

IMPRINT



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Three special features celebrate the 100th anniversary of PPE at Oxford

Dark matter

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The Pursuit of Love

Alumna Emily Mortimer on her directorial debut for the BBC

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opposite.

From the Editor

Welcome to the new-look *Imprint* magazine! As you can see, we have made a few changes to the look and feel of the magazine, with longer features that allow us to delve deeper into the amazing work and lives of the Lincoln community. Firm favourites remain, including *My Lincoln* (pp.44-6) and *alumni news* (pp.48-51), while other regular items such as the JCR and MCR Presidents' reports will now appear in the *Record*.

In this issue, we celebrate two important anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of Lincoln's charity initiative VacProj (pp.12-3), and the 100-year anniversary of the PPE degree at Oxford (pp.20-2). As part of this anniversary edition, we are delighted to feature an

interview with Lord Bernard Donoughue who reflects on his life at the heart of British politics (pp.22-5), as well as an article from recent PPE'ist Jacob Kelly whose incredible Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative helped over 50,000 school children during lockdown (pp.26-7).

We are also pleased to introduce you to two new Lincoln Fellows, Dr Samantha Ege (Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music) and Dr Kimberly Palladino (Tutorial Fellow in Physics). Samantha's research into African American composer Florence Price (pp. 28-31) has been hitting the headlines, while Kimberly is involved with a cutting-edge project to detect Dark Matter (pp.32-5).

Other features include actor and alumna Emily Mortimer (1990) on her directorial debut, *The Pursuit of Love*, and Varun Ramraj (2010) on his work with Oxford Immunotec and eSwapp. We also take a look at building projects past and present, from a bridge over Turl Street that never saw the light of day (pp.18-9), to the recently completed renovation of the Mitre (pp.14-7).

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. If you have any thoughts on *Imprint*, or suggestions for future articles, please do get in touch with me at development.office@lincoln.ox.ac.uk.

Julia Uwins, *Website and College Communications Officer*

College News



Welcome to our new Lincoln College Fellows

We were pleased to be joined by four new Fellows at the start of Michaelmas term.

Dr Kimberly Palladino was appointed as Tutorial Fellow in Physics, while Dr Samantha Ege took up the position of Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music. You can read more about Kimberly and Samantha’s research on pages 32-35 and 28-31 respectively. We were also joined by Dr George Green, Lavery-Shuffery Early Career Fellow in Roman Art and Archaeology, and Dr Joshua Bennett, Darby Fellow in Modern History.

Rev Andy Shamel, meanwhile, took up the position of Chaplain and Student Welfare Co-ordinator (above), while Adebayo Ogunlesi (1972) was appointed to an Honorary Fellowship at Lincoln.



New position created to improve access

The College has been reviewing the structure of its access and outreach work, following a detailed analysis of its admission statistics over the past six years. In response to these findings, the College has created a new position, that of Access and Career Development Fellow.

Maryanne Saunders has been appointed to this role, with the aim of advancing Lincoln’s strategy in relation to access by working directly with the Senior Tutor and Access Officer. Maryanne has a doctorate in Religious Art from King’s College London and has held positions at the Brilliant Club, Regent’s Park College, and St John’s College. She will start her new role in September 2021.



Top ten performance in the Norrington Table

We are delighted to have placed 10th in the Norrington Table for 2019-20, with more than half of our 88 finalists achieving a First; our best performance for a number of years.

Our finalists took their exams in the summer of 2020 in exceptional circumstances. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that exams did not take place in the usual way; instead our finalists were faced with either ‘open-book’ exams or longer pieces of work completed over several days.

We warmly congratulate all of our students who completed their degrees last year; these results are a testament to their hard work and resilience during this difficult period.



Preservation award for 120-22 High Street

We are proud to have been awarded a certificate from the Oxford Preservation Trust for the restoration of 120-22 High Street (formerly known as the NatWest building) and its ‘substantial contribution to Oxford’. The Grade II listed building, dating from 1868, was meticulously renovated in 2019 and is now home to the Ivy restaurant on the ground floor, and residential accommodation on the upper floors and behind the building. The grand staircase and original ceilings were restored, and the shop frontage was reinstated, having been originally removed in 1952.



Update from the Covid-19 Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Lincoln Covid-19 Appeal, and to all those who made a gift as part of our Michaelmas term crowdfunding project, ‘Lincoln Together’.

We started the academic year, having raised £200,000 in unrestricted gifts for the Appeal from our terrific alumni, and our goal was to raise a further £30,000, to enable College to continue responding to financial pressures from Covid-19.

Thanks to your generosity, through gifts made on the Lincoln Together webpage, by post, and through Gift Aid, we have reached this goal. We are hugely grateful to everyone who has made a donation to the Lincoln Covid-19 Appeal.



Lincoln student rows in the Boat Race

We were very proud to have a Lincoln student, Jean-Philippe Dufour, rowing in seat 6 of the Oxford boat for the 166th Men’s Boat Race. Jean-Philippe is a Berrow Scholar at Lincoln and is reading for a DPhil in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year’s race took place on River Great Ouse at Ely (rather than the River Thames) and was closed to spectators. It was a very close race (the closest since 2003), with Cambridge ultimately holding out and winning the race by less than a length.

Well done to Jean-Philippe and the team for their hard work and fighting spirit!



Dining Hall and Chapel refurbished

In summer 2020, we began phase one of the planned refurbishment of the Dining Hall and removed years of damaged polish from the floor of the Hall. The original oak floorboards were then refinished with a protective oil that preserves and protects the floor. This spring, work resumed to clean and repair the Hall panelling. The final phase of the project will see the restoration of the stained glass windows. As we resume our alumni events programme later this year, we hope that many of you will have an opportunity to admire the newly refurbished Hall.

We are also about to embark upon the final phase of the Chapel refurbishment, with the installation of new heating and lighting.



Anti-Racism Advocate appointed to Governing Body

The College has established a new Governing Body officer role, the Anti-Racism Advocate, and Professor Peter McCullough (Sohmer Fellow in English) is the first Fellow to fill the post. The Anti-Racism Advocate will promote anti-racist strategy across the College, and work in particular to extend and enhance our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion of BAME communities among students, staff, and Fellows. This appointment is part of the wider work of the Anti-Racism Commission (ARC) which has been established with a view to examine Lincoln’s practices and identify practical steps that should be taken to ensure that our commitment to equality is reflected in all we do at Lincoln.

LINCOLNITES IN LOCKDOWN

PHOTOS FROM A PANDEMIC

We initially came up with the idea to create a photography collage made up of snaps taken by JCR members over lockdown, to which we gave the preliminary name ‘the Lincoln Collage’. We aimed to produce a piece of art that would represent the experience of each of us in that first difficult period. Over time, though, with help from Roland Trope (1974) and Jane Mitchell in the Development Office, the project became a large-scale photography competition and exhibition with submissions from current students and alumni all over the world, and from all common rooms. We voted for the top three entries and the student photographers were awarded the Elman Poole Photographic Prize. The exhibition was a great success, with participants and other College members enjoying a glass of Prosecco (or elderflower cordial) in the Fellows’ Garden after looking at the photos, which lined the whole of the Berrow Foundation Building corridor in a spectacular array of colours and scenes from around the globe. We also created a digital version of the exhibition that can be viewed on the website at: lincoln.ox.ac.uk/discover/lincolnnites-in-lockdown.

Jude Willoughby (2019), JCR Arts Rep
Matilda Houston-Brown (2019), JCR Arts Rep



First prize: Joy in the snow
We’am Hamdan (2020)
“Immobility and restrictions have already been the norm for me as I grew up. Travel within and between the occupied Palestinian territories and abroad are both incredibly difficult under Israeli occupation. With the pandemic causing ongoing concern for many people, my advice is to find joy in little things, and to look beyond the things we cannot control. This picture of myself with the snowfall blanketing Oxford represents a happy moment for me during the lockdown in Hilary term.”



Second prize: LA mornings - Sabine Jaccaud (1991)
“Hovering on the edge of a pool in Los Angeles, this photo represents mornings in slippers, coffee and hard surfaces. Private space becoming the whole space of our lives. It’s also about moving our family from the UK to California during the pandemic, suspended between the shore we know well - I stayed in the UK after arriving at Lincoln in 1991 as a Berrow Scholar - and the bright sunny new home that I hoped would open up to us once the curve flattened.”



Third prize: Tidal's Stores
Edward Jones (2018)
“I took this photo at the beginning of the first lockdown. The High Street (Stryd Fawr) in Blackwood is, in normal times, unusually busy for a town in the South Wales Valleys. During each successive wave of lockdown (we had four in Caerphilly, including one of the country’s first local lockdowns) the street would quieten down - but it’s never been as deathly quiet as it was in those first few weeks. In the place of people came these signs: Nye Bevan looms large over this part of the world, and trust in the NHS here never faltered.”

Sports and Societies



Lincoln College Boat Club

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, Lincoln College Boat Club persevered to keep training and stay motivated, and ultimately thrived as a growing community. Despite difficulties and distance, LCBC had an absolutely fantastic year, one that included welcoming new members to the club and enjoying a remarkable performance at Summer Torpids, the bumps racing event held in 7th week of Trinity term. The strength of our club was on full display when we entered five boats into the regatta, with over half of all rowers having only joined the club this year. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Darren Marshall (1984) and rEvolution, all members of the first two men’s and women’s boats sported the traditional dark blue and white zephyrs worn in Summer VIIIs respectively. Our W1 shined, with an overbump on the first day on St John’s College, before holding their high position throughout the week despite fierce competition. Our M1, stroked by Blues rower Jean-Philippe Dufour (2019), also had an impressive showing and on the last day of the regatta managed to deny Somerville a bump in a photo finish.

The men’s squad was marvellously led by coaches James White and Sam Shepherd whose enthusiasm saw the men through every challenge this year and helped foster camaraderie amongst all our new members. The women were led once more by coach Dylan Mitchell, whose dedication and commitment as coach was rewarded in their fantastic performance. After four years with the club as head women’s coach, Dylan will be deeply missed as he finishes his degree and leaves some very big shoes to fill for the next coach.

Whether through Zoom circuits, yoga sessions, rental ergs, or small group runs, LCBC seized every opportunity to train and support one another. Many clubs struggled with both member retention and intake this year, but the positive spirit of LCBC never waned and has been clear in the commitment of our committee members, the attendance at our online socials, and the sheer number of students seen wearing LCBC stash throughout Oxford. It has truly been a joy to be part of this community this past year. Everyone has worked together to create a phenomenal platform for next year, and we cannot wait to build on this success for 2021-22.

Heather McTaggart (2017), President of LCBC

Mixed Hockey

With limited pitch time in Michaelmas, and Hilary in total lockdown, the highlight of the year for the Lincoln College Mixed Hockey Team was irrefutably Trinity term. Under the leadership of Akshey Rajani (2019) and Tom Draper (2019), the team played weekly matches against other colleges for leader-board bragging rights in a university-wide league.

The term began with a 5-0 victory against St Peter’s, and a fantastic win against the Balliol/Univ joint team: 2-0, with only eight players outfield. Merton/Mansfield proved a force to be reckoned with, however, and despite two spectacular goals from university player Toby Robinson (2020), the Lincoln team lost 4-2. After a gutting defeat to Hertford, Lincoln played a Lady Margaret Hall team one week later who had neither a goalie nor a full team! After a dramatic six-goal demolition in the first half, we froze the score and donated two of our university players to LMH for the last twenty minutes of the game.

The final match of the term against Jesus/Worcester was a battle for third place in the overall league. In true Lincoln spirit, we assembled a team comprising undergraduate players spanning four different years. Postgraduate student Ben Wheadon (2020) was also present, and the team put out one of their strongest XIs of the year. Following a heads-up from Blues player George Holding (2019), who told us that the Jesus/Worcester team had a plethora of university players to draw from, we were braced for a challenging match. After a detailed team debrief, the Lincoln team started the game that would see them give their most impressive performance of the competition. Fraser McDougall (2019) and Ben Coady (2019) were absolutely indomitable at the back whilst George and Obaydh Khan (2019) ran the midfield, with Obaydh grabbing the first goal in a textbook counter-attacking move. However, success could not have been achieved without the effort of every single individual. The team never stopped fighting for each other and in one of the most dynamic games of our lives, two stellar goals gave Lincoln a win and a well-deserved third-place spot.

Lincoln could not have worked harder, and we could not be prouder of every single player’s performance, determination, and camaraderie. We would especially like to thank those that were willing to play – and play so well – despite limited hockey experience.

Tom Draper (2019) and Akshey Rajani (2019), Co-Captains of the Lincoln College Mixed Hockey Team



Tennis

Emerging from nationwide lockdown in Hilary term, Lincoln sports teams were thrilled to hear the news that Cuppers competitions would run in Trinity 2021. By virtue of a seeding, the Lincoln team was able to progress into the round of 16 with a bye to face a heavyweight Queen’s College team. The Lincoln team consisting of Tom Perfremment (2020), Chris Grassick (2018), Gabriel Spooner (Exeter), Leon Galli (2018), James Hughes (2019), Fabian Brensing (2020), and Kengo Shibata (2020) swept through to a remarkable nine matches to zero victory on the University Parks grass courts to move into the quarterfinals.

Coming up against St Catherine’s College, the Lincoln team knew they had a tough battle on their hands and scores were tied at four matches apiece leading into the final match in fading light. After a change of venue to the floodlit courts at Florence Park, Fabian and Kengo put in a truly outstanding performance to snatch the overall win for Lincoln in the decider and send the College through to a tennis Cuppers semi-final for the first time in a decade.

The semi-final at the Magdalen sports ground drew a sizeable home crowd and the Lincoln team once more was up for a battle, with the number one men’s Blues player leading the Magdalen charge. Despite being heavy underdogs, Lincoln managed to keep the contest alive until late on, but ultimately fell to the eventual champions, three matches to six. Special thanks to the Lincoln tennis athletes for their dedication and enthusiasm across one of the most successful Lincoln tennis seasons in recent memory.

Tom Perfremment (2020), Tennis Captain

Women’s Football

This year, the Women’s Football team got off to a rocky start given Covid restrictions and a lack of availability for training. However, we didn’t let this get in our way and in Trinity term we finally got playing again. The team came together for the five-a-side Cuppers tournament held at the start of the term, and although we didn’t make it past the group stages, we had a fantastic time. Despite the (quite frequent) losses inflicted on the team by rival colleges, the spirit of LCWFC never faltered and we always found a way to have fun despite not necessarily being the strongest team. I think the standout quality of this year’s side is their enjoyment of the game and their ability to encourage and lift each other up. I’m very much looking forward to next term and the return of the eleven-a-side tournament!

Ella Wakefield (2019), Captain of the LCWFC

Lincoln College Music Society



The past year has, undoubtedly, been challenging for musicians at Lincoln. Whilst many concerts and recitals had to be cancelled or postponed, the LCMS community worked hard to create performance opportunities for College members.

The year started off optimistically, with fortnightly recitals which were recorded in the Oakeshott Room and then uploaded onto our Facebook page. Being able to perform in the Oakeshott was a great relief, and this opportunity enabled students to perform freely, interact with a larger venue, and experience the acoustic amplifications of this spacious hall. Whilst we made the most of this performance space, we also included room recordings in our online recitals for students who could not attend in-person recording sessions. Looking back, I’m immensely proud of the work we did in Michaelmas term amid changing restrictions and regulations. I’m especially proud of the first years who participated in the online freshers’ concert, despite not knowing many College members.

When students returned to College for Trinity term, we focused on organising events for the Turl Street Arts Festival which included a discussion panel, a ‘Lincoln Live Lounge’ session, and an inter-collegiate talent show won by Martina Wu (2020). I’m confident that we will be able to provide performance opportunities next year and continue to share and create music within the College community.

Maryam Wocial (2019), LCMS President

Fresher faced

In conversation with first-year undergraduate, Alice Main



What was your background before coming to Lincoln?

I'm from the Isle of Man where I went to a state comprehensive. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that my final year of school was very strange. I finished my courses at home and didn't sit my A-level exams; instead my grades were awarded based on my predicted grades and the Government algorithm. It all happened so quickly that there wasn't the infrastructure in place for online learning like there is now – instead there was just a lot of frantic emailing back and forth.

The morning of results day, UCAS crashed. I went into school, realised that one of my A-levels had been downgraded due to the algorithm, and spent the rest of the day filling in forms. When I found out that I had been accepted to Lincoln, it didn't feel real!

Had you been to Oxford before you came to Lincoln?

Yes. The schools on the Isle of Man send potential applicants on a two-day trip to Oxford to attend an Open Day and have a look round the colleges. During the Open Day, I mostly attended the departmental events as I wasn't quite sure how the collegiate system worked. I just happened to wander into Lincoln and a really friendly Student Ambassador encouraged me to come in and have a look around. The College was so pretty and I couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

How did you feel about coming to Lincoln last October?

I felt very nervous! Moving from such a small place to (what seems to me) a big city was always going to be daunting, but the addition of the pandemic just made it that little bit more nerve-wracking. Oxford seemed like such an alien environment to me and I had never studied anything to do with my course (Classical Archaeology and Ancient History) before so I felt as though I was jumping in feet first.

At the time, there were no Covid cases on the Isle of Man and we had no restrictions. It was quite frightening to come from that environment to mainland UK where there were restrictions and face masks.

How was your first term at Lincoln?

To be honest, I spent quite a lot of Michaelmas being quite homesick. Everything about Oxford and the UK at that time just seemed so strange and uncertain. I stuck at it thanks to the College and my tutors, and I'm so glad I did. Almost all of my classes were held on Teams during Michaelmas term, but the tutors made it fun and engaging.

Virtual matriculation was really bizarre! I got dressed up in *sub fusc* and my gown, and sat at my desk, watching the Vice-Chancellor give a speech to an empty room. And then that was it – I was matriculated! We were able to have our photos taken, although there was no big year-group photo – instead we had solo shots and photos in our households.

You spent Hilary term at home due to lockdown. What was that like?

We went home for Christmas, during which time we received an email from the University to say that our return for Hilary term may be delayed. We were then advised to not return at all. I was very lucky and was set up to work online and had everything I needed to get on with remote teaching. The main thing I struggled with was feeling very separate from College life. Being physically in College makes a world of difference. Even though you are on Teams for a large part of the day, you are still able to sit in Grove, wander over to the Library, and feel connected to College.

What was it like to return to College for Trinity term?

I applied to come back for Trinity term early as I was struggling a bit with being at Oxford University while at home on the Isle of Man. There were also travel problems that come with living on a small island – the airport was out of action and the boats were irregular – that meant I couldn't easily travel.

It was quite odd walking back into my room. It was just as I had left it, with boxes of winter clothes stacked up on my bed. It felt as though no time had passed and I was returning for Hilary, rather than Trinity term.

Trinity was easily my favourite term. The weather was lovely and everyone seemed more positive. I was very happy to be able to visit the museums and libraries with my friends. The only downside was the cancellation of the events planned for 10th week due to a rise in Covid cases. It was a very abrupt end to what was otherwise a very nice term.

What activities and events have you been involved with this year?

I've done a lot of online socialising this year and have been involved with the Christian Union and the Tolkien Society. I attended a lot of College events, including an online quiz with my household, speed friendship sessions during Freshers' week, and virtual JCR meetings. I also took part in the Scavenger Hunt organised by Jane Mitchell (Deputy Development Director) and Jody LaPorte (Gonticas Fellow in Politics and International Relations) which was a lot of fun. Our entry didn't win but it did receive an honorable mention! Alongside this, during Michaelmas term the CAAH professors held a weekly online coffee morning, which was a great opportunity to meet CAAH students from other years.

The Chapel has been one of my favourite things about life at Lincoln. I attended in-person services when it was possible to do so, and watched the Evensong and Sunday Eucharist services online during lockdown.

I've also volunteered to help with outreach for my department and the College. I answered questions from prospective students during the Open Days and helped out with the recent online Study Days, as well briefly appearing in a video about CAAH at Oxford!

How did you feel taking exams online?

I took online Collections during Michaelmas term and it felt surreal to be taking exams already; Michaelmas felt more like a warm up than an actual term! Having not taken A-levels, it had been quite a long time since I had taken a proper exam so it was a bit of a shock to the system.

With online exams, the adrenaline doesn't really hit until half-way through so you're going along at your own pace and then you have the realisation that this isn't a mock – this is the real thing! The one saving grace is that you don't have to worry about other people being distracting, but you do have other things to worry about, like whether the internet will work or whether Inspera (the exam software) will save your work properly.

What are you looking forward to next year?

I would love to be able to attend in-person tutorials. I'm also hoping that we will be able to be more spontaneous and won't have to always book things in advance and keep track of how many people are in a group. I haven't yet attended a Formal Dinner, so I hope that will be possible next year. I am also taking up the position of Chapel Warden in Michaelmas term, which is exciting, and I will be helping with the telethon in September. I am really looking forward to speaking to alumni.



VacProj: Celebrating 50 years

Next year we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of VacProj, a Lincoln charity that works closely with social services to provide week-long residential holidays for underprivileged children in the Oxford area, many of whom are on the Child Protection Register or are young carers. VacProj organises two holidays each summer involving a range of activities including trips to the seaside, ice skating, bowling, and visits to local attractions. The holidays aim to offer the children fun and memorable experiences, away from the pressures of home.

The charity was founded in 1972 by a group of undergraduates that included Frank Little (1970), Tim Austin (1970), and David Smith (1971). Looking back on that time, Frank recalls that the idea first came from Tim: ‘He broached it one summer afternoon in his rooms overlooking the Grove toward the end of our first year, and we quickly agreed it would be a fitting way to end our second year, but we would need the time to prepare.’ As Editor of the *Oxford Vade Mecum*, an information magazine for the University, Frank had the only student room with its own telephone line, something that was invaluable when it came to

organising the first VacProj residential. Frank was responsible for finding accommodation, Tim recruited volunteers and spoke to Oxford social services, while Steve Evans (1965) searched for funding. The inaugural VacProj came together, with two groups heading to Dorney Vicarage over the summer, thanks to arrangements by the College Chaplain at the time, Rev’d John Morrison.

As well as being a huge amount of fun and an incredibly rewarding experience, the residentials were (and still are!) hard work for the volunteers. Tim fondly recalls ‘[r]ising early, counting heads, forestalling fisticuffs, encouraging slow-pokes, cleaning up cuts and bruises, counting heads *again*, explaining that what’s on offer for dinner is all there is, comforting the homesick, and finally collapsing into easy chairs at around ten or eleven to discuss the programme for the following day’. The highlights for him were ‘as always when working with young people, the moments when we saw them come together as a group, one kid helping out another’.

After the original founders left Lincoln, the programme continued each year with a new batch of enthusiastic volunteers. Samir Shah

(1987) remembers hearing about VacProj part way through his first year at Lincoln and the residentials quickly became a key part of his summers. Samir’s involvement with VacProj continued after graduation and he is now a member of the Advisory Committee and acts as a sounding board and advisor for the current student volunteers. Samir feels ‘very lucky’ to have been part of VacProj for half his life, and for half the life of the charity itself. He has Lincoln friends across generations, all of whom are part of a special VacProj community.

The VacProj Advisory Committee is joined by Trustees (positions currently held by Professors Stefan Enchelmaier and Nigel Emptage) to oversee the charity’s activities and finances. There have been difficulties along the way, partly caused by rising costs, with each residential week now costing the charity around £13,000. These figures seem staggering to the VacProj founders; when David became the Honorary Patron of VacProj in the early 2000s, he ‘gasped at the sums of money needed’. But then he ‘saw, and sat down with, Lincoln students facing such a different landscape’. These days far more consideration is given to safeguarding, with all volunteers subject to

careful DBS checks. They also receive health and safety training, and employ an external firm to manage the transportation. It is a far cry from the 1970s when the organisers were left to their own devices and when, on one memorable occasion, a minibus borrowed from an Oxfordshire school broke down in the lion enclosure at a local safari park. According to VacProj volunteer Martin Walker (1970) the driver’s log for that day read ‘broke down – surrounded by lions!’ The new safety measures are all incredibly important, but mean that the costs involved with VacProj have increased significantly.

To fund VacProj, each year the organisers run a series of events, from bake sales to auctions of promises. For the latter, prizes are donated by students, alumni, and local businesses. David is impressed by ‘the inventive ways our successors came up with to raise money’. He says, ‘My favourite was the auction in Deepers, where a volunteer might offer to do the highest bidder’s laundry for a month. I love it. It gave me great pleasure to be able to turn to old confreres in the media industry, the likes of John Humphrys and Jon Snow, and persuade them to show the *Today* programme or *Channel Four News*, then have a cup of tea or a drink afterwards with the winning bidder, to raise money for our remarkable Project.’

“I’m sure that none of us on that first VacProj Committee would have projected back in 1972 that we would be preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary. It has been an extraordinary privilege to see what successive VacProj Presidents and their fellow volunteers have built on our very modest foundation and a pleasure to listen to the plans for 2022 and beyond.”

Tim Austin (1970)

Save The Date
Saturday 24 September 2022
VacProj Anniversary Dinner

Last summer, the residentials were unable to run due to Covid-19 but this year they are back as a series of day trips, thanks to the hard work of the committee led by current President Sekela Ngamilo (2018). Next year, VacProj is hoping to arrange three week-long holidays as a way of celebrating the anniversary and making VacProj available to more children in need. This is largely possible due to some successful fundraising and we are grateful to all those who contributed. For more details on how to donate, please see: vacproj.org.uk. For all former volunteers, we are hoping to arrange a VacProj 50th anniversary dinner in 2022. If you would like to hear details about the dinner nearer the time, please contact development.office@lincoln.ox.ac.uk.

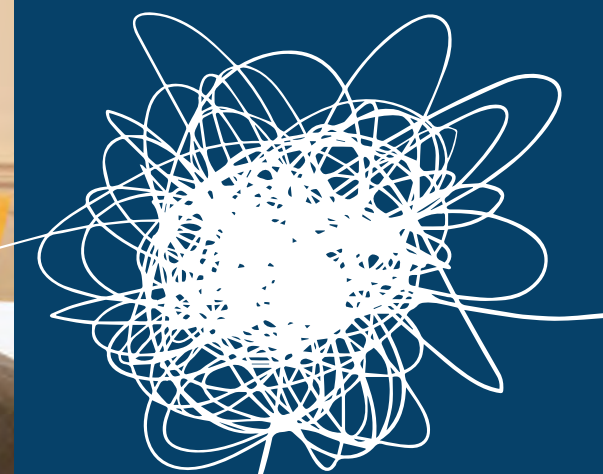
When asked about the ethos of VacProj, Samir explains that ‘while the holidays may not change these children’s lives, they can provide a respite from their home life and give the children the chance to have some fun and create some happy memories. If that’s all we do, I think it’s a worthwhile thing’. It is incredible to think that what started out as an idea in Grove in the summer of 1971 has grown and evolved into a charity that has touched the lives of hundreds of children and Lincoln volunteers over almost half a century. Thank you to everyone involved. Here’s to the next 50 years!

“Leading VacProj this year has been especially enriching as it is happening at a time when many of these children need time away. It’s amazing to be able to give that to them and we hope, more than anything, that they enjoy it. As 50 years draw near, I can only imagine the number of children who have been given respite from difficult situations. To be part of a 50 year tradition that serves the community is an honour.”

Sekela Ngamilo (2018)



Untangling the string Making sense of the Mitre



Amongst Oxford colleges, medieval dates are thrown around like confetti: Merton was founded in 1264; Balliol in 1263. Sometimes a pinch of salt should be taken, but both we and the visiting tourists know this for sure: Oxford has been a seat of learning for *a long time* and its buildings are *really old*.



The Mitre pub, which lies on the corner of the High Street and Turl Street, was acquired by Lincoln College in 1475 and has been owned by the College ever since. In any other context this would be rather extraordinary but of course in Oxford this casual fact is, on the face of it, a bit disappointing: the late 15th century is not *so old* for Oxford.

Perhaps more interesting is the fact that this pub has apparently been used as a drinking establishment since it was first built in the 14th century. We know this because the medieval vaults have ‘ribs’ meaning that they were always designed to be seen, which in the context of cellars means they were designed to be seen by people drinking. The building was given to the College by the then Bishop of Lincoln, Thomas Rotherham. Rotherham attended Eton and King’s College, Cambridge, but the position of Bishop of Lincoln (which he held from 1472 to 1480) brought him the association with Lincoln College, Oxford, which he endowed generously. The Mitre’s name, of course, comes from his Bishop’s mitre.

The Mitre that we see today is a highly complex range of buildings fronting the High Street but interconnected with the upper floors of the shops on Turl Street. It is possible that the Mitre pub may have originally faced Turl Street, with brewing, baking, and stabling behind, and that this use gradually moved round onto the High Street with other types of commercial uses taking over the space, building, and re-building on Turl Street and behind. There is fabric remaining on the site from every phase from the 14th century

“Several generations of students at Lincoln remember their time in the Mitre with extraordinary affection and living in the Mitre became something of a rite of passage.”

onwards, often interlayered and interwoven, making understanding the history and development of the site very complicated. In truth, the site is the historical equivalent of a large and very tangled ball of string.

Over time, the College acquired the freeholds of buildings along Turl Street but it was not until the mid-20th century that these rooms, along with the upper rooms of the Mitre itself, began to be used for student accommodation. The Turl Bar, constructed as an extension to the Mitre pub, was built in 1923 with accommodation above, and this proved ideal for student rooms.

Lincoln College’s student accommodation within the ‘The Mitre site’ therefore actually comprises rooms in The Mitre Hotel, 16-17 High Street, 3-7 Turl Street, and 144-155 Turl Yard. Prior to the recently completed project, they were accessed via a variety of doors onto the street, and linked internally by labyrinthine staircases and corridors, making them extremely difficult to navigate. The rooms themselves were of differing quality – always interesting (some have exposed elements of timber framing, 17th and 18th century panelling, or 17th century stucco-clad beams) but often inconvenient. Despite this, several generations of students at Lincoln remember their time in the Mitre with extraordinary affection and living in the Mitre became something of a rite of passage.

The project to restore and improve the Mitre site had a number of key aims: to increase the number of bathrooms available for students living here and increase the number of rooms with en-suite bathrooms in particular (not an easy feat when some of the rooms have features such as chimneypieces or

elaborate panelling); to improve ‘wayfinding’ and decrease the amount of time it would take to get from any given room to the outside; to provide a new Lodge on Turl Street to help with security; and to replace and update the superannuated servicing – heating, hot water etc. Given the complexity of the buildings as described above, and given what we knew – but perhaps more importantly what we didn’t know – about the historic fabric contained within the buildings, the project was never going to be straightforward.

In the course of our work investigating the history of these buildings, we uncovered some features that will particularly stay with me: an unusual chimneypiece where the jambs are secret cupboards which seem to be just the right dimensions for hiding a bottle of wine; elm floorboards from the 17th century which are a foot and a half wide and on such a pronounced slope that too long in the room makes one feel seasick; one wall of surviving 18th century plain panelling now incongruously opposite a staircase bulldozed through in the 1950s; an entire room of 17th century panelling showing signs of having been moved from elsewhere and carefully cut to fit its new home. In the rear of the Mitre pub itself, on the first floor, are a number of decorated ceiling beams. These have been covered in stucco which has been crafted into a beautiful sinuous design featuring pomegranates, widely known as a symbol of fertility and an aphrodisiac. Such decorated beams are not uncommon in the 17th century and were likely to have been part of an overall scheme of decoration including wall paintings (sadly none were found, although Oxford has an exceptionally rich history of Early Modern wall paintings) and whilst pomegranate patterns

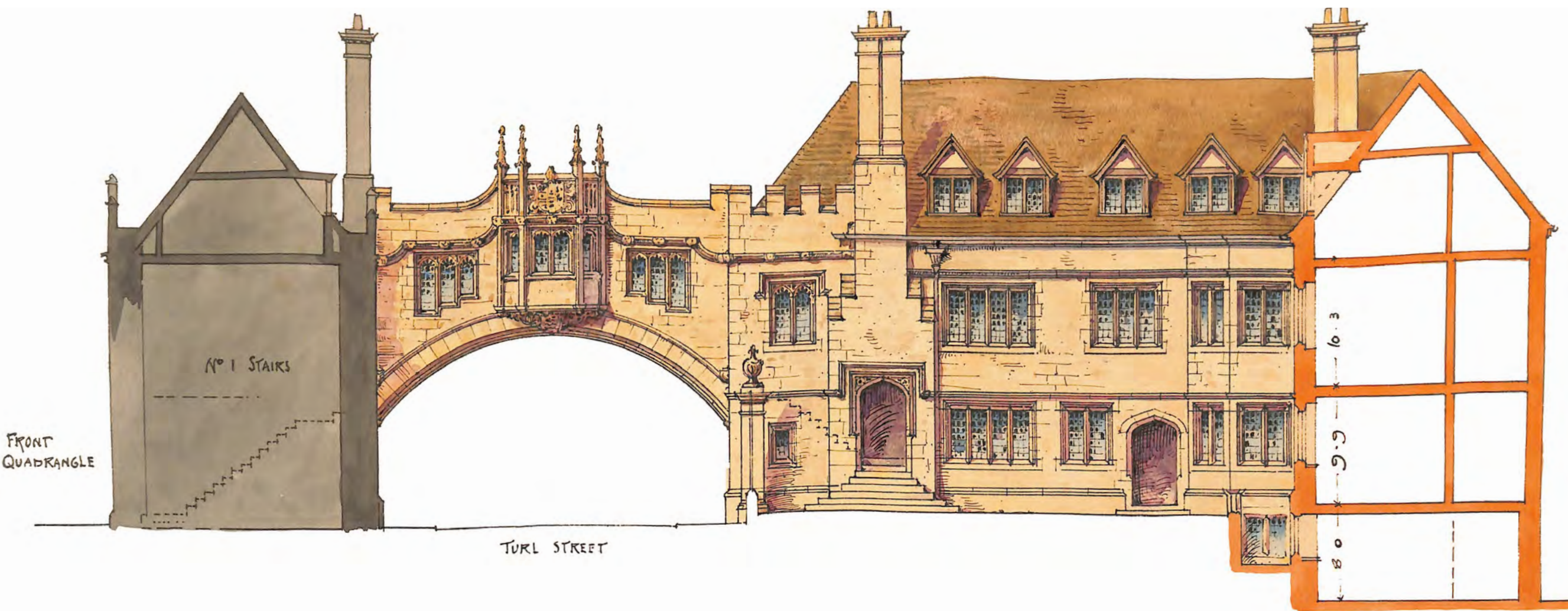
are also relatively common it always raises the question – and an eyebrow – as to what exactly was the intended meaning, and to whom was it being directed?

Another revelation were the Victorian marble chimneypieces in the rooms above the Covered Market facing onto the High Street. When we first found them they were painted with a gloopy white emulsion. Careful poulticing to remove the modern paint revealed that they are made of black and red-veined polished granite.

All of these features and more have been very carefully kept as part of the project. The sloping floors have not been firmed up; the low ceilings (perfect to catch tall students unawares) have not been raised, and the inconvenient chimneypieces have not been moved. Instead, this tangled ball of historical fabric has been accepted, loved, and coaxed back into service; has been repaired using traditional methods which would be immediately recognisable by those who built this place; and will continue to be valued by the next generation of Lincoln students. Despite the contemporary finish and modern comfort of the accommodation itself, the Mitre site, and all of its component historical features, still look *very old*.

Helen Ensor IHBC is an Associate Director and architectural historian at Donald Insall Associates, a multi-award winning conservation architecture and heritage practice. She has extensive experience of analysing historic fabric and helping clients to navigate the planning and listed building consent process, and can be contacted at helen.ensor@insall-architects.co.uk.

The Turl Street Mitre will operate as a hotel during the Easter and Summer vacations. To book a stay, please visit turlstreetmitre.co.uk.



Unbuilt Lincoln

As the substantial building work in the Mitre draws to a close, and the usual flurry of refurbishment work during the Long Vacation is well underway, it seems that Lincoln's building programme is constantly evolving. However, in the College Archive we have several examples of building projects which never got off the drawing board. One striking example is the proposed bridge over Turl Street. The shortage of College accommodation was acute after the First World War as numbers skyrocketed: students were returning to Lincoln after their studies had been interrupted by war, alongside those who had put off university for their military service, combined with those who were of age to come up for the first time.

In November 1919, the Governing Body approved the proposal to turn the Rector's Lodgings in Front Quad into College rooms, allocating a sum of £1,000 to do so. Simultaneously, they gave the Rector, J A R Munro, first refusal on the lease of 15 Turl Street. The last Rector to live in Front Quad, Munro moved across the Turl in September 1921. This alleviated some of the pressure on College accommodation, but not all.

“... in the College Archive we have several examples of building projects which never got off the drawing board. One striking example is the proposed bridge over Turl Street.”

The celebration of the College's 500th anniversary in 1927 allowed Lincoln to set up the Quincentenary Fund. The aim of this fund was to raise money to build a new Rector's Lodgings and a block of 27 undergraduate rooms on the Stable Yard site and at Nos 13 and 15 Turl Street. These rooms were to be joined to main College by a bridge over Turl Street.

The plan shows the ornate bridge designed by Herbert Read in May 1926. The new bridge would have entailed modifying the staircase in staircase 1 (now the Lodge underneath with the College Office above). One would have accessed the bridge by turning right into Front Quad from the main gates into College, and then climbing the reconfigured staircase. Read's accompanying plans for the student accommodation are in a decorative style, accessible from Market Street.

However, by 1928, it was clear to the Governing Body that funds were insufficient for the whole scheme. The bridge was shelved in favour of the Rector's Lodgings alongside a more modest scheme for student accommodation. Additional accommodation for seven undergraduates was developed in No 15 Turl Street, and the Quincentenary Room was opened in College. The Rector's Lodgings were built to a design by Herbert Read, though modified to eliminate the stone facing in the rear in order to save additional costs. Rector Munro moved his large family into the Lodgings in 1930. Lincoln's 'Bridge of Sighs' exists only on paper in the cool environs of the Archive strongroom.

Lindsay McCormack, Archivist

The past, present, and future of PPE

This academic year has marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of PPE at Oxford. It is almost fitting that this anniversary has occurred amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and the disruptions it has brought. The PPE degree was itself conceived in the context of great social, political, and economic upheaval. When it was introduced in 1920, Britons were grappling with the aftermath of WW1, which had wrought devastation and transformed the balance of power across the continent. The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 had killed tens of millions of people worldwide. British society and Oxford were changing as well. PPE’s introduction coincided with a period of expanding intake at the university, as Oxford moved towards opening its places to a broader range of students, including women.

Against this backdrop, PPE was designed to prepare aspiring political leaders and future civil servants for the task of governing in this changed world. Compared with Oxford’s traditional Classics degree, the new ‘modern Greats’ degree aimed to offer an updated approach to university education. Rather than grapple with the ancient ‘Greats’, PPE students would be tasked with considering the problems, questions, and ideas of the contemporary era.

The founding principle behind PPE was that society’s leaders needed to understand the workings of modern governance in order to confront the challenges of the 20th century. Underpinning this idea was a belief that proper

leadership requires the ability to examine social, political, and economic problems from multiple angles. By uniting three disciplines in one degree, PPE sought to provide students with the knowledge, analytical skills, and critical reasoning to make this possible.

Within PPE, each subject contributes a different perspective. From the beginning, the study of Philosophy has trained students in logical reasoning, rigorous argumentation, and ethical reflection. Politics provides an understanding of how political decisions are made in different contexts, how government institutions shape political outcomes, and an appreciation for the role of political power in group dynamics. Economics offers students an opportunity to examine the causes and consequences of financial decisions and to consider how the economy interacts with social and political forces. Yet, the overall PPE education is more than the sum of its parts and, taken together, these subjects form a complementary and comprehensive course of study.

The first students matriculated in Michaelmas 1920. Over the following decades, PPE grew to be one of the largest Honour Schools in the arts and humanities at Oxford. Today, the university admits over 200 students per year for PPE. Often referred to as ‘the degree that runs Britain’, PPE graduates can be found in top roles across politics in the UK and abroad, heading international organisations, and leading multi-national corporations. Its success has been replicated across the world, as dozens of other universities have established their own PPE degrees.

PPE has not been without its critics. From the outset, its detractors have suggested it lacks the intellectual depth of a more classical education. A recent review of PPE notes that upon its introduction, ‘The junior proctor, H. J. Paton, argued that the new school could not possibly compare with literae humaniores, and would instead likely be “a soft option for the weaker man”.’ In the 1960s, a widely-circulated pamphlet echoed these claims. Titled the ‘The Poverty of PPE’, its author criticised the curriculum for being ‘dilettantish’, offering ‘very little knowledge’, and consisting of ‘thin gruel’ for students’ ‘intellectual diet’. More recently, a 2017 article in *The Guardian* proposed that the degree has ‘produced an out-of-touch ruling class’, ill-suited for the current age of populism.

One ongoing debate has concerned the optimal balance of depth versus breadth in the course. This question has generated many of the shifts and revisions to the PPE curriculum over the past century. Students originally were required to study all three subjects to completion. This regulation was relaxed in 1970; today, most students decide to specialise after their Prelims year, concentrating on any two of the subjects for Final Honours School. The range of topics on offer has also expanded significantly, as each department has added a wider set of elective papers for students to choose from. More recent curriculum reform has focused on introducing new topics and state-of-the-art research in each of these disciplines; revising our syllabi to represent a diverse set of voices and perspectives on each of these topics; and expanding the provision of research methods training.



Dr Jody LaPorte



Dr Alex Prescott-Couch



Dr Alexei Parakhonyak

PPE has been taught at Lincoln from the very beginning. Lincoln’s first PPE’ist was R.T. Paine, who matriculated in 1920. Two students followed in 1921: C.W. Travis and A.D. Gayer, who graduated with a First and won the Senior Medley Scholarship in 1925. A fourth student matriculated in 1922: L.C. Wilson, who took a 3rd class degree in 1925.

From these modest beginnings, Lincoln PPE has grown tremendously. We currently admit nine students per year. And during their time at Lincoln, PPE’ists play a prominent role in College life – serving as JCR presidents and officers, captains of sports teams, producers of the College’s theatre productions, and contributors to the College newspaper. Lincoln PPE graduates have pursued a wide variety of careers, each of them leaving their own mark on the world.

Over the decades, Lincoln’s PPE programme has included some of the Colleges most beloved tutors – including David Goldey in Politics, Michael Rosen in Philosophy, and both Bob Bacon and Margaret Stevens in Economics. The structure of teaching provision has been one important point of evolution. In the early years, Lincoln had a single tutor in PPE – a

Philosophy Fellow named Moberly. There were no Economics or Politics tutors at Lincoln in 1920, and we can surmise that at Lincoln (like most colleges) this single Fellow likely taught all three subjects. Since then, of course, these three disciplines have diverged as distinct fields of study. Today, Lincoln has three Tutorial Fellows in PPE: Dr Alexei Parakhonyak in Economics, Dr Alex Prescott-Couch in Philosophy, and myself in Politics and International Relations.

With this increasing specialisation in each discipline, PPE has become a complex enterprise. It is a joint degree that works across three university departments and two university divisions. At the university level, there are limited opportunities to explore the intersection between these subjects. In College, a sense of intellectual engagement and PPE spirit can sometimes be lacking, given that students often pursue different topics of interest. Lincoln has responded to this challenge by creating a College-level Director of Studies role, which I hold. In this post, I coordinate the teaching team, advise students and monitor their progress, and serve as the PPE point of contact within the College. We are also creating a PPE community in College through termly social

events and seminars. Our most recent addition is a ‘PPE in Conversation’ online series, in which an invited guest working in business, politics, or academia meets with a small group of students for an hour of informal discussion and Q&A. Started this past Trinity term, we look forward to hosting more sessions in the upcoming year.

The future of PPE looks bright. Despite its critics, demand for places gets more intense each year. But we are also increasingly in competition with universities abroad (in particular, North America) for recruiting both students and faculty. We are also working on initiatives to expand access in our admissions processes. PPE students are far more diverse than their reputation suggests, and we hope that our outreach work will ensure that we continue to engage and train the brightest students and society’s future leaders.

Dr Jody LaPorte has been the Gonticas Fellow in Politics & International Relations and Director of Studies for PPE at Lincoln since 2017. Her research interests fall at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations, with much of her work focusing on the politics of non-democratic regimes.



Lord Bernard Donoughue

A life in politics

Following an early career in academia, Bernard Donoughue (1953) has had a ringside seat for more than five decades of politics, serving both Harold Wilson and James Callaghan as Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister and Head of the Policy Unit in 10 Downing Street, before being ennobled in 1985. His diaries provide a captivating and invigorating account of his time at the heart of Westminster. As we mark the centenary of PPE at Oxford, he talked to *Imprint* about his remarkable career.

IN MEMORY OF
VERNON GEORGE TALBOT STAMMILL
1945 - 2005



“Coming from a poor, working class background, Bernard’s experiences growing up were at the heart of his politics and what he calls his ‘Blue Labour ethic’.”

Passionate about a number of subjects, Bernard was accepted to Lincoln College in 1953 after passing the English Literature entrance exam, before going on to win an open scholarship in History. It was then that he decided he wanted to study PPE; a degree that promised to meet his interest in contemporary issues and politics. Bernard excelled at the politics and economics components of the degree, and his economics tutor, the late Dr David Henderson, went on to become a lifelong friend. However, he did not enjoy the philosophy part of the degree, at the time very theoretical and abstract, and, after completing the first year of the PPE course, he switched to History, in which he graduated with first class honours. Since then, the PPE degree has developed and evolved, and undergraduates are now able to specialise after their first year and continue with two of the three core subjects. Bernard views this as a ‘good reform’, one that would have led him to continue with his PPE degree, had it been an option in his day. Upon graduating, he was, like many young people, unclear about where he wanted his career to go. Interested in political and economic issues, he was unsure whether to engage with this as an academic, a journalist, or as a politician. While a political life appealed, Bernard was certain he did not want to be a member of the House of Commons. He was ‘lifelong Labour’ but had always agreed with a number of Conservative policies and ‘didn’t like the idea of being whipped into a hard party line’. Coming from a poor, working class background, Bernard’s experiences growing up were at the heart of his politics and what he calls his ‘Blue Labour ethic’. He strongly believes that one of the prime purposes of government is to remember and help the less fortunate in society. In the early 1970s, while working as a lecturer at the London School of Economics, Bernard was approached by the then leader of the Labour opposition, Harold Wilson. ‘He knew of me from my opinion polling and asked me to do his personal opinion polls.’ However, before Bernard had the chance to report his findings, a general election had been called and Bernard found himself inadvertently part of the election campaign. ‘Harold Wilson said to me, “I’ll see you tomorrow at my house” and I said yes. I turned up and we discussed the day’s events, drafted two speeches, and put in drafts for the next day,’ Bernard explains. ‘He never discussed with me who I was working for, at that time I was still working at LSE! For three weeks of the campaign I would turn up every morning and he would say “see you tomorrow” and I didn’t have a position with him.’ Once Wilson was made Prime Minister, he quickly recruited Bernard to his team in a more official capacity as head of the first ever policy unit in Number 10. Warning Wilson that he had ‘never been a Wilson-ite’, Bernard was relieved when the new Prime Minister assured him that this was why he wanted him on his team. And so, for the next five years, Bernard held this position, alongside

that of senior policy advisor, first for Harold Wilson and then for his successor, James Callaghan, an experience he describes as ‘marvellous’. At the time, Bernard was part of a small team of around 10 trusted advisors who all worked closely together with the Prime Minister. ‘It was like a cathedral of political calm,’ he explains. ‘All the decisions were made there. They weren’t always right, but it was a wonderful experience of efficient government working from the centre. This tight discipline is not always the case today when the present Prime Minister has a mass of disorganised special advisers, the majority of whom have limited contact with the Prime Minister or his office.’ Considering the current landscape, Bernard views it as a ‘much more difficult and less rewarding’ environment nowadays, more akin to ‘King’s Cross station at rush hour on a Friday night’ rather than a ‘railway timetable running to schedule’. During his time in Downing Street, at the advice of a friend, Bernard carefully recorded the events of each day in a diary. After five years, he had filled over 100 notebooks with diary entries, the majority of which were kept under lock and key at his bank’s deposit box. Instead of capitalising on the interest at the time and publishing the diaries straight away, he waited patiently in order to observe the ‘thirty-year rule’, the tradition that no one active in politics should speak about, or publish information relating to, their experiences for thirty years. Finally published in the early 2000s, the Downing Street diaries and the Westminster diaries offer an extraordinary glimpse behind the political curtain. They went on to achieve widespread success and are often featured on the reading lists of university politics degrees. In 1979, Margaret Thatcher’s Conservative party won the general election and Bernard took a break from the political world to work in journalism and merchant banking. An Assistant Editor for *The Times* during Rupert Murdoch’s takeover, he was swiftly sacked by Murdoch who ‘didn’t like [Bernard’s] approach to social policies’. It is, Bernard tells me, ‘one of the few things in my life of which I am totally proud!’ On Callaghan’s recommendation, Margaret Thatcher made Bernard a life peer and, in 1985, he went into the House of Lords. Later, under the Blair government, Bernard was made Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food’, a role that he enjoyed but readily admits that he ‘wasn’t clear that my background actually qualified me for that [role]’. With a political career spanning over 50 years, Bernard has seen a variety of Prime Ministers come and go, and knows more than most what makes a good Prime Minister. ‘There are three main roles that a Prime Minister has to perform,’ he tells me. ‘First, is that of campaign leader; someone who can win elections. The second is to lead the party in the Commons and keep them together and inspired. The final and perhaps most important role is to act as head of the government, to lead Whitehall and the various departments, and to tackle the big issues of the day in an efficient and trustworthy way. A Prime Minister must

“With a political career spanning over 50 years, Bernard has seen a variety of Prime Ministers come and go, and knows more than most what makes a good Prime Minister.”

be able to do one or two of the three roles; a good Prime Minister does all three.’ When asked his opinion on another Lincolnite currently sitting at the heart of British government (fellow PPE’ist Rishi Sunak (1998) is Chancellor of the Exchequer), Bernard warns that the relationship between the Prime Minister and Chancellor is ‘crucial’ and must be one of ‘mutual respect’. He believes Rishi to be ‘fiscally responsible, careful, modest, and destined for great things’. Reflecting on his time in the political world, Bernard tells me how privileged he feels to have been a part of it for so long. He feels similarly about his connection to Lincoln and recalls a meeting he had with the then Rector, Walter Oakeshott, in the late-1950s. ‘I always regretted the fact that [the College] had only young men,’ Bernard tells me, ‘so I went to see the Rector and said “explain to me why we only have men in the College, we need to have women”’. According to Bernard, Walter Oakeshott was very sympathetic but explained that ultimately nothing was going to change. Twenty years later, while working at Number 10, the phone rang and on the other end was Walter Oakeshott. ‘He said “[r]ecalling our recent conversation, I want you to be the first to know that today the Senior Common Room voted to admit women as students of the College and I know how pleased you’ll be”.’ ‘There’s not many places where that would happen,’ Bernard muses. ‘I think it tells you a lot about Lincoln. It tells you that the Rector knew his students and remembered us; he took it seriously.’ When asked what advice he would give to Lincolnites interested in pursuing a political career, Bernard encourages them to ‘go and do something relevant and serious in the real world... Then they will know better what matters in politics and what party to go for’. Laughing, Bernard adds that they should all ‘read my diaries and then decide if they really want to go into politics after all!’



Points of Light

The Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative

On 18 March 2020, as the Prime Minister announced that schools were set to close indefinitely in order to stem the spread of Covid-19, I had an idea for a way that I could help students. Eighteen months later, that idea has led to over 50,000 hours of free tutoring being delivered across the United Kingdom. Thanks to the support of a dedicated central team and a further 4,000 volunteer tutors, including many Lincolmites, the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative has been able to make a real difference to the education of underprivileged students.

As soon as I heard that face-to-face teaching would be suspended, my initial thought, as a former private tutor, was that the demand for tutoring would surely spike as parents sought to replace lost school teaching. However, I was also immediately struck by the number of pupils who would not be able to access this tutoring. In some parts of the country it can cost upwards of £100 per hour to secure a reliable tutor, which, for most families, is far from affordable. At a similar time, my friends and I were all lamenting the boredom that would surely result from a vacation and Trinity term spent away from College. The potential for connecting these groups for free tutoring seemed like it was worth a try and so, over the next few hours, I created a website inviting university students to sign up to volunteer as a tutor. After posting on Facebook and sending messages to a few friends who I thought may be interested, I logged off for the day expecting to wake up to a dozen or so sign ups that I could connect with schools in my local area to provide support.

The last thing I expected, however, was to receive over 3,000 expressions of interest in the initiative within 48 hours of opening the website. It very quickly became clear that the worries I had about the effects of the pandemic on education were shared by university students across the country and, encouragingly, lots of them wanted to help. It was clearly too big a project to deal with on my own and I was graciously supported by two other Lincolmites, Niccolo Aylward (2018) and Sam Townsend (2018), to recruit a central team of volunteers and build a technical system to support matching tutors with students. After a long period of late nights and countless spreadsheets, we started delivering our first tutoring sessions less than two weeks after the Prime Minister's announcement.

The initiative has continued to go from strength to strength over the last eighteen months, and I'm constantly surprised and humbled by the lengths that volunteers from all walks of life go to in order to support the project. We have now been able to help over 2,000 pupils with our free tutoring, which, according to our estimates, corresponds to well over a million pounds of tutoring. Over 90% of our pupils have rated their tutoring as a 4 or 5 out of 5, but I've found the far more important impact hasn't been academic. Whilst it's obviously important to ensure that students continue to succeed academically regardless of their background, I think it's equally important to ensure that they feel happy and confident enough to be able to thrive in this way. To that end, I'm always really pleased to read student testimonials that mention how their tutors have given them more confidence to continue studying a subject or, in some cases, to apply for university. This effect of mentoring seems

to be especially pronounced as a result of the closeness in age between tutor and pupil which is one thing that sets the initiative apart from the government-backed 'National Tutoring Programme'.

Additionally, the effect on the volunteers themselves is not to be underestimated. For many university students, myself included, it was difficult adjusting to life in lockdown and working on the initiative has, for many, provided a source of routine amidst wider uncertainty. Amongst these volunteers have been a great number of Lincolmites who have given their time generously and enthusiastically from the outset. The first volunteer to sign up for the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative, Olivia de Csillery (2018) said that 'volunteering with CTI gave me an amazing sense of purpose during the bizarre first few months of the coronavirus lockdown, and allowed me to work with some really amazing people, both at Lincoln and across the country'. Strong friendships have been formed amongst volunteers and I hope that we have built a community that will stay in touch far beyond the end of the pandemic.

It has also been great to receive national press attention and commendations for the success of the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative. We have been featured in both national publications and regional TV and radio, which proved to be a great boost in our continued effort to recruit more tutors. Additionally, I received a 'Points of Light' award from the Prime Minister's Office; an award that recognises UK volunteers who are making a difference to their community. I was subsequently invited to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister with a small group of teachers and other people working in the education sector. Recently I have also been named as a recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Social Impact Award for 2021. I've really tried to use this platform to emphasise the positive impact that university students can play in effecting change.

Despite the pandemic reaching its tail end and students largely returning to the classroom, it is apparent that the effects on the education of underprivileged pupils, who were already far behind their peers academically, requires a sustained response in the years to come. To that end, we have worked on merging the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative with a new charity, Tutor The Nation, which will adopt the same principles and give them a strong foundation going forward. I will be working full time at Tutor The Nation from July 2021 and would be particularly grateful to hear from any readers who may be able to help with reaching as many underprivileged pupils as possible.

In amongst a year of uncertainty and suffering, it's been such an honour to work on the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative and to be able to see first-hand the incredible generosity of so many students, both those from within the College and from further afield. I hope that all the volunteers can look back on their involvement with a great deal of pride.

Jacob Kelly came up to Lincoln as an undergraduate in 2018. He read Philosophy, Politics and Economics and is the founder of the Coronavirus Tutoring Initiative. If you are interested in helping with his latest project, Tutor the Nation, please contact him on jacob@tutorthenation.org.



Piecing together the past

The life and music of Florence Price



Every now and then, we come across pieces of music that change our lives for the better. We may experience this through lyrics that seem to articulate our motivations so precisely or melodies that offer a panacea for emotional pains. Dissonant sounds may galvanise us, while gentle chords bring comfort, and lively rhythms make us move in concert with one another. Sometimes, it is not just the music that inspires us, but the stories and lives behind it, because, therein, we find aspects of our own narratives reflected and new possibilities illuminated.

This was my experience upon first hearing the music of Florence Beatrice Price (1887–1953). Price, an African American woman born in Jim Crow Arkansas, went on to pursue her passion for classical music at the New England Conservatory in Boston. She moved to Chicago in the late 1920s, in the era of the Great Migration. In 1933, she made history as the first Black woman to have a symphony performed by a major national orchestra.

Price allowed me to see parts of myself reflected in a history I had spent my whole life learning about from the periphery. Before I knew about her life and music, I had been inculcated to see classical music through a narrow lens that rendered the contributions of women marginal, at best. My music education proceeded from there and left me looking into a world in which I felt I could never truly belong. This was my norm. Black women did not exist here. Each history seminar, theory class, and piano lesson affirmed this seeming reality. Being the only girl of African descent in the music classroom affirmed that I should not exist in this space either. Like trying to dream up a new colour, I struggled to paint alternative possibilities in my mind and to imagine a classical music history that involved women of African descent at the centre.

Left: Portrait of Florence Price, University of Arkansas Special Collections

Right: Dr Samantha Ege, The Oakshott Room

Everything changed during my undergraduate exchange year at McGill University, Canada, in 2009. My professor’s ‘Early Twentieth-Century Music’ course alerted me to Price and her *Fantasia Nègre* no. 1 in E minor, composed in 1929. I still remember how captivated I was by the solemn call of the opening E minor chord, the sparkling cascade of notes in response, and the mounting suspense that led to the melody from the Negro spiritual, ‘Sinner, Please Don’t Let This Harvest Pass’. I had never heard such a creative synthesis of African American folk song and European classical conventions before. The combined experience of reading about Price’s life as I listened to her music foreshadowed the ways in which I would go on to enact my own scholarship as both a musicologist and performer.

Ten years after my experience at McGill, the ideas for my second album fell into place. After releasing my debut album in May 2018, *Four Women: Music for Solo Piano by Price, Kaprálová, Bilsland and Bonds*, my eagerness to record more music by women composers only grew. Studying their under-performed works, bringing them to life, and imbuing them with a sense of permanence via the recording process had proven incredibly fulfilling to me as a practitioner. These acts of restoration, reconstruction, and revival resonated with my work as a musicologist, which similarly entailed interpreting primary sources and creating a record, but through written publications instead. The experience of making *Four Women* revealed dynamic and exciting ways for me to bridge musicology and performance. My definition of research expanded as I explored the role that my piano playing could have in the historiography of women composers.

I envisioned a second recording project that focused exclusively on Price’s solo piano music. It would open with *Fantasia Nègre* no. 1, as if to recreate my own initiation into Price’s majestic sound world for future listeners. I wanted to feature her entire set of solo-piano fantasies, which included *Fantasia Nègre* no. 2 in G minor, *Fantasia Nègre* no. 3 in F minor, and *Fantasia Nègre* no. 4 in B minor. Even though the third fantasia was thought to be incomplete, composer Trevor Weston’s reconstruction of Price’s *Piano Concerto in One Movement*, at the suggestion of the late Price scholar Rae Linda Brown, filled me with the confidence that I, too, could find the missing pieces of yet another



Dr Samantha Ege, The Berrow Foundation Building

pianistic puzzle. Encouraged and determined, I went to the Price archives at the University of Arkansas in the summer of 2019 to locate the works for my new album, which I decided would be called *Fantasia Nègre: The Piano Music of Florence Price*.

As I perused Price’s handwritten manuscripts in the archives, the remaining fantasies were everything I hoped they would be: brilliant, soulful, demanding, and rewarding. *Fantasia Nègre* no. 1 stood apart from the others with its direct spiritual quotation

and folk-dance evocations. *Fantasia Nègre* no. 2 was far more introspective and capricious; the influence of the late nineteenth-century German Romantic tradition was undeniable and gave me a glimpse into the more intense and introspective side of Price’s compositional personality. After I recovered and reconstructed *Fantasia Nègre* no. 3, I found its overall tone to be the most tender, even mellow in parts. As I studied the original and complete version of *Fantasia Nègre* no. 4, I was struck by its colossal and rhapsodic character.

“I had never heard such a creative synthesis of African American folk song and European classical conventions before. The combined experience of reading about Price’s life as I listened to her music foreshadowed the ways in which I would go on to enact my own scholarship as both a musicologist and performer.”

Each fantasia was distinct. But together, they read like four chapters in an elaborate narrative told in both African American folk idioms and late Romantic expressions. I studied their continuity and contrast, and relished the knowledge that I would be recording them as a set for the first time in history. I complemented the fantasies with three salon-like miniatures, which I call Price’s *Untitled Sketches*, and three Impressionistic portraits from a suite that Price labelled *Snapshots*. It was important for me to present works that demonstrated the kaleidoscopic versatility of Price’s compositional voice. While her mastery of Black American musical idioms is a part of her signature style, I wanted to include works that would reflect the full breadth and depth of her intellect, expressivity, and capability.

The recording date was originally booked for 9 April 2020, Price’s 133rd birthday. The venue was the University of Surrey’s Performing Arts and Technology Studio, located in my birth town of Guildford. These appeared to be good omens. But as the pandemic took hold, my travel plans had to be postponed, as was the case for so many people around the world. I was working in Singapore at the time and travel restrictions were firmly in place. The recording dates were consequently postponed to 18–19 December 2020. Thankfully, by that time, I had safely repatriated and started my new position as the Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music at Lincoln. Things were progressing in a way that suggested this recording would happen after all.

A new Steinway Model D piano, freshly tuned, awaited me in one of Surrey’s large state-of-the-art recording studios. The instrument was ideal for communicating the rich colour, warm tone, and deep resonance

that I associate with Price’s piano writing. Various microphones framed the Steinway, ready to capture it all. Over the next six hours, I recorded the whole programme. While I had two days to work with, my worry about the ever-changing social restrictions pushed me to accomplish as much as possible in one day. It seemed miraculous that the session had still managed to go ahead. I did not want to take any chances in leaving parts of the programme unrecorded. Fortunately, however, the urgency that I felt about capturing everything in one day did not transfer to my actual playing. I was grateful for the opportunity to realise my vision for this project under such difficult times, and to put such beautifully captivating music out into the world. My playing felt free, inspired, passionate, and powerful.

With the support of the Michael Zilkha Fund and Lord Crewe’s Charity, *Fantasia Nègre* launched in a virtual lecture-recital that was filmed in the Oakeshott Room. The event took place on International Women’s Day (8 March 2021) and was called ‘The Black Chicago Renaissance Women: Lives & Legacies in Music’. I contextualised Price and her music in a dynamic cultural movement that spanned the early twentieth century and in the wider network of Black women composers at this time. The

“I was grateful for the opportunity to realise my vision for this project under such difficult times, and to put such beautifully captivating music out into the world. My playing felt free, inspired, passionate, and powerful.”

event had over 1,000 views on the TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) YouTube channel, and over 115,000 views on the Classic FM Facebook page. On the same day, BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service broke the news that my album had recovered and reconstructed a previously lost work.

Fantasia Nègre has since enjoyed regular airplay on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, as well as classical music stations in the United States, Australia, and Germany. It was named as one of ‘5 Classical Albums to Hear Right Now’ in *The New York Times* and entered the *Billboard* ‘Traditional Classical Albums’ chart at number 13. It received four-star reviews in *The Telegraph* and *BBC Music Magazine*, as well as features in *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Gramophone*, and *International Piano*.

I have been greatly supported by Lincoln College and I am excited about the College collaborations that lie ahead. More recordings are in the works, with a Lincoln-hosted Price premiere on the horizon. I am also pleased to announce that I will be co-editing *The Cambridge Companion to Florence B. Price* alongside A. Kori Hill (UNC Chapel Hill) and co-authoring Price (Master Musicians Series, Oxford University Press) alongside Douglas Shadle (Vanderbilt University). It is an honour to edit and author the kinds of literature that I wish had been available to me during my earlier education. As a student at McGill hearing Price’s music for the first time, I could not have imagined that pursuing the lives and stories behind the notes would eventually lead me to Lincoln. But I am so glad that it has and that my research has found its home here.

Dr Samantha Ege joined Lincoln as Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music in 2020. She is an accomplished musicologist and internationally renowned concert pianist. Her research into Florence B. Price has attracted widespread recognition and she is currently co-authoring a biography on Price for the Master Musicians Series (Oxford University Press).

DARK MATTER

SEARCHING FOR DARK MATTER WITH LZ: DOES THE Z STAND FOR ZOOM NOW?



Early in the afternoon, my screen fills with the image of a colleague’s eyes behind their safety glasses, the only part of their face visible between their mask and hard hat. We are commissioning the LUX- ZEPLIN (LZ, pronounced ell-zee, even by UK collaborators) direct dark matter detector 1480m underground in a science laboratory in the Black Hills of South Dakota, USA, that was once a gold mine. The final integration, installation, and commissioning phases of an experiment are my favourite periods of activity and team-based problem solving, and under normal circumstances I would be riding the 7am cage down with the team for our nine hour shift. But of course this hasn’t been a normal year.

Luckily, our international collaboration with groups from the UK, US, Portugal, and South Korea have been working together on Zoom for a decade planning for LZ, and even pre-pandemic I averaged 15 calls a week online. During lockdown, my preschool-aged children would join calls, performing for the cameras but ignorant that I had put them on mute such that work could continue.

And what extraordinary work it is! The LZ detector will hold 10 tonnes of liquid xenon to act as a target and detector for dark matter particle, and detecting evidence of such a particle’s interaction will answer one of the largest open questions in physics.

Beginning in the 1930s, astronomers led by Fritz Zwicky recognised that the gravitational movements of clusters of galaxies could not be explained by the masses implied by the visible matter of stars and dust in those galaxies. Further astronomical and cosmological data taken over the 20th century complemented Zwicky’s observations, including Vera Rubin’s galactic velocity curves, large scale structure surveys mapping the cosmos, cosmic microwave background power spectra that map density perturbations early in the universe, relic abundances of nuclei produced just after the big bang, and comparisons of mass based on weak gravitational lensing and X-ray and radio emissions from dust, such as in the Bullet Cluster. This evidence points to our universe being made up of approximately 25% dark matter, some five times more than all the regular matter in the universe. Dark matter doesn’t interact with light, electric or magnetic fields, cannot be made up of neutrons and protons, and is moving slowly compared to the speed of light.



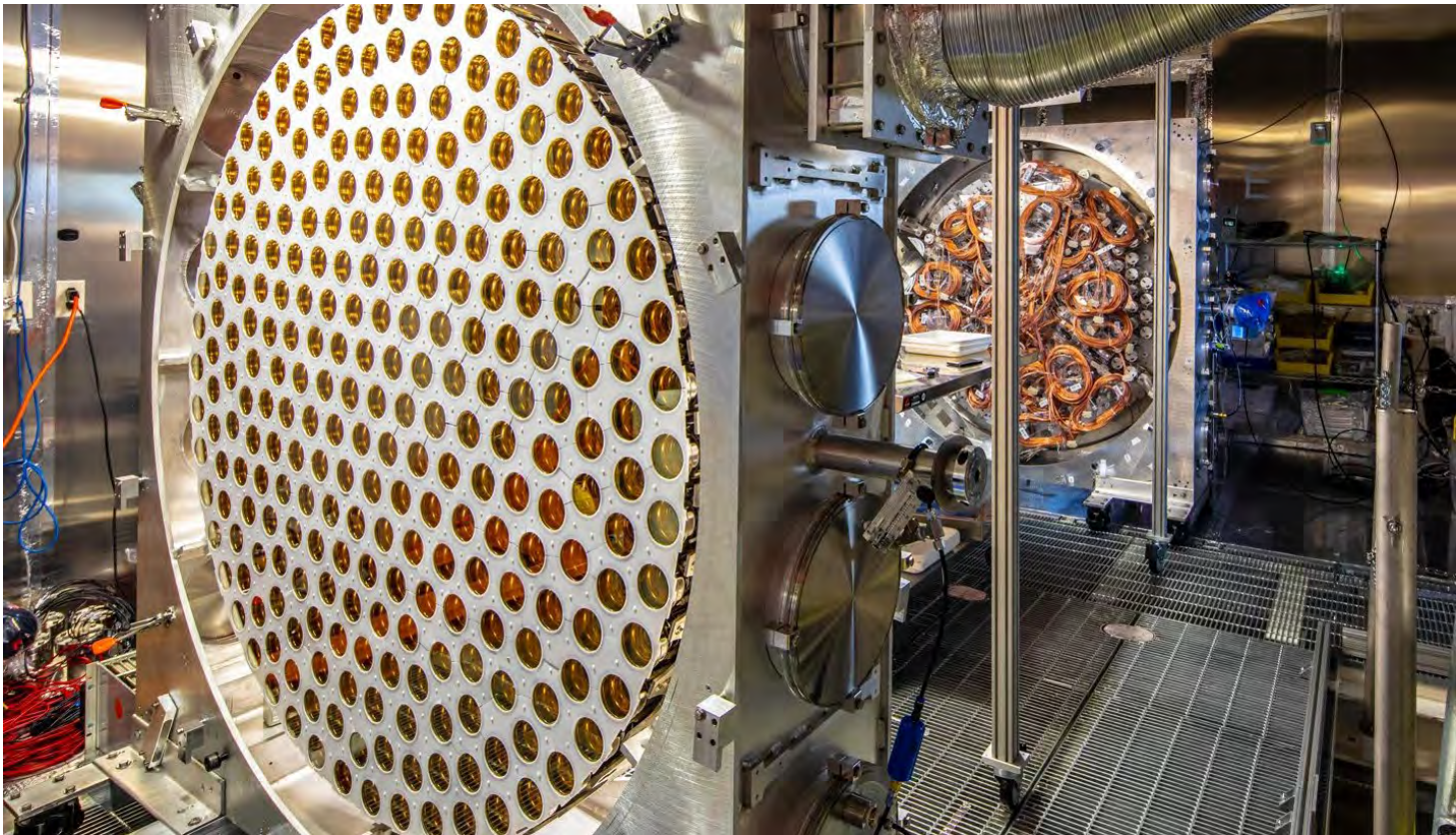
Kimberly Palladino in front of an LZ xenon gas transfer and storage pack. Each pack can hold up to 1 tonne of the total 10 tonnes in LZ. Air leaks possible in standard cylinders would introduce background radiation to the experiment.

Dark matter is important for the gravitational evolution of the universe, and the bringing together of galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and the larger filamentary structure mapped out as the cosmic web. It does not play a large role in smaller settings, such as our solar system.

There are numerous theories about what this dark matter could be. Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) posits that there isn’t dark matter, but rather that Einstein’s general relativity is wrong at the scales studied. Expectations that it could have been stars that never ignited were dashed with the evidence that it couldn’t be regular matter, but black holes created early in the history of the universe evade such limitations. However, most dark matter theories call for a new particle. One reasonable candidate would be a weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP), a particle that doesn’t interact with the electro-magnetic force, but may interact with regular matter in other ways. It elegantly dovetails with other particle physics theories of new particles that solve other questions in physics, which provides helpful motivation to initiate a search.

A straightforward method of searching for WIMP dark matter is to look for regular matter to be struck by dark matter, scattering like a billiard ball. This direct detection requires sensitivity to very low amounts of recoiling energy, and very low rates of recoils created by more mundane particles scattering.

The detector does not have the scale, complexity (or budget!) of the collider experiments you may read about at CERN, but its purpose-built precision may still impress. The primary detector is a cylinder of 1.5m height and diameter filled with liquid xenon. Xenon, a noble gas, produces light



The LZ photo sensor arrays as they awaited integration in a cleanroom at Sanford Underground Research Facility. The cables, a fraction of the 19km worth of coaxial cables in LZ shown coiled behind the far array, were assembled by Professor Palladino’s research group.

and ionised electrons when struck. By sensitively counting the light and electrons, we can determine the energy of the scattering, and by the ratio of the light and charge, determine if the nucleus was hit, or an electron in the atom. Most radioactivity, a background we wish to avoid, will interact with electrons. An extensive veto system is built around the central detector to shield from external radioactivity, and tag the neutrons which could mimic our nuclear recoil signal in the middle of the detector. The experiment is deep underground, to shield it from the penetrating particle showers initiated by cosmic rays (electrons, protons, and nuclei from space) hitting our atmosphere.

The detector had to be constructed in a cleanroom, as dust and even fingerprints can leave residual radioactivity that can cover a faint signal rate. Our xenon is purified to a few parts per billion to both remove residual radiation as well as gas atoms like oxygen and nitrogen which might absorb the ionised electrons before they can be counted. The xenon is cooled below -100°C to be make a dense liquid target; aluminium floats in liquid xenon.

LZ will take data through 2025, and is set to be the most sensitive direct detection experiment, capable of seeing a signal from dark matter interactions, or setting stringent new limits.

But our quest does not end with LZ, as we begin the R&D and collaboration building to plan for a future experiment 10x larger which would reach a sensitivity boundary set by other particle interactions (neutrinos from the sun and those cosmic ray showers mentioned above). Most subsystems need some improvements to scale-up, and can also enhance our ability to do some other particle physics beyond dark matter searches.

There is a story with dramatic tension as we work on this step with direct competitors, the XENON/DARWIN collaboration, who are operating their own XENONnT experiment in the mountains of Italy. As senior members of the two collaborations used to work together but later separated, our new generation of scientists find that our best chance of reaching the scale we aspire to will necessitate working together.

Which of course, brings us back to where we started, joining a Zoom call to further the search for dark matter.

Dr Kimberly Palladino joined Lincoln as Tutorial Fellow in Physics in 2020, following positions at MIT, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and the University of Wisconsin. Her research interests are on the border of particle physics and astrophysics, primarily studying dark matter and neutrinos.



The Pursuit of Love

Top left: Emily Mortimer directing on the set of *The Pursuit of Love*
Bottom left: Fanny Logan (Emily Beecham) and Linda Radlett (Lily James)
Bottom right: *The Bolter* (Emily Mortimer)

Far page, top: Fabrice, Duc de Sauveterre (Assaad Bouab) and Linda Radlett (Lily James)
Far page, bottom: The characters assembled at 'Merlinford'

“I didn’t feel like I was reading about people living in a bygone age. The book is about women who happen to live in the 1930s, but could have lived at any time.”

A new three-part series launched on the BBC and Amazon Prime in May this year, just as restrictions in the UK were starting to lift. *The Pursuit of Love*, an adaptation of the 1945 novel of the same name by Nancy Mitford, was the perfect tonic to the previous 15 months – a stylish, glossy, tragicomedy with killer costumes and an impressive soundtrack. Directed by alumna Emily Mortimer (1990) and with an all-star cast, including stand out appearances from Dominic West as the xenophobic, Europhobic Matthew Radlett and Andrew Scott as the flamboyant Lord Merlin, *The Pursuit of Love* tells the story of passionate, free-spirited Linda Radlett (a vivacious Lily James) and her altogether more sensible cousin, Fanny (played by a delightful Emily Beecham), as they search for love in 1930s England.

Already an accomplished actor and household name, with roles in *Mary Poppins Returns*, *Match Point*, and *Shutter Island* to name a few, *The Pursuit of Love* marked Emily’s first foray into the world of directing. She was initially attached to the project as a producer, before being offered the directorial role following a recommendation from Lily James herself. For Emily, it was too good an opportunity to pass up. ‘My Dad [the writer John Mortimer] was always talking about the Mitfords when I was growing up,’ she tells me. ‘He wrote a radio play called *Unity* about Unity Mitford; the one who really got



in deep with the Nazis before the war and ended up shooting herself in the head once she understood quite what she had been involved with. He was always fascinated by the family; these eccentric, larger than life women who were divided politically down the middle. He would always tell me stories about them and I grew up thinking that this was a really interesting family.’

When first approached, Emily initially wondered whether the world really needed another period drama set in large houses in the English countryside. These fears were allayed when she returned to the book that she had first read and loved as a teenager



and recognised that the ‘radical voice’ of Nancy Mitford still struck a chord today. ‘She discusses life and love and rather taboo subjects like motherhood. I had never seen the notion of being a bad mother (which I still think is quite a taboo thing) discussed in such an open, slightly hilarious, honest, raw way.’ She continues, ‘I didn’t feel like I was reading about people living in a bygone age. The book is about women who happen to live in the 1930s, but could have lived at any time.’

It was this ‘rock and roll soul’ of the book, and the ‘punk rock’ character of Linda herself, that Emily wanted to capture in the adaptation. Purposefully avoiding the music of



the time (aside from the odd burst of jazz from love-interest Tony Kreisig’s rooms at Oxford), Emily instead opted for a diverse soundtrack that travelled through the decades, from the 1950s to present day. One such song is *Give My Love to London* by Marianne Faithfull who, when agreeing to the rights to the song, included a note to say that *The Pursuit of Love* was her favourite book. Emily’s vision had come full circle.

As well as directing, Emily also stars as the Bolter, the flighty mother of Fanny who was conspicuously absent in her daughter’s life, choosing, instead, to travel across Europe, embarking on numerous love affairs. It was,

she says, a great part. ‘I am so not the Bolter. I have a very heightened sense of my own shame and so to play this woman who was so completely unapologetic and shameless was really fun. The Bolter is clearly far from perfect; she has led a rickety old life and has obviously been a very questionable mother, but there’s nothing malevolent about her and she’s totally okay with her own failings.’ ‘I felt very forgiven,’ Emily muses. ‘The book makes you feel like it’s not only okay to not be perfect, but it’s actually almost important. If you’re going to live life, you’re going to make a lot of mistakes and that should be celebrated in a way. The Bolter embodies that.’

However, juggling an acting role with a directorial debut was not easy. ‘It was a nightmare,’ Emily says with a laugh, ‘I kept trying to fire myself!’ If that wasn’t enough, she also found herself directing members of her own family, a number of whom had roles in the adaptation. So how was that experience? ‘My children [who play Jassy Radlett and Matt Radlett] were incredibly obedient and really brilliant, and so I felt no qualms in directing them,’ confirms Emily. ‘My mother, on the other hand, who played one of the “bitchy ladies at the Ritz”, was much less obedient and more difficult to wrangle and kept wanting to stop for a cigarette break!’ The advantage of casting family members in a production filmed during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic was that they could bubble together, making the film set a safer and more secure place for everyone, as well as allowing the transatlantic family to spend some quality time together. ‘It’s the one awful thing about the job that we do,’ Emily admits, ‘You can’t [usually] take the people that you love with you and it’s really hard.’

Following the success of the television series, and a series of rave reviews, Viking Press have announced a fresh print run of *The Pursuit of Love*. A new generation of readers have been introduced to Nancy Mitford’s work thanks to Emily’s superb adaptation, particularly in the US where Nancy’s work remains relatively undiscovered. Emily has found it particularly gratifying to know that the characters and their experiences still feel relevant to young women today, noting how wonderful it was to discover that ‘it was speaking to Emily and Lily as we were filming’.

So what’s on the cards next? Emily is currently working on a film script based on her time in Russia in 1989. Just before coming up to Lincoln, at the tender age of 17, Emily was in Moscow as the Berlin Wall was coming down. It was a huge cultural shift for the country, and an important coming of age moment for her. Speaking of her next project, Emily remarks ‘I don’t know whether I’ll be able to pull it off when I don’t have Nancy there as my guide.’ Based on what we’ve seen so far, it seems inevitable that she will.

Emily Mortimer came up to Lincoln to read English and Russian in 1990. She is an acclaimed actor, screenwriter, and director. The Pursuit of Love is available to watch now on BBC iPlayer and Amazon Prime.

Development report

Focus on legacies

Over the course of nearly six centuries, bequests from friends, Fellows, and alumni have shaped the Lincoln we know today. One of the earliest bequests, from Emmelina Carr in 1436, gave the College the property in Bear Lane that has been home to many graduate students (and parties), and led Lincoln to establish a strong presence on the other side of the High. Many other buildings, old and new, also owe their existence to the generosity of legators. Bequests have not only supported the fabric of the College however; they have also played a significant part in the academic advancement of Lincoln, particularly where students are concerned: the names ring out on Chapter Day, and among them we think of former Rector Thomas Marshall, whose estate provided ‘for the maintenance of some poor scholars’ and of course our great benefactor, Nathaniel Crewe, whose Charity to this day supports many scholars, both undergraduate and graduates.

The importance of legacies to the evolution of the College was marked by a number of alumni who came up to Lincoln after the war, and wished to ensure that the College could prosper after a time of relative poverty

in the early part of the 20th century. Their commitment in publicising their legacies in advance helped give the College greater confidence in its ambitions; and it resulted in the formation of the Murray Society in 1988, as a way of thanking those who make provision for Lincoln their wills. In recent years, we have received a number of bequests from some of the founding members of the Murray Society, a distinctly mixed blessing. These are now playing an important part in the growth and development of all aspects of Lincoln, and while their lives have been remembered in the College *Record*, I’m glad to have the opportunity to acknowledge here some of their remarkable legacies and the impact they will have in years to come.

Legacies come in all sizes, and many of them are left to the general purposes of the College. In practice, this means that they are added to the endowment, which they help to grow and which underpins the financial stability of Lincoln. Others may have more specific purposes, which will usually have been discussed in advance, to ensure that we are able to implement the wishes of the donor.

In recent years, for example, a number of new Fellowships have been or are in the process of being endowed, as a result of several



“Mentioning Lincoln in our Will was so painless – it costs nothing now and allows us to feel part of a wonderful college and enjoy all it has to offer for many years to come.”

Diana Steel (1985) and Peter Dini

specific bequests. A new Fellowship in Clinical Medicine will be established in the names of Dr Audrey Tucker and Dr Lewis Cannell (1948); Lewis came up to Lincoln to read PPE, and was a rugby blue in each of his three years, before switching to Medicine, where he specialised in radiology and met Audrey. This new post will help to alleviate some of the pressure on our existing medical tutors and will provide additional support for our clinical students. Further support for the Fellowship will come from the estate of the late Kenneth Swards-Shaw (1949), who wished to support teaching in Politics and History, through a Fellowship in his name.

Other legacies will support our students in a number of ways. The wonderful Bob Blake (1946), a stalwart supporter of the Choir, made permanent provision for the array of choral and organ scholarships he had funded in his lifetime. The bequest of Peter Briggs Myers (1947), a nuclear physicist whose family developed the eponymous personality test, supports DPhil students in Physics. Meanwhile Elman Poole (1953), who came to Lincoln from New Zealand as a DPhil student, made very generous provision for students coming here to take Masters degrees, and additionally to support a research fellowship in ovarian cancer.

Some bequests are structured as Trusts or Foundations, and continue to support Lincoln many years after the donor’s death. The Berrow Foundation and Berrow Lord Florey Foundation, established by the Marquis de Amodio (1929), are examples of this. Since their establishment more than 35 years ago, both Foundations have supported scholarship schemes for Swiss students at Lincoln, and more recently have endowed Fellowships in Law and Biochemistry respectively.

The Berrow Foundation Building also received substantial support from the Foundation, while other recent legacies have helped with the Mitre refurbishment. The generous bequests of Alan Albury (1950) and of Geoffrey (1955) and Valerie Place were allocated to this project, and we have named wings of the Turl Street Mitre after the donors.

Each name in the College tells a story, and this is particularly true of legacies, where a bequest can represent a whole lifetime. I hope that in the case of each bequest we receive – large or small – we ensure that we do justice to the memory of the donor and help keep their Lincoln connection alive.

Susan Harrison, Director of Development

The Murray Society

The Murray Society was established under Rector Sir Maurice Shock in 1989, as a means of recognising the generosity of legacy donors. It is named after another former Rector, Sir Keith Murray, whose careful stewardship of Lincoln’s finances during and after WWII helped set the College on a sound trajectory. Membership is open to anyone who has made provision for Lincoln in their Will. As a member, you will become part of a warm and welcoming group of alumni and friends, and will receive invitations to regular events, both in College and elsewhere. You will also receive a special annual newsletter, *The Grove*, and a Murray Society tie/scarf in Lincoln colours.

If you would like more information regarding the Murray Society, please contact Susan Harrison (susan.harrison@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).

Far page, top: A signpost showing the new wings of the Turl Street Mitre
Far page, centre: Lewis Cannell and Audrey Tucker
Far page, bottom: Kenneth Swards Shaw
Top: Bob Blake
Centre: Peter Briggs Myers



Varun Ramraj

A broad spectrum career after Lincoln

Varun Ramraj was a graduate student at Lincoln College, reading for a DPhil in Clinical Medicine in 2010 at the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics, specifically within the Division of Structural Biology (STRUBI). He also held a studentship during his DPhil with the Diamond Light Source.

Varun currently works at Oxford Immunotec, a biotech company developing diagnostic tests capable of detecting the presence and magnitude of immune responses against disease, primarily tuberculosis (TB). Their work focuses on characterising the presence and reactivity of a class of blood cells, termed T cells, which form part of the targeted immune response against infection and cancer. Their flagship testing kit aims to characterise T cell responses as a diagnostic test for TB. Varun comments on his contribution to these projects, working on software that facilitates the automation and implementation of the testing pipeline. Creating a clean, simple automation process, he argues, translates into wider application of such a platform on the ground, with less training required. 'I want the software that I design or write to be usable by people – I want it to be a public service Varun says. He stresses the importance of clarity in scientific communication, a lesson learnt during his DPhil: 'If you want something to be impactful, how easily can you present results? How elegant and pretty can the graphs and images be, and how does presentation and layout better enhance the digestion of science or medicine? This is a huge problem when trying to communicate findings and distillations of immensely large data

sets.' Software should aim to facilitate research and present its outcomes as clearly as possible, he argues.

The current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has been a unique example of the need for the quick implementation and interpretation of research programmes. At the start of the pandemic, Oxford Immunotec's platform presented an opportunity to both test for coronavirus infection and to assess the breadth of the response caused by the virus. As vaccine trials began, T cell testing became a key component of SARS-CoV-2 research, and with the expertise already present it was possible to 'react very quickly'. Their testing kit, T-SPOT.COVID, was produced within weeks. When asked about how the use of this platform has aided research efforts during the pandemic, Varun lists numerous examples of cooperation with research projects. Among them, the kits are being used in the Human Challenge study, and in OCTAVE, a cooperative effort to study the immune response following vaccination in immunocompromised patients. Their platform, Varun explains, can be used to study the impact of 'mix-and-match' vaccination policies, and their effect on immunity against variants, as well as guide variant-specific vaccine development in future. 'We are very proud to play our small part,' he adds.

“At the start of the pandemic, Oxford Immunotec’s platform presented an opportunity to both test for coronavirus infection and to assess the breadth of the response caused by the virus.”

Varun's software product leadership expertise is also a component of independent projects with which he is involved. Specifically, he describes his work on eSwapp, an app that aims to create a platform for sharing skills among peers.

The aim of this platform is to connect people interested in exchanging skills, encouraging colleagues to list skills they are interested in learning or expertise they can teach. Varun claims that such 'cross-pollination' of expertise within a company is not only helpful in encouraging 'crowd-sourced upskilling' but could help employee retention as well. His work with eSwapp focuses on the software product management and engineering efforts involved in developing the platform.

A key effort of the platform during the pandemic was its aim to promote skill-sharing among the hardworking NHS staff. By providing the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and learn skills, Varun explains that the platform has helped to create a space for medical professionals to engage in helpful activities outside work. This curated platform uniquely for NHS staff, with currently around a thousand users, has been the pilot project of eSwapp. At present, the plan is to maintain the curated aspect of the platform, both in terms of users as well as

skills. Varun stresses the importance of selecting skills that are shareable either virtually or in a real-life setting, which is essential to make sure the skills are teachable in the context of the app. Varun gives his own example of skill-sharing in the app: he has proposed to teach either programming or Indian cuisine in exchange for bread-making or guitar lessons. Skills suggested by users, such as 'public speaking' and 'assertiveness', are broader interpretations of what the app can accomplish, Varun suggests. Once the platform decides on a set of shareable skills, it may be rolled out to a wider audience.



Varun has remained an Academic Visitor at Oxford for several years and has also developed and lectured for Master's level Bioinformatics courses in the West Indies. When asked about his future career utopia, he notes, 'I chose industry after my DPhil to ensure I was exposed to a well-rounded foundation that would help me in my startup and consulting ambitions. That said, I do worry about falling out of touch with my academic interests! Research and teaching remain as important pillars for me; in the ideal world, I would build useful and accessible software for a broad audience in an industrial startup context whilst taking the odd academic sabbatical. Of course, I also take any chance I get to give back to either the College, the University, or the departments which supported me in my DPhil and research, especially given their direct and timely contributions to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic response.'

When asked about his time at College, Varun begins by describing his decision to join Lincoln. Among the central colleges he had listed as alternatives, he states that he had been looking for a college with scholarship opportunities that was welcoming of international students. As an applicant, he found the staff addressing his questions 'exceptionally kind', which cemented his decision to apply to the College. As a student in a department based in Headington, he notes that the MCR was very keen on the inclusion of all students in their planning, accommodating students based further afield.

His time in Oxford still shapes his professional life - graduate students learn skills beyond their degree which are applicable to their life and work after their studies. Varun states that the main lesson he learnt, handed down from his DPhil supervisor, is to always ensure that the solution to any problem is as elegant and simple as possible. Such approaches that avoid overthinking and consider the inherent simplicity in nature have underpinned his subsequent work, and continue to influence his vision and roadmaps for the software products he builds.

Currently, as an alumnus, he continues to visit the College when possible. He praises the work done to engage past students by the Development Office, and says in every visit he always interacts with someone who still remembers him from his time at College. He also enjoys engaging with current students who might harbour interests in the software, biotech, or startup spaces, or who generally need more clarity around their career after their studies. Lincoln remains, in his words, 'a second home'.

João Ferreira Fernandes (2018) is a current DPhil candidate in Infection, Immunology, and Translational Medicine based in the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine.



My Lincoln

Nidhi Singh

Nidhi Singh graduated in MSc Law & Finance as a Louis-Dreyfus Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholar in 2016, having matriculated in 2015. Prior to beginning her advanced studies in law, she had worked as a Legislative Assistant to a Member of Parliament of India while assisting the Parliamentarians on legislative issues, trained the civil servants of India as Faculty in Law at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, and worked on policy issues with the NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India). She is currently a practising lawyer with the Supreme Court of India.



What brought you to Oxford?

My continued interest in competition law and other public laws motivated me to travel through the corridors of Oxford law where I was introduced to the enforcement challenges for competition authorities while dealing with emerging technologies. I decided to study a more specialised subject in Oxford given the need for experience and wider academic understanding to be able to successfully conduct my research, carry my litigation practice, and to continue teaching this subject in a country like India which still does not have a clear digital and privacy framework.

Why did you choose to study Law and Finance?

My MLF degree sits at the vantage point of my public sector experience and subsequent engagement with startups, financial markets, and corporate clients. Studying the interplay of Law & Finance and with post qualification experience, today I am in a better position to appreciate financial jurisprudence.

What are your fondest memories of Lincoln?

As a Lincolnite, I really enjoyed spending time and playing games with fellow students in the Lincoln MCR (Middle Common Room) and

the exquisite dining facilities available with three course meals. I also enjoyed studying in the Lincoln College Library, which reminded me of the rich ancient history of England.

Was there anyone you met at Lincoln who particularly inspired you?

Carmella, who is a Graduate Officer at Lincoln, particularly inspired me. She has this uncanny ability to accommodate all the graduate students with equal and unbiased warmth. Despite her office being crowded all the time, I never saw her ruffled and she attended to everybody with the utmost attention and care. This trait of Carmella's really inspired me as an individual and is something that I would like to imbibe.

How has your time at Lincoln shaped you?

Being a student of Lincoln College and Oxford in general, has taught me a number of things.

Time management is one of the best skills I could develop while studying there. Lincoln has a truly warm and welcoming community. The number of student activities organised by the College fraternity kept us really busy while making the best of our time at Oxford and overall experiencing the rich English culture.

How has your career progressed since graduating?

I am currently a practising lawyer with the Supreme Court under an Advocate-on-record and Additional Advocate General. The Delhi High Court on the Labour & Service Laws panel has also recently empanelled me. I deal mainly in litigation and dispute resolution with cases broadly encompassing the laws concerning tax, competition, mergers & acquisitions, financial crime, and economic regulation.

Alongside this, I run a legal policy think tank, the Institute for Commercial Policy & Legal research in New Delhi, that focuses on Commercial Policy & legal research. The idea behind setting up this Centre is to promote good governance in the Indian financial system. I also continue to engage with the students of National law schools in India in the capacity of Visiting and Adjunct faculty. I contribute legal write-ups in national newspapers and journals of repute on a regular basis, to keep my interest in legal academia intact. As part of pro-bono services, I serve as an Expert in Antitrust & Big data with Institute for Internet & the Just Society headquartered in Berlin, Germany.

The academic excellence in finance and law, acquired over the years through successive

degrees and diplomas at Harvard Kennedy School, King's College London, and Universitat de Barcelona has helped me carve a path to Phd at Stanford law School, where I am currently enrolled as a JSM Candidate & SPILS Fellow.

What has been your proudest achievement so far?

One of the proudest achievements for me has been the selection by Harvard Law School as a panellist to discuss my work on 'Artificial Intelligence and Competition law'. I was also recently appointed as a Member of the Academic Council of the KIIT University and Advisory Board Member of KIIT School of Law (my alma mater). I personally think this is the best feeling that an alumna can have.

What would be your advice to anyone who wants to be successful in this sector?

Law is a dynamic profession that opens a plethora of opportunities and that is the reason; it also creates the problem of plenty. While it is quite easy to get lost in this chaos, if one remains focused as to what one wants to achieve through the study of law as a degree and eventually through its practice, this profession has the element of helping one realise his/her best potential as an individual

and to hone one's personality. Nevertheless, this profession is quite demanding and requires both speed and focus, which is a quite difficult balance to maintain. Therefore, one should start early in life, as a student itself, to begin training oneself while developing such habits and lifestyle to succeed as a lawyer in whatsoever jurisdiction.

What are your interests outside of work?

During weekends, I like to play some lawn tennis and go for swimming. I sometimes teach less privileged high school students in government schools in Delhi, train young adolescent girls in pursuing higher education, applying for vocational jobs and impart English speaking skills to make them better prepare for the job market, spend time with HIV+ kids at an NGO in Delhi. As a member of Global Shapers New Delhi Hub, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, I also conduct legal awareness sessions on Domestic Violence laws to sensitise Indian women about their rights and remedies in law.

What are your hopes and goals for the future?

Being a lawyer by vocation, I certainly believe that law is an instrument of social change. I

hope to use this instrument as a power to bring about positive change in society and impact the law and policymaking process in India through my knowledge and understanding of law. Through my consistent practice of law, I aim to eventually hold one of the highest constitutional posts of India as a Law Officer. As a lawyer, I hope to contribute to better appreciation of how regulatory bodies work, and why; the compulsions of statehood; and how these must be tempered by higher constitutional compulsions.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the Lincoln alumni community?

I have always felt that Lincoln has one of the most warm and truly welcoming community, be it the staff, faculty, or the administration. As a Lincolnite, I found the dining and administrative staff to be very cooperative and helpful. The faculty was particularly supportive in all aspects to the international students to ensure that one adjusts well to the completely new academic and social environment.

Above left: Nidhi at The United Nations
Above centre top: Nidhi at Columbia University, New York
Above centre bottom: Nidhi at Harvard Law School, Massachusetts
Above right: Nidhi in Radcliffe Square, Oxford

Events report

Over the past 12 months, we have continued with a series of online events in lieu of our usual in-person programme. These events were only possible thanks to the large number of alumni who volunteered their time and expertise to speak to the Lincoln community. It has been wonderful to be able to stay connected during this difficult time, and we look forward to meeting in person as soon as it is possible to do so.

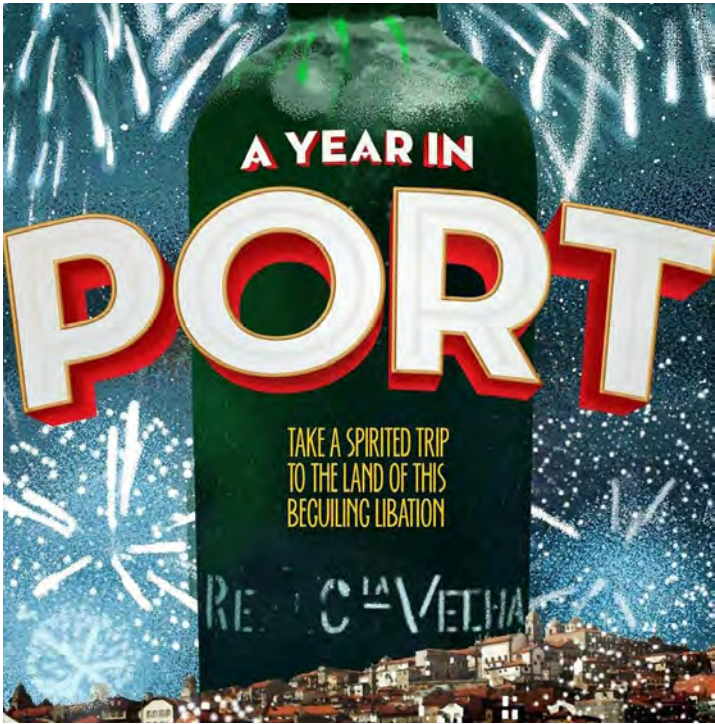
To mark the 100-year anniversary of PPE at Oxford, we held a series of virtual talks throughout the year. The inaugural event saw a panel of speakers including Dr Jody LaPorte (Gonticas Fellow in Politics and International Relations), His Honour Judge Patrick Thomas QC (1967), Su-Shan Tan (1986), and Peter Babudu (2001) discuss how PPE has developed as a course since its inception. A later panel focused on how best to facilitate free and fair elections, with input from speakers Jane Barrett (1995), Benjamin Rowswell (1998), and Christine Simpson (2007), and moderation from current MBA candidate Kirsten C Harris (2019). The topic of how to create a better society post-pandemic, meanwhile, was debated by panellists Dr Anthony Cocker (1978), Martin Gibbs (1987), Dr Liliana Harding (1996), and Kathryn Davies Greenberg (1987), overseen by current Economics MPhil candidate Alexandra Brown (2018). Our final PPE speaker events saw current student Maia Salmon (2018) interview the VP of World Bank, Jingdong Hua, while alumnus and economist Douglas McWilliams (1969) considered the outlook of the economy post-Brexit. We are grateful to all of our alumni speakers who helped to showcase the impressive breadth and versatility of a PPE degree.

Michaelmas term also saw us launch a week-long programme of networking events known as ‘Lincoln Lunches’. Each day we hosted an online meeting for alumni in industries including museums and cultural education, finance and consultancy, law, medicine, and entrepreneurship. We hope to hold more of these events, covering a variety of industries, in the future.

For donors, we offered exclusive events including a Zoom call with the Rector and a virtual tour of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, with Head of Special Events Chelsea Souza (2012). The Lincoln Archivist, Lindsay McCormack, and Antiquarian Cataloguer, Sarah Cusk, took alumni on a journey through the treasures of the Archive and the Senior Library, while alumnus David Kennard (1963) gave a talk about the Port industry and his recent documentary, *A Year in Port*.

We also held a number of online events for young alumni as part of the Lincoln for Life programme, including quizzes, a meditation class with Adiba Osmani (1995), and an ‘Uncomfortable Oxford’ tour of the city with Lincoln graduate student Waqas Mirza (2016). Waqas is a co-founder of the initiative aimed at exploring the ‘uncomfortable’ aspects of Oxford’s history such as racial inequality, gender and class discrimination, and legacies of empire.

One highlight of the year was the involvement of alumni in student events, providing them with a much-needed distraction during lockdown. Students self-isolating at the start of term were invited to an online alumni meet and greet (plus a Missing Bean brownie courtesy of the College!), and Julia Bueno (1990) held a workshop on mental well-being and self-care. Other events for students ranged from a self-defense class with Tom Dineen (1991) and two



workshops, ‘New Year, New You’ and ‘Preparing to Study’, with professional organiser Juliet Landau-Pope (1982).

Throughout Hilary term, we held ‘Sunday Fun Days’, with many enjoyable sessions including a book club with author Cara Hunter (1982), a movie night with actor and director Emily Mortimer (1990), and a comedy writing masterclass with comedian Kate Smurthwaite (1994). These social events were complemented by some standalone careers events, and we were pleased to host Steve Miley (1988) for a virtual talk on finance, trading, investing, and wealth management. Ian Brownhill (2003) also presented a useful session on how to be persuasive over a screen, with some great tips for virtual interviews, which complemented an earlier session by Kate Walker (1989) on how best to present yourself over the computer. Meanwhile, Dana Gluckstein (1985) was back by popular demand with her interview and CV workshops. The term ended with a panel event to discuss whether mental health is the next global



health crisis. Alumni guest speakers, Joanna Bayley (1987), Jeremy Martin (1987), and Rhea Newman (2009), joined our current JCR Welfare Officers to shine a light on this important topic.

Finally, the University’s Meeting Minds weekend also moved online, with a diverse programme of talks and networking events for alumni across Oxford. We held two exclusive events for Lincoln alumni: a talk on forgery and counterforgery in early modern Chinese art with Professor JP Park (June and Simon Li Associate Professor Art History) and a Q&A on the Mitre renovation with Alex Spain (Bursar) and Miles Philips (Associate, TSH Architects).

We were so pleased to be able to offer a varied programme of virtual events this year and we are grateful to everyone who participated. Despite the success of these online events, we are, of course, eager to return to in person events as soon as it is possible to do so. Please keep an eye on our website (lincoln.ox.ac.uk/events) for a list of upcoming events.

Alumni News

1950s

Nigel Bell (1951) and Nancy (née Sawtell) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 1 September 2021.

David Jones (1953) and his wife Janet celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 8 April 2021. They are now in a care home in Worthing.



Richard Rose’s (1957) book written during the Covid lockdown, *How Sick is British Democracy: a Clinical Analysis*, has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. He is now well into his second lockdown book, *Welfare Goes Global*, and hopes its completion will be delayed by post-Covid travel to the European University Institute and the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, where he holds research posts.

Tony Gibson (1958) recently retired as a solicitor having worked in the family practice for 59 years. In 1980, he was appointed by Lord Denning to membership of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal where he served for 37 years.

David Beattie (1959) has written a biography of Prince Hans-Adam II, the current Head of State of Liechtenstein, to mark his 75th birthday and the 300th anniversary of the Principality. It includes an overview of the history of the Liechtenstein family, which played a leading part under the Habsburg Monarchy. He describes how the Prince re-established the family fortune (shattered by two world wars) and asserted Liechtenstein’s sovereignty and independence by gaining membership of the UN and the European Economic Area. The Prince’s constitutional reforms and visionary thinking, not least on self-determination, are also described.



Andrew Sherwood (1959) published a collection of essays on his years of running around the world, including a brief running career at Lincoln. Entitled *A Runner Reminiscences*, the book is available as a paperback from Amazon.com and an e-book from Amazon Kindle. Meanwhile he captained an Atlanta Track Club 80+ team that set a new American Club Record for the 4 x 800 m relay on 8 May 2021.

1960s

Roger Allen (1961) was announced as the winner of the 2020 Achievement Award of the Shaikh Hamad Translation Prize in Qatar.



In November 2020, **David Kennard (1963)** published a large-format 180,000-word memoir: *So That’s a Wrap: 50 Years of Fun and Adventure Making Documentary Films*. Available on Amazon in a dozen countries worldwide. David’s documentary-making life started in BBC radio while still at Lincoln, and went on to cover 10 years with BBC Television (The Ascent of Man, Connections, and Cosmos) and 40 more, based in California. The book features larger than life personalities, from John Cleese to Arthur C Clarke, and describes many unlikely and often humorous stories, based on the 145 documentaries he has helped to create as producer, writer and director.

Dan Rowland (1963) has two recent pieces of good news. A collection of his essays written over a 50-year period, *God, Tsar & People: the Political Culture of Early Modern Russia* (Cornell University Press), was published in

November 2020, and is garnering some excellent early comments. And CivicLex (CivicLex.org), a civic organisation that he founded with some friends in 2009, and for which he served as president until 2018, is becoming a national model of local journalism and civic engagement. It was recently featured on the PBS News Hour by Judy Woodruff, the primary public evening news program in the US.

John Newth (1964) retired as editor of *Dorset Life - The Dorset Magazine* in 2010 but retained his majority interest in the company that publishes the title. Following staff changes made necessary by Covid among other factors, he insinuated himself back into the editorial chair and is thoroughly enjoying being in harness again, in what he firmly maintains is ‘the best job in the world’. One of his fellow directors and a source of invaluable support is **Michael Slocock (1963)**.

Patrick Barwise’s (1965) latest book, *The War Against the BBC* (Penguin), co-authored with Peter York, was published in November 2020. The book considers the forces threatening the future of the BBC, and how the institution can be saved.

Lord Lisvane KCB DL (née Robert Rogers, 1968) has been appointed Chair of the Royal College of Organists.

Gavin Selerie (1968) appeared at the Tears in the Fence Festival,

reading poems from a pandemic sequence and contributing to a discussion about depolarisation in the literary world. The former draws on plague literature across the ages. He has published some of this work in journals and most recently an essay on the book-length poem in *Long Poem Magazine* (Spring 2021). Gavin is also writing a memoir of his eight months in North America, before coming up to Lincoln, in 1968. Several reviews of his *Collected Sonnets* (2019) have emerged, including a detailed assessment in *Blackbox Manifold* (Winter 2020).



Charles Dick (1969) had his book, *Builders of the Third Reich: the Organisation Todt and Nazi Forced Labour*, published by Bloomsbury in November 2020. The book was based on his PhD in History, which he gained the previous year at Birkbeck College, University of London.

1970s

Having previously worked as a solicitor, **Stephen Clark (1973)** retired as a Christian minister at the end of August 2020 and moved, with his wife, to Tala District, Paphos, Cyprus, in October 2020. He would be glad to see any alumni resident in

Cyprus and hopes to make contact with his old Lincoln tutor, Polyvios Polyviou, who now resides in his native city of Nicosia, Cyprus.

John Ellis (1973) has now sold over 1,000,000 copies of his Yorkshire Murder Mystery series of crime novels. Each story is set in a different part of Yorkshire and most include a ‘locked room’ element in the plot. They have been described as a cross between *Midsomer Murders* and *Jonathan Creek*!

After 40 years as a solicitor (most of the time spent as company secretary/in-house lawyer within some well-known companies) and some fascinating times including winning a European Court case on the regulations for the labelling of pre-packaged food and drink products (the results of which can be seen in any retail outlet throughout the EU) and winning a world-wide trade mark dispute involving well-known beverage products (‘split trade marks’), **William Stebbings (1973)** has now retired. He is currently keeping himself occupied as the part-time Clerk to the Governors of Pate’s Grammar School in Cheltenham (a very well-known grammar school).

Graham Allen (1976) is serving a second (four year) term as Vice-President of Wolfson College, Cambridge. He is also currently Chairman of the Board of Scrutiny, Cambridge’s ‘watchdog’ body.



Richard Daly (1976) has recently launched a website which explores the landscape history of the English Lake District by matching contemporary photographs with the line drawings of artist and guidebook writer Alfred Wainwright MBE (1907-91). It can be found at: www.wainwrightlakelandsketches.co.uk.

Claudio Cuello (Fellow 1978-85) was recently elected as a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Spain.

Jonathan Myerson (1978) has written and directed the serial *NUREMBERG*, a dramatised reconstruction of the first Major War Crimes Trial, for BBC Sounds. The 16-part podcast drops on 27 August 2021.

David Sorensen (1978), professor of English at Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, recently published two separate editions of Thomas Carlyle’s epic history, *The French Revolution*, for Oxford University Press: an illustrated paperback version in the Oxford World’s Classics series (2019), and a three-volume, 2,200 page critical edition in the OUP

English Texts series. The edition features an abundance of new features, including a critical text that presents the edition much as it appeared in the first edition of 1837, but with a detailed record of the emendations that Carlyle made in subsequent versions during his lifetime.

1980s



Yolande and **Michael Chan (1982)** are pleased to announce the marriage of their son **Jonathan (2016)** to **Antje Carrel (2018)** which took place at St Ebbe’s Church, Oxford, on 5 September 2020.

Mark Stephens (1983) has been appointed to the Ian Mactaggart Chair in Land, Property, and Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow.

Stuart Walton (1983) had his latest book, *An Excursion through Chaos: Disorder Under the Heavens*, published by Bloomsbury Academic in February 2021. It is a transcultural study of the theme of disorder in social, aesthetic, and philosophical contexts.

Alumni News

Jeremy Crang (1984) is Professor of Modern British History and Dean of Students in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. He is married to Rev Dr Fiona Douglas MBE, Chaplain of the University of Dundee, and they have a daughter Emily.



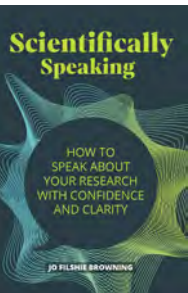
Tim Gibbons (1984) has published his first book, *The Equation of Sales, A Practical Guide to Selling Technology*. Tim has had a long and successful career in technology sales and now works as a sales consultant, working with companies around the world. The book is the distillation of 24 years of sales experience into practical tools for people selling technology.

Richard Hunter (1986) has been promoted to Chief Credit Officer at Fitch, one of the three rating agencies who scrutinise the global financial markets. 35 years on, he is still waiting for the opportunity to use the knowledge of Middle High German which he was assured by his tutor at Teddy Hall would open any and all professional doors.

Jenny Lunnon (1987) has become the Family Ambassador for the charity YHA (Youth Hostels Association England and Wales).

Sarah Davidson (1989) was appointed CB for public service in the 2020 New Year’s Honours List. Sarah is currently Chief Executive of the Carnegie UK Trust.

1990s

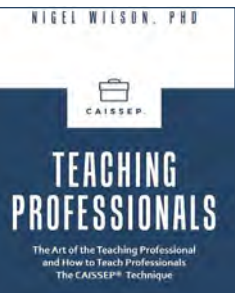


Jo Filshie Browning’s (1991) first book, *Scientifically Speaking: How to speak about your research with confidence and clarity* was published by Practical Inspiration Publishing in June 2021. The book aims to support scientists and physicians, and offers a practical approach to communicating scientific research in the digital age.



Indira Rao (1991) was awarded an MBE for services to British foreign policy in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List 2020. She also published *Retained EU Law: A practical guide* (The Law Society, 2021), co-authored with Eleonor Duhs. The book explains a new and unique concept in domestic

law, introduced following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU.



Nigel Wilson (1992), Australis Chambers, has been an Australian lawyer and teaching professional since 1993 with expertise in commercial and regulatory legal practice and litigation. He has also held in-house counsel, governance and senior executive roles, and been an Australian law reform adviser regarding the Digital Age. In 2020 he received a PhD (University of South Australia) for ‘Regulation in the Information Age’ and in 2019 completed Harvard University’s Cybersecurity programme. Nationally and internationally, he has been a keynote speaker and researcher and has recently published a book: *Teaching Professionals*.

Sinclair Bell (1995) has been promoted to Full Professor of Art History at Northern Illinois University, where he teaches courses in the art and archaeology of ancient Greece, Italy, and Egypt. He was awarded three major research fellowships: the Richard D Cohen Fellowship from the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University (2019), the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Visiting Senior Fellowship at the Center

for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. (2021), and a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2021-22). Sinclair married Anh-Quan Pham in Iowa City, Iowa in April 2020. They live in Chicago.

Natalia Nowakowska’s (1995) new study of the Reformation, entitled *King Sigismund of Poland and Martin Luther* (OUP), was awarded a number of prizes in 2019-20 for best book in various fields –winner of the George Blazycka Prize, Gerald Strauss Prize, co-winner of the Kulczycki Prize, co-winner of the BASSEES Women’s Forum Prize, and honorable mention for the Reginald Zelnik Book Prize.

Christian Langkamp (1999) has completed the work on *Practical Friendship*, a guide on developing and maintaining good friendships in adulthood and old age. It is published online for free at practicalfriendship.com, and Christian is currently looking for a print publisher for commercial sales.

In May 2021, **Shabana Mahmood MP (1999)** joined Keir Starmer’s Shadow Cabinet as Labour’s National Campaign Coordinator.

2000s

Melanie (2001) and **Duncan Cannon (1999)** are delighted to welcome Daisy Elizabeth to their family. Daisy, a sister for George, was born on 12 September 2020.

Jane McAdam (2001) has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to international refugee law, particularly to climate change and the displacement of people.



Hannah Wilson (née Shaw, 2002) and her husband Dave welcomed a daughter, Poppy Eliza Nancy, on 19 August 2020. She arrived five weeks early, weighing 5lb 9oz. A younger sister for Charlie, she has provided much joy throughout the months of lockdown.

Matthew Langton (2007) has been appointed Associate Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Oxford, and Fellow of Balliol College.

Robert Wyllie (2009) is a civil servant. He works for the Scottish Government and is based in Edinburgh. He has recently moved from transport policy to work in the Chief Medical Officer’s Directorate. In that role he is supporting NHS Scotland’s response to Covid-19.

2010s



In July, **Rachel Savage (2010)** was awarded Journalist of the Year by the NLGJA: The National Association of LGBTQ Journalists, a US-based organisation. Rachel got into journalism at Oxford and was editor of *Cherwell*. Now she is LGBT+ correspondent for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, and its LGBT+ news site Openly. Last year, she broke the news that Montenegro had legalised same-sex civil partnerships and analysed the trend of crowdfunded legal cases pushing back against transgender rights in Britain. She also profiled survivors of gay ‘conversion therapy’, intersex people struggling in lockdown, and a ‘two-spirit’ indigenous doctor who treats trans youth.



Richard Carroll (2013) has been appointed to the board of directors of Dumbleton Hall Hotel Company.

The Tudor style Grade II* listed building sits on 19 acres of land, and is the most significant hotel opportunity to become available in the Cotswolds for a generation. Richard is a qualified accountant and hung up his shingle five years ago when he founded his practice.



After postponing from last year, **Hannah Magahy (2013)** will marry Daniel McConaghy in August 2021.

Bernadette Stolz-Pretzer (2013) was awarded the 2021 Anile-ECMI Prize for her DPhil. The prize is given to a young researcher by the European Consortium for Mathematics in Industry (ECMI) for an excellent PhD thesis in industrial mathematics successfully submitted at a European university. She delivered the prize lecture online at the ECMI 2021 conference. Bernadette also received the Mathematical Institute DPhil Thesis Prize 2020.



Nicola Kelly (née Ede, 2014) and Thomas Kelly are pleased to announce the birth of their son, John Francis, in June 2021.

Thomas Pert (2015) has been awarded a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship for a three-year research project on ‘The Refugee Experience in the Thirty Years’ War’. He will take up the Fellowship at the University of Warwick in February 2022.



Nidhi Singh (2015) has been appointed as an empanelled Counsel before the Delhi High Court, India. She has been admitted to Stanford Law School as a JSM Candidate & SPILS Fellow to study ‘Artificial Intelligence & Competition Law’. She has been nominated as a Member-Academic Council of KIIT University, India, inducted to the Advisory Board of KIIT School of Law, and appointed as Deputy Director, Centre for Competition Law, GLA University, India. Along with this, she has been offered to serve as a Visiting Faculty at National Law Schools in India. She is also an Expert in Big Data & Antitrust at Institute for Internet & Just Society, Germany.

Gareth Hynes (2016) has been awarded an MBE in the 2021 New Year Honour’s list for services to medical education during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Lincoln College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD