



The Grove

LINCOLN COLLEGE MURRAY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

Update from the JCR and MCR Presidents

With the New Year certainly came a renewed sense of hope, gratitude and excitement for the year to come – and although lockdown continued, Hilary term was a success in its own right, with sustained resilience and optimism across the board.

Undoubtedly, an online Hilary term had its challenges for the JCR, but the response from all parts of the College and the alumni community, from assisting with welfare matters and financial support to hosting events, has been enormously welcome and beneficial for all. Testament to this collaborative and mutually supportive environment was the success of Lincoln Unites, our annual Equality and Diversity week. This year's Lincoln Unites sparked great engagement and conversation, with events including an exhibition on Lincolnites' experiences of intersectionality and a workshop with the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

In terms of MCR events, the biggest MCR academic event of the year – Lincoln Leads – was a triumph. Other than the usual myriad of talented and engaging speakers, all of whom produced a wonderfully profound discussion every week, Covid-19 had a surprisingly positive impact on the logistics of the programme itself. Not only did the MCR Academic Team trial a live-streamed Lincoln Leads for the first time, but the virtual nature of this year's programme

enabled greater scope for the future; through the generous support of the Annual Fund, the MCR is purchasing professional streaming equipment for use across the College. Broadening our reach across the globe, both in inviting exciting speakers and in acquiring more viewers now and in the future, means we have much to anticipate.

With regards to Trinity term, we are enthusiastically looking forward to the gradual return of in-person events and teaching for the whole of the Lincoln community. As always, the summer sunshine of Trinity brings much joy in its own right, and there is immense appetite and goodwill, across all parts of the College, in forging a positive path in rebuilding and renewing Lincoln as we know it, and excitement about the opportunities next term will bring in doing just that.

We would, on behalf of both the JCR and the MCR, like to thank you very much for all of your support during these unprecedented times – it is you who represent much of the Lincoln ethos, and therefore you who will help our current cohort to experience and learn who we, as Lincolnites, are, and what we stand for. To brighter days ahead – thank you.

James Hughes, *JCR President*

Emma Lalande, *MCR President*

Legacy report

Over the past couple of years, Lincoln has lost several very dear friends, members of the Murray Society whose names and faces will be familiar to many of you. They were members of that post-war generation, who enjoyed the College so much both as students and then as alumni, and obituaries in *The Record* remind us how full each of their lives was. These were men (and women) who wanted their legacies to support the College, and to help it in its work as a place of scholarship and education.

Bob Blake

Anyone who ever met Bob will remember him fondly. ‘Tremendous!’, he would boom over the phone, when a new publication landed; ‘Marvellous!’ was his favourite adjective for the choir, which he supported for many decades, revelling in their music and sponsoring choral scholarships and tours. He matriculated in 1946 to read Chemistry, and played College rugby (while not achieving quite the heights of Lewis Cannell, below). A regular and enthusiastic attendee of Murray Society events, he has left a considerable bequest, much of which will go towards supporting in perpetuity the choral scholarships he provided for in his lifetime.



Audrey Tucker and Lewis Cannell

Dr Audrey Tucker, who died in 2019, was the widow of Dr Lewis Cannell, who came up to Lincoln in 1948 to read PPE, and played a great deal of rugby, gaining Blues in each of the three years he was up. He went on to become a rugby international, considered by many as the leading centre of his generation. On leaving Lincoln, he

switched to medicine, training at St Mary’s before pursuing a career as a consultant radiologist at St Bart’s and Stoke Mandeville among others. While



in Middlesex, he met Audrey, who was also pursuing a career in radiology. After Lewis’s death in 2003, Audrey took his place in the Murray Society, and until she had a major stroke she was a regular attendee at its events.

Their legacy is a very substantial one, and will support a Fellowship in Clinical Medicine bearing their name. This will mark a significant new appointment for the College, and will alleviate some of the pressure on our existing medical tutors, and provide consistency in teaching and support for our clinical students.

Kenneth Sowards-Shaw

Kenneth came up to Lincoln in 1949, to read Law, and went on to pursue a successful career in international marketing. He was dedicated to Lincoln, and remained an enthusiastic supporter of the Lincoln Society and the Goblins, as well as the Murray Society, throughout his life. He died in December 2018, and his partner, Keith McVeigh, also very sadly died shortly afterwards. Many Murray Society members will remember them and their good company well. Kenneth has left the bulk of his estate to Lincoln, where it will support a Fellowship in his name. The details will be announced soon.



Elman Poole



Elman arrived in the UK from New Zealand in 1953, to read for a DPhil in Neurology; he went on to pursue a career in clinical neurology at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for many years. In his retirement, he returned to Lincoln, where in truth he had spent little time as a student. He enjoyed the events, and the opportunity to encourage creativity among the students in particular, sponsoring an annual photographic contest, and several musical performances each year. In his later years, he turned to more direct support for students, particularly those undertaking graduate study, and his very generous bequest to Lincoln will enable that support for Masters’ students to continue, alongside a Research Fellowship in ovarian cancer.

Geoffrey and Valerie Place



Geoffrey Place read History at Lincoln from 1955, and then returned to the Wirrall as a schoolmaster and enthusiastic local historian. He died in 2006, and his widow, Valerie, died in 2019. Their estate was largely left to charity, including to Lincoln, which has received a very generous bequest. We are using this to support the Mitre project, and you will see that one of the

‘zones’ in the Mitre is named after them. We are delighted that the Place name will be preserved in a historic place, which we think would have pleased them.

I am saddened to write this list of names. Each of them represents a great loss to Lincoln, and it was one of the true pleasures of this role for me to get to know them a little, and to hear their stories about the College and their lives. As their legacies are received, I hope that we can do justice to their wishes, and that their names will live on at Lincoln.

Susan Harrison

Development Director

IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to report that the following Murray Society members have passed away since the last edition of *The Grove*. They will be sadly missed.

Mr Nigel A Lindsey-Renton	1949
Mr Michael O’Hagan	1950
Mr Gregory B Votaw	1950
Mr William B L Poole	1954
Mr Sidney H Freedman	1955
Mr Richard H Jeffrey	1955
Mr David A E Fince OBE	1957
Mr Mark Skilbeck	1957

AUTUMN MURRAY DAY

Saturday 16 October 2021

We hope to be able to hold a Murray Day in Oxford this Autumn. Please save the date. Further details will be announced in due course.

Building projects continue apace

When Lincoln went into lockdown and closed its doors back in March 2020, many aspects of College life moved online. The quads were quiet, with only our dedicated Porters remaining in College. However, in the background, our building projects rumbled on – subject to new guidelines around social distancing and mask wearing. This meant that the Mitre project was able to be completed on time and within budget, and the College received the keys in a handover on 12 February. The rooms are currently being furnished, ready to receive our first guests in May this year. We will be accepting bookings as soon as our new booking system is in place and we hope you will let us know if you plan to visit Oxford this summer. From September onwards the Mitre will be home to our second-year undergraduates.



JOHN CAIRNS

The Mitre is the second large-scale building project the College has undertaken in the last few years. The renovation of 120-122 High Street (formerly the NatWest bank) was completed in

2019, and Lincoln has recently been awarded a certificate from Oxford Preservation Trust for the building's substantial contribution to Oxford.



During lockdown, we took advantage of a quiet College to do some planned work in the Dining Hall, starting with the floorboards. We removed years of damaged polish from the floor of the Hall and the original oak floorboards were then refinished with a protective oil. The same specialist contractors returned this Spring to clean and restore the oak panelling in the Hall. In the future the College will embark on the final phase of the project, the restoration of the stained glass windows.

Finally, due to ongoing issues with the lawn in Front Quad, the College decided to treat the soil and replace the turf. The result is a beautiful even lawn with healthy soil underneath.

All of this ongoing work will ensure that Lincoln is looking its very best when we are able to welcome you back to College.



BOB WEATHERHEAD