of other homecoming tales. For Nestor, it is an uneventful trip. Others are fated to die upon their return. Agamemnon, whose story Homer often repeats as the foil to Odysseus' own, is murdered by Aegisthus, his wife's lover. The timeless fears that are played out with lyrical vengeance in the ancient world fuel the modern cadences, or *Jodies* that scores of American soldiers have sung while running

in formation. Jody is Aegisthus for the modern soldier, making countless appearances in crude singsong: "Ain't no use in calling home. Jody's got your girl and gone." The palpable nostalgia — the desire to return coupled with the fear that home will be different than remembered — particularly resonates for those of us returning from war. This underscores the value of shared narratives as guiding stars for the unmoored, helping us contextualise and locate ourselves by returning to familiar stories.

I first arrived at Lincoln College in autumn of 2015, when a brilliant shade of red was creeping like *dawn's rosy fingers* across the ivy-clad stone. The repatriation of classical artefacts, a *nostos* of a different kind, fueled my interest in pursuing an MSt in Classical Archaeology. Videos of ISIS bulldozing ancient cities were widespread, yet lesser known was their trafficking of these artefacts to fund terrorist activity.

I first learned of this issue while fighting in a charity boxing match sponsored by my employer, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. I had moved to New York to work for the DA's Special Victims Bureau after graduating from Dartmouth with a degree in classics. My boxing instructor, an Assistant District Attorney, former Marine and fellow classicist, founded our office's new Antiquities Trafficking Unit. Disrupting terrorist revenue streams was a clarion call, a way of bringing my knowledge of the ancient to bear upon the exigent present. Seeking a better understanding of the issue and proximity to the problem, I applied for an MSt at Lincoln College and a commission in the U.S. Air Force.



Clockwise from top left: Commissioning day as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, Sand storm on my camp in the Iraqi desert, Pit stop on the way to my 3rd deployment to Iraq, Lincoln Rowing W3 at Summer Eights, Trek in Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile







Clockwise from top left: Erbil Citadel, Iraq, Market outside Erbil Citadel, Christmas with my AC-130 Gunship Unit in Afghanistan, View of the Khumbu Icefall from Mt. Everest Base Camp, Nepal from 2022 trek, Molly earned a seaplane license in Seattle.



While at Lincoln, I moonlighted at the Institute for Digital Archaeology (IDA), smuggling 3D cameras into Syria and Northern Africa to preserve digital records of archaeological sites before they could be pillaged or destroyed. With the help of these images, we could rebuild what had been lost. After its destruction in 2015 and at the behest of local Syrians, the IDA reconstituted the Triumphal Arch of Palmyra at monumental scale in cities around the world. The 26,000lb replica was nostalgia rendered in stone; the grief in its altered return transmuted into a symbol of defiance and hope. Technology presented an opportunity to recall our shared heritage, affirming that even if artefacts are destroyed, collective memory endures. The refounding of the Triumphal Arch creates a physical tether to our common home in history.

I received my U.S. military orders one beautiful spring morning after rowing practice. With many training sessions confined to the Lincoln boathouse in winter, we had returned to the water with great enthusiasm. Despite our coxswain's attempts to control our splashing oars, all eight girls arrived at hall for breakfast newly blistered and damp. Checking my phone between bites of toast, I received a shock at the news. Happy tutorials at the Ashmolean Museum, boxing practices, MCR dinners and nights studying in the College library were coming to an end. Trinity term flew by with indecent speed, and I found myself at All Souls College with my advisor, Andrew Wilson, saying a final goodbye. He handed me a deck of cards identifying at-risk antiquities given to soldiers bound for the Middle East. This piece of Oxford came with me on every deployment, too, an artefact of Ithaca.

A year and a half later, I was in Afghanistan contemplating the hole where the Buddhas of Bamiyan once stood. The statues were so massive that it took the Taliban 25 days to destroy them in 2001, ending their centuries-long sentinel. During a 2015 vigil for the destroyed heritage site, a 3D reconstruction of the largest 42-meter buddha was projected into the gaping cliff face. Distorted by scaffolding, the specter convened a haunting *katabasis*, a communion between the gathered living and the reanimated lost. I was struck by the similarity with Odysseus' summons of the fallen Greek heroes: "And up out of Erebus they came, flocking toward me now, the ghosts of the dead and gone" (11.41-42). In each instance, the ghostly past

offered a warning in its shadowed return. Here was a reminder that no *nostos* is assured.

Fate realised this message with certitude a few weeks later. I stood in squadron formation, watching the honour guard load a flag-draped casket onto the same plane that brought us to Afghanistan. The man beneath the stripes died on one of our operations. As he was swallowed by the aircraft, I reflected that it was not his home that had changed in his absence, but the soldier himself who would return forever altered. The American flag, a funereal shroud, anonymised and transfigured him into a monument of national loss. As the soldier was repatriated, his home in our memory endures, celebrated through collective nostalgia for a world unscarred by his loss.

On the last day of my final deployment to Iraq, I wandered the Erbil Citadel, a UNESCO site and the longest continually occupied structure in the world. It was during Ramadan, and the call to prayer echoed off the ancient bricks that had sheltered inhabitants for 8,000 years. The Citadel survived Alexander and the Persians, Mongol incursions, and the 2001 invasion. It has been in use 2.5 times longer than the 3,200-year-old age assigned to artefacts of a historical Trojan War. I marveled that these labyrinthine streets, unlike Palmyra's Arch or the Bamiyan Buddhas, had survived the millennia. As I wandered the world's oldest home, I readied myself for my own *nostos*.

In a return to academia and long-sought Ithaca, I begin at Harvard Business School this fall. My voyage, tossed by the Aeolian winds, was far from direct. I became a pilot and traveled the world, from the Khumbu Ice Falls on Mt. Everest to rugged Patagonia. I then worked at SpaceX's Starlink, providing connectivity to vulnerable regions in the Middle East. There was beautiful symmetry in leaving a place in uniform only to return bearing tools to help a nation redefine its economic potential through internet access. I am thankful for my dog-eared book, an artefact of home in foreign lands, and to those people and places that created the spaces that I so dearly missed. The paperback is well worn but its narrative endures. As with our artefacts, it represents a homecoming that can never be taken away, if we, as living repositories of history and culture, exist to carry it forward.

**Molly Hassell (2015)**



# My Lincoln

## Sara Compaore

Driven by a passion for global health and a desire to make a difference in her home country of Burkina Faso, Sloane Robinson Foundation/Weidenfeld-Hoffman Trust Scholar Sara Compaore (2023) chose Oxford to pursue an MSc in Epidemiology. Her journey has been shaped by the academic excellence, supportive community and transformative opportunities she found at Lincoln College.

### What brought you to Oxford?

My journey to Oxford was primarily driven by the MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology program. When I did my BSc at the University of British Columbia, I knew I wanted to complete further studies in epidemiology and sought a program that was global in scope. The curriculum at Oxford kept coming up while I was studying, and I really liked what they were offering as it aligned with most of what I was seeking. And of course, the faculty and the reputation of Oxford are globally recognised, and the high calibre of research and the incredible alumni network were very appealing to me.

The second factor was the financial support available to Oxford students. It was important to me to find a place offering enough financial support to fund my studies. Thirdly, after speaking to a few people who had studied here, I heard a lot about the community and personal growth they experienced. They talked about the warmth and support at Oxford, and I knew that if I came here, I wouldn't regret it. All these reasons combined made Oxford my top choice, and I'm really glad I was able to join this programme and this university.

### What were your first impressions of Lincoln?

I arrived at Lincoln College at 2am on a Sunday. Although it was quiet and I was

tired, I immediately noticed the beautiful, old architecture and the cosy atmosphere. The next day, as I explored the College, I found it charming and welcoming; the staff and students were incredibly supportive and answered all my questions, which made me feel at ease.

### Why did you choose to pursue an MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology?

Growing up in Burkina Faso, I became interested in health because one of my immediate family members was frequently in and out of the hospital. Seeing the burden of disease on the person, the families and the community at-large sparked my interest in health. As I learned more, I discovered public health – a branch of health sciences – which looks at health and disease risk factors at a community level, and realised I would like contribute to such research and ultimately help inform effective public health interventions.

The MSc course had a curriculum that matched my interests, and provided a strong foundation in epidemiology and statistics with the opportunity to pursue optional modules in my fields of interest such non-communicable diseases, clinical trials and maternal and child health. The course gave me the chance to interact and

learn from world-class researchers, and seeing the incredible work they are doing is deeply inspiring. I'm grateful that I took the opportunity when it presented itself.

### How has receiving a Sloane Robinson Foundation/Weidenfeld-Hoffman Trust Scholarship impacted you?

The SRF-WHT Scholarship has been transformative beyond just financial support. It has truly been a life-changing opportunity, enabling me to develop both academically and personally.

It includes a leadership program with workshops, seminars and events on various aspects of leadership, such as moral philosophy and effective communications. For instance, we recently had a session on negotiation skills, which I might not have pursued independently. This training has proven invaluable. Another significant aspect of the scholarship is the business challenge, which introduced me to the intricacies of establishing and running a business. This hands-on experience has been incredibly enriching, providing insights into entrepreneurship and enhancing my problem-solving abilities.

### If you could say one thing to the SRF-WHT, what would that be?

I would say *thank you*. Thank you for





sponsoring and donating to this incredible scholarship that allows many students from around the world to have the incredible Oxford experience. I would also encourage you to continue your generous support so that other students can benefit from such life-changing experiences. Your contributions have made a significant impact, and I am profoundly thankful for your investment in our futures.

#### **What is your favourite thing about being at Lincoln?**

I love the Lincoln Library; it's gorgeous and was well worth the wait when it reopened just in time for exam season. Beyond that, the people at Lincoln make it truly special. The staff are always willing to help, providing support and guidance whenever needed, and I'm thankful for that.

#### **How has your time at Lincoln shaped you?**

My time at Lincoln, and by extension Oxford, has broadened my horizons. I arrived here with specific goals. However, the exposure to incredible opportunities and people have expanded my vision of what's possible, encouraging me to think beyond my initial plans. And the calibre of people is amazing – each person I meet is just as interesting as the last.

#### **What has been your proudest achievement so far?**

One of my proudest achievements was a service project I initiated back home in Burkina Faso. We raised funds to provide solar lamps to students without electricity, which helped them stay safe and be able to study at nighttime. This project helped over 300 students.

Managing this endeavour with a budget of US\$3000 was challenging but incredibly rewarding. It remains one of the most meaningful contributions I've made to my community, and holds a deep place in my heart.

#### **What do you plan to do after you graduate?**

After graduation, I will be joining an adolescent health research team, helping coordinate and evaluate healthcare programs and interventions, with a focus on west African settings.

My longer-term goal is to gain further knowledge of epidemiology and medical statistics, possibly through a DPhil, and eventually move beyond research and into policy-making to address health inequalities effectively. I have a strong connection to my home country, Burkina Faso, and hope to establish my career there.

#### **Can you describe Lincoln in three words?**

Charming, welcoming, and impactful. Charming because the College is whimsical and beautiful, especially in the summer. It's welcoming because the people have been so nice, welcoming me into the community. It's been impactful to interact with incredible people and alumni of such high calibre.

“My time at Lincoln, and by extension Oxford, has broadened my horizons. I arrived here with specific goals. However, the exposure to incredible opportunities and people have expanded my vision of what's possible, encouraging me to think beyond my initial plans.”

# Events report

**T**his year's event schedule was comprised not only of an eclectic mix of new events and the annual offerings we hold dear, but also ones that enabled us to reflect as we approached Henry Woudhuysen's retirement as Rector and the beginning of our 600th anniversary celebrations.

Our summer events included a John le Carré Themed Walk, taking in Mayfair where le Carré was based during his security service days and ending in the Red Lion Pub which has a spy connection.

This was followed by the Rotherham Circle Lunch and a fantastic evening of drinks in Middle Temple followed by a walking tour of legal London. Alumni in the NYC area were also welcomed to the home of Darren Marshall (1984) and Mary Garrett for a Lincoln Garden Party.

Susan Harrison, Development Director, then had the pleasure of greeting alumni at dinners in Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Taiwan. This was our first post-COVID trip to Asia and a chance for her to update alumni about the College.

September started with a Family Day to see the Dinosaur World Live show at Regent's Park Open Theatre. This was enormous fun for adults and children alike, and we were lucky with the weather! This was followed by the Alumni Guest dinner, formerly known as the Lincoln Society Dinner.

Autumn was a busy time for events. In October, we celebrated our 27th annual Autumn Murray Day in College with a presentation by Emma Kavanagh, who was the Lord Crewe Career Development Fellow in Music. The Murray Society holds two events per year and is a way for us to thank alumni and friends who have included a gift to Lincoln in their Will.

In early November, Emmy-Award-winning producer Fenton Bailey (1979) treated the Lincoln community to an entertaining talk and book signing. Seasonal festivities kicked off later in the month, starting with a family-friendly Holiday Party in Montreal at the home of Jordan Matte (2016) and a festive dinner in Toronto. Our Holiday Drinks and Networking event, hosted by Philip Dragoumis (1990), took place four days later at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. This has turned into one of our most popular events and we hope to see you again this December.

Our final event of 2023 was the Catharine French Scholarship Launch Event. This scholarship – named in honour of Catharine French (1985), who sadly passed away in 2020 – supports a graduate student from Africa, preferably female, to undertake a one-year MSc in Economics for Development at the Oxford Department of International Development or a master's degree in the Department of Economics.

In February and April, the Rector and Jane Mitchell flew to the USA for a "rock star" tour of the east and west coasts, with stops in LA, San Francisco, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia. The tour was a chance to honour Henry and for him to meet with alumni one last time before his retirement. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our alumni who hosted receptions and organised events, including: Shawn Landres (1996) who organised a tour of the LA County Museum of Art; Sabine Jaccard (1991) who organised a tour of an R.M. Schindler house; Simon (1966) and June Li who organised a day at the Huntington Library; and Andrew (1983) and Elizabeth Spokes, Jayme Johnson (2000) and Molly Kinder, and Alex Mercier-Dalphond (2011) and Gabriela Torres Platas who all kindly hosted us at their homes. Over the coming months, Henry was also



Top left: Henry Woudhuysen's Leaving Party at House of Lords  
Bottom left: Schindler House Tour in Los Angeles  
Top right: Dinner at the London Dining Clubs  
Bottom right: San Francisco dinner hosted by Andrew (1983) and Elizabeth Spokes



honoured at farewell events in Morges and Zurich in Switzerland, and at a lovely dinner in Cambridge.

Meanwhile in March the ever-popular London Dining Club Dinner took place at the Royal Automobile Club where the Rector gave a talk on Mark Pattison. Grateful thanks to Gareth John (2000) and Charlotte Swing (2000) for making this event possible.

Our Lincoln for Life events remain popular with our young alumni. In March, they were invited to Spring Drinks in London followed by a performance by Beckis Cooper (2005) in *Unversed* at Dr Johnson's House. And in August, they were invited to an exclusive evening at Bonhams.

May was certainly an "event full" month. For Spring Murray Society Day, we visited Dorney Court, a Grade I listed early Tudor manor house, dating from around 1440. It was a great treat to tour this characterful and stunning house, designated as being of outstanding architectural and historical interest. Our annual Lincoln Society Eights Week Family Day took place two days later, where alumni and their families mingled in the Rector's Garden for a delicious spread

of strawberries and cream, scones and sandwiches, plus an entertainer to wow the children. The event coincided with the Saturday of Summer Vllls and you can read more about the performance of our rowing crews in the *On the River* rowing roundup on page 18.

We couldn't think of a better way to honour Henry Woudhuysen and celebrate 12 years of service as Rector than with a party at the House of Lords in July. A huge thank you to Lord Bernard Donoughue (1953) for hosting the leaving do and to all the guests who came out in their droves to raise a glass to Henry.

Throughout the 2023-24 year, we held evensongs, and gaudies for groups from 1973-1976, 2013-2014, 1983-1985, 1961 and before, and 1969-1971. Always lively affairs, attendees enjoyed toasts and speeches over dinner, and it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces.

We look forward to an even more "event full" year in 2024-25 as we kick off our 600th Anniversary Campaign.

**Halley Cohen**, Communications Officer

# Development and Alumni Relations report

**W**e will soon launch our new Lincoln 600 Campaign, which will advance Lincoln as we approach our anniversary and ensure that we go into the next century confident in our ability to maintain and build on the tradition of academic teaching and research with our wonderful collegiate environment. The 600 Campaign has five pillars: Global Lincoln, Open Lincoln, Collegiate Lincoln, Historic Lincoln and Forever Lincoln, and you will soon be hearing a lot more from us about these and how you can play a part in celebrating our anniversary wherever you are. Jane Mitchell lays out some of our plans for Global Lincoln on page 6.

Inevitably, the Development Office has spent a lot of time this year planning for the new Campaign, the departure of Henry Woudhuysen as Rector, and the arrival of his successor, Nigel Clifford. It has also been a good time to take stock of our recent achievements, particularly the impact your support has had on our ability to help those in our community who need it most.

Lincoln has one of the most generous financial assistance programmes in the University, all funded by alumni and friends. In the last year, we made bursary awards and vacation grants totalling more than £225k, so that 30% of our undergraduates receive some financial support directly from the College. Our graduate students also benefit from an array of scholarships, again thanks to our supporters who have made Lincoln a leader in this.

Direct financial support is greatly valued, but Lincoln also recognises that health and wellbeing, and foundational academic skills, help our students make the most of the opportunities here. Generous funding through the Annual Fund and from individual donors, such as Lord Crewe's Charity, have enabled us to provide an enhanced welfare team and study skills advisers.

Finally, being involved in extracurricular teams and societies is a key part of the experience here. The Annual Fund assisted many students – via individual Blues awards and grants to societies such as the Choir, the Drama Society, VacProj and LCBC – which has been greatly appreciated and ensures these are open to all at minimal cost.

**Susan Harrison**, Development Director

## Bursaries

Lincoln has a great programme of endowed bursaries, which support students from low-income families and have a real impact on the student experience. Bursaries can be topped up by grants from the Annual Fund for specific purposes.

**"Without this bursary, I would not be able to have the full university experience I have here, and I would not be able to use my position to support others reaching for it, and for that I am immensely grateful."**

Cuthbert bursary recipient, 2023-24

## Scholarships

Thanks to alumni donations, often matched with institutional funds from the University or research councils, we offer graduate scholarships to around 33% of our graduate students. This means that Lincoln attracts the very brightest scholars.

**"During this past year at Oxford University I have had numerous wonderful opportunities and experiences. I have had the most incredible year of my life and I want to say thank you so much for giving me this opportunity."**

Kingsgate Masters Scholarship recipient, 2023-24



## Study skills

Although originally a post-COVID experiment, we have now completed three years with a dedicated study skills team. Our three study skills lecturers provide a programme of lectures, workshops, tutorials and drop-in sessions to build student confidence and help them develop their academic approach.

**“[We] are proud to work in a college community that leads the collegiate university in providing this kind of specialist support.”**

Dr Daniel Gerrard, Lecturer

## Welfare support

Thanks to the Annual Fund, we have significantly enhanced our welfare support for students. Our welfare coordinator, Lisa Stokes-King, is on hand to provide advice and help students navigate difficult personal situations. This can range from having a chat, to signposting to an appropriate counsellor and ensuring that they do not get forgotten. The Annual Fund also enables us to provide timely additional funding to students in need. As Lisa says, it is a privilege to be able to provide accommodation for those who have nowhere else to go in the vacation, and to say ‘this place is your home’.

## Careers and coaching

Our LincUp service connects students and young alumni with more experienced alumni to provide careers advice and mentoring. Last year we also launched the Hartley Leadership Development Programme, which, as the name suggests, provides training and support for students to help prepare them in their chosen careers. Our students rated the programme very highly, and particularly valued the input of the alumni who participated.

**“It was really interesting to hear about different career paths, staying true to values.”**

**“I really appreciated the many alumni that joined to help us out, an incredible opportunity.”**

**“I learned not to be so harsh on myself.”**

Programme participants

## Helping the community

We encourage our students to contribute to the College community while they are here, and many act as ambassadors, providing support at open days and during the interview season. VacProj, a Lincoln-based charity providing residential holidays for disadvantaged children from Oxfordshire, has been running for 50 years, and we are proud to support this and help the students involved with their fundraising efforts.

**“I want to go to Lincoln College so I can be a VacProj leader when I’m older.”**

VacProj child

**“VacProj reminds you how important childhood is.”**

Ozzadeh Tajalli (Leader)

## Sports and societies

The Annual Fund awards Blues grants to exceptional athletes, and also gives generous grants to college societies, such as the Choir, Lincoln Leads and many others, which are so important in personal development for students.

**“Thank you once again for your help – rowing has been incredibly useful in balancing my Medicine degree, and it’s a privilege to represent the University in what is such a highly watched event.”**

Polina Danilova, OUBC squad 2023–24

# Alumni News

## Lincoln alumni in Parliament



Following the June 2024 General Election, the Right Honourable **Shabana Mahmood (1999, Law)** was appointed Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor in July. Shabana has been a Labour MP since 2010 for Birmingham Ladywood, and is the second woman, and first Muslim MP, to hold the role of Lord Chancellor. Shabana is also an Honorary Fellow of Lincoln.

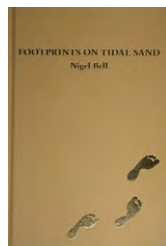


**Miatta Fahnbulleh (1997, PPE)**, was elected as a new MP for Peckham and has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. She was the Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation from 2017 to 2023 and previously worked at the IPPR as the Director of Policy and Research.



**Charles Banner KC (1998, Classics)** was appointed to the House of Lords in February. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2019 (at the age of 38, the youngest of the 2019 silks) and is practising at the Keating Chambers.

## 1950s



**Nigel Bell (1951)** has written *Footprints on Tidal Sand, The Memoir of a Well-Travelled Nonagerian* about pre-war Burma (Myanmar), his schooling in England during WW2, National Service, Oxford and some 28 years in Shell International Chemicals. He lived in Sudan, Kenya and Nigeria, before working visits to Russia, Europe, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. In retirement, he has acted to protect the local environment from over-development while finding opportunities to visit western USA, Ecuador, the Galapagos and Jordan. He has been a countryman and bird watcher all his life.



**Richard Rose** matriculated at Lincoln in 1957 from the USA

as a research student in politics. Rose describes what Oxford was like in the 1950s in chapter 3 of his memoir, *Learning about Politics in Time and Space*. In the sink-or-swim environment, he happily swam. His supervisor was at St Antony's and, after a year observing what an Oxford undergraduate education was, he went to Nuffield College for its specialist postgraduate environment. He took his DPhil in 1960, and also had two co-authored books published that year. This year, he had his 60th book published by OUP. Palgrave Macmillan has also published a Festschrift, 'The Problem of Governing: Essays' for Richard Rose, with contributors from three continents, including Oxford.



Obligated to retire at 70, finally using his degree as an Immigration Judge, **Jeremy Varcoe (1958)** settled into a leisurely but involved life in Cornwall. Now, largely disengaged from various groups – including Chairman of the Cornwall Branch of the Oxford society, which raises bursary



funds for local Oxford students – he remains interested in environmental issues. Playing weekly relaxed bridge with other oldies, the Silvertops, he follows his cardiologist's order to exercise daily. Prompted by family, he wrote the book, *Master of None*, not because he considers himself to be famous but because his career was more varied and adventurous than most, including being a District Officer, academic diplomat, charity CEO and judge.



**Robert Henrey (1958)** has recently published a novel, *Shen's Unlikely Journey – From Confucian China to the Court of Louis XIV*, which recounts a young Chinese scholar's venture into a politically fractious and religiously divided Europe awakening to the Scientific Revolution. Although fiction, it is based on the real lives of remarkable people dedicated to bridging the great cultural divide. While the historical setting of the late 17th century was unquestionably very different

from our own, the book portrays some of the uncannily similar challenges that we face today to build a more hopeful and less antagonistic world.



**Professor Malcolm S. Mitchell (1959)** is the proud great grandfather of Jack Robert Mitchell, son of Zachary and Annika Mitchell and grandson of Jeffrey Mitchell, who was born at the Radcliffe Infirmary in 1960. Perhaps Jack, who looks bright enough, will carry on the Lincoln/Oxford connection someday even though he is a Connecticut Yankee.

In March 2024, **Ian C Storey (1959)**, Professor Emeritus at Trent University, Ontario, delivered the keynote address to the conference 'Aristophanes and Attic Comedy' at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland – by Zoom he hastens to add. His topic was 'Some Musings about an Old (or is it Middle?) Comedy', the play in question being Aristophanes' *Assemblywomen*

(391 BCE). He is currently researching a monograph on the 'afterlives' of the novelist Mary Renault – how she and her historical fictions have fared forty years since her death in 1983.

## 1960s



*Footplate Passenger*, compiled and edited by **Robert Waterhouse (1960)** from the writing of his grandfather E.S. Waterhouse for ASLEF's *Locomotive Journal* between 1935-1964, has been hailed by Christian Wolmar, the leading UK transport authority, as "genuine grassroots history". The book, ISBN 978-1-7398873-2-2, is orderable at Waterstones and local bookshops.

In August, fourteen matriculants from 1964 and seven of their partners held a spectacularly enjoyable dinner at Lincoln under the title of 'Sixty Years On'. Some had not seen each other since graduation. Each had written 300 words about what he has done since going down; the collection, called 'What We've Done Since', was circulated

in advance and a copy sent to the College archive. A silence was held to remember those contemporaries who have died. After the meal, each alumnus gave an account of a memorable moment, episode or feature of life at Lincoln – an illuminating and entertaining exercise!



Discussions of Coward's achievement in the theatre between 1920 and 1966 have tended to stay with the colourful biography. The more analytical literary approach in **Roger Kojecký's (1966)** new book *Coward the Dramatist: Morals and Manners* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) places Coward's success in its wider theatrical context. He brought in a colloquial dialogue, explored, for instance, the morality and psychology of marriage and free love, and frequently exploited the dramatic possibilities of characters grouped into two camps. Roger held teaching positions in Tokyo and London University (lecturing on drama). His printed book is held in the English Faculty Library and *T.S. Eliot's Social Criticism* (1972) is available in the Lincoln College Library.

# Alumni News

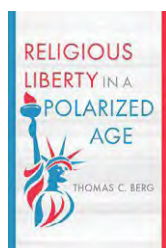
## 1970s

On 30 May 2024, **Richard Morris (1970)** was admitted to the Roll of Honour of the Law Society of Hong Kong in recognition of his distinguished service to the Law Society, to the Council and to the development of the practice of law in Hong Kong.

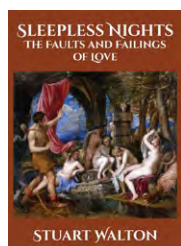


**Peter Ackers (1976)** is Emeritus Professor in the History of Industrial Relations at Loughborough University. He recently published *Trade Unions and the British Industrial Relations Crisis: An Intellectual Biography of Hugh Clegg* (Routledge). Through the life of one key academic and public policy figure, this attempts to understand how the British post-war generation tried and failed to build social democracy and to explain the Industrial Relations roots of Thatcherism. Peter and his wife, Moira, have devoted recent years to Church heritage. They have lived in the same Loughborough house for 32 years and have been married for 42. Their children are Harry, George and Helen (Lincoln 2007) and they have three grandchildren, Arthur, William and Felix.

## 1980s



**Professor Thomas Berg (1982)** has received three national awards for his book, *Religious Liberty in a Polarized Age* (Eerdmans Publishing 2023), including: the Religious Liberty Scholarship Award from Notre Dame Law School; the Religious Freedom Scholar's Award from the Seventh-day Adventist Church (North America); and a 2024 Book Award from *Christianity Today* magazine (Politics and Public Life category). Berg is the James L. Oberstar Professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law (Minnesota).



**Stuart Walton (1983)** had his seventeenth book published in spring 2024 by Academica Press. *Sleepless Nights: The Faults and Failings of Love* is a critical theory of romance.



**Jonathan Clowes (1984)** attended a reception at the University of Huddersfield to celebrate the donation by Carol Hughes of material relating to her late husband Ted Hughes, poet laureate from 1984 until 1998. The event was also a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of his death in 2023. The collections of Ted Hughes material in Huddersfield are now probably the 3rd largest in the world after the British Library and Emory in the USA. The archive includes correspondence, original manuscripts and rare editions. The materials can be surveyed via the online catalogue at [www.heritagequay.org](http://www.heritagequay.org) and viewed in person.

as well as affiliates in Canada, South Africa and Zambia. Founded in 1972, the AJA was among the first organisations in North America to promote traditional jujitsu (cf. BJJ). The AJA maintains high standards for the art, organises seminars and competitions, certifies rank promotions, awards prizes and scholarships, and provides liability insurance. Tom is honoured to help increase awareness of the many benefits of jujitsu training among the general public and the global martial arts community.



*The Essential Robert Duncan Milne: Stories by the Lost Pioneer of Science Fiction: Robert Duncan Milne* (Bloomsbury Academic) is a collection co-edited by **Keith Williams (1991)**, Reader in English, University of Dundee. It showcases the speculative writing of another former Lincon student, Robert Duncan Milne, who matriculated to read classics in 1862. Scottish-born Milne (1844-99) is a forgotten pioneer. Hailed as the first full-time science fiction writer in America, this critical edition constitutes the most expansive collection of Milne's writing ever published, placing his life, works and themes into their

## 1990s



— AMERICAN —  
**JUJITSU**  
— ASSOCIATION —

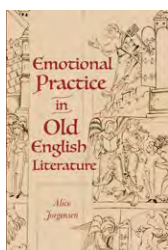
**Thomas Dineen (1991)** was elected President & CEO of the American Jujitsu Association (AJA), which includes over thirty schools (*dōjōs*) throughout the USA,



historical, literary and scientific contexts. Astonishingly prescient, Milne makes clear the often-obscured contribution of both Scotland and California in the development of the genre.



**John Rux-Burton (1992)** has moved to the Mid-Wales/ Herefordshire border with his wife Verena. He is working on two new books, one a novel, the other photographic which looks at the landscapes that inspired great poems in English. When not writing, he is helping his sister with her antique business and roaming the amazing beauty of the Marches.



**Dr Alice Jorgensen (née Cowen, 1995)** published her new book, *Emotional Practice in Old English Literature*, with D. S. Brewer in May 2024. Dr Jorgensen is

Assistant Professor of English Literature to 1500 at Trinity College, Dublin.

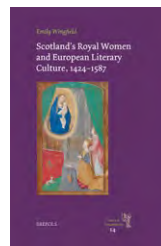


In October 2023, **Matthew Boyle (1996)** was appointed as a Circuit Judge. He has been deployed to hear criminal cases at Inner London Crown Court.

## 2000s

**Justyna and Anthony Curl (2002)** welcomed another daughter to the family. Kasandra was born on 4 April 2024, and is a sister to Klarysa, Konstancja and Klementyna.

During the pandemic, **Hugh McCormick (2003)** started an international school in Verbier, Switzerland, mourned the passing of both of his parents, and took an MPhil in Education from Cambridge University. Having now sold the school, with compliments to Simon Gluckstein (1986), Hugh has retired to Oxfordshire with his son Huxley.



**Emily McCarthy's (2003)** second monograph, *Scotland's Royal Women and European Literary Culture 1424-1587*, was published at the start of 2024. She looks forward to continuing work in this area with a project on the creative work produced by Mary, Queen of Scots, during her 19 years of captivity in England.



On 12 June 2024, a memorial lecture was held at University College, London to mark the life and achievements of **Aaron Graham (2004)**. Professor Julian Hoppit spoke eloquently of Aaron as a formidable scholar, supportive tutor and generous colleague before delivering a paper on 'Revisiting the Unions of 1707 and 1801'. The lecture highlighted the remarkable impact Aaron had made on his

field in such a short time, and the Graham family confirmed that many of his final research projects should soon appear in print.



**Paul J. Angelo (2006)** published his first book, *From Peril to Partnership: US Security Assistance and the Bid to Stabilize Colombia and Mexico*, with Oxford University Press on 8 March 2024. The book explores why US assistance to the Colombian military and police helped stabilise the country and why similar programs underdelivered in Mexico. Angelo argues that the success of security assistance depends on an alignment of strategic vision between Washington and its partners. Following the collapse of security forces in Afghanistan and amid US congressional deliberations over aid to Ukraine, Angelo delivers actionable recommendations for US policymakers seeking to improve returns on security and defense investments overseas. Angelo currently serves as director of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies in Washington, DC and was the fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

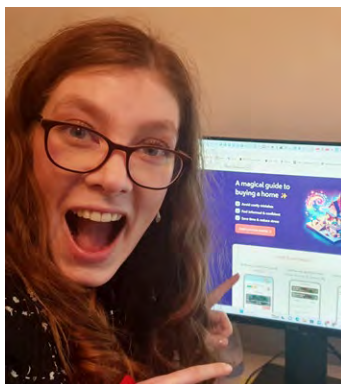
# Alumni News

**Michael Juniper (2006)** and his wife Hannah Beeke (ChCh 2008) would like to announce the birth of their son Daniel in April 2024.

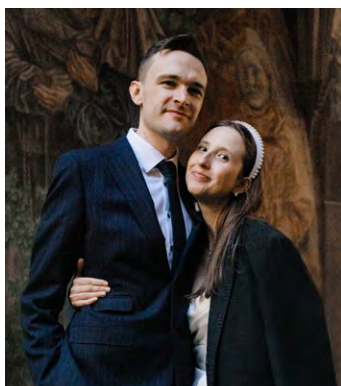
## 2010s



**Dr Jerry Zak (2011)** and his wife Isaraphorn recently published a study on cancer immunotherapy in the leading journal *Science*. Searching for new treatments for patients resistant to checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy, they found a combination of inhibitors that enhance the anti-cancer immune response. In a clinical trial of 19 patients with immunotherapy-resistant Hodgkin lymphoma, 53% of patients responded to the treatment and 47% were free of cancer progression at two years. Because of the broadly applicable mechanism of action, studies in other types of cancer are underway. The study was featured in local and international newspapers and on FOX 5 TV.



**Charlotte Burton (2012)** has launched *Fairy Godmover*, a tech platform that guides first time buyers through the home buying process in the UK.



**Beatrice Montedoro (2013)** married William Brockbank (Pembroke and Jesus Colleges) on 1 December 2023 at a civil ceremony in Zürich, Switzerland. Beatrice and William met in Oxford at the King's Arms on 1 December 2015. They now live and work in Switzerland, where they continue their academic careers in early modern English literature and Old English studies respectively.



**Nicola Kelly (née Ede, 2014)** and her husband Thomas (New College 2014) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Miriam in October 2023. John is thrilled to be a big brother!



**Joshua Wrigley (2016)** and **Maryann Pierse (2017)** celebrated their marriage in the Chapel on 12 April under an auspiciously sunny sky. Among the guests were many old Lincolmites, and it was a special privilege that the ceremony was conducted by Melanie Marshall, Lincoln's chaplain during the couple's studies.

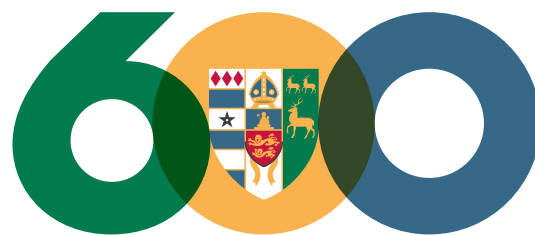
## 2020s



**Dr Monty Lyman (2023)** is a Doctor of Medicine (DM) student at Lincoln, and in March 2024 published a non-fiction book with Penguin. In *The Immune Mind*, Lyman explores the emerging science uncovering the relationship between the immune system and mental health. Among the pioneering scientists interviewed is Oxford's own Professor Belinda Lennox, who is a world expert in the newly discovered disease of autoimmune psychosis. *The Immune Mind* was a BBC Radio 4 'Book of the Week' in May.







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