

# Imprint



*Lincoln College News*

SEPTEMBER 2020



# Editorial

This has been a year that none of us will forget. Michaelmas term was as busy and joyful as ever, as we welcomed a new cohort of Lincoln students and excitedly looked forward to the year ahead. Plans were made to celebrate the 40th anniversary of female students at Lincoln, and an alumnae exhibition, pictured on the cover of this edition of *Imprint*, was unveiled in Hall to mark the occasion (pp.2-3). We were joined by new Fellows, including the latest Newton Abraham Visiting Professor, Dr Alan Garfinkel (pp.12-13), and a new Senior Tutor, Dr Lydia Matthews (pp.4-5). Hilary term started with aplomb, with the College's first equality and diversity week, 'Lincoln Unites' (pp.20-21), and the return of our popular lecture series, Lincoln Leads (p.22). Sadly, this year's programme was cut short as Covid-19 reached the UK and the global pandemic forced the College into lockdown in March.

It is hard to put into words quite how this has impacted the College. Most of our students left Oxford at the end of Hilary term and have not been able to return. Fellows and staff have been working from home, while our wonderful porters, interviewed on pp.14-15, have been coming in to look after the College in our absence. Research projects have changed tack, with Biochemistry Fellow, Dr John Vakonakis, joining a collaborative effort to identify molecules that may halt the replication of the Covid-19 virus (pp.6-7). Plans were put into place to move Trinity term teaching and exams online; a huge adjustment for both tutors and students, but ultimately a successful one (read more on pp.18-19). Preparations for Michaelmas term 2020 are still being made, but we are planning to have all students back in residence, with social distancing measures in place. Following the uncertainty around A-level results and admissions, we are delighted to have confirmed the places of all undergraduate offer-holders and we look forward to welcoming our new students to Lincoln (possibly the largest intake in the College's history). They will be joining a remarkable student body. The JCR and MCR have handled the disruption caused by the pandemic with impressive resilience, and have been supporting each other throughout this challenging time. As well as moving social events and committee meetings online, the MCR also organised a 'lockdown edition' of Lincoln Leads on YouTube (pp.22), while the Boat Club has been holding team fitness classes on Zoom (full report on pp.24-25).

Many of our alumni have been directly involved in the Covid-19 response and a number are featured in a report on pp.32-33. We also have articles from Dr David Walcott (2011) who has been at the forefront of the Covid-19 response in the Caribbean (pp.34-35), and Hilary Hutton-Squire (1994), the Managing Director of pharmaceutical giant Gilead UK and Ireland. Hilary's article on pp.36-37 offers unique insight into drug-discovery and development during a crisis. Tackling another challenge brought on by the pandemic is Mark Kent (1983), the UK Ambassador to Argentina, who had the enormous task of repatriating British citizens from Argentina; read about his efforts on pp.38-39.

We were blown away by the response to our call for alumni mentors, and were able to create almost 700 alumni-student partnerships, many of which have continued to this day. You can read about the success of this scheme on pp.40-41. Equally overwhelming was the generosity of alumni following the launch our Covid-19 Appeal. The donations we received, and continue to receive, will allow the College to respond to the pandemic and continue to support our students and teaching efforts.

Thank you to all those who have supported the College during this difficult year. Never have I felt prouder to be part of this extraordinary community.

**Julia Uwins**

*Alumni and College Communications Officer*

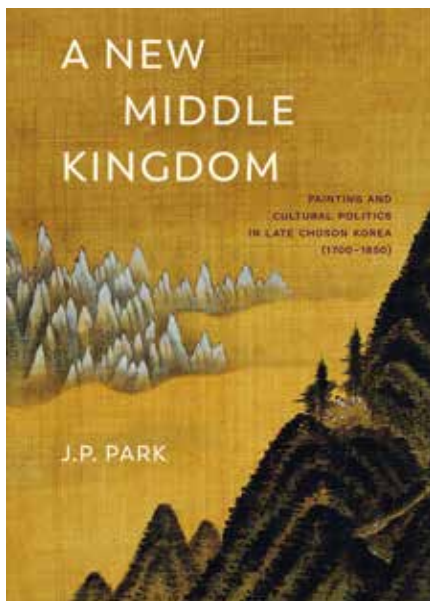
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# College news

## Lincoln welcomes new Senior Tutor, Dr Lydia Matthews

Following the retirement of Dr Louise Durning after 13 years at Lincoln, the College welcomed Dr Lydia Matthews to the post of Senior Tutor in August 2019. Lydia previously taught Ancient History at Oxford, before spending two years as Head of Administration and Finance at the Faculty of Theology and Religion. For an in-depth look at Lydia's first year as Senior Tutor, please see pp.4-5.



## Book awards for Lincoln Fellows

Congratulations to Dr J.P. Park (June and Simon Li Associate Professor in the History of Art), winner of the 2020 Charles Rufus Morey Book Award for his latest publication, *A New Middle Kingdom: Painting and Cultural Politics in Late Chosŏn Korea (1700-1850)*. The Charles Rufus Morey Book Award, issued by the College Art Association and established in 1953, honours distinguished books in the history of art.

The College is also pleased to announce that Dr Sam Brewitt-Taylor (Darby Fellow in History) was awarded the Ecclesiastical History Society (EHS) Book Prize for *Christian Radicalism in the Church of England and the Invention of the British Sixties, 1957-1970*. Read more about Sam's time as Lincoln's Darby Fellow in History, on pp.8-9.

## Dr Mark Kirby to write a history of the Lincoln College Chapel

The College has appointed Dr Mark Kirby to the position of Child-Shuffrey Fellow in Architectural History. During his four-year Fellowship, Mark's research will focus on the College Chapel and Chapel Quad, with a view to publishing a book as part of the College's 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2027. Mark is particularly interested in why the College Visitor, Bishop Williams, commissioned and financed the construction of such a grand and ornamented chapel when his own theological position was as a moderate Calvinist. He hopes that the answers to this question will tell us much about the role of episcopal patronage in the early seventeenth century and of the notions of decorum in church architecture and worship. This book will be volume one of a proposed three-volume architectural history of the College.



## Introduction of a Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room

As part of an ongoing commitment to equality and diversity, the College opened a Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room in January 2020. Located in Staircase 15, this space is open to all members of the College community and welcomes those of any religious viewpoint or of agnostic views. It can be used for private prayer, peaceful contemplation, meditation, and quiet time.

## New College website

In May, the College launched a new website with a more modern design and fresh content. The site has additional features such as a virtual tour, interactive timeline, and College blog. We have worked with subject tutors and Fellows to create informative course pages, alongside student testimonials to give prospective students a taste of life at Lincoln. We hope you enjoy exploring the new site: <https://lincoln.ox.ac.uk>.

## Tortilla the tortoise joins the Lincoln community

We are delighted to announce that the College has adopted a nine-year old male Horsefield tortoise, named Tortilla.

During the College closure, Tortilla has been cared for by our Head Gardener, Aimee Irving-Bell, who has a degree in Zoology with a specialism in reptile care. Tortilla is particularly fond of escaping from his enclosure and making a beeline for Aimee's vegetable patch – much to her horror! When back in College, Aimee will be joined by student helpers who will all share responsibility for looking after Tortilla.



## Q&A and book signing with John le Carré

We were thrilled to be joined by alumnus and Honorary Fellow, David Cornwell (a.k.a. John le Carré), for a special student Q&A during Michaelmas term. In Oxford to promote his latest novel, *Agent Running in the Field*, David spoke to students about his life and career, before taking questions from the audience. The event ended with a drinks reception and book signing. Many thanks to David for a memorable evening!







## Celebrating 40 years of women at Lincoln: an exhibition of inspiring alumnae

*In 1979, Lincoln College admitted women as students for the first time. It was a landmark moment in the College's history, described in that year's Record as the 'most revolutionary change in modern times that has taken place in Lincoln's history'.*

To mark the fortieth anniversary in 2019-20, the College commissioned a photographic portrait exhibition to hang in Hall for the duration of the anniversary year, featuring a range of inspiring Lincoln alumnae from across the decades. But how to decide who to include in this exhibition? For this, we turned to the Lincoln community and asked for nominations from alumni, students, staff, and Fellows. In total we received almost 200 nominations, and a small committee was tasked with creating a shortlist – a tricky job considering the impressive pool of nominations from which to choose. It is testament to the strength of the submissions that the resulting exhibition featured not twenty, but twenty-one Lincoln alumnae.

The women in this exhibition show that success comes in many different forms. They reflect the diversity of our community, representing a range of backgrounds, ages, careers, and achievements. Together, they show the many possibilities and opportunities available, and we hope that their experiences and stories will serve to inspire the next generation of Lincoln students.

The photos themselves were taken by professional portrait photographer Robert Taylor (<https://taylor-photo.co.uk/>), who had successfully photographed similar exhibitions for both Hertford and Trinity. It was a pleasure to work with Robert and we were delighted with the final images, printed in black and white to stand out against the larger permanent oil paintings in Hall. Hanging them was no easy task – they needed to be prominent, but not at risk of getting knocked by students sitting on benches either side of Hall – but was achieved thanks to the careful attention of Robert and Lincoln's Clerk of Works, Julian Mitchell.

*We owe a lasting debt of gratitude, however, to the women who from 1979 onwards proved beyond a shadow of doubt their intellectual and sporting prowess, and their value as members of the College community.*

An unveiling event took place on Saturday 21 September, and it was wonderful to have so many of the alumnae in the exhibition in attendance, along with their family and friends. Together we enjoyed drinks and canapés, as well as speeches from the Rector and Alison Hartley (1980). This exhibition was intended to be the first celebration of many, with a fortieth anniversary event due to take place in March featuring a number of alumnae speakers and a special dinner in Hall. This event was sadly cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and we hope to be able to reschedule at some point next year. Despite the disruption caused by lockdown, we did manage to arrange a virtual celebration on Zoom, with a panel of speakers including Lesley MacKay (1979), Sarah Harding (1989), Lynn Shepherd (1982), Naomi Kellman (2008), Helen O'Hara (1996), Adiba Osmani (1995), Sophie Evekink (2012) and Asha De Vos (2003). With over 50 alumni joining the call, it was a reminder of the strength of our Lincoln community and the importance of coming together to celebrate this anniversary.

We are delighted to feature the alumnae portraits on the cover of this edition of *Imprint*. A list of names can be found on the reverse.

**Dr Lucy Wooding**  
(Langford Fellow  
and Tutor in History;  
Fellow Archivist)



‘Today, in the fortieth anniversary year of women at Lincoln, our college is resoundingly co-educational, and it is hard to imagine it any other way. We owe a lasting debt of gratitude, however, to the women who from 1979 onwards proved beyond a shadow of doubt their intellectual and sporting prowess, and their value as members of the College community. It must have taken a lot of courage, as well as talent, hard work, and energy. This exhibition celebrates just some of those trail-blazing women who helped shape our college into the society we so love today, and who continue to inspire the next generation.’

**Caroline Sarll (1983)**



‘How do I feel to be included in this exhibition? Over the moon, teary, honoured – and validated. For a diffident Welsh Comp girl, who battled the ubiquitous impostor syndrome, this was a reaffirmation that ‘my lovely Lincoln’ not only inspires and values academic/career-inspired laurels, but champions maverick endeavour (raising my girls bilingually), life-changing activism (WAY) and familial success (elder daughter, a Lincolnite, younger, The Other Place). I still pinch myself thinking of my Hall portrait, rubbing shoulders with the other illustrious alumnae and the wonderful Chef Jim Murden. I feel I’ve secured my place in Lincoln’s history. Ineffable. Really. The sadness? There was a painful synchronicity to getting this accolade just after losing my beloved mum, who taught me, like Lincoln, that we gals, given the right education, really can do anything. Our early loss of my dad was the catalyst not only for WAY, but for my determination to excel. Lincoln gave me that chance. This is better than any Oscar. Thank you. My gratitude is immense.’

**Robert Taylor,**  
Exhibition  
photographer



‘Photographing the women of Lincoln College involved travels from Macclesfield to Westward Ho! in environments ranging from a snatched

few moments in a riotous Parliament building to a gently indulgent afternoon in a private study. There were fascinatingly contrasted contexts and personal stories. I had a wonderfully rich range of experiences capturing this collection of characters. In some ways it was a great shame that the adventure had to come to an end. What a fantastic array of ability, achievement, and charm!’





# Reflections on my first year at Lincoln

*I joined Lincoln as Senior Tutor in August last year. I am originally from South Africa and took my first degrees at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. After finishing my Master's degree, I was awarded a scholarship to study at Oxford. I arrived in the UK in 2007, never having left Southern Africa before, to take my doctorate in Roman History at Brasenose College.*

After graduating, I taught Ancient History at Oxford for a number of years before joining the University's Humanities Division. I really enjoyed teaching and knew that I wanted to continue working with students, but I also began taking on roles that focused more on policy and found these very rewarding. The position of Senior Tutor really appealed to me because it combined these two aspects, working closely with students and tutors while also making sure that we have the best structures in place for promoting academic success.

My first year has been one of two halves. I spent my first months as Senior Tutor learning about the College and how it works and getting to grips with the different jobs that the Senior Tutor does. The second half of my first year was spent trying to make sure that our tutors and students had the support that they needed to meet the unique challenges that the pandemic has presented.

At Lincoln, the role of Senior Tutor is very varied and encompasses the role of Tutor for Graduates and Tutor for Admissions. In short, I look after the academic life of the College, from the point at which a school student thinks about making an application for an undergraduate place, right up to when a student graduates with a doctoral degree. Because the College's main purpose is academic, I'm involved in almost every aspect of College life and so I spent my first months at Lincoln getting to know the different members of our community. For example, I have celebrated academic successes with our students

at our annual Scholars and Exhibitioners Dinner. I have worked with the Bursar's Office to make sure our students have the financial support they need. I have worked alongside tutors and our Chaplain and Welfare Coordinator to help students who were struggling with pastoral issues and relied on the compassion and cool-heads of our lodge staff in responding to emergencies. I have enjoyed meeting with our alumni to discuss ways of ensuring that we as a College can continue to educate the most talented and able students, whatever their financial background. In each of these contexts I have been struck by the care and hard work that the Fellows, staff, and students put into the College's shared purpose.

These qualities have also been essential in helping us meet the great challenges that the second half of this year has presented. The outbreak of coronavirus and the move to remote teaching and examination in Trinity term meant that I have spent a good deal of time thinking about how we can reformulate the highly personalised and intimate tutorial into something that can be delivered online. A very important part of this has been to make sure that tutors and students have the practical tools they need to study and teach from home. Early in the Easter vacation we surveyed all students, asking for information about their needs. Our IT Manager immediately got to work, sending out laptops to students who didn't have a computer at home and noise-cancelling headphones to those who didn't have a quiet place to work. Our Schools Liaison Officer began tracking down venues where students

could write their exams if they couldn't do these at home and our Librarian set up a postal loans and scanning service. Our tutors spent the Easter vacation rewriting their reading lists and thinking about how to get the most of online resources and platforms like Microsoft Teams.

While I think that it is safe to say that none of us would wish for another term like the one just past, I have been deeply impressed by the remarkable way in which all members of the College have met its challenges. Our finalists in particular have had to sit their last exams in their bedrooms or at their kitchen tables rather than in Exam Schools and have said goodbye to their friends and tutors over Microsoft Teams. I know that we are all looking forward to the time when we can invite them back to College and celebrate their success in person.

More recently my attention has turned to planning for the coming academic year, which will be like no other before it. The College is expecting that the overwhelming majority of our new and continuing students will be in residence in Oxford next year and will receive a mixture of online and in-person teaching. One of the great strengths of the tutorial system is that it offers great flexibility to both tutors and students and this means that we are able to adapt ourselves to the demands of socially distanced teaching. The ramifications of this are broad and we are having to think creatively about how to use the space available to us. The College will soon look very different; as I write, temporary room dividers and Perspex screens are being installed in the College Library so as to allow students to return safely to working there.

Although it may take some time before I get to meet our incoming undergraduate and graduate Freshers in person, I look forward to welcoming them and all of our returning students to the College this October. Next year will have its challenges, but if this last year is anything to go by, our strong sense of community will help us to overcome them.

**Dr Lydia Matthews**  
Senior Tutor



*I have enjoyed meeting with our alumni to discuss ways of ensuring that we as a College can continue to educate the most talented and able students, whatever their financial background. In each of these contexts I have been struck by the care and hard work that the Fellows, staff, and students put into the College's shared purpose.*

# COVID Moonshot

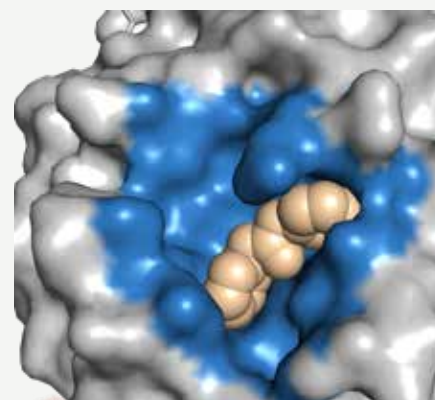
*Dr John Vakonakis has been Tutorial Fellow in Biochemistry at Lincoln since 2013. Much of John's research has focused on the malaria parasite and how it modifies the human cells it invades. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, John has been involved with 'COVID Moonshot', a collaboration with other researchers to identify drug-like molecules that might block the replication of the virus.*

The Covid-19 pandemic has upended all our lives in 2020, and caused incalculable human and financial costs. In just a short period between March and July, over 10 million Covid-19 cases have been confirmed worldwide and more than 500,000 deaths have been reported. Considering how many cases go undiagnosed, these statistics suggest Covid-19 may cause more deaths than any other infectious disease in 2020.

Covid-19 is caused by a new virus in the coronavirus family, designated as SARS-CoV-2. Coronaviruses infecting humans are by no means new to science, with the first two such viruses identified over 50 years ago. However, as these original coronaviruses did not cause disease any more severe than the common cold, research on them was seen as a niche pursuit; indeed, the first international conference on coronaviruses, held in 1980 at Würzburg, Germany, was attended by just 60 people! Fortunately for our current predicament, the outbreaks of SARS (East

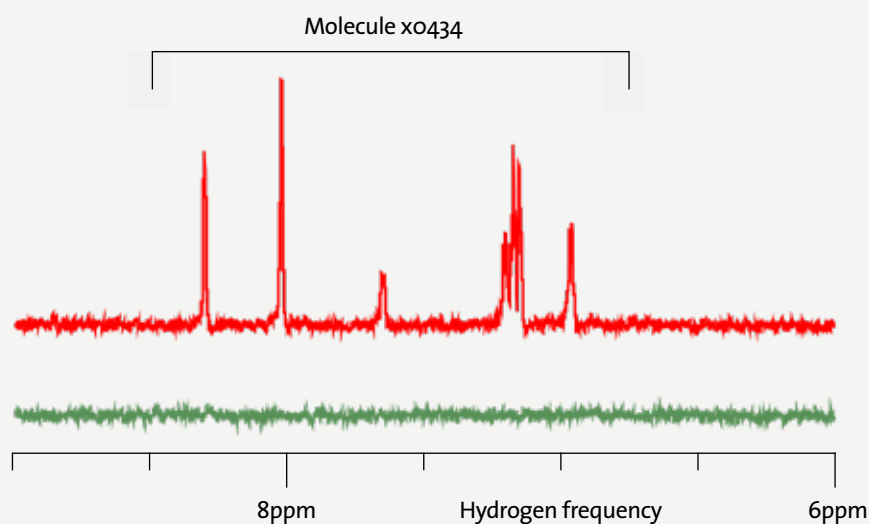
Asia, 2002) and MERS (Middle East, 2012) ushered us into the era of pathogenic human coronaviruses, and accelerated research efforts to understand these organisms.

Coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, are composed of a spherical 'shell' of proteins and lipids approximately 150 billionths of a metre in diameter, which protects the virus' genetic material and helps the virus attach to cells, primarily in the lungs. Following attachment, the virus enters the cell where its genetic material is 'translated' into all the protein components the virus needs to make more copies of itself. A peculiarity of coronaviruses is that most of these protein components are not made as functional units outright; rather, the virus makes a single large poly-protein that needs to be cut into smaller, functional pieces. This step, of cutting the poly-protein into pieces, is absolutely crucial for viral reproduction and, thus, offers a target for drugs to stop the virus in its tracks.



Effective drugs against SARS-CoV-2 that could be used in treating Covid-19 are sorely lacking and, along with anti-viral vaccines, are necessary tools for permanently ending this pandemic. Drugs are effective when they strongly attack their intended target, such as a specific viral protein, while simultaneously ignoring the thousands and thousands of other proteins present in human cells. To achieve this combination of potency and specificity, drugs, which are chemical molecules much smaller than a protein, are designed to fit as closely and neatly as possible to their intended target; literally, the chemical equivalent of designing the perfect key for a specific lock. If the key does not fit the lock well, it will not turn it; the drug will not be effective in stopping the virus. But if the key fits many locks, the system is not secure; the drug may attack human proteins and be toxic to health.

To walk the narrow path between these two cases we need to be able to see what the lock and keys look like, which in the context of proteins and drugs is the preserve of structural biology. Structural biology methods, such as X-ray crystallography, electron microscopy, and nuclear magnetic resonance, 'magnify' proteins and drugs for us to extremely high detail, enough to see the placement



**Fig 2:** Example of NMR data used to assess binding of chemical molecules to  $M^{pro}$ . The hydrogens of molecule x0434 give just NMR 'noise' (green line) when  $M^{pro}$  is not present in the sample. In contrast, the same hydrogens give signal 'peaks' (red line) in samples of x0434 with  $M^{pro}$ , when there is binding.



**Fig 1:** Three-dimensional view of the  $M^{pro}$  surface, with the area of  $M^{pro}$  responsible for cutting the poly-protein coloured in blue. Molecule xo434 (beige spheres) fits in the contours of this  $M^{pro}$  surface as 'key to a lock', but with lots of room for improvement.

of each individual atom within these molecules. Furthermore, they help us observe how drugs fit to proteins, thereby inspiring ways by which we can modify these drugs, adding or removing atoms at will, to engineer a better fit.

This, in a nutshell, is the aim of the COVID Moonshot project [1]: to design a perfect drug-key to fit an essential viral-lock. We wish to do so as quickly as possible, ideally achieving a first drug candidate within nine months – an unprecedented speed up of effort. To that end, research groups from the US, Israel and the UK, including multiple laboratories in Oxford, formed a spontaneous collaboration to share ideas, tools and resources. We use cutting-edge tools from chemical, structural and computational biology, make all data available immediately to the public without considering IP as to benefit parallel drug-design efforts undertaken elsewhere, and harness the power of crowdsourcing for both funding and suggestions on how our drug-design efforts can proceed. With our designed drugs we target the essential means by which SARS-CoV-2 cuts its poly-protein into functional units, and in doing so we hope to prevent the virus from copying itself.

The tool the virus uses to cut its poly-protein is an enzyme, called the main protease or  $M^{pro}$ . Pioneering X-ray crystallography work done at the Diamond Light Source in Oxfordshire, in March 2020, gave us detailed views of  $M^{pro}$  with many chemical molecules bound to it [2]. These views provided COVID Moonshot with multiple starting 'hits' from which to tweak molecules to improve their fit to  $M^{pro}$  and stop the protease from helping viral reproduction, but there was a question: which of the different molecules that bound  $M^{pro}$  did so strongly, which of these 'hits' were the best starting points for drug-design efforts?

To answer this question, my group used nuclear magnetic resonance experiments that can measure how well chemical molecules bind to proteins in liquid conditions, similar to those found inside cells. Surprisingly, we saw that out of over 30 'hits' to  $M^{pro}$  observed in the initial X-ray crystallography work, just four chemical molecules bound  $M^{pro}$  strongly in liquids [3]. The lack of strong binding by the rest of these molecules suggests that their fit to  $M^{pro}$  is relatively poor, and so they may make for poor starting points for drugs. Knowing this we can thus avoid a large number of potentially non-productive drug-design avenues, thereby concentrating and speeding up our efforts to find an effective chemical molecule against SARS-CoV-2.

Of course, this work was just the start of our efforts. Since then the COVID Moonshot project has tested, modified and iterated on hundreds of chemical molecules potentially targeting  $M^{pro}$ . In our quest for effective drug-candidates, we are now close to transitioning from experiments performed in test tubes to assays of promising chemical molecules in cells and on the virus itself, prior to testing the effectiveness of these molecules in animals. Together with many more Covid-19 drug and vaccine efforts that have sprung up worldwide in the last few months, there are good reasons for optimism that one or more of these avenues will yield effective treatment options.

What then is the greatest danger that would prevent such treatments from emerging? Very briefly, lack of perseverance. Taking a lead from for-profit companies, academic research is increasingly tuned to short-term outcomes where 'impact', preferably in monetary terms, can be immediately demonstrated. Niche pursuits, such as the original coronavirus work, are de-funded out of existence. Following the original SARS coronavirus outbreak in 2002, 14 different promising chemical molecules were identified that could block cutting of the viral poly-protein into functional units; none of these 14 molecules were followed on towards drugs when the 2002 outbreak fizzled out, not even after the MERS outbreak served as a 'heads up' in 2012. This failure of imagination has robbed us of having a coronavirus drug 'in the cupboard' that could stem the current epidemic. Let us hope that lessons learned in 2020 will mean that in the future the importance of niche pursuits is appreciated, and funding follows.

### Dr John Vakonakis

*Tutorial Fellow in Biochemistry*

#### References:

1. COVID Moonshot: <https://postera.ai/covid>
2. Identification of chemical molecules binding to SARS-CoV-2  $M^{pro}$ : <https://www.diamond.ac.uk/covid-19/for-scientists/Main-protease-structure-and-XChem.html>
3. Assessing the strength of binding by chemical molecule to SARS-CoV-2  $M^{pro}$ : <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.17.156679v1>




 A portrait of Dr Sam Brewitt-Taylor, a young man with short brown hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue sweater over a light blue collared shirt. The background is a blurred stone wall.
 

## On being a Darby Fellow

*Dr Sam Brewitt-Taylor was Darby Fellow in History between 2015 and 2020. His first book, Christian Radicalism in the Church of England and the Invention of the British Sixties, 1957-1970, was published by OUP in 2018.*

Ever since I arrived at Lincoln, I struggled to explain to people what I did without getting sucked into a convoluted explanation of what a Darby Fellowship is. The question is more difficult than it looks because Darbys are an institution of Lincoln's own invention. 'It's like a research fellowship with teaching,' I would begin, hopefully. 'It goes for five years. It's less than a tutorial fellowship but more than a stipendiary lectureship... you have to sit on Governing Body.' Usually people's eyes had glazed over by this point, so I'd try to summarise – 'I'm Lincoln's Career Development Fellow in History' – to which the reply was usually, 'What's a Career Development Fellow?'

In desperation I consulted the College's official history, Vivian Green's *The Commonwealth of Lincoln College 1427-1977*. Perry Gauci had presented me with a copy in my first week, announcing that no historian's bookshelf was complete without it. Three Darby Fellowships were established in 1537, I learned, and the first Fellows were appointed in 1538, although Darby's trustees didn't cough up the promised funds until 1546, causing the

College to go into debt. One of the Fellows had to be from Oxfordshire; another from the archdeaconry of Stow, or, failing that, the diocese of Lincoln; and the third was for people from Leicestershire. The geographical restrictions were abolished in 1856. I began to breathe a little: I was free to tell people I'm from Worcestershire, but I was no closer to raising my game in small-talk.

When talking to people within Lincoln, of course, it was always much easier. Perry Gauci is the VHH Green Fellow, and works on the eighteenth century; Lucy Wooding is the Langford Fellow, and an early modernist. I'm the third musketeer, I liked to say; I'm the modernist, I spend most of my time giving tutorials in British and European history from 1815. A closely guarded secret, which I only fully realised after having been elected, was that the list of professional historians who were once Darby Fellows is long and intimidating: Susan Brigden, Jane Garnett, Richard Drayton, Matthew Grimley, David Priestland, Rob Saunders, and Alana Harris, and those are just the ones I can remember.

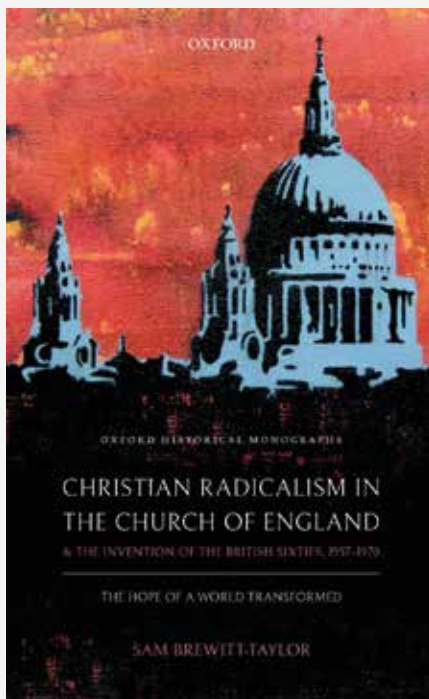
'But what is it like?' my family would ask, and I told them that during term time it's like being a don with L-plates: looking over Perry and Lucy's shoulders, seeing how they do it, and trying to go and do likewise. I think the most striking thing I've learned as a Darby is quite how much institutional memory sits behind a successful history school: the extensive calibration of the course, the careful selection of the brightest candidates, and the detailed list (never written down, of course) of which outside tutors are reliable and which are not.

In the vacations, by contrast, the experience is quite different: this is the time Darbys can focus on their research. The life of early-career academics these days is usually consumed with 'para-research' – that is, writing grant-applications, applying for short-term jobs, activities in which you promise to do research but which take so much time that you never get round to actually doing any. A Darby Fellowship frees you from all this: it gives you the gift of time. My book was reviewed in the TLS and won a first-book prize, and this was largely because Lincoln gave me the



leisure to write it slowly. This was a massive privilege; thinking slowly is crucial for good history-writing. In history as in many other fields, the best books are the ones that challenge assumptions so embedded that nobody else could see them, and it's only possible to spot those assumptions when you have the freedom to take your time.

Closely related is the fact that a Darby gives you the gift of stability. The UK humanities sector stumbles from crisis to crisis, and the prospects for early-career academics are proportionately bleak. 67% of PhD students want an academic career, the HEPI recently found, but only 30% are still in academia three years after they graduate. The frequent necessity for young scholars to move around the country doing a succession of short-term jobs hinders family life, or indeed any kind of life. I have friends who have clocked up hundreds of miles combining part-time jobs at different institutions. In this context, a Darby Fellowship is a refuge in the storm. The College provides accommodation, meals,



research expenses, an institutional identity, and a room of one's own. For four years, at least, it gives one very lucky early-career researcher the luxury of knowing what he or she will be doing in twelve months' time.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly in experiential terms, a Darby is a passport

into a welcoming community. The life of a humanities PhD student is often lonely, and most of it takes place in a library. There are some colleges which are clever but not nice, and others (not saying which, of course) which are nice but not clever, but Lincoln possesses the happy knack of recruiting Fellows and students who are both, and this makes it a peculiarly pleasant place to spend one's time. I have many happy memories of my time at Lincoln, from teasing other junior Fellows over lunch, to Perry and Lucy's annual history trips (usually to places that involve ice-cream). Above all, Lincoln history students ask the best questions. In my final week of tutorial teaching, a student was sitting in a Disciplines of History tutorial and had a light-bulb moment. 'Actually,' he said, 'the concept of modernity doesn't make sense, does it?' 'I can depart in peace,' I said to myself. 'My work here is done.'

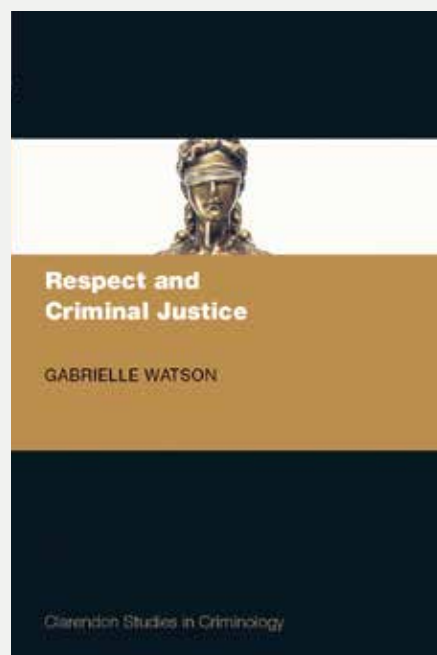
**Dr Sam Brewitt-Taylor**  
*Darby Fellow in History*



*A closely guarded secret, which I only fully realised after having been elected, was that the list of professional historians who were once Darby Fellows is long and intimidating...*

# In search of respect

*Dr Gabrielle Watson joined Lincoln College in 2019 as the Shaw Foundation Fellow in Law following a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship in the Faculty of Law at Oxford. She works at the intersection of criminal law, criminal justice, and jurisprudence.*



My first book, *Respect and Criminal Justice*, was published in June 2020 by Oxford University Press. It is the newest addition to the *Clarendon Studies in Criminology* series: the successor to the *Cambridge Studies in Criminology* series, inaugurated by Sir Leon Radzinowicz – the ‘founding father’ of British criminology – and JWC Turner 80 years ago.

The book offers the first academic study of ‘respect’ in criminal justice in England and Wales, where the value is elusive but of persisting significance. In this piece, I reflect on the state of our prisons.

Owing to some sustained – but ultimately unsuccessful – reform efforts in recent decades, prisons regularly appeal to the word ‘respect’, proclaiming it as a core value in official discourse. Yet, on closer examination, the modern prison’s relationship to respect is not as clear-cut as institutional documentation would have us believe.

In prisons, respect is a mere slogan. The real value and potential of respect as a critical and regulative ideal has been diminished by the tendency to treat it as peripheral to practical concerns such as target setting, the maintenance of order, and deterrence.

## What is respect?

The book begins by attending to the deceptively simple question: what is respect? It turns first to philosophy with its rich Kantian literature on the topic, and its core claim that every human being has a claim to respect no matter what: respect *need not be negotiated* and *cannot be forfeited*. But contemporary philosophical accounts complicate matters by identifying respect in a number of ways: as a mode of behaviour, a form of treatment, a kind of valuing, a type of attention, a motive, an attitude, a feeling, a tribute, a principle, a duty, an entitlement, and a moral virtue.

If philosophers cannot agree, it should come as no surprise that our prisons – notoriously pragmatic in their approach – have glossed over the meaning of respect. Yet empty appeals to respect distort as much as they communicate. When there is a lack of specificity in understanding and giving effect to respect, it does much to magnify the status inequalities that have come to define imprisonment. It also shows scant regard for the fact that respect – or lack thereof – tends to be felt more keenly by ethnic minority groups and those whose sense of belonging and social possibility in society are precarious.

As part of a reform agenda for the 2020s, our prisons must be explicit in their definition of respect if they are to proceed according to – let alone realise – the value. The book offers



Photo credit: Yngve/Shutterstock.com

some suggestions: among them, the idea that respect is both an *act* and an *attitude*, that it is ideally *reciprocal*, that it occurs at both the *individual* and the *institutional* level, and is the primary means by which to acknowledge a person’s *intrinsic worth*.

## Unsavory punishment

To write a book on respect is an ambitious task, and I spend a good deal of time boundary-drawing in order to render it manageable. Perhaps the most striking illustration of respect – or lack thereof – in the book is to be found in a case study of prison food from the eighteenth century to the present day.

The ritualised preparation and provision of prison food is imbued with considerable symbolic power, and its pivotal role in shaping the daily prison experience has been understated.

The dominant narrative in historical accounts of prison mealtime is that, pre-twentieth century, food was intended to *punish, debilitate, and degrade*. The eighteenth century may have epitomised the most indecent of prison conditions, where a restricted diet was an explicit feature of punishment. Part of the reformative work of John Howard was to offer an incisive critique of the practice of charging prisoners for meals, proposing instead that they be provided with a daily allowance of food. Nonetheless, his vision for respect was strictly minimalist:



***'I am not an advocate for an extravagant and profuse allowance to prisoners. I plead only for necessities, in such a moderate quantity, as may support health and strength for labour.'*** (1777)

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the experience of imprisonment remained unimpeachably severe. Prison meals had seen no real improvement and consisted chiefly of bread and thin gruel or broths. There was cause for cautious optimism, however, following the introduction of prison inspections in 1835. Prison diet became a national scandal and inspectors made an explicit call for food to no longer act as an instrument of punishment. Advances were made in the quantity – if not the quality – of prison food but an instrumentalist line of thought endured, in part, due to widespread public support for a retributive approach and the prevailing conservative ideology of the period.

By the mid-nineteenth century, prison food had once again been called into question, with leading physicians of the time recommending a substantial reduction in portion sizes on the grounds that the food provided was excessive and insufficiently penal. To provide food sufficient to ensure good health would be to provide conditions of relative comfort, and the extremely poor with a positive incentive to commit crime.

Integral to more progressive developments was the commissioning of a Departmental Committee on Diets in 1925. Following the Committee's investigation into prison food, the motivation to provide a nutritious diet to inmates was firmly established. The following year, the Committee made further calls for a 'more balanced and varied diet' which included 'the provision of regular vegetables', the replacement of prison 'cans' with aluminium trays and utensils, and opportunities for prisoners to dine in association in the hope that it might cultivate in them a sense of self-respect. These reforms were indicative of a newly configured relationship between the state and its subjects, and a sustained attempt to afford prison mealtime a visibility and form that

brought it into line with a society that considered itself to be civilised.

In the decades that followed, prison mealtime was visibly transformed. Prisoners were given increased involvement in menu design, and meals were gradually made available to those with religious, ethnic, cultural, and medical requirements. However, there is compelling evidence to suggest that, in prisons in England and Wales, food – if only implicitly – continues to form part of a penal strategy. Subtle institutional attempts at degradation through food persist, and daily meals serve as painful and periodic bodily expressions of the power that the institution exerts over the individual.

The National Audit Office has, in recent years, noted concerns among prisoners that standards for the storage and preparation of ethnic and cultural food were not met consistently. It seems that prisoners' lack of trust in this regard was not unfounded. The Office has confirmed several cases in which prisoners had signed up in good faith to receive ethnic meals, which were later found to have been unethically prepared. Four out of sixteen prisons were unable to store halal meat separately from other meat and, in eleven prisons, kitchen equipment intended for those with Muslim diets was not labelled separately.

Such incidents make clear that, in practice, respect is not always reciprocal, whereby prisoners do not – even cannot – respect those responsible for preparing their food. When prisoners are denied ethically prepared ethnic meals, they are likely to become too distracted by the conditions of their confinement to respond respectfully to prison authorities who so unethically denied them respect.

### **The elusive promise**

On 11 July 2018, HM Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales published its Annual Report, in which it documented two unannounced inspections that caused 'deep concern.' HMP Wormwood Scrubs suffered from 'appalling' living conditions, violence, an almost complete lack of rehabilitative or resettlement

activity, and seemingly intractable problems over repeated inspections. At 'squalid' and 'fundamentally unsafe' HMP Liverpool, inspectors found '*some of the worst conditions [they] had ever seen.*' An impoverished regime, many cells lacked even the basic requirements for health and hygiene and the leadership and management focus on respect was '*inadequate at every level.*' It appears, then, that respect remains somewhat of an elusive promise.

Although respect is a precious commodity, in our prisons, it need not be utopian. It simply requires a degree of mutual understanding when it is owed to, called for, deserved, elicited, or claimed by another. With a sense of modest realism, the book sets out those challenges in detail – and envisages the advances that could be made – in inscribing respectful relations between state and subject.

### **Dr Gabrielle Watson**

*Shaw Foundation Fellow in Law*

*Respect and Criminal Justice* (2020). Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.  
256 pp.



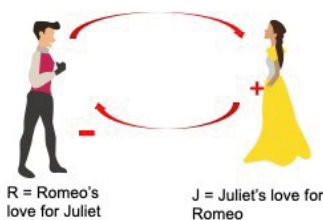
# Visiting Lincoln: Life as a Newton Abraham Professor

*Dr Alan Garfinkel is a Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Integrative Biology and Physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His research uses mathematical models as a scientific research tool, specifically when it comes to understanding cardiac arrhythmias. Alan joined Lincoln in September 2019 as the Newton Abraham Visiting Professor, and also holds a post in the Department of Computer Science. In this article, Alan looks back on the past year at Lincoln.*

I arrived as Newton Abraham Visiting Professor this past September. The Newton Abraham trust was established by Sir Edward Penley Abraham ('EPA'), who worked on the development of penicillin, and later, working with Guy Newton, developed the antibiotic cephalosporin, still in use today. The income from cephalosporin funded a visiting professorship, which includes a Professorial Fellowship at Lincoln.

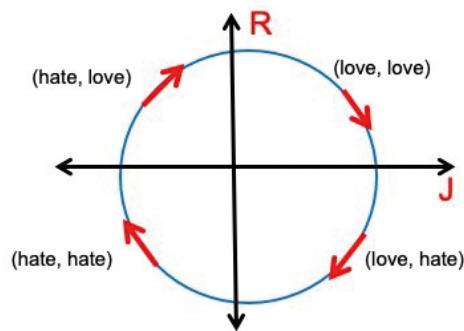
Before my arrival, I had visited Oxford a few times, but I had never experienced college life. I was a little stunned to find that 'college life' meant that I had been invited to a wonderful dinner party *every night*, with fascinating historians and physicists, biologists and Shakespeare scholars.

*We showed that fibrillation was a form of spatio-temporal chaos, an orderly disorder brought on by pathological oscillations (think Romeo and Juliet).*



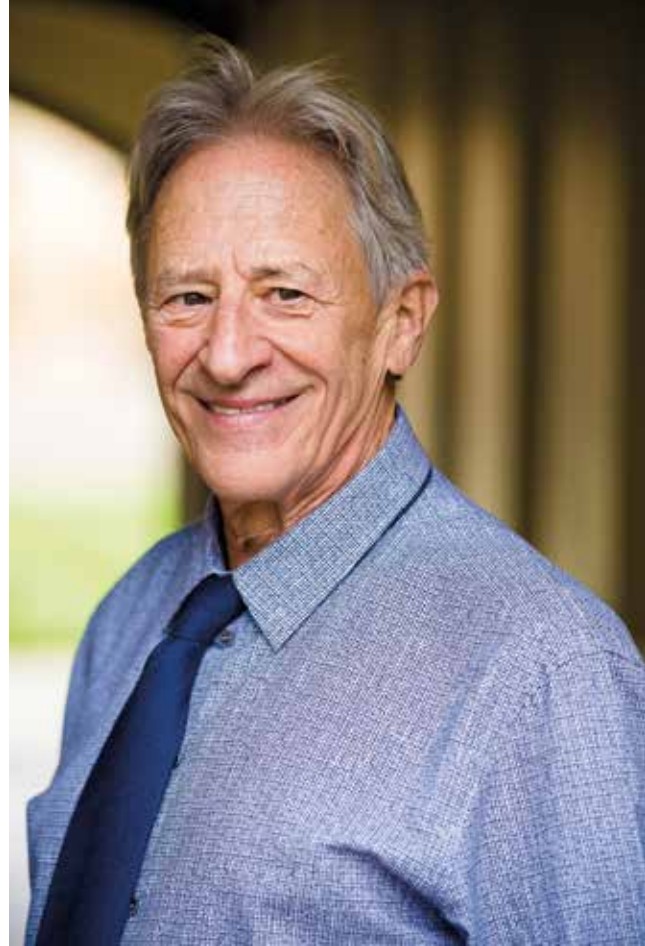
Differential Equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dJ}{dt} &= R \\ \frac{dR}{dt} &= -J \end{aligned}$$



The two lovers will oscillate for ever, cycling through love and hate out of phase with each other.

**Fig 1:** If Romeo's love makes Juliet's love increase, but Juliet's love makes Romeo's love decrease, the two will oscillate romantically, forever.



There is nothing back home that even remotely approaches this. Most other places, whether you are a starting junior professor or a senior holder of a titled chair, your life is the same: drive to the office, work with students and colleagues, usually eat lunch at the desk or at a nearby stand, teach or meet with students again, and then drive home. That's it.

I immensely enjoyed the collegiality of college life (until the Grinch of Covid stole it). I've made good friends at Lincoln, and plan to keep them up. I've also begun a couple of research collaborations with Lincoln faculty members. I have an ongoing conversation about mathematics in science with Paul Stavrinou (Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science), and some ongoing research topics with DPhil students and postdocs that I've met through Jordan Raff (César Milstein Professor of Molecular Cancer Biology) and Matthew Freeman (Fellow and Professor of Pathology), both of whom carry on the strong connections between Lincoln College and the Dunn School of Pathology.

The highlights of my year at Lincoln began with an invitation from the Senior Tutor to give a *Conversazione*, which was entitled 'Mathematical Models in Medicine, Ecology, Social Systems, and Romantic Relationships'. I showed how dynamical models, couched in differential equations, can give us insights into the behavior of insulin and glucose in the body, or predators and prey in an ecosystem, or, for that matter, a couple, call them Romeo and Juliet, who attract and/or repel



each other (see fig. 1). One of my big goals is to bring an understanding of dynamical systems and modeling to audiences that do not consider themselves ‘maths wizards’.

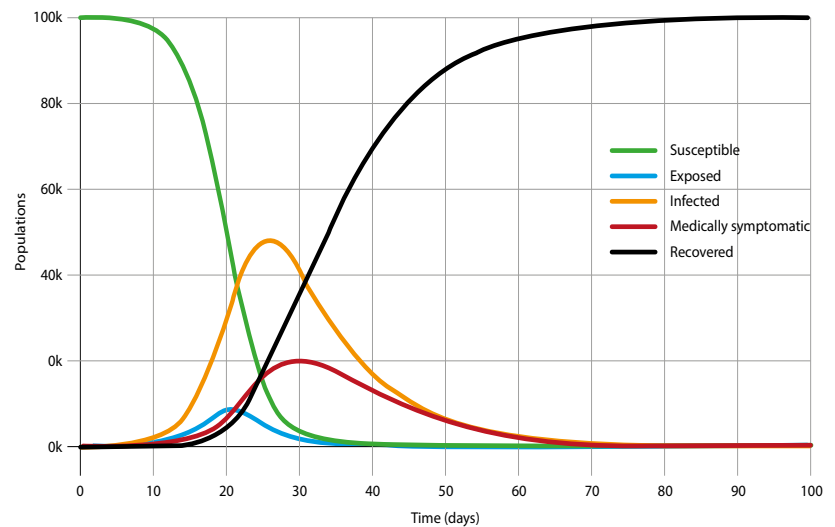
In Hilary term, I was privileged to work with Waqas Mirza (2016), Angeliki Myrillas-Brazeau (2018), and Nuno Pereira (2018) on the Lincoln Leads seminar starring Lincoln alumnus Adam Camilletti (2002), who is the Engineering Manager for the Exomars Rover Vehicle, a joint UK/European space programme. The session, entitled ‘Who needs Space?’ discussed the terrestrial benefits of space exploration.

Also in Hilary, I gave a course in Computer Science on dynamical systems modeling, for DPhil students in Physiology, Zoology, and other Biological Sciences. We were thrilled that 51 students ended up taking the course, which demonstrated to us that there is a very strong market for dynamics and modeling ideas in the Biological Sciences.

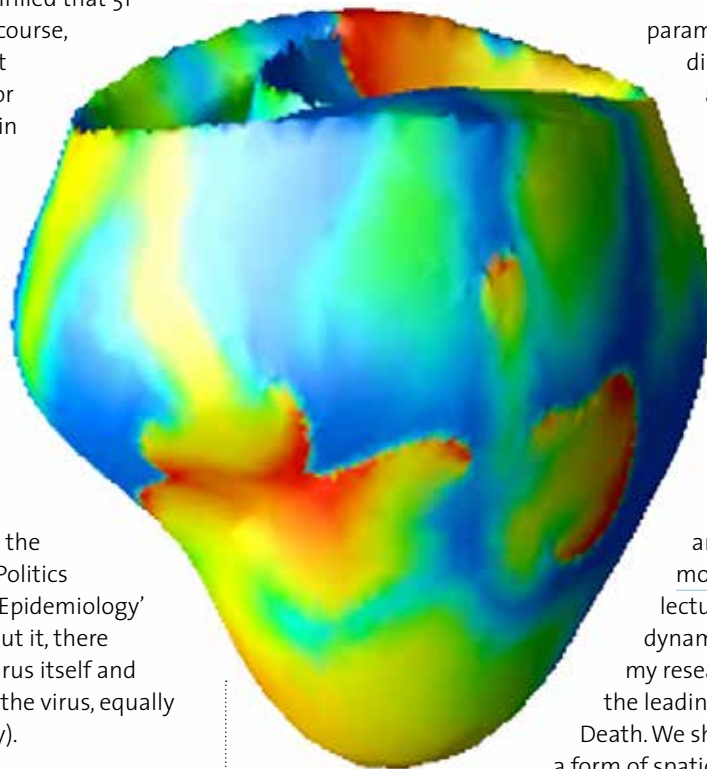
By the beginning of Trinity, we were all, of course, in lockdown, but that didn’t stop Angeliki Myrillas-Brazeau from organising *four* remote sessions of Lincoln Leads (‘Lockdown Edition’, with me as the host), featuring four ways of looking at coronavirus; we considered the pandemic as seen through the lenses of Literature, Medicine, Politics and what we called ‘Cognitive Epidemiology’ (recognising that, as Angeliki put it, there are really two epidemics, the virus itself and also the spread of ideas about the virus, equally important to the epidemiology).

During the early days of the lockdown, the Computer Science Department asked me to set up a page for school-age students who were interested in understanding how mathematical and computational modeling was being used to design strategies for intervention against the pandemic.

The resulting page (Modeling the Spread of Covid-19 at <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/innovation/covid-19/>) featured a dynamical model of the interactions of populations of Susceptible, Exposed, Infected, Medically Symptomatic, and Recovered people. The viewer can change



**Fig 2:** Time course of various variables in a simulated epidemic.



**Fig 3:** Ventricular Fibrillation (VF) in a supercomputer model of the heart. The colours show the voltage at each point in the heart, with red being highest and blue being lowest. In the normal heart, a single wave of excitation excites the heart and creates contraction, but in VF, multiple waves of excitation (red areas) course chaotically through the tissue.

parameter values like ‘social distancing’, ‘recovery time’, etc. and see how they affect the course of the epidemic (see fig.2).

We were (just) able to give my Newton Abraham Lecture on 12 March 2020, the last day before the University lockdown, among the dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum. The talk, called ‘Medicine and Physiology in the Age of Dynamics’ was recorded, and is available at <https://modelinginbiology.github.io>. In the lecture, I talked about applications of dynamics to physiology, especially in my research on ventricular fibrillation, the leading cause of Sudden Cardiac Death. We showed that fibrillation was a form of spatio-temporal chaos, an orderly disorder brought on by pathological oscillations (think Romeo and Juliet) in the electrophysiology of cardiac tissue. This is the research that I’m continuing to pursue with the Computational Cardiovascular Science Group in Computer Science (see fig.3).

My time at Lincoln has been memorable for me. I will be spending a large part of this coming year, 2020-21, in Oxford, and am looking forward to renewing friendships and collaborations.

**Dr Alan Garfinkel**  
Newton Abraham Visiting Professor

# Introducing: the Lodge

*When the Covid-19 pandemic hit and Lincoln College closed, the only staff who remained on site were the porters. In this interview, Joe Tripkovic (Lodge Manager) and some of his team describe their experiences of a college under lockdown and how they were impacted, both personally and professionally.*

**Could you tell us a little about your backgrounds and how long you have been at Lincoln?**

**Bob Weatherhead** – I have worked at Lincoln for nearly seven years, six years on a casual basis. Prior to that I worked for thirteen years in a senior position in the corporate world for a major market research group. With only three years to retirement, I think I have finally found my true vocation.

**Cristiano Da Silva** – I was born in Brazil. I am half Brazilian and half Italian. I came to England in 2003, joined Lincoln College in 2014, working in the Buttery, and since 2017 have been working in the Lodge.

**Joe Tripkovic** – I have been at Lincoln for five years after a lengthy police career and a few years chauffeuring.

**Peter Koyio** – I am originally from Kenya, and I have been working as a night porter at the Main Lodge for seven years. I combine my Lincoln role with other *ad hoc* roles within, and outside, the University. In the last few months, I have been helping with distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) around University hospitals. I also do some *pro bono* work at the Detention Centres, and at the Citizens Advice Bureau. All this helps to fund my legal studies that I am currently pursuing. I hope to qualify as a lawyer at some point.

**What do your roles normally involve?**

**C.D.S.** – Normally our roles would involve reception duties for the Lodge, fielding phone calls to relevant departments, dealing with any general enquires, and receiving parcels from the couriers

and postal deliveries. Helping with any welfare issues and monitoring security within the College grounds keeps us busy too.

**The College closed in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. What was it like in the week leading up to the closure?**

**B.W.** – The week leading up to closure was surreal. No one knew what to expect with regard to restrictions on movement and the like, hence three of us moving into Bear Lane. There was a lot of palpable anxiety around; it was as if the dystopian nightmares of fiction had come to life. This was particularly the case when a colleague contracted Covid-19 and was hospitalised. The empty streets were depressing, and it was worrying to see supermarkets with lots of empty shelves.



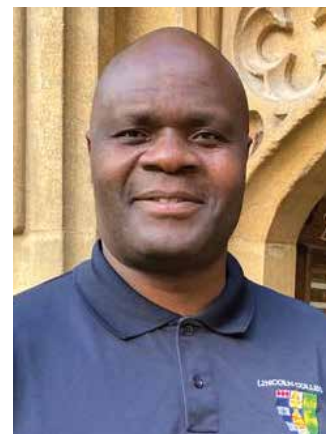
Joe Tripkovic



Bob Weatherhead



Cristiano Da Silva



Peter Koyio



**C.D.S.** – The week leading up to the pandemic was a bit concerning. Everybody was unsure about what was happening or going to happen within College, but in the Lodge we carried on, looking after our students who were self-isolating, and those still in residence. We were also taking on new measures and procedures in order to prepare for the difficult times ahead and to maintain safe practices within College.

**P.K.** – The Covid-19 pandemic hit us quite suddenly and left us with very little room to plan. It was sad to see the term end abruptly without us having time to say our usual goodbyes to our students, especially the finalists. I hope that wherever they are, they are safe and well.

Safe and well, unfortunately, is not what I managed to be. I fell victim to Covid-19. It all started on 1 April 2020, when my body didn't feel quite right. By midnight, I had excruciating aches and pains all over my body and a headache that wouldn't go away. I thought, as a precaution, I must self-isolate. I followed the NHS guidelines on what to do in self-isolation. I tried to fight whatever it was for 11 days. By this time, I was struggling to move, and breathing was becoming difficult. I ended up at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Blood tests and swabs confirmed that I was indeed Covid-19 positive. I was later discharged from hospital. It took about seven weeks in total to start regaining my strength and feeling normal again.

#### **How have your roles changed during the lockdown?**

**B.W.** – The porters' role changed in that we had to lift the spirits of those students unable to get home, and ensure the Lodge and immediate public areas were regularly sanitised. We also had to ensure those self-isolating were getting fed and in as fine a fettle as could be in the circumstances.

**C.D.S.** – During the lockdown we have seen less mail and fewer parcels being delivered, as students are home and office staff are working from home. So our roles have changed slightly, with an increase in health and safety procedures, and also the security of our premises.

**P.K.** – I have now returned to work since recovering from Covid-19, but am more cautious than ever before. Together with my colleagues in the Lodge, we have kept up our cleaning every day: sanitising everywhere and everything around the Lodge, and wearing PPE where needed to keep the College safe for our students and staff.

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*Out of crisis comes opportunity. We have certainly had opportunities during the pandemic to examine how we operate...*

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**J.T.** – Whoever would have thought we would need a 'pandemic' policy pulled from the dusty shelves of the College? Not me for sure! The planning for emergency responses in the College has moved forward greatly in the last two years, and business continuity was highlighted as an area we should all be aware of. Working from home and remote access are now terms that roll off the tongue, and everybody knows exactly what they mean. Out of crisis comes opportunity. We have certainly had opportunities during the pandemic to examine how we operate, and now how we incorporate those valuable experiences into our working methods in the future. Resilience for duties was key for the Lodge as we were totally committed to keeping both lodges working, with three members of the team moving into College accommodation.

Personally, the pandemic meant I had to plan transport to and from work due to public transport restrictions. My wife is a key worker in teaching, so we both balanced a healthy regime with ensuring we were available for work as much as possible. Community spirit has shone through for many, and we volunteered to deliver prescriptions, shopping, and run errands for those shielding locally to us. Keeping a distance from family and particularly grandchildren proved emotionally so difficult. Now, well, they're back to wearing us out!

#### **What has the College been like during the past few months?**

**B.W.** – From being a veritable hive of activity, the College was suddenly very subdued and it was depressing to see such a fine medieval building and excellent centre of learning become somewhat redundant. Indeed, it was possible to go through an entire shift without interacting with anyone. On a physical level weeds proliferated and the creeper covered the Hall's windows.

**C.D.S.** – Within the past few months, Oxford and the College have been like a ghost town; no one around, with Turl Street empty and no shops open. College has been empty, very quiet and nature has taken over.

#### **Some parts of College are starting to re-open and we plan to have students in residence in Michaelmas term. What are you looking forward to most about the College reopening?**

**B.W.** – It may take years for things to get back to normal, but I am looking forward to getting to know a new coterie of students; enjoying lunch in Hall; a pint or two in Deep Hall; and welcoming visitors and B&B and conference guests back to the College. I never thought I would miss chasing after tourists who had ventured into Grove, or other private areas, but I do. I am also looking forward to going home and sleeping in a double bed – I have fallen out of my student single twice!

**C.D.S.** – Mostly I will be looking forward to getting back to a sort of normal. A kind of normal College life, students around and the old busy times.

#### **What will you remember most from this time?**

**J.T.** – My lasting memory of the pandemic will always be seeing our night porter Peter Koyio suffering so badly with Covid symptoms that he needed to be hospitalised. This was an all-time low for us all, and in the wider College community. Peter, and all of us, were and still are so grateful for the many messages of goodwill and support. The Lodge team truly stepped up to the plate by covering colleagues isolating with symptoms, sanitising common areas, and ensuring the College remained safe and secure at a vulnerable time for so many. They are amazing people!

## JCR President's report 2019-20



*I don't think anybody could have predicted the way this academic year turned out. We began, as always, in October with a brand new group of bright-eyed Freshers, and ended Trinity scattered across the globe, admittedly with a better knowledge of video conferencing software than ever before. Although the last few months have been a true rollercoaster, Lincoln JCR has had a jam-packed and altogether successful year. A core focus for my presidency was improving equality, diversity, and representation, and so many of the JCR's activities reflect this.*

At the start of Michaelmas, the JCR Committee worked to improve the provision of meals in Hall and lobbied for the inclusion of a standing vegetarian option, as well as Halal and Kosher meals for those who requested it. During the first term, we also ensured the introduction of the new Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room in Staircase 15. This now provides a peaceful space for worship and reflection for a large number of Lincoln members from a variety of faith backgrounds.

Hilary saw our first ever 'Lincoln Unites' week, as we came together to celebrate equality and diversity. Both Common Rooms are extremely excited that we have secured annual status for this event, and look forward to seeing how it develops over the coming years. Perhaps the second most notable event of Hilary was the arrival of Lincoln's new VIP in 5<sup>th</sup> week, Tortilla the tortoise. Rumour has it that he's the fastest in Oxford – so keep your eyes peeled for the 2021 Corpus Christi tortoise race!

Despite the fact that many of Lincoln's older traditions have had to be put on hold for this year, the JCR has certainly not ground to a halt during Trinity term. We continued as usual with our meetings, which saw motions in support of Black Lives Matter, donations to a variety of worthwhile causes, and even the ratification of a whole new JCR constitution. Many of our usual events have continued online, along with a whole host of new initiatives in the form of a virtual running club, pub quizzes, and online library sessions. Student welfare throughout the pandemic has been a huge priority. As well as the

increased financial support provisions and regular peer support phone-ins, we have also been supported by College with a subscription to the mindfulness and meditation app Headspace.

A review of this term would also not be complete without a huge thanks being extended to the wider Lincoln community. Firstly, our tutors have managed all the same difficulties of working from home, often undertaking caring responsibilities on top of this, while still prioritising the welfare and education of all their students. Equally, our alumni have used these unfortunate circumstances as an opportunity to further support current Lincoln members. The alumni partnering scheme has provided over 250 students with not just alumni mentors but has also facilitated the blossoming of new friendships.

Looking forward, by the time we return to Oxford, the JCR refurbishment should be completed. It promises to be a much more pleasant and functional space for all students to use, and we are very grateful to Lincoln for Life and the Annual Fund for the financial support they provided. Of course, none of us yet know what next year will look like, but I have every faith that the new JCR executive committee, headed up by the formidably capable James Hughes (2019), will no doubt do a fantastic job. From me, a massive thank you to all of you who I have met at various points across the year and who have provided unwavering support and wisdom. It has been an absolute joy to be JCR President and, as I head into retirement, I am genuinely excited to see what happens in the next chapter of the JCR and indeed the wider College.

**Amy Dunning (2018)**

*JCR President 2019-20*



One of many online groups and social spaces set up by the JCR.





## MCR President's report 2019-20

*Our MCR has put its best foot forward this year with countless events and initiatives to further improve our welcoming and inclusive community.*

Our MCR remained a lively and friendly place thanks to the hard work of our social team, consisting of Ellen Paterson (2018), Isabel Oakes (2018), Grace Heaton (2018), Alexandra Dolan (2018), Joshua Mcloughlin (2018), Ciaran Hasnip (2019), Alexandra Stuart (2019), and Kirsten Harris (2019). Together they went beyond what was required of them to provide an exciting jam-packed schedule for Freshers' Week, followed by a range of spectacular events, including more non-drinking events: MCR dinners, movie nights, wine and cheese evenings, funk night, Groove Quad, and our Trinity term boat party and garden party, to name a few.

We were fortunate enough to have our Friday afternoons perked up by tasty delights at weekly-themed welfare teas, courtesy of Kate Shore (2011) and Julia Versel (2019). They brightened our rainy days with welfare doggy teas, yoga and Zumba classes, as well as Batik and pottery painting workshops. Our Academic Representatives, Angeliki Myrillas-Brazeau (2018), Nuno Pereira (2018), and Waqas Mirza (2016), organised another year of Lincoln Leads to discuss themes ranging from Shakespeare and material culture to space exploration and vaccinations. Their new MCRhive initiative served to help MCR members to familiarise themselves with the College's rich archival treasures.

As ever, the MCR took part in events to raise funds for local and national charities. Radan Aleksandar Jevtic (2018) put together an impressive casino night, a charity cookie pigging scheme, and a special limbo competition for last year's garden party. Our LGBTQIA+ Representative, Cameron Gardner (2016), continued to run the hugely popular 'Tues-gays', while our Equality and Diversity Representatives, Selina Abächerli (2019) and Adele Jackson (2019), introduced a number of diverse projects, including a salsa night, international

potluck, and the 'Women at Lincoln' blogpost campaign. Jacob Moore (2018) hit the ground running with the introduction of the Access and Outreach Representative role and helped to shape the College's strategy for graduate access. Hannah Clemens (2019), our Environment Representative, formed the 'Green Team' with fellow staff and students to make College a more environmentally-friendly place. Imogen Dobie (2019) ensured that incoming Freshers felt welcomed and represented in the MCR community.

The MCR all-female executive committee worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the MCR running smoothly. Alongside filling our bellies with the most delicious baked goods, our secretary, Heather McTaggart (2017), ran elections and the MCR website, and made graduate accommodation more accessible with new policy and information packs. Alexandra Brown (2018) ensured that the MCR finances were in check, a difficult task amidst the jam-packed events that were organised throughout the year! She also had us all dressed head to toe in College stash!

This year has been a fantastic year to be MCR President. My position has coincided with some monumental

occasions in Lincoln's history: the MCR's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women Lincoln, and the special alumnae exhibition in Hall. I had the privilege of celebrating these events with current staff, students, and alumni across the year. As the first BAME woman to have taken on the role of MCR President, I have viewed my platform as an opportunity to push for more equality and diversity initiatives in the College. I have worked tirelessly to introduce a new Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room for all students. I also founded and, with the help of JCR and MCR members, ran 'Lincoln Unites', the College's annual equality and diversity week, as well as introducing more culturally enriching events in the MCR. Another highlight has been working with Amy Dunning (2018), the JCR President, to welcome our new College tortoise, Tortilla!

Despite the challenges that I have faced, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a hard-working and dedicated committee and I cannot thank them enough for their huge contribution to the MCR. Equally, I am grateful to current and former students who have made the MCR an exciting community to be part of!

**Nupur Patel (2012)**  
MCR President 2019-20



# Learning in lockdown

*With the College in lockdown and all teaching taking place remotely, this has been a Trinity term like no other. In this article, two Lincoln tutors and two undergraduates reflect on their experiences and how they adapted to online tutorials and exams in the most unexpected of circumstances.*



**Dr Jody LaPorte**, *Gonticas Fellow in Politics and International Relations; Director of Studies for PPE*

It's fair to say that this Trinity term was quite different from most! In many ways, Oxford's rapid shift to online teaching highlighted the flexibility and resilience of the tutorial system. The intimate discussion-based learning of the tutorial model proved easier to move online than other teaching formats.

Some students really thrived in the online environment and were able to use lockdown and its lack of social distractions to focus academically. Other students found remote learning to be a real challenge. But the personal tutor-student relationship meant that tutors could engage with each student individually and the College's robust support structures allowed us to respond to the wide variety of student needs.

I found that online tutorials worked best when they were highly structured. While in-person tutorials involve a natural ebb and flow and a free-flowing exchange

of ideas, online tutorials required more careful management. It was also difficult to find the right balance of input between different participants. Thoughtful pauses and awkward silences can be pedagogically productive in person, but excruciating online. As we all experienced this spring, in the absence of social cues it is very easy to monopolise the conversation – something I was guilty of many times! Tutors also had to adapt to the lack of a physical whiteboard, needing to find new ways to display diagrams, work out problem sets, and outline discussion points.

Some retooling was inevitably required. I circulated a detailed agenda before each tutorial, so that students knew what we would cover and what questions they could expect. This helped them to prepare accordingly and also set up a structured framework for note-taking. Another colleague introduced student presentations as a way to ensure that tutorial discussions continued to be student-led. Other tutors used slides, annotated PDFs, and shared note-taking apps to substitute for whiteboards. These measures proved surprisingly successful, and we will continue using them even when we return to in-person teaching.

Exams also proceeded remotely. Developing the infrastructure and formulating new policies in such a short timeframe was an enormous undertaking, and students rightly had many questions. In PPE, we held extra revision tutorials to discuss strategies for taking open-book, typed exams. We also organised more mock exams than usual to give our finalists experience with the new format. This seems to have paid off, as we had a strong showing amongst our PPE finalists in their exams this year.

Overall, Trinity term went more smoothly than expected, but none of this would have been possible without the exceptional support and enormous effort of the College Officers and staff. The Academic Office, Bursar's Office, and Librarians worked tirelessly to ensure that students and Fellows had the support that they needed. The students also demonstrated admirable resilience and quickly adapted to these new conditions, which led to smooth sailing for everyone.



**Julia Pamilih** (2017, Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

Oxford was one of the first UK universities to announce confirmed cases of Covid and, by the end of Hilary term, it had become clear that we would not be returning to Oxford in Trinity. After weeks of speculation, the University announced that almost all exams would be online, open book, and with an extra hour. This seemed like an exciting development until I sat my collections and realised that the reality of writing three essays in four hours was stressful enough without also attempting to find pertinent reading notes.

Revising at home was tough without the presence of fellow finalists, but it also proved an excellent distraction from lockdown boredom. I had my usual revision tutorials on Zoom and I also chatted with my Lincoln alumni mentors, which made for a nice dose of perspective during revision. The lack of physical access to libraries also gave me a



newfound appreciation for book reviews. Apart from that, it was business as usual.

Finishing Finals at home was perhaps the most anti-climactic part of a virtual Trinity – submitting a PDF does not quite evoke the same euphoria as being trashed outside Exam Schools. It was also disappointing to miss out on the Lincoln Ball and a carefree final week. But I look forward to returning in the future for a postponed graduation and fond memories of being the first (and hopefully last) Oxford students to ever sit Finals online!



**Dr Matthew Moore**  
Darby Fellow in Applied Mathematics

When I took up my position at Lincoln, one thing I certainly never expected to have to master was the art of sharing the wisdom (or lack thereof!) of my scribbled notes on differential equations on one screen while trying to gauge whether any of the second-year students scattered across the country were following what I was saying on another!

The recent months have been trying for so many of us for different reasons, and Mathematics tutorials at Lincoln have been no exception. Despite the access to video-calling software like Microsoft Teams, there is something lost in the personal interactions and engagement that are so central to the Oxford tutorial when conducted through a screen, never mind the difficulties with unreliable internet connections. Nevertheless, we are incredibly fortunate to live in

a technological age in which we can replicate much of the tutorial experience. A tablet and stylus do just as nicely as a whiteboard and marker for writing mathematics, and in fact, in many ways are better. Certainly I enjoyed not needing to repeatedly clean the whiteboard between problems, and I think the students appreciated having access to a record of the whole tutorial afterwards.

Overall, technology has enabled the Mathematics tutors to leave the format of the term largely unchanged. Students still submitted problem sheets or practice exams, which we marked (electronically) and returned, with the tutorials largely a forum for going through the harder questions and material. The College has helped in trying to maintain as much normality as possible in this regard: both students and tutors have access to funds from the Covid-19 Appeal to help acquire the technology necessary for remote learning, such as webcams or headphones.

There has also been the opportunity to innovate. After sending back the students' marked Collections at the end of term, I uploaded videos where I worked through the solutions live, talking through the steps of each question while writing on the screen. Again, the technology made this possible, and it is certainly not something I would have done previously, but will look to continue going forward. Hopefully having on-demand access to material such as this will be useful to the students, particularly when it comes round to their re-arranged University examinations.

I think all parties have contributed to keeping the tutorial experience as familiar as possible, maintaining that connection to Lincoln at a time when it is easy to feel isolated. I think it helps that all sides have been open to feedback on how to improve the experience. Going forward, it is encouraging that the College is pushing to get as much in-person teaching as possible in Michaelmas – as I said, remote teaching can never capture the whole experience of an Oxford tutorial – but the experiences of the last few months have been invaluable, particularly when times are as fluid as they are, with everything liable to change

overnight. Hopefully with the combined efforts of the College, the tutors and, of course, the students, we can still maintain a semblance of normality in Lincoln whatever the next few months hold.



**Sam Townsend** (2018, Mathematics)

Online tutoring has been a strange experience, but some things haven't changed - the same problem sheets, similar lectures and an ever-increasing list of creative errors in my answers. With tutorials online, it was only inevitable that technical issues were going to happen; with my internet being notoriously unstable, and one of my tutors having a webcam that was also prone to cutting out, having a tutorial without anything going wrong was a rarity. But we persevered, and found increasingly inventive solutions to our problems, with one tutorial involving my tutor's phone precariously balanced on top of a copy of *History of the Russian Revolution* grabbed from a nearby bookcase, so that we could see him working through the problem on paper. If nothing else, at least I can say I've had a tutorial based off of Trotsky now.

For all the technical issues, there have been some definite benefits - no more craned necks to see the paper, being able to easily access the tutorial notes and take them away to read whenever and wherever. Not to mention my friend who always came to tutorials in rowing gear - it was nice to maintain a sense of Oxford normality, even in these strange times.

# Lincoln Unites

*2020 not only marked the start of a new decade, but also the exciting launch of Lincoln College's first ever equality and diversity week, 'Lincoln Unites'. Taking place across the second week of Hilary term (27 January – 2 February 2020), this event marked a great opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the College and to spark important conversations about the progress that still needs to be made. In an effort to bring the College together during this wonderful event, Fellows, staff, and students were invited to participate in the free events on offer!*



Lasting seven days, 'Lincoln Unites' was almost a year of hard work in the making. It was organised and run seamlessly by a committee of dedicated JCR and MCR liberation officers. Together, the committee wanted to push matters of equality and diversity to the forefront, with the hope of shedding light on the inequalities that exist in society and the discussions that need to be had in order to come closer to challenging such inequalities. All of this was achieved while celebrating the diversity of the College and giving voice to different groups who have been historically disregarded in society. With the support of College staff, we put on a whole host of events including gender panel discussions and workshops, an international food fair and sensory arts session, a soul music night, a LGBTQ+ film screening, and 'Facial Recognition', an exhibition about Lincolnites of mixed heritage. These events represented disabilities, CRED (Culture, Religion, Equality and Diversity), gender, heritage, the international community, and the LGBTQ+ community.

In solidarity with 'Lincoln Unites', our wonderful Chaplain and Student Welfare Coordinator, the Rev. Dr Melanie Marshall, welcomed a number of different speakers across Hilary term for Sunday services in Lincoln College Chapel. Addressing the theme 'In all our difference', we heard from speakers with minority perspectives: queer, feminist, disability-aware, race-aware, and interfaith-focused.

'Lincoln Unites' was a fantastic success! We welcomed a number of interesting speakers and facilitators who, alongside

more artistic events and workshops, well and truly captured what we wanted to achieve as a committee. The positive feedback that we received from Fellows, staff, and students has only inspired us to organise more events in the near future.

Beyond this week, there are many issues of equality and diversity that still need to be addressed. We need to constantly strive to make our society better and fairer for everyone, and to be more representative of marginalised voices; we hope that 'Lincoln Unites' has encouraged more events at Lincoln to do just that.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the College for endorsing our initiative and for funding the week through the Lincoln for Life Fund. We truly appreciate the support that we have been given to raise issues of equality and diversity in an inclusive and welcoming community. We hope that this year's popular 'Lincoln Unites' week will spark the beginning of a wonderful annual tradition at Lincoln.

**Nupur Patel (2012)**  
*Lincoln Unites President 2019-20;*  
*MCR President 2019-20*



☞ Soul singers, *Peer Revue*, performing in Deep Hall during 'Lincoln Unites'.



## FACIAL RECOGNITION

*JCR CRED (Cultural, Religious and Ethnic Diversity) Rep, Lucy Tirahan (2018) curated the 'Facial Recognition' exhibition as part of 'Lincoln Unites' in order to raise awareness of the barriers faced by staff and students of mixed-ethnic heritage. In recognition of her work, Lucy has been shortlisted for the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Awards.*

During the first ever equality and diversity week held at the College, 'Lincoln Unites', we decided to put on an exhibition called 'Facial Recognition'. It showcased twenty Lincoln students and staff who all have mixed-ethnic heritage. The students were from a range of year groups including both JCR and MCR members, and the staff in the exhibition ranged from administrative, domestic, and academic positions.

The discussion of the mixed-ethnic identity is one that has been neglected in the past and one that is particularly important in an increasingly globalised world. The exhibition sought to stress that diverse representation matters, not as tokenism, but to create opportunities for people of mixed-ethnic heritage to celebrate their identity and consider how it relates to their environment.

Our launch was held at the College on 1 February 2020 and proved to be a great success, sparking discussion and debate about the dynamics of recognition and representation in a changing global world, and an increasingly diverse Lincoln and Oxford. Each photograph was accompanied by a biography written by the individual and was separated by a mount giving equal representation to the face and the story. It emphasised that Lincoln is a college which is dedicated to celebrating diversity in a dignified and insightful way.

The name 'Facial Recognition' was chosen for the following reasons:

1. The exhibition itself was designed to, quite literally, give 'Facial Recognition' to those who want to speak about their mixed-ethnic identity. Artificial Intelligence Researchers, Woody

Bledsoe and Helen Chan Wolf, created the technology which is now referred to as 'Facial Recognition' during the 1960s. The process of identifying and verifying a person through a biometric scan of their facial features is one which is not far off from the social codes of attributing people to different racial groups experienced every day in society – particularly when you are faced with the often-dreaded question 'where are you *really* from?'.

2. 'Facial Recognition' is a topical term with clear links to contemporary debates about AI Ethics, surveillance, and technology in society. Indeed, it is a term often associated with the negative practice of racial profiling and biased surveillance.
3. The exhibition seeks to reclaim and deconstruct this label, portraying

mixed-ethnic heritage as a point to be recognised for richness and celebration, rather than suspicion.

Our social understanding of 'race' can, at times, be incredibly reductive for those with mixed-ethnic heritage. 'Race', a term used to classify peoples into specific categories, is not so easily applied to someone who has an identity which cannot be compartmentalised in this way. 'Facial Recognition' explored what happens when boundaries and our concepts of 'race' are blurred, when categories are mixed, when different heritages are combined into one identity.

It is thanks to the bravery of the staff and students involved who were willing to tell their stories that this exhibition was brought to life.

**Lucy Tirahan (2018)**

📍 Lucy Tirahan poses with her exhibition photo.

📍 Students learning to sign during a sign language workshop.





© A jam-packed Oakeshott Room for Lincoln Leads in Pathology.

(Photo Credit: Nuno Pereira)

## Lincoln Leads 2020

*'Should Antivaxxing be Illegal?', was the opening question to this year's Lincoln Leads, an annual seminar series showcasing the breadth of knowledge and diversity of interests of current and former College members. Little did we know how relevant the first topic would become by the end of the term... which left us no choice but to send the dreaded email: 'unfortunately, tonight's panel in Ethics has been cancelled for health and safety reasons'.*

Lincoln Leads is an event which welcomes everyone. An event which gathers members of the Lincoln community and the general public to discuss a fascinating topic every week of Hilary term. The coronavirus may have pulled the plug on week eight, but the before and the after is worth celebrating wholeheartedly.

The first seven seminars kept to the series' traditional format: each panel featured an alumnus/na, a Fellow, and a graduate student of the College, who responded to a topical question related to their specialty. This year's pool of alumni was spread widely across many disciplines: speakers included a biophysicist, a museum director, an engineer, and many more. Many thanks to all of our speakers for taking part. This year also introduced several new elements including two thought-provoking questions surrounding space exploration and material culture. And despite the tumultuous ending, the series was once again an enormous success, with hundreds of attendees. Needless to say that Lincoln Leads has maintained its status as a highlight of the College's academic calendar. We look forward to seeing it go into its fifth year in 2021.

**Waqas Mirza (2016), Angeliki Myrillas-Brazeau (2018) and Nuno Pereira (2018)**  
MCR Academic Representatives 2019-20  
and organisers of Lincoln Leads 2020

### LINCOLN LEADS: LOCKDOWN EDITION

You could say that the seeds of Lincoln Leads: Lockdown Edition were sown at High Table at the beginning of our regular Lincoln Leads programming. That was where I first met Alan Garfinkel, Lincoln's Newton Abraham Visiting Professor. Even as early as 30 January, rumours of Covid-19's effects in China were already being widely discussed. Over the course of that High Table dinner, Alan and I discussed the long legacy of responses to disease in history, and the importance of studying the emotional and psychological effects of disease alongside its epidemiology.

On 12 March, we at Lincoln began to experience coronavirus as a part of our reality. I sat in the MCR in full business attire, carrying signage, posters, and numerous bottles of wine. I waited for word about whether I should begin setting up the Oakeshott Room for our final Lincoln Leads panel of the year. With only a few hours to go, I wanted to be ready for anything – after all, everything still seemed so normal. Once the announcement came that all remaining term-time events would be cancelled, those of us still in the MCR kept each other company. We watched the PM's address together, and just like that our normal was gone.

We watched our traditional landmark dates fly by, and continued to revise our expectations of when life could go back to normal. I attacked this new problem the only way I knew how: through the analytical lens of my discipline. I joined History of Medicine reading groups, started a podcast, and, when Alan Garfinkel suggested that we organise a virtual, pandemic-themed Lincoln Leads, I jumped at the opportunity.

As we began to brainstorm, invite speakers, set a programme, and think about logistics, I realised the enormity of the task that Alan and I had set ourselves. What had taken a team of three Academic Reps over six months to plan, would now have to come together in a matter of weeks. I recruited help from everywhere I could. My department put me in touch with the mentors I needed to perfect the live stream. My friends offered to research and write speaker biographies, and to serve as alternate speakers if I needed them. My poor flatmate dropped his life every Thursday evening to help me run the events. When the series had ended, I was proud of what we had accomplished. Lincoln Leads: Lockdown Edition was an exercise in connection, proof that when we work together, we can accomplish anything.

**Angeliki Myrillas-Brazeau (2018)**





## My Fair Lady: A Lincoln College performance

*Although Covid-19 may have put a spanner in the works for Trinity term, I am grateful that we were able to put on our annual musical this academic year. For three nights in November 2019, the Oakeshott Room was filled to capacity for our production of My Fair Lady. These performances were the culmination of weeks (and for some, months) of careful planning, rehearsal, and elocution lessons.*

Following the success of the previous year's production of *Into The Woods*, myself, Roseanna Allwood (2018), and Niccolo Aylward (2018) were all thrilled to be able to produce and direct this project in association with the Lincoln College Music Society (LCMS), and with the generous funding of College (thanks to the Elman Poole and Annual Funds) and the JCR.

As a team, we were keen to present the sexist attitudes displayed in the musical as satirical and condemn this misogyny in our production. This was partially due to the fact that we believed this to be the intention of the writers. We emphasised this interpretation by cutting the ending of the work, where Eliza Doolittle (played by Francesca 'Kiki' Power (2018)) returns to the bigoted Professor Henry Higgins (played by Sam Clark (2016)) and brings him his slippers. Instead, we finished with Eliza leaving Higgins for good, empowered by her emancipation and ready to pursue her dream career as a florist.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with such a lovely and talented cast. Considering the difficulty of some of the singing parts, I really appreciated the amount of time and effort everyone put in to both solo and ensemble numbers. Scenes like the *Ascot Gavotte* were particularly special – the strength of the musical and acting performances of the whole cast, as well as the beautiful costumes (provided by Geena Goodwin), made it a true spectacle demonstrating the strength of the whole ensemble. The solo performances were also very enjoyable. From the comedic performances of Libby Taylor (2016), as Mrs Higgins, and Jake Diprose (2017), as Alfred P. Doolittle, to the exasperated and often amusing bickering between Higgins, Pickering (played by Harry Nuttall (2017)), Eliza, and Freddie (played by Harriet Taylor (2017)), the audience laughed frequently and loudly. I am also immensely grateful for the opportunity to live out my lifelong dream of playing the castanets – the crazed waltz

of *The Rain in Spain* is something that I will not quickly forget (special thanks to our choreographer Emily Nethsingha!).

I want to thank the cast, production team, College, JCR, and the team of accompanists who allowed this to happen (Candy Yuan (2017), James Gant, Verity Peterken, William Parkinson (2017), and Bethy Reeves).

Although things will inevitably change in the wake of the pandemic, I hope that Lincoln will find a way to continue this annual tradition. It's such a fantastic opportunity to foster friendships between years and subjects and further instil the sense of community Lincoln prides itself on. I look forward to seeing how LCMS will adapt and persevere in these circumstances as we move into next year, with the presidency passing on to Holly Hart (2019) and Maryam Wocial (2019).

**Anna Gunstone (2018)**  
LCMS President 2019-20





# ON THE RIVER Lincoln College Boat Club report 2019-20

*The club had a great start to Michaelmas term with over 60 students attending the taster day, of whom a large proportion decided to keep training with LCBC.*

Photo credit: OULRC

This year we were able to hire novice coaches to supplement the training given to our new members by the novice captains, Simone Fasciati (2018), Julia Johnstone (2017), Arnau Bertran (2018), and Diego Aguilar (2018). This has been made possible thanks to the continued support from the Amalgas Fund and the crowd-funding campaign in support of women's rowing at Lincoln, spearheaded by Dana Gluckstein (1985). The new positions were filled by coaches who have previously worked with the LCBC, with Alex Koffman coaching the novice women and Peter Fisk taking care of the novice men (also coaching M2 and M3 later in the year).

Soon after the beginning of the term, however, the river levels started to rise due to the adverse weather, forcing our crews to focus on land training. Due to the unsafe river conditions, the annual event focused on novice racing, Christ Church Regatta, was unfortunately replaced by an 'Ergatta', an indoor rowing race. Regardless of the disappointing alterations, four Lincoln novice crews entered the competition and demonstrated the skills they had developed throughout the term.

Reprising their roles from the previous year, Rory Copus and Dylan Mitchell continued to coach the senior men and senior women crews, respectively. The senior crews made great progress, but were unfortunately hampered by the adverse river conditions. Due to safety reasons, a large number of coxes were not able to train on the Isis. However, with the help from a senior cox, Alex Koffman, both the men's and the

women's crews were able to make the most of the difficult situation. Despite the underwhelming term, the club celebrated the end of Michaelmas with an Ergatta Dinner and a fantastic Christmas drinks party organised by Niccolo Aylward (2018) and Benedict Barrett (2018).

Over the winter vacation, Eirian Yem (2017) organised the annual kit order, with racing kits partially subsidised by rEvolution, our sponsor. LCBC prides itself on not charging its athletes any membership fees and, in this spirit, we are very grateful to rEvolution for helping us to lower the kit prices and make the Boat Club more accessible to everyone.

Hopes were high at the beginning of Hilary term, however the river was still refusing to cooperate, which meant that most of the training had to be done on the erg machines or in a rowing tank at Iffley Sports Centre. To compensate for the lack of water time, women's co-captains Katie Child (2018) and Cornelia Heuberger (2017) organised group swimming sessions and spin classes for the W1 and W2 crews. The additional training clearly paid off, with Lincoln W1 being the fastest women's crew in the IWL C race, as well as beating some men's crews. Under the captaincy of John Sheridan (2018), supported by Alexander Hell (2016), remarkable progress had



Photo credit: Al Craigie



also been achieved by M1, who were improving their 'course lap time' on a weekly basis. Later in the term, Ethan Friedrich from St Cross College was hired as the coach for W3, creating a strong and enthusiastic environment for the crew. The river conditions did not improve towards the end of Hilary, hence to our disappointment, Torpids 2020 could not go ahead.

After two terms of intense land training, Lincoln athletes were eager to get more water time, with 26 athletes looking forward to a training camp at Shrewsbury School, carefully planned by Emily Watson (2017). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the training camp had to be cancelled, alongside a number of other rowing events such as the 2020 Boat Race. This was particularly heartbreaking for Lincoln, as one of our students, Jean-Philippe Dufour (2019), was meant to represent Oxford, racing in 6<sup>th</sup> seat of the Blue Boat. The lightweight university crews, however, completed their races before the lockdown came into action. The club was thrilled to hear about the success of Lucie Ayliffe-Daly (2017), rowing in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat in the victorious Tethys 4+, and Oliver Featherstone (2016), who formed a Lincoln-only Nephthys 2- with Colson Andrews (Visiting Student), beating their opponents from

Cambridge by a canvas. For their racing achievements and contributions to Lincoln rowing, Lucie and Olly, who both learned to row at Lincoln, were awarded the 2020 Leo Blockley Award.

With the nationwide lockdown in place, the chances of Summer Vllls were quickly reduced to zero. Nevertheless, the crews continued to train remotely, guided by their coaches who organised regular online video sessions alongside a weekly training schedule. It pleases me to say that the online sessions – connecting our athletes across the globe from several different time zones – were well attended. As the lockdown started to ease, the club was able to resume the postponed refurbishment of the boathouse which was made possible with the generous financial help from Darren Marshall (1984) at rEvolution. In addition to covering the costs of the refurbishment, rEvolution allowed us to repair our rowing machines and buy additional training equipment for the Boat Club, including a brand new BikeErg. The equipment we need for racing, such as boats, oars, or cox-boxes, is purchased with the kind support from Lincoln College Boat Club Society and Lincoln College. Thanks to them, this year LCBC was able to acquire a pair of Filippi boats, a welcome addition to our fleet.

Despite the challenging year, I am very proud of the dedication and enthusiasm of Lincoln athletes, who have demonstrated their passion for rowing and coxing and strived to push themselves beyond their limits regardless of the troubling circumstances. Huge thanks goes to the Boat Club Committee who are responsible for running of the club. Other than the names mentioned above, this includes the Captain and Vice-Captain of Coxes, Madeline Ketley (2018) and Ilaria Beechey-Newman (2018), as well as John Denton (2018) and Madeleine Forster (2017). I would also like to thank the men's head coach, Rory Copus, and men's lower boats coach, Peter Fisk, who will sadly be leaving us this year. Rory is getting more involved with coaching at Abingdon School and Peter is starting his Master's course at King's College, London. In his three years with the club, Peter oversaw some of the most successful lower boats in recent history and his impact on the Boat Club was enormous, with the majority of the current senior athletes on the men's side learning to row under his supervision. I have no doubt that next year the club will emerge even stronger under the new committee, which will be coordinated by the incoming President, Heather McTaggart (2017).

**Martin Gazi (2016)**  
*LCBC President 2019-20*

Photo credit: OUWRC



- 👤 Oliver Featherstone (left) and Colson Andrews (right).
- 👤 Lucie Ayliffe-Daly.
- 👤 Lincoln novices at Christ Church Ergatta.
- 👤 W1 and W2 online workout session



## A newly refurbished JCR

*For undergraduate students at Lincoln, the Junior Common Room is an incredibly valuable space. Not only does it serve as the College's social hub for film nights, welfare teas, and post-bop snacks, but it also plays the more weighty role of meeting room for the organisation that shares its name. Though as far as I'm aware there has never been a history written of the Lincoln JCR (curiously, the SCR has received this treatment by a former Rector in the 1957 book Oxford Common Room), I am certain that thousands of Lincoln students and alumni hold fond memories of the space; the JCR is of enormous historic value to the entire Lincoln community.*

When I came to Lincoln for my interview, I remember being struck by the fact that the poet Edward Thomas' name is inscribed onto the boards in the JCR (above) which pay tribute to students killed in the World Wars. As Vice President, I've come to appreciate the JCR's past and present – and, in this case, its future.

There has been consensus for a while that it would benefit the whole JCR to make the space more homely and modern. As well as a routine floor polish and repainting, we wanted to entirely refurbish so that the JCR could become a more inviting and more flexible place for undergraduate students to work and relax throughout the day. This process began some time ago, but finally got underway over Easter.

The result is a newly revitalised and bright communal space. The understated but elegant furniture was selected for us by JT Interiors, and upholstered in a lively but complimentary colour palette. The new chairs and sofas can be easily moved to reconfigure the room and are much 'lighter' compared to the pieces they replace, effectively helping to create more space within the room. This has allowed us to do something new: for the first time, we welcome café-style tables and chairs which are perfect for working in groups (something members have asked the JCR for as long as I've been a student at Lincoln, but which had not previously been possible). The final touch will be an

overhead projection system to facilitate both meetings and social events.

Lincoln's JCR is hugely grateful to the College staff for their support on this project (particularly Julian Mitchell, Clerk of Works), the Annual Fund and Lincoln for Life, and JCR executive members Amy Dunning (2018) and Sam Townsend



(2018). But above all, former JCR Treasurer Olly Parker (2017) who did more than anyone to help realise this project, especially at a time when projects of this scale are more difficult than ever before to organise.

**Edward Rhys Jones (2018)**  
JCR Vice President 2019-20





Head Gardener,  
Aimee Irving-Bell,  
removing the  
overgrown Virginia  
Creeper from the  
Hall windows.

## Development update

*This has been a year of such upheaval that it can be hard to remember that it started so auspiciously, with a wonderful exhibition to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women arriving as students at Lincoln. However, challenging as it has been for our students, staff and Fellows, not to mention alumni, there have been some positive moments too.*

While we have of course ‘locked down’, and for several months the College has felt really deserted (apart from the cheery porters carrying on as usual), many aspects of our work have in fact continued. As you will read elsewhere in this issue, teaching and learning adapted with impressive speed and flexibility to the new online environment, and the resilience of both undergraduates and Fellows in these unique circumstances was remarkable. Life has perhaps been more difficult for our graduate students, many of whom remained in Oxford but were unable to access laboratories or libraries, or the social spaces that are such a valuable element of the collegiate experience.

However, this is where alumni have played such an important part in our lockdown experience. Back in March, we launched our ‘buddying’ partnership scheme, encouraging alumni to partner with a student. We were overwhelmed by the positive response, and over 700 alumni volunteers came forward. With 250 students taking part in the scheme, we weren’t able to find a partner for every volunteer, but we hope to continue this scheme in the future. Thank you to all those who came forward. Alumni have also provided much-needed financial support, through the Annual

Appeal, and most recently, through our Covid-19 fund. We were able to support many students who had unexpected hardship needs, or incurred additional travel or accommodation costs as a result of the pandemic. Thanks to alumni support we were also able to provide additional book grants, and technical equipment, to assist our students in the transition to studying from home.

Unfortunately, it seems that some disruption to teaching and learning is likely to continue in Michaelmas 2020 and beyond. We anticipate having to provide blended teaching, for example, and to continue holding many meetings online. Access to libraries and to social spaces will need to adhere to government guidelines on social distancing, and enhanced cleaning regimes. Holding communal meals is another challenge, but of course is central to the collegiate experience. The generosity of alumni, responding to our recent Covid-19 Appeal, means that we can ensure that we are equipped for this, and will also help to support the additional teaching resources that we anticipate will be required.

Turning to our premises, it is gratifying to report that the Mitre redevelopment, which had just started when I wrote

last year, has continued apace during lockdown. Our contractors have been able to proceed, following government guidance, with very little disruption, on a complete refurbishment and upgrading of this iconic building. This means that we are still on course to complete the project in February 2021. The project has been partly funded through our private placement, but to fully fund it without further borrowing will require a further £6m, of which £4m has already been secured in donations. We paused our fundraising campaign for this at the start of the pandemic, but hope to restart in September, with room-naming opportunities still available. The majority of rooms are en-suite now, and with the new built-in furniture, even those on ‘Death Row’ look very smart. I hope that alumni will have an opportunity to visit the refurbished site in 2021. Rooms can be sponsored by an individual, or by a year group, and there is an opportunity to put up a small naming board inside the room. All the ground floor spaces, and a number of first floor rooms have already been snapped up. Information on which rooms are available can be found on our website; if you’d like to know more, do get in touch.

**Susan Harrison**  
Development Director



# Events reports 2019–20

*As I sit down to write this report at the beginning of July, the UK has been in lockdown for almost four months. The coronavirus pandemic has affected every aspect of College life, including, of course, our scheduled programme of alumni events. Many events have been postponed and we have started hosting events online for the very first time.*

Although it feels like a lifetime ago now, we did hold a number of happy events throughout Michaelmas and the first half of Hilary term, starting with a trip to North America and Canada in September 2019. Jane Mitchell (Deputy Development Director) held alumni dinners in Vancouver and Colorado, before moving on to Washington, DC, for a drinks reception with young alumni at the home of Anne Kornahrens (2011). Many thanks to Anne for opening up her home (and rooftop!) for this event. While in DC, we held a Murray Society event at the National Gallery of Art for all those who have recognised the College in their Will. It was the first time that we had held a Murray Society event for our supporters in North America and it was quickly followed by two more Murray Society events in November; one at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto and one at the NYC Historical Society in New York. We are grateful to Chelsea Souza (2012), Henry Kim (1992), and Adrian Goddard (1974) for hosting these events. The November trip to New York City also included a brilliant Supper Club evening at Doris Huang's (2006) food hall, Art Deco; many thanks to Doris for hosting us.

Our UK based events programme began with a Crewe Society Dinner in the Lake District in September, to which all alumni based in the North of England, North Wales, and Scotland were invited. Nigel Wilson (President of the Crewe Society and Supernumerary Fellow) and Susan Harrison (Development Director) travelled north for this event and were joined in Kendal by a number of alumni and guests. It was the first Crewe Society Dinner to take place since the sad passing of the Society's Secretary, Peter Kolker (1957), in early 2019. Peter had arranged many wonderful Crewe Society Dinners over the years and will be much missed.

Back in Oxford, this year's 'Meeting Minds' Alumni Weekend coincided with the unveiling of a portrait exhibition in Hall celebrating 40 years of female students at College. Joining us at the unveiling were many of the alumnae featured in the exhibition, along with their friends and family; a large number of whom stayed on for the Lincoln Society Dinner afterwards. During Michaelmas term we also held our

usual programme of year-based events, celebrating anniversaries for alumni who matriculated in 1969 and 1999, as well as a Gaudy for all those who matriculated between 1990 and 1993.

Our Hardie Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Dr Angela Trentacoste, was involved with two alumni events this year, starting with the Autumn Murray Day in Oxford where she spoke to members of the Murray Society about her research into the archaeology of animals in the Roman world. A few weeks later, we held a hugely popular event at the Ashmolean Museum centred around the Ashmolean's latest exhibition, 'Last Supper in Pompeii' and Angela kindly gave alumni a private guided tour of the exhibition. Having contributed to both the exhibition and the catalogue, Angela was able to offer a unique insight into the items on display.

A number of events took place in London in the latter half of 2019, including a particularly enjoyable tour of the Chihuly exhibition at Kew Gardens thanks to Shruti Chopra (1994). In typical British fashion, it rained nonstop, but that did not dampen our spirits as we admired the iconic glass sculptures on display in the greenhouses and grounds of Kew. We also held another successful networking event at the Oxford and Cambridge Club and we are grateful to Philip Dragoumis (1990) for hosting us.



📍 Supper Club at the Art Deco food hall, New York City.



📍 Tour of the Chihuly exhibition at Kew Gardens.





Zoom-event.



Lincoln for Life tour of St Paul's Cathedral in December.

Over the past 12 months we have rebooted our Lincoln for Life events for young alumni with the introduction of 'Thirsty Thursdays' every other month. These events provide an opportunity for young alumni in London to gather for a drink, a cultural experience, networking, or activity. In October, we organised a group visit to the Affordable Art Fair at Battersea Park, and in December a group of Lincoln for Life members joined us for a behind the scenes tour of St Paul's Cathedral thanks to Tom Daggett (2008), the Cathedral's Organ Outreach Fellow.

In February, we held our annual Rotherham Circle Lunch and we were pleased to welcome alumni and guests back to College for this event. Before lunch, our new Hanbury Fellow in Law, Professor Andreas Televantos, gave a fascinating talk on the legal history of the largest First Nations reserve in Canada, and the land dispute concerning the Grand River Valley, up to the present day.

Unbeknownst to us at the time, the Rotherham Circle Lunch was to be our final alumni event of the year. A few weeks later, in mid-March, the College took the decision to cancel all upcoming events and, shortly afterwards, Lincoln closed for lockdown. We had been looking forward to seeing many of you

at these events and it was incredibly disappointing to have to cancel. We hope to rearrange as many events as possible in 2021, including the special events planned to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women at Lincoln and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's Berrow Foundation scholars.

Unable to meet with alumni and friends in person, we turned our minds to creating an online events programme, starting with a series of talks from Lincoln alumni. Roy Bahat (1998) hosted a talk entitled 'Company Culture during a Crisis', while Nick Hawkins (1978) explored the best ways for leaders to help their teams navigate difficult times in his talk, 'Leading through Uncertainty'. We were also pleased to welcome Kate Walker (1989), who hosted a 'Confidence and Impact on the Virtual Stage Masterclass', advising alumni on how to create engagement, credibility, and confidence in virtual meetings – vital skills for many of us at the moment!

For members of Lincoln for Life, we organised two online 'pub quizzes' which were hosted by MCR social rep Michael Goode on Zoom. With rounds on everything from General Knowledge and Film, to Lincoln Connections, they were a fun way to connect with alumni and friends from all over the world.

Finally, a virtual Women's Anniversary Event took place online in June to mark 40 years since the first admission of women to the College. Featuring a panel of speakers from across the decades at Lincoln, including Lesley MacKay (1979), Sarah Harding (1989), Lynn Shepherd (1982), Naomi Kellman (2008), Helen O'Hara (1996), Adiba Osmani (1995), Sophie Evekink (2012) and Asha De Vos (2003), the event was chaired by Nupur Patel, the 2019-20 MCR President, and included a toast from the College's first female Fellow, Dr Susan Brigden. Over 50 alumni and friends joined the call to listen to our speakers and share their own experiences. It was a wonderfully inspiring event and we look forward to being able to celebrate in person at some point next year.

Until then, we hope you stay safe and well. Our online events will continue throughout Michaelmas term; please do get in touch if you would like to host a talk or workshop, or if you have an idea for a virtual event. We will keep in touch with updates from the College and you will be the first to know when our in-person events restart. We very much look forward to that day.

#### **Julia Uwins**

*Alumni Relations and College Communications Officer*

# My Lincoln Santha Rasaiah (1979)

## **Where are you from, when did you matriculate, and what did you read at Lincoln?**

I grew up in Suffolk, boarded at a girls school (but for two male pupils) in Southwold and a boys school (but for five female pupils) in Ipswich, then went up to Lincoln to read Jurisprudence and matriculate in 1979.

## **You were in the first-year of female students at Lincoln – what was that like?**

That was the first question in my first tutorial from my Roman Law tutor (less exacting than his opening one of my entrance interview, 'You must know about discrimination. What is it?'). Despite my flippant remark that it was quite pleasant to have more female company than at school, I still think that it was the institution that really felt the impact, rather than the students who caused it. Lincoln had recently celebrated its 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its admission of women was of immense significance. I felt conscious of that, but fortunate and proud to be in that first year.

We inevitably stood out, but then also benefited from kind attention – an Old Member's gift of a plant in each of our rooms 'to welcome us to Lincoln College'; help in navigating Hall on the first morning; a past Rector of Lincoln whom I had briefly met on the train going up to Lincoln for the first time, who remembered and recognised me, despite my Lincoln rowing attire, in the Lodge a year later and stopped to inquire how I was getting on.

We settled in, fell naturally into our different but intersecting friendship and interest groups. There was no attempt to force us together (aside from thoughtfully grouped staircases and corridors).

Remarks harping back to the JCR voting against the admission of women or accusations of depriving a man of his place were scarce.

The character of the College probably did change, but as much from the nature of our year as a whole, and a natural balance of successive years' 'mixed' intake.

## **Who or what shaped your time at Lincoln?**

Academically, not only was I selected for a place by Lincoln's law tutors, but was taught most of the Jurisprudence course by them. At that time they were probably all absurdly young and certainly had yet to become professors, leading practitioners, judges, or the Principal of Brasenose College: Simon Gardner (who cemented my choice of Lincoln by inviting me to look around college, in response to my prospectus inquiry), Polyvios Polyviou, Chris McCrudden and John Bowers. I was fortunate to have Jeremy Waldron as my tutor for moral and political philosophy.

Acknowledgement must also be given to the administration of Lincoln for establishment of a stable environment. In particular, its provision of accommodation for all undergraduates throughout their degree, vacation accommodation and other assistance to students.

However, it was the friends that I made at Lincoln and the interests shared, that really shaped my time when there and have proved an enduring influence thereafter. Friends and their families' hospitality enabled travel as far as China, Macau and Hong Kong, as yearned for during my East Anglian childhood. Friends involved me in student newspapers, foreshadowing my subsequent career. And the friends whom I met at interview, at the first year's dinner on our first day at College, on the first Saturday evening, have continued to be so to the present.

## **What do you think is/was special about Lincoln?**

Lincoln has enduring charm, character and is a community, all of far greater depth, reach and complexity than its compact, simple, outward face might suggest.

## **What are your fondest memories of Lincoln?**

Living surrounded by beautiful buildings, in an atmosphere so steeped in history, and feeling that you were part of that continuing tradition. Turning into Turl



Street on a winter day, seeing the Library spire etched against a bright blue sky and knowing that you were nearly home. The red of the Boston Ivy. Crossing Front Quad on a dark evening to go into a candle lit Second Hall. Listening to the unsynchronised college and church clocks of Oxford chiming midnight in succession.

## **Were you involved in any clubs or societies during your time at Lincoln?**

Somewhat improbably, I did row for Lincoln. To put that in context, there were so few women rowers available in Eights Week of our first year, that Lincoln was loaned two from Exeter to make up our eight. OUBC then deemed us Exeter III, as opposed to Lincoln I. That saved the College's reputation since we came last in the lowest division (celebrated by exchange dinners with Oriel at the opposite end of the results table).

More significantly for my future direction, I had friends who drew me into student newspapers. A review of Byzantine pots at the Ashmolean for Cherwell, escalated into arts for the new student union newspaper and then, being children of our time, the launch of our own independent free newspaper, which quickly folded. It amused us and some involved even went on to practice real journalism.



***Is there anything you would do differently if you had your time at Lincoln again?***

It would be lovely to forego teenage angst, insecurity and exam panic, but those are probably unavoidable parts of growing up.

I sometimes wonder how different an experience it might have been to have studied an arts subject, rather than a vocational one such as law, limited by professional qualification requirements.

***How has your career progressed since Lincoln; what milestones have there been?***

I qualified as a barrister supported by a Middle Temple Entrance Bursary awarded during my second year at Lincoln and then a Harmsworth Scholarship during pupillage. However, I had decided while at Lincoln on a career ideally combining law and newspapers which, via publishing, is realised in my role at the News Media Association, representing the UK newspaper industry. This encompasses campaigning on press freedom, open justice, open government, commercial concerns, rebalance of

the relationship between publishers and tech giants, and addressing the crucial question of how to sustain an independent press and the journalism in which it invests.

That can involve Ministerial advisory groups, EU, Council of Europe and European association work, industry code writing, facing Parliamentary Select Committees, negotiations with ministers, discussions with the senior judiciary, advising other media organisations and freedom of expression groups. Aside from the insight into policy formulation and legislative process, there are the chances for lighter observations of No 10 receptions or royal celebrations.

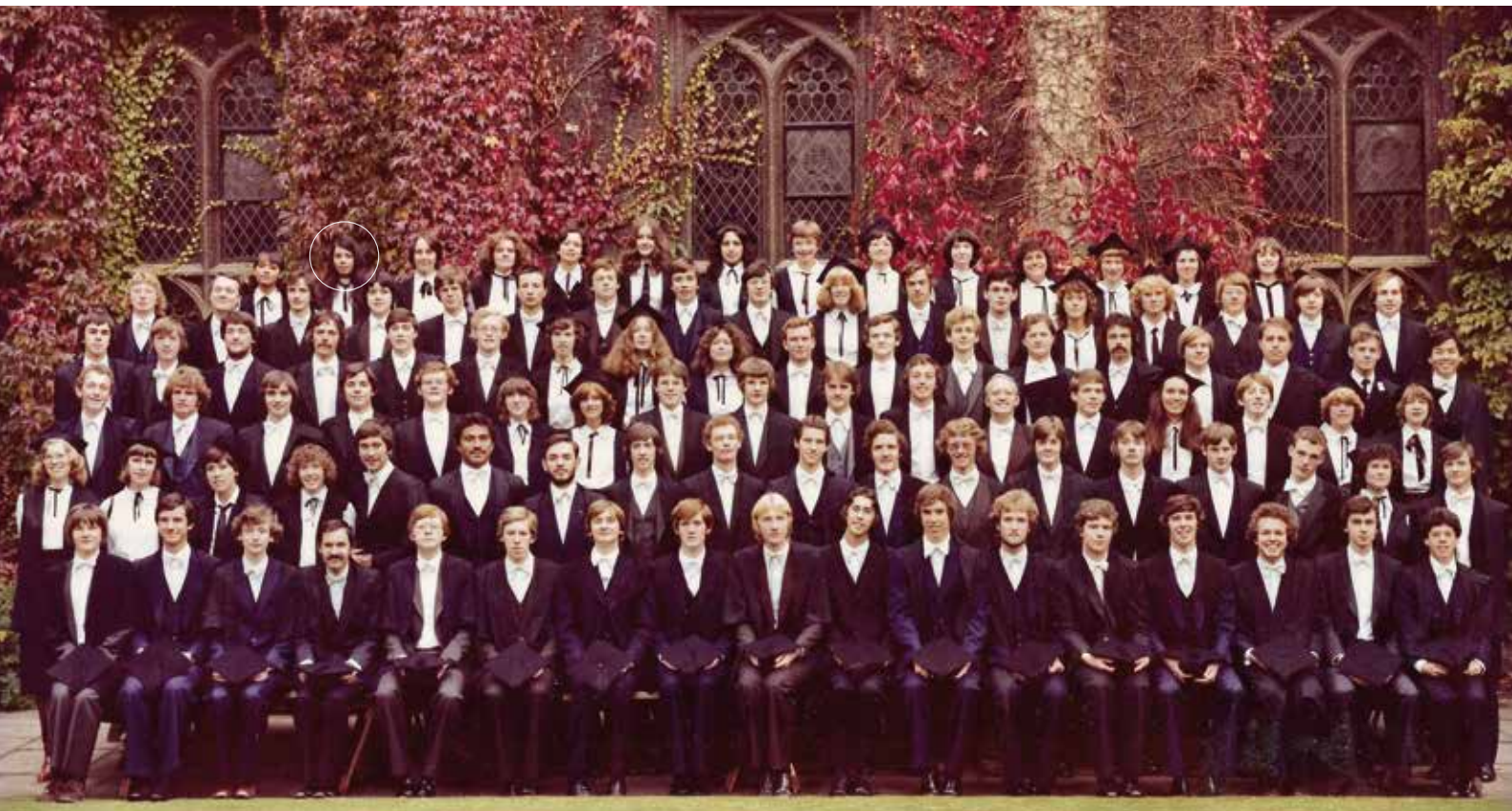
The real satisfaction lies where improvements can be made to the rights of public oversight underpinning democratic society: securing legislation on freedom of information, opening up courts and councils, improving journalistic protections against state powers and seeking a proper balance between freedom of expression and conflicting rights. I

received industry recognition for work on press freedom and freedom of information, a Campaign for Freedom of Information award and the first Gold award in the annual press awards, but those really reflected the support and achievement of the whole sector.

***What does the 40th anniversary of women studying at Lincoln mean to you?***

I am very glad that Lincoln is marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women studying at the College. It is a cause for celebration that hundreds of women now share that experience, their presence is normal and Lincoln enjoys the benefit. I am still immensely grateful to have studied at Lincoln as part of that first year and wish all its past, present and future members well.

However, I hope that those involved in Lincoln today might also regard 40 years as a shamefully short time, feel amazement that it took until 1979 for the first female students to be admitted and 1980 for the first female Fellow to be elected, and that fuels their determination for Lincoln to promote and practice equality of opportunity for all.



# Covid-19 responses from the alumni community

*The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted us all, but the response from the Lincoln community has been a source of comfort during these difficult times. Many alumni are involved, both directly and indirectly, in the Covid-19 response and it has been reassuring to hear about their efforts. In this article we feature a number of inspiring alumni who are working tirelessly to help combat the virus.*

## **Sophie Evekink** (2012)

*Technical Officer,  
World Health  
Organization (WHO)*



I am a Technical Officer at the World Health Organization Office at the UN. As the New York focal point for mental health and gender, I have been leading their work on the impact (short and long-term) of Covid-19 on mental health and overall wellbeing.

This has involved everything from finding ways to support people who are in remote areas struggling with pre-existing or even new mental health conditions during quarantine, to helping develop trainings and guidelines towards preventing and identifying domestic abuse – an issue which tends to increase during every type of emergency, including the current pandemic. Promoting mental health and wellbeing is of great importance for WHO and the UN. Particularly that of young people, who are of a generation growing up in a new world, with their education disrupted.

I will soon be departing WHO to work at the Wellcome Trust, managing their government relations. There, I will be working in advocacy and fundraising for developing vaccines for Covid-19, as well as the global Covid-19 R&D and equitable access efforts. I will also be pursuing a part-time DPhil back at Oxford in the autumn.

## **Dr James Mountford** (1992)

*Director of Quality,  
Royal Free NHS  
Foundation Trust*



A leader's first job is to articulate shared purpose with clarity, then to instill a sense of necessity, possibility and urgency toward achieving it.

In the spring, I saw this in action at the temporary Nightingale hospital, built in London's ExCel conference centre, to treat patients suffering from Covid-19. Here, our purpose was to save lives and protect London. Given the pressures, we were planning for a ratio of 1 nurse to 4 patients rather than the usual 1:1 intensive care ratio. We therefore also needed to reduce all possible burdens on staff, to protect them, and best equip them to look after our patients.

At the Nightingale, there were many things we didn't know – and urgently needed to discover – to keep our patients safe: how best to treat a novel disease, which 4 months before no one had heard of; how to run a hospital built rapidly in a conference centre; and how best to support our staff.

I learned a great deal working alongside the British military, who are experts in building learning into daily work. We deliberately acknowledged we didn't have all the answers, and deliberately built mechanisms to make and review

decisions made under uncertainty. Making a learning system core to our operating model was required to improve rapidly to keep our patients safe and to protect London.

## **Meena Seshamani** (1999)

*Vice President  
of Clinical Care  
Transformation,  
MedStar Health*



The Covid-19 pandemic created an unprecedented situation for healthcare providers, with an incredible influx of extremely sick patients into our hospitals, and the need to prevent viral spread and promote recovery in our communities. As the Vice President of Clinical Care Transformation, I led our health system efforts around the care that we have provided for our communities during this pandemic.

For example, we mobilised community health workers and care managers to create a common Covid discharge protocol across all of our 10 hospitals to assess self-isolation needs, such as food and supplies, caregiver support, home health needs, prescriptions fill status, symptom check-ins, and the scheduling of follow-up appointments. In one month of surge, our team reached out to approximately 1000 Covid-positive discharges, with 80% of them resulting in connections and more than half of successful connections needing one or more of the above services. They also





proactively reached out to people at high risk of Covid in the community to address questions, assess symptoms, and ensure isolation practices (including any food or medication issues).

Our geriatricians partnered with local skilled nursing facilities to prevent Covid-19 spread in those facilities and support Covid-19 testing of staff and residents. Using telehealth, they helped triage and manage acute patient situations as well, facilitating transfers to our emergency rooms when needed under standardised protocols.

Finally, our palliative care team leveraged telehealth to meet the increased demand of an extremely sick patient population. We put in place a screening tool in the electronic medical record to flag seriously ill patients, and utilised video visits to enable a team-based approach across all of our hospitals where chaplains, social workers, nurses and physicians could provide goals of care discussions, symptom management, and family support during such a stressful time.

**Dr Claire Keene**  
(2016)  
*Medical Coordinator,  
Médecins Sans  
Frontières*



I completed a Master's in International Health and Tropical Medicine in 2017. I am currently the medical coordinator at Médecins Sans Frontières in Khayelitsha,

a peri-urban, informal settlement of half a million people outside of Cape Town, South Africa, with a high burden of HIV, TB and poverty. The project focuses on health system strengthening for HIV and Drug Resistant Tuberculosis services, but Khayelitsha became a hotspot during Covid-19, which has seen South Africa deal with over half a million cases (#6 in the world). Routine operations needed to be adapted to support the health system's response to the epidemic: MSF supported community screening and testing, helped clinics set up their screening, triage and Covid testing systems and helped to maintain access to HIV and TB services for patients during lockdown and the emergency response. To manage the increased burden on the health system, MSF set up a 60-bed Covid intermediate care facility (the first in South Africa). I am currently helping set up a similar Covid facility at a rural Hospital in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

**Tom Rawlinson**  
(2014)  
*Wellcome Trust  
Research Training  
Fellow, The Jenner  
Institute*



My research at the Jenner Institute in Oxford is focused on a vaccine against the parasite *Plasmodium vivax*, the cause of relapsing malaria, and was due to reach an exciting climax in the spring of 2020 with the first human efficacy trial of a promising new malaria vaccine.

And then, within a few months, everything changed.

Along with many colleagues, I rapidly re-deployed to help test a vaccine against the one pathogen which now dominated all of our lives, the novel coronavirus.

The Jenner Institute was well placed to rapidly develop a vaccine against this new virus, having already made and commenced the testing of a vaccine against the MERS coronavirus.

By April 2020 the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine had been approved for preliminary human testing and was among the earliest in the world to enter clinical trials.

There have been many twists and turns over the last few months as the epidemiological, social and political landscapes have shifted week by week and an avalanche of research has descended on every aspect of this new human pathogen.

It has been exciting to play a part in the huge effort to test this vaccine and has been an eye-opening demonstration of just what can be achieved when extreme circumstances demand rapid action. The scientific and logistical challenges have been and remain large, but I am optimistic that an effective vaccine will be available in the near future.





David, pictured in front of mask donation with his parents.

As an Oxford-trained immunologist who has deviated from the typical science-oriented career path, I had maintained an enduring interest in immunology and – over the past two years – had been keeping myself abreast of current events related to the discipline. While at Oxford completing my DPhil in Clinical Medicine, I had also taken a keen interest in global health trends and healthcare innovation, which led me to visiting approximately 40 countries during my doctoral tenure, engaging with both public and private health systems. As a trained medical doctor who had practised in the public health sector of Jamaica, this was a particularly enriching phase of my professional development and exposed me to the many faces of healthcare around the world.

In the context of Covid-19, the combination of a background in immunology and professional alignment with public health afforded me the perspective to deem this a formidable adversary, and the passion to decisively mobilise a task force in the presence of widespread uncertainty. Given the global reach of this threat, I felt that it was important for stakeholders of society to be armed with accurate and instructive information to collectively mitigate risk, and I felt a sense of uncompromising duty to tap into my networks and contribute to this.

### Driving global impact

Our early call had allowed us to ‘get ahead of the curve’ in formulating responses to key challenges that our community expected throughout its seemingly omnipresent footprint in the days to come; within 24 hours of the issuance of the call, our global task force had begun dispersing best-practices, insights and key learnings throughout our community. Given the latitude of both grassroots and high-level connectivity within our networks, we saw ourselves as a distribution engine for trusted information – aiming to serve as *Ambassadors of Truth* in a precarious moment within our history. We therefore launched a global awareness

## David & Goliath: A fight against Covid-19

*David Walcott came to Lincoln as a Rhodes Scholar in 2011 and read for an MSc in Integrated Immunology and a DPhil in Clinical Medicine. He has since founded the healthcare consulting firm, Novamed, along with partners Kirk-Anthony Hamilton and Timar Jackson, designed to drive development of first-world healthcare solutions in the Caribbean. David is also the Co-Chair of the Covid Steering Committee for the WEF Global Shapers community.*

On 3 March 2020, I was casually drinking my morning coffee and reviewing literature surrounding the novel coronavirus. In a particularly reflective and sober mood, I found myself thinking deeply about the unfolding of this – at that point, primarily Asian – health crisis, and realised that I could not quite visualise the endpoint. Intuiting that it posed a greater global threat than was acknowledged, I issued a call to the World Economic Forum’s youth community – known as the Global Shapers – inviting dialogue and action. The Global Shapers community is a group of young changemakers around the world, many of whom are inventors, investors, government leaders and global influencers. I felt an injunction to create the space for a conversation around the looming threat, and circulated a message within my network, warning of the imminent

pandemic and encouraging community members to take decisive action.

### Setting the wheels in motion

Within 24 hours a group of over 250 driven individuals in over 60 countries convened in the name of action against Covid-19, and I suddenly found myself managing a large community of expectant changemakers. Our task force included individuals from several Fortune 500 companies, government executives and members of prominent institutional healthcare entities – such as the WHO – all of whom sought to channel their efforts in response to the pandemic. Though we were initially met with smouldering levels of criticism for issuing a seemingly alarmist call, eight days later the WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic, and any elements of doubt and criticism quickly transformed into sentiments of reverence and prescience.



campaign – the *#PreventionOverPanic* campaign – designed to simultaneously encourage activities to reduce the spread of Covid and respond to the expected pervasive anxiety. To date, our campaign has reverberated over 1000 times in over 70 countries. Given its success, it was utilised as a blueprint for further developments and we would proceed to launch several other global campaigns, ultimately publishing trusted and verified content in several foreign languages.

In addition to disseminating accurate information, we sought to deepen the footprint of our impact through launching projects aimed at tangible outcomes in several corners of the world. Our problem-solving efforts were guided by local intelligence and curated in response to the primary needs perceived within their areas of impact. For example, in Abuja, Nigeria, and Yaounde, Cameroon, our community organised virtual dialogues around the socioeconomic implications of Covid – of particular relevance to the prevailing local context. Given the high case loads in Italy, our local force in Milan launched an initiative to design prefabricated, pre-finished Intensive Care PODs to easily assist with the management of patients in critical condition. In Indore, India, our community organised a series of resource distribution efforts where masks and other PPE were donated to vulnerable communities. These efforts were replicated manyfold and we have,

since then, donated masses of PPE to underserved communities in several regions around the world.

#### Driving local impact and assisting with resourcing the Caribbean

In addition to driving global impact, I naturally had a strong desire to contribute to locoregional Covid-19 response efforts and sought to do so through our healthcare innovation firm, NovaMed. We assisted several governments in the English-speaking Caribbean with their problem-solving efforts – including resourcing health sectors with PPE, Covid testing, and food relief efforts. From the dawn of the pandemic, masks have been an important tool and – as a scarce resource – were often sold to the highest bidder. Small and low-income countries, as are many in the Caribbean, were often disadvantaged given lower levels of economic security and little bargaining power. Our initial focus was on assisting these countries with PPE procurement, and ultimately, we helped several governments with securing products under favourable terms. Recognising the economic challenges impeding procurement of product into the Caribbean, we also landed a donation of 500,000 masks to be distributed to healthcare workers and vulnerable populations in the region, the largest such donation within the Caribbean.

We sought to deepen our regional impact through advocating for greater

testing efforts in the Caribbean, particularly given the need for economic reopening. Our efforts involved lobbying for mass-testing to several governments, and we opted to implement an innovative testing method called ‘pooled testing’ to drive greater diagnostic output in the local Covid response, the first such efforts in the Caribbean.

Since the inception of Covid-19, I am grateful to have contributed towards a movement beyond my expectations, and it has been rewarding to see our local and global efforts acknowledged by flagship institutions such as the World Economic Forum, the WHO, the United Nations and *Forbes* magazine. As Covid continues to ravage both wealthy and emerging countries, I trust that the knowledge and resources to which I was exposed during my tenure at Oxford will continue to serve me well, and I intend to persist with my efforts against this *modern-day Goliath*. This will certainly not be our last biological threat, but it has delivered to us an education that we must make our servant in the days to come. Of all the innovations, solutions and breakthroughs that emerge in the aftermath of Covid-19, my deepest hope is that we rekindle our collective sense of community and realise that: despite our varying ideological, cultural and socioeconomic realities, we are all one species. The actions of one may indeed affect the lives, liberties and livelihoods of many.

**Dr David Walcott (2011)**

## NovaMed's, Dr David Walcott At The Forefront of Jamaica's Healthcare Innovations



David making headlines in Jamaica.



# Covid drug discovery: Advancing on all fronts

*Hilary Hutton-Squire (1994) read Chemistry as an undergraduate at Lincoln. She held senior roles in leading life sciences companies, before joining Gilead Sciences, a bio-pharmaceutical company researching and developing specialised medicines in viral diseases, oncology and inflammation. She is currently Managing Director for Gilead's UK and Ireland affiliate and she also chairs the American Pharma Group. She has a strong interest in diversity and inclusion; creating networks, mentoring, and speaking, particularly on the topic of Women in Leadership*



I started 2020 with much planned for the year. Like everyone else in our industry, my immediate priority was Brexit – what would be the impact for our supply chain and regulatory processes, how should we plan? We had high hopes for our work in blood-borne viruses; we've been working with the NHS, through addiction services and prisons, to link patients unaware that they are living with Hepatitis C into treatment. It's an incredibly motivating field, an opportunity to help some of the most disadvantaged people in our society many of whom have had little targeted support. I had recently taken on the Chair of the American Pharma Group, with ambitious plans to help the UK achieve its goal as a hub for inward investments in research and manufacturing post-Brexit. I was also creating a network of Women in the Lifesciences to support and accelerate careers of women in a sector that has too often lacked diversity – something that's a huge passion for me.

By the end of January everything had changed. In the closing hours of 2019 one of my colleagues had received an email flagging the potential of a new virus emerging in China. Having worked across viral diseases for the last three decades, our organisation was one of a few to have an active Emerging Viruses research group. This team, formed in 2014 on the back of the Ebola epidemic and with a mission to look ahead to potential new viral threats, was all too aware of the potential devastation of a coronavirus.

The fact that both SARS and MERS had not spread further was considered a lucky escape, and our group had worked with academic institutions to try and prepare for further outbreaks. This work meant we knew what types of drug might be effective as a treatment. In particular, one compound, originally created for Hepatitis C and respiratory syncytial virus had shown promise in the labs against SARS and MERS, and had already been used in trials for Ebola, meaning that there was some evidence around safety and its side-effect profile. Importantly, quantities of the drug already existed, enough to treat around 5,000 patients, so the product could go directly into a larger scale clinical trial.

*Work on a Covid drug began to take a shape, unlike anything I've seen before.*

The process of taking a drug from concept to make it widely available to patients typically takes around a decade. Early studies look at efficacy in lab models and maybe in animals. Then the drug is studied on smaller numbers of patients before larger numbers. By the time the largest 'phase 3' studies are scoped out, we usually have a clear understanding of how the drug works, the dose required, how long to treat for, and what would define a successful outcome.

With Covid-19, there wasn't the luxury of time to follow this approach. Drugs were being tested in large numbers of patients in parallel with early stage lab testing to look at potency. We started by supporting Chinese government studies when it appeared to be a localised outbreak but we quickly expanded to studies in the US, South Asia, and then into Europe. Here in the UK, we were in close contact with the government, with weekly calls to discuss supply, study findings and clinical trial set up. In March, with the number of UK patients rising, we had a request from the government to bring our clinical trials to the UK. In close collaboration with the regulators, the NHS and the NIHR, we set to work on a process that normally takes over six months – instead, the time from this request to the first UK patients starting treatment was just three weeks – a phenomenal achievement!

Work on a Covid drug began to take a shape unlike anything I've seen before. It was exhausting and hugely energising at the same time. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and other government organisations were incredible partners; on calls at all hours of day and night with us, removing barriers and making assessments in record time. It's amazing what can be achieved with a truly collaborative approach, and by the late May bank holiday we received an assessment that enabled us to make a donation of our antiviral medicine for Covid-19 available more broadly to UK patients.



Of course, this was only part of what we needed to do – like all other companies we had to secure our supply in the context of lockdowns across the world. The planes that normally fly patients’ blood cells around the world, to make personalised cancer therapy, were no longer flying and new arrangements needed to be made. Patients taking long-term therapies, as in HIV, were stocking up in order to avoid trips into clinic, creating pressure on supply that needed active management.

We moved all our staff to remote working in early March. Like millions of people we were able to function well enough remotely, but over time people have found it draining, spending long days staring at a screen, with working days blurring into evenings and weekends working across time-zones against the clock.

I’m a strong believer in the need to continue to make an inclusive workplace, but I still struggle to understand how we can ensure a level playing field in this context. Existing disparities become

heightened and those who started with less have struggled more. As a mother of two primary school children, I’ve experienced first-hand the challenges of home schooling, and I see the impact this is having in my team, particularly on single-parent families. ‘Where have all the women gone?’ was a question that sprung to mind whenever I watched the daily press briefings. I can see in my own organisation the disproportionate effect



that lockdown had on mothers. Whilst we have many men joining calls with babies on laps, more often I’ve seen women becoming isolated by the experience or stepping away from their work roles into more traditional family roles.

As we move forward and seek to learn the lessons from Covid we need to think about how we keep some of the great learnings we’ve taken in working practice. Working to collaborate differently across sectors, and what it takes to be really agile. But at the same time we need to think about the challenges that this creates at an individual level, and have a very open debate about how we continue to move forward around inclusion and diversity in a new working world.

**Hilary Hutton-Squire (1994)**

- 🕒 Secretary of State Matt Hancock announces availability of Gilead’s drug for UK patients.
- 🕒 Hilary Hutton-Squire is interviewed by Sky News at the height of the Covid-19 crisis.



# The changing face of diplomacy and Covid-19

*As ambassador to Argentina, there is often high level diplomacy about the Falklands, G20 meetings and possible new trade deals. But of late, my life has been dominated by planning bus routes, and trying to extricate Brits from swamps and Patagonian mountain passes. Let me explain.*

I graduated from Lincoln in 1986, and joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in September 1987. I found my early days pretty daunting. I had a Master's in European Law, and therefore the Foreign Office decided my first job would be on the Middle East desk. An area about which I knew absolutely nothing. I had to learn how to write exquisite prose reports, in longhand on different coloured sheets of paper. I failed, constantly trying the patience of the typing pool. One abiding memory is of my then Head of Department going through one of my drafts, explaining why each sentence was wrong. And with a craft knife he removed the offending words. He finished by handing over to me the end product – a sheet of A4 with a big hole in the middle. How I longed at that moment to be back playing darts in Deep Hall.

A lot has changed since then, especially in the last 10 years. I would cite two main drivers: acceleration and atomisation. In my first posting, Brasilia, we would

receive letters of instruction by a fortnightly diplomatic bag, and reply with the outgoing bag two weeks later. But then things changed with the arrival of a fax machine (with shiny white paper which we then discovered faded over time), followed by word processors, email, mobile phones, laptops, WiFi and of course social media. Technology has led to a change in expectations too. If Google can give me an answer within a second, why should I have to wait weeks for a reply from a civil servant?

The diplomatic work of embassies used to be carried out almost solely with the host country's foreign ministry. Now there is a plethora of non-state actors with voices – NGOs, multinational companies, lobby groups. And the public. People want to participate in Embassy activities – from Shakespeare festivals to Harry Potter book nights. Social media has given the possibility of immediate direct contact between citizens and their governments. This has also changed how many

administrations take decisions and policy – less finely drafted submissions working their way up the bureaucratic hierarchy before arriving in the Minister's office, more policy pronouncements via Twitter.

And greater contact with the public is not restricted to social media interactions. The expansion and democratisation of air travel over the last few years has meant many more tourists in far away, previously inaccessible destinations. Which in turn means a need for Embassies to provide consular help when problems arise.

Which brings me to Covid-19.

I was about to leave Buenos Aires for a few days holiday with friends, when the first cases were found in Argentina in mid-March. With many Argentines having family in Europe (a great many descendants of Spanish and Italian origin) it was only a matter of time before cases were imported. Within two days the government had introduced quarantine and lockdown and suspended scheduled international and domestic flights in an attempt to slow the spread.

Argentina is not a major destination for British tourists (around 100,000 per year, compared to over a million in my previous posting, Thailand). But it is the eighth biggest country in the world in terms of area (just smaller than India), with a spectacular variety of natural attractions, from southern Patagonia with its glaciers and penguins, to the deserts of Salta and Jujuy and the subtropical rainforest of Misiones, home to the Iguazu falls.



All photo credits: British Embassy, Buenos Aires



Harry Potter book night at the Residence in Buenos Aires.



Our first task was to establish how many British tourists were in the country and where they were stranded. Of course people don't register with the Embassy when visiting a country, and while the immigration authorities were very helpful, their records could not give us the full picture. We worked with provincial and municipal authorities to try to get a better idea. But our main tool was social media – using our travel advice to inform on what was often an uncertain and changeable situation, and to contact the Embassy consular team if in difficulty.

Like in many other countries, the whole Embassy team dropped its normal tasks to focus on helping our stranded tourists home. At first, this was through directing people to the commercial flights that were still operating, ensuring they had the necessary permits to travel.

After a few weeks it became clear that commercial flights were drying up, and there were still no domestic flights, so we decided with colleagues in London to organise two special charter flights to repatriate those still remaining. The dates were set for 7 and 12 May, with the first returning via Georgetown, Guyana, to pick up Brits at risk there.

With internal travel banned, the Embassy chartered eight buses to bring passengers from the interior to Buenos Aires for the first flight. These routes picked up 140 passengers from 31 locations, covering 7200 miles (equivalent to the distance from Buenos

Aires to London). Our British citizens were spread all over the country, as equivalent to a triangle between Lisbon, Moscow and Kiev, needing to get to Budapest airport. Our shortest bus route was around 250 miles. Our longest about 1850 miles, or 50 hours non-stop. We persuaded the Argentine Gendarmerie to rescue one Brit from a wetland swamp and truck him several hours to meet our bus on a main road. Another had a four-hour horseback ride followed by nine hours taxi to reach the bus. There were many other examples of our visitors showing great resilience.

For each bus we had to get separate permits from the national authorities and the local authority of each province and town en route. Our buses collected passengers from 20 of Argentina's 24 provinces. On 5-6 May, all eight buses were travelling, and the team were up all night negotiating by phone with roadblocks between provinces. Passengers could only arrive in Buenos Aires a maximum of 24 hours before flight departure, allowing little room for delays to the mammoth bus journeys.

Amazingly given the logistical complexity, everyone made it to Buenos Aires and onto the flights – a total of 443 passengers. Over a two-month period, the Embassy team had worked seven days a week dealing with stranded British citizens, airlines and the local authorities in often very pressured and stressful situations. People were understandably upset about being stranded so far



Overland transport plan for the first repatriation flight to the UK.

from home and uncertain how to get back – given the circumstances most showed remarkable patience. We had a range of accompanying issues ranging from whether newly acquired pets could accompany on the flights, antique violins, and what to do with cycles, motorbikes and camper vans – all of which were resolved. It was a real learning experience, but that didn't stop everyone breathing a sigh of relief when the second flight took off on 12 May.

Things aren't back to normal here, and like most, we can't be sure what the new normality will be. Most of my team continue working remotely from their homes, and it looks like it will be a long time before the magnificent Embassy residence will be able to host receptions as previously. We have adapted to new ways of virtual working and meetings (and on the whole the technology has functioned well) – not easy for a profession such as diplomacy which thrives on personal contact and discreet face to face discussions. Talking of which, as soon as lockdown is lifted, I am looking forward to having a glass of Malbec with my neighbour and fellow Lincolnian, the *Economist* correspondent, David Smith (1971). Cheers!

**Mark Kent (1983)**

The first repatriation flight from Argentina to the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Alumni mentoring scheme: Connection in the face of adversity

*At the beginning of the pandemic there were, and continue to be, so many uncertainties surrounding the virus. One commonality I found was the willingness of people to come together and help each other. The mentoring scheme came out of a desire to help students, many of whom were experiencing a difficult time, as well as giving those in lockdown a chance to reminisce about their Lincoln days while helping current students.*

I was overwhelmed, yet unsurprised, by the positive response from our alumni community; within days I had heard from hundreds of alumni from around the world, all offering to help and connect in any way they could. In the end we had around 700 alumni volunteers and were able to match over 250 students. Some of the matches only spoke once, yet still had helpful discussions regarding the current job market, CVs, or

career advice, while others are still talking every couple of weeks and have plans to meet in person once allowed. This scheme sums up the unmistakable ethos of Lincoln College – a warm community where people take care of each other. Thank you to all those who volunteered to participate in the scheme.

**Jane Mitchell (Deputy Development Director)**

The alumni matching programme put together by Jane has been incredibly helpful for my personal growth and future career



opportunities. Jane took the time to get to know the type of industries I was looking for, and thoughtfully put together a list of people I should talk to. She introduced me to David Green, who gave me advice from an engineering perspective on what skills I should focus on as I move into product management. I then talked to Jenny Cox, who has held a number of positions in product management and gave me very tangible advice on how I can enter the field, and what type of reading I should be doing to stay on top of trends. Lastly, Jane introduced me to Eytan Lerba, who guided me through his experience in the transition from business school to product management. Eytan introduced me to a friend of his, Greg Isenberg, which resulted in an internship in product with Greg's company Late Checkout. This opportunity became possible directly thanks to Jane and the Lincoln College mentorship programme. I've already learned a tremendous amount about product strategy through the internship and it has confirmed that this is the field I want to be in.

**Mac Coddington (2019)**



Seven years ago in a letter I sent to Lincoln admissions I mentioned that '... my experiences as a student extended outside the classroom and I learnt as much from my peers as I did from my professors'. I also shared my intention to 'make true on the Lincoln promise to contribute to my fellow alumni and to Lincoln College'.

Since graduating, I moved to San Francisco to pursue a career in technology development and despite physical distance, the wonderful mentorship programme has allowed me to connect with current students virtually and share my experience on how to pursue a career in technology development.

Connecting virtually with Mac Coddington was a great pleasure for me to experience the enthusiasm of current Lincoln students. Mac is a polymath with strong interests including public policy and technology. I helped Mac secure an internship with a technology firm where he has done some fantastic work.

**Eytan Lerba (2013)**

Being able to talk to alumni during lockdown has been an immense opportunity, not only to get to know former students, but



also to talk about their experiences in Oxford. Since I already knew Sabine from a former alumni event, we decided to talk weekly for an hour and we still continue with these calls today. With her experience, she has helped me to come up with a structure to allow a more efficient work environment during lockdown and she also introduced me to several people working in the same field! This made it possible for me to talk to established people in the industry and to ask them questions that will help me decide what to do after my DPhil. Generally, our discussed topics ranged from science to humanities, from work to everyday life and, of course, life at Lincoln College and the University of Oxford. Overall, it has been a delight to talk to Sabine and I hope that we can continue our weekly calls for the time being!

**Flurin Caviezel (2018)**





When College contacted alumni to seek mentors for current students in the context of the significant changes to day-to-day and

longer-term horizons brought about by the lockdown from March 2020, it was a pleasure to get involved. I was matched with Flurin Caviezel on the basis of both of us being linked to Lincoln as Swiss Berrow Scholars and because my position in the pharmaceutical sector was seen as common ground for a DPhil candidate in cancer research. Our conversations initially explored working remotely from the lab, managing remote networks, and the cross-over of personal and research space while staying at home. My corporate career has also allowed me to build a network of contacts and insights that were relevant to the questions Flurin was bringing to our conversations about his future career direction. It was great to be able to connect him to people outside Oxford and also within the graduate community. We have found much in common and I enjoy his optimism, energy and curiosity. These ongoing conversations are a wonderful way of connecting more deeply with the Berrow community and College, and sensing how my generation can both contribute and adapt to an evolving context.

**Sabine Jaccaud (1991)**

I signed up to the alumni partnership scheme at the last minute, and I'm so glad I did. I did think that being put in touch with

an alumna or alumnus might help me to get some guidance on the vague career options I'm considering, as well as developing confidence in making social connections, but mostly I was eager about the prospect of getting to know someone I normally wouldn't have the chance to. Even so, I don't think I had expected the regular email exchanges with my buddy to be quite as cheering as they have been. Hearing from Doris always makes me smile, and it's lovely to feel part of a wider Lincoln community – we've even managed to organise video chats, despite the time difference with her living in New York! It's also exciting to see the interesting careers that Lincoln alumni have had, and it's really reminded me how great an opportunity it is to be here. I'm interested in food journalism, so it's been fascinating to hear about the Art Deco food hall that Doris has recently set up, and she also gave me advice on promoting my own food blog. Whether it's guidance like this or just informal chats, I do feel like I've gained a lot from the connection.

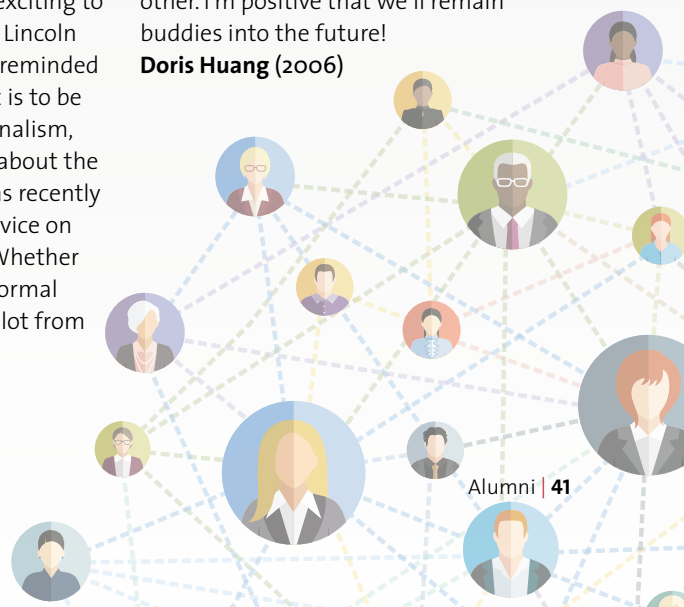
**Harriet Blackman (2019)**



When Covid hit, my heart went out to the students whose terms would be interrupted and who would be forced to retreat

from the very thing that makes Lincoln such a wonderful place (and that fills me with nostalgia whenever I think of Oxford): the community of people at the College. Thus, when I heard that Lincoln was launching a buddy scheme, I couldn't think of a more perfect opportunity to help in some small way. Getting to know Harriet – who was just halfway through her fresher year when the pandemic came – has been such a joy! We've discussed her academic plans and personal writing projects, but more than that, we've felt more connected to Oxford and to Lincoln through each other. I'm positive that we'll remain buddies into the future!

**Doris Huang (2006)**



# Alumni news

## APPOINTMENTS

**Julia Black CBE FBA (1985; Honorary Fellow)** has been appointed President of the British Academy. Julia will become the second female President in the Academy's 118-year history and will take up the role in July 2021 for a four-year term.

**Mark Thompson (1990)** has been appointed as Executive Chairman of Tungsten West Ltd, a mining company that has recently acquired the Hemerdon Tungsten Mine in Devon in the UK. Three Lincoln MSc students (Michael Thornton, Martin Gazi, and Sam Clark (all 2016)) are collaborating on a summer research project to optimise metallurgical recoveries of tin and tungsten.



**Wendy Piatt (1992)** is the first CEO of Gresham College in its 400-year history and will be overseeing the College's five-year business plan. Before Gresham, Wendy worked for University College London since 2017. She was inaugural CEO of the Russell Group of Universities and previously served in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and the Department for Education and Skills.

Like many people in performing arts, political comedian **Kate Smurthwaite (1994)** has



found herself with an empty diary and facing a long slow return to normality. She is fortunate to be the host and writer of an online series called 'News At Kate'. In order to keep the series available to the public for viewing and some much needed light relief as the pandemic progresses she is seeking sponsors via the Patreon website and offering rewards and incentives for those able to help: <http://www.patreon.com/newsatkate>.

**Rishi Sunak (1998)** has been appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.



Photo credit: HM Treasury

After almost a decade as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, **Oliver Munn (2004)** has joined the civil service as Deputy Director, Covid Delivery at No. 10 Downing Street. In that role, he oversees part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Ashley Walters (2006)** has been appointed Academic Administrator and Tutor for Admissions and Fellow of Harris Manchester - Oxford's college for mature students - for 2020-21.

In April 2020, **Mortiz Hennemann (2010)** was appointed Full University Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Passau, Germany, holding a chair on European and International Information and Data Law.

**Tom Scott-Smith (2011)** is now Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration at the University of

Oxford. He has just published a new book, entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief* (Cornell University Press, 2020).

After leaving Lincoln last year, **Nicholas Leah (2017)** began his legal studies in London and co-founded the *Oxford Political Review*, of which he serves as Managing Editor. In a year, OPR has become the UK's most widely read student political journal and has conducted interviews with prominent politicians and thinkers. Nicholas also recently published his MPhil thesis on the politics of slavery in the eighteenth-century British Empire (supervised by Dr Perry Gauci) in the *Journal of the Oxford History Society*.

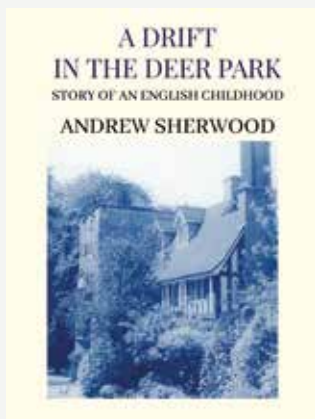
## PUBLICATIONS

**Anthony Fowles (1957)** is happy to tempt fate by flagging up that he continues to survive the after effects of major brain surgery four years ago and



that his latest book, *Head On*, was published in March 2020.

**Richard Rose's (1957)** latest book, *How Referendums Challenge European Democracy: Brexit and Beyond*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in June 2020. To cope with the lockdown, he started writing another book, entitled *How Sick is British Democracy?*



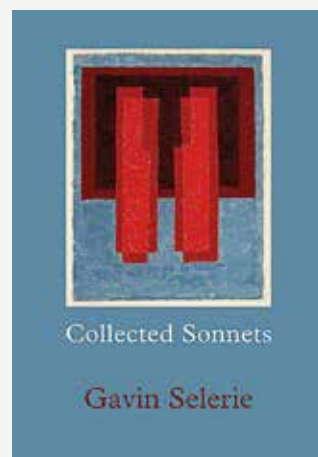
**Andrew Sherwood (1959)** published a childhood memoir (including his undergraduate life at Lincoln) as an e-book entitled *A Drift in the Deer Park*. Available from Amazon Kindle, Apple Books, and other e-book retailers for about the price of a large latte, but said to be much more entertaining.

Egon Wellesz was welcomed by Lincoln College in 1938, when, after the Anschluss, he had to leave his native Vienna. He remained deeply attached to Lincoln as a Fellow and then a Supernumerary Fellow until his death in 1974. Oxford knew and valued him primarily as an authority on Byzantine Chant, and this overshadowed the fact that as a composer and critic he had been an important participant in the cultural life of Central Europe. In this new study, *Arnold Schoenberg and Egon*

*Wellesz: A Fraught Relationship* (London, Plumbago, 2020), **Bojan Bujic (1963)** explores Wellesz's at times strained relationship with his teacher Arnold Schoenberg, placing both men into a broad cultural and intellectual context of their time.

**Paul Crichton (1965)** has written a collection of essays on psychiatric topics called *Dreams and Delusions: Psychiatric Explorations*, published by Kiener Press.

*Partner Retirement in Law Firms: Strategies for Partners, Law Firms and Other Professional Services* by **Ronnie Fox (1965)** was published in March 2020 by Globe Law and Business.



**Gavin Selerie (1968)** published *Collected Sonnets* (Shearsman Books, 2016), which gathers his work in this form over a 50-year span, including poems about Oxford and Oxfordshire. He gave related readings or talks at the University of Kent, Pembroke College, Oxford, and elsewhere. He also published poems about the coronavirus epidemic on the *Stride Magazine* site and an elegy for Glen Cavaliero in *Noon* journal. He is currently writing a memoir, part of which will cover his time as an Oxford student.

**Thomas Berg (1982)** published *Patents on Life: Religious, Moral, and Social Justice Aspects of Biotechnology and Intellectual Property* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), co-edited with Roman Cholij (St. Edmund's College, Cambridge) and Simon Ravenscroft (Magdalene College, Cambridge). The book collects legal, religious, and social perspectives on issues such as patenting gene sequences and gene-editing processes, ensuring access to biotech innovations, and ensuring fair rewards from innovations and from genetic resources.

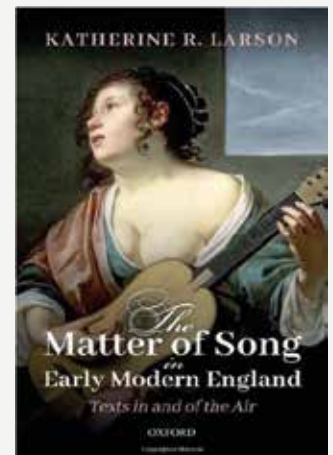
**David Everatt's (1985)** latest edited collection, *Governance in the Postcolony: Views from Africa*, was published in August 2019.



**Stephen Muers's (1995)** first book, *Culture and Values at the Heart of Policy Making*, was published by the Policy Press in July 2020.

*The Volunteer: The True Story of the Resistance Hero who Infiltrated Auschwitz* by **Jack Fairweather (1998)** was named Costa Book of the Year 2019.

*Les insulés. Exilés politiques en Corse* by **Antoine Hatzenberger (1998)** was published by Riveneuve in June 2020.



**Katie Larson's (2000)** new book, *The Matter of Song in Early Modern England: Texts in and of the Air*, has been published by Oxford University Press. The book features an open access companion recording, performed by Katie and lutenist Lucas Harris. Katie has also been promoted to Professor of English at the University of Toronto.

In 2018-19, alongside his work with refugees in the Luxembourg civil service, **Thierry Hirsch (2012)** published a rhetorical guide for barristers in French (*Introduction à l'art de la plaidoirie. L'exemple luxembourgeois*; éditions Larcier-Promoculture), a bilingual (Latin/German) edition of the rhetorical treatise *Rhetorica ad Herennium* (Reclam Verlag), and his first fantasy novel in Luxembourgish (*De Fuuss an de Roude Léiw*, 'The Fox and the Red Lion'; éditions Schortgen). Music publisher Carus Verlag published his organ arrangements of works by W.A. Mozart (KV594, KV608, KV616) and C. Debussy (*Danse – Tarantelle styrienne*), which has been recorded for YouTube by Thomas Ospital (Paris; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huvOWP\\_u-Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huvOWP_u-Y)) and on CD by Steven Grahl (Oxford).



**PRIZES AND AWARDS**

**John Peter (1961)** was awarded an MBE for services (top) to the theatre and for founding the prestigious Ian Charleson Award for young actors under the age of 30 run by *The Sunday Times* (where John was Chief Drama Critic for 19 years) and the National Theatre. This honour was presented to him at a heartwarming ceremony on 7 October 2019 at Denville Hall, an excellent care home for thespians with dementia. John sadly passed away in July 2020. 📍📍

**Shawn Landres (1996)** was honoured by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (above) for his leadership and service during his three terms as chair of the Quality and Productivity Commission, which administers the oldest and largest local government innovation fund in the United States. 📍

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**Michael Gatenby (1997)** and Jennifer, his wife, are happy to announce the arrival of their son Graham Hom, born on 6 May 2020, weighing 6lbs 15oz.



**Craig Mullaney (2000)** and his wife Tomoko welcomed a new baby boy on 22 March 2020. Winston Ryu Churchill joins older siblings Kipling (5), Ambika (7), and Arjun (9). 📍

**Sarah Munday née McBurnie (2002)** and **Paul Munday (1999)** are delighted to announce the birth in January 2020 of Peter Ambrose, a brother for Thomas and James.



**Hannah and Christopher Buckingham (2003)** are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Jude Michael, born on 14 January 2020. 📍

**Emily née McCarthy (2003)** and **Paul Wingfield (2003)** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Wilfred, on 24 July 2019, a brother to Sophie.

**Sam Brownbridge (2006)** married George at Chippenham Park near Cambridge in September 2019.



**Reuven (Ruvi) Ziegler (2008)** married his partner, David Bilchitz, in a progressive, Jewish vegan wedding in Muldersdrift, South Africa, in February 2020. Ruvi and David met in the summer of 2018 at the World Congress of Constitutional Law in Seoul, South Korea, and got engaged the following summer on the shores of Krumme Lanke, Berlin. 📍

**Robert Edwards-Bell née Knibbs (2009)** married Hannah Riley (Somerville, 2009) in the summer of 2019. They each took a name from the people they were named after, resulting in their new second name, Edwards-Bell.

**Daisy Fannin (2010)** and **Adam Rachlin (2010)** were married in 2019.



**Hannah Magahy (2013)** got engaged to Daniel McConaghy in June 2019. The couple were due to be married in August 2020, but have had to postpone to next summer. 📍



**Nicola Ede (2014)** married Thomas Kelly (New College, 2014) in Cambridgeshire on 21 March 2020, four weeks earlier than originally planned. They are now enjoying an unusual, extended honeymoon-at-home and are planning a celebration with friends and family for a later date. 📍



## LINCOLN COLLEGE ALUMNI EVENTS 2020–21

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently unable to confirm our alumni events calendar for 2020-21. While we certainly hope to hold some in-person events next year, all College events will be subject to government guidance and the approval of Governing Body. In the meantime, we will be holding virtual events, including talks, pub quizzes, and networking events, online.

All events will be publicised on the College website:  
<https://lincoln.ox.ac.uk/events>.

We will also keep you updated through regular e-newsletters and emails. To ensure you receive these updates, please keep us informed of any changes to your contact details.

An update form is enclosed and is also available at:  
<https://lincoln.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details>.

If you have questions about a particular event, please get in touch with the Development Office:  
[development.office@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).

We hope to see you soon.



## Lincoln College contact information:

If you are an alumnus/na with a question about College, please contact the Development Office and we will do our best to help you. You can reach us at:

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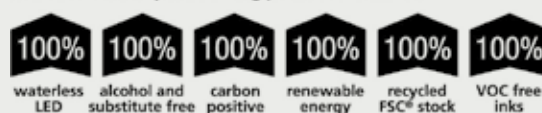
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**FRONT COVER (BY ROW, L-R)**

**Asha de Vos** (2003, Biology)  
**Sonali Naik QC** (1986, Law)  
**Zoe Williams**  
(1991, History and English)  
**Laura Brown** (2005, History)  
**Naomi Alderman**  
(1993, Philosophy, Politics  
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