Plans & Prospects 2020

The year in the life of a modern and egalitarian College
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SPRING 2020

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Many thanks to all our members who have partaken in the creation of our publications.

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Safe and Sound

Building an Oxford College is all about being focussed on the long-term. But sometimes the immediate – in this case a worldwide pandemic – also demands attention!

Group psychologists talk about the first two phases of any major crisis: self-preservation then group preservation. We start by stocking up on rice, pasta and tinned tomatoes until the shelves are empty. But then we start to look to our neighbours and our community, and it is here that I think the Wolfson community has been so extraordinary this year.

Early on we took the decision that we were not going to close. We are a community and a family, most of whom come from overseas, most of whom are in Oxford for several years. Throughout the pandemic the College has been home to over 200 students and junior Fellows – far more than any other Oxford College, many of which closed their doors entirely. The values of the College emerged in the blast furnace of the pandemic.

First, we are a place which embodies the value of expertise. With respect, Donald Trump and Michael Gove can scorn experts as much as they wish, but it was people like Anthony Fauci and Chris Whitty – medical advisers – who have emerged as the real heroes of the crisis. And it is no coincidence that Chris Whitty is an alumnus of Wolfson.

Second, we are a place which puts the welfare of our students first. We quickly established a Wolfson Coronavirus Hardship Fund, and generosity in sums large and small came in. We now have a fund worth over a quarter of a million pounds. Thank you to all of you who contributed so generously.

Third, we care for our staff. We have kept all our staff on full pay throughout this experience, and we are determined to try to avoid redundancies in the financially difficult year ahead.

And fourth, Wolfson’s sheer inventiveness. For our May Day concert, online this year, poets, musicians, and other performers took to the virtual stage and gave us a breathtaking example of the quality of artistry at the College. The Bar, unable to open conventionally, started deliveries of fine ales to front doors.

The catering team set up a deal to provide groceries directly to students.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Expertise, generous solidarity, and collective inventiveness: that’s who we are.

There will be no going back. We have shown that as a College we can continue to function well during the severest lockdown. In the coming year, once new students arrive at Wolfson, they will have the life-changing experience which Oxford and Wolfson have always offered, with the strong personal bonds and one-on-one engagement that are our hallmarks. More will be online, but plenty will be in person.

This short term shock has paradoxically sent us back to our long-term perspective. Before Coronavirus we spent six months working with a team of architects to answer the questions: “What will a College environment look like in thirty years’ time? What do we want it to look like?”

We want to give students more space in College to be inspired and be refreshed: more space for the arts, for sports, for events. And we want to do so in a way which anticipates the future rather than struggles to catch up with it.

Collectively we came to these conclusions: in thirty years, there will still be graduate students working on doctorates and masters who will value a college environment. The human touch will remain important.

The climate emergency means the world will have changed forever. The internal combustion engine will be history. The increasing cost of flying will mean that fewer international students will be heading home three times a year. Wolfson will be their year-round home.

The results are in a Masterplan which many of you will have seen. It keeps everything of Wolfson which is so prized: its calm, bucolic, thoughtful environment. Buildings will continue to sit in their own gardens, rather than have gardens as an add-on. But we can house all those who want to be here: we can increase our provision for families; and we can have a superb new gym, a Long Gallery looking out on the Harbour Lawn which sits unobtrusively under the present A Block; and a suite of academic spaces second to none in Oxford. All underpinned by a generous package of student support.

That’s our long-term plan. And this year’s crisis has only made us realise that the future is coming towards us faster than we’d thought.

Sir Tim Hitchens, President
Sir Tim Hitchens

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Wolfson and COVID-19

Nobody’s life has gone untouched by the coronavirus pandemic. Wolfson fellows, students, and staff reflect upon life in lockdown, how the College has responded to the challenge, and how Wolfsonians are on the frontline of combatting the virus.
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost all facets of society, but perhaps nowhere more than our National Health Service. There are times when the NHS can seem monolithic; out of touch with the fast-paced change in modern medicine. However, the pandemic has shown the true value of a national healthcare system. A unified response to an emergency. Coordinated and rapid repurposing of resources within and between centres. A flexible workforce working in harmony to deliver against new challenges. Consistent guidelines to reduce unwanted variation in care. This period has not been without its (well-documented) challenges for our healthcare system, but I am very proud of the NHS response to this crisis.

Beyond the dedication and selflessness of the frontline clinical staff, the NHS has also delivered a truly world-leading response to the need for research into COVID-19. The National Institute for Health Research – the research arm of the NHS – has coordinated a countrywide response to the pandemic, setting up an Urgent Public Health review and fast-tracking the scrutiny and approval of hundreds of research studies in a matter of days. Oxford is rightly proud of its contribution to the effort to manage the pandemic, investigating new medicines and vaccines in particular, but many will not realise that behind these headline activities, a small army of dedicated research nurses were redeployed in a matter of days to deliver this research in every hospital and every clinic across the country.

It is the incredible flexibility of the UK’s national Clinical Research Network that has made this research possible. In my own world of trauma care, our research team – many of whom are affiliated with Wolfson – went from research for patients with a broken arm in the trauma clinic one day to recruiting patients with COVID-19 in the intensive care unit the very next day. My admiration for them and their incredible hard work has never been greater.

Wearing my clinical hat (as a psychiatrist working in Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust), I have been helping with the local responses, providing cover, and doing assessments by phone or video rather than face to face. A local 24-hour mental health help line has helped deal with concerns that people may have.

Wearing my academic hat, I’m helping plan the national follow up of COVID-19 survivors to monitor, treat, and research their mental as well as their physical health. It is anticipated that many patients will have anxiety and depressive symptoms, and some will have more serious psychiatric and neurological problems. This requires appropriate care pathways and research projects to be put in place with unprecedented speed. As with the search for a vaccine, Oxford is at the forefront of these efforts. Fortunately, there is extraordinary commitment from everyone – in the University and the NHS – to ensure we can cope with and minimise the harms caused by COVID-19.
Working during lockdown has been very different for the lodge staff. New procedures have been put in place to minimise contact whilst doing our best to continue to serve the remaining students and staff. There are more online orders being received than ever, adding to staff workload as we process and distribute the parcels. Life has slowed down greatly and residents, staff and couriers are more relaxed which make the job less stressful and more calming. That is until that fire alarm sounds! We are missing colleagues’ popping in for their mail, welcoming new visitors and general interaction with College members. I am sure I am speaking for all the lodge staff when I say how much we appreciate the patience and understanding the residents have shown during this unusual time.

Janice Tirda
Lodge Manager

We are incredibly grateful for everything the College has done for us in the last few months. For our family, Wolfson College was the ideal place to be during lockdown.

Daniel Davies
Graduate Student

Members of the College launched the punts into water as the lockdown measures were being relaxed, 19 June 2020.
Rose Truby
Accommodation Officer

As most people at Wolfson know, I am a sociable person and my office is usually a busy one with visits from residents and staff. It’s been tough not being able to see everyone. One thing I particularly miss are the opportunities to get answers to questions and solve problems on the fly in the day to day interactions I would normally have with colleagues and students around the College. The pandemic has inevitably meant extra work for the accommodation office, with residents needing help with vacating rooms, storing and collecting belongings, and self-isolating. This has come at a time when I would normally be concentrating on the room ballot, new student applications and summer extensions - it’s been a busy few months! Video calls and weekly coffee meetings help with the social side of working from home. Keeping busy, which at the moment is the norm, definitely helps too.

Rose Truby
Accommodation Officer

The University of Oxford has a long history of ground-breaking medical research and its particular strengths in research on infectious diseases, international health, and vaccine research have put Oxford at the forefront of efforts to better understand and control the coronavirus pandemic. Here are some of the many projects that Oxford researchers have been working on:

• The RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVid-19 thERapY) trial was established in March as a randomised clinical trial to test a range of potential treatments for COVID-19, including low-dose dexamethasone (a steroid treatment). Over 11,500 patients have been enrolled from over 175 NHS hospitals in the UK. The trial showed that dexamethasone, an inexpensive and widely available medicine, is the first drug to reduce mortality from COVID-19.

• The university’s Jenner Institute has developed a vaccine (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) which is currently on trial in the UK, where over 4,000 participants are already enrolled into the clinical trial and enrolment of 10,000 more participants is planned, and in South Africa. The vaccine is made from a virus called ChAdOx1, which is a weakened and non-replicating version of a common cold virus (adenovirus). The vaccine has been engineered to express the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

• An Oxford team led by Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox, Professor of Epidemiology and General Practice, is developing a data-driven risk prediction model to better identify patients who are at a higher risk of serious illness from SARS-CoV-2 infection. The model could allow GPs and specialists to provide more targeted advice based on individual levels of risk.

Sebastian Stefanov
Catering Manager

Throughout the crisis, people across the College – both staff and academic members – stepped up to the challenge and volunteered to help. We continued to serve meals on a take-away basis, and following government safety advice. We delivered meals and groceries to families and members that were in isolation for various reasons and even set up a ‘groceries store’ with supplies such as flour and yeast which were difficult to find in the mainstream supermarkets. It was all worth it and the many expressions of thanks and positive feedback we received kept us going.
The College has established a new research cluster to explore how Wolfson can contribute to global discussions and debates on the climate and ecological crises from a wide range of disciplinary standpoints. Headed by Professor Moritz Riede, Professor Barbara Harris-White and Dr Maryan Aslany, the cluster is investigating what Wolfson can practically do to reduce its own ecological damage – first by ascertaining the sources of its carbon footprint and then by developing and adopting a pathway to achieve net zero CO2 emissions.

Wolfson Welcomes FOUR MEDICAL GOVERNING BODY FELLOWS

**Amato Giaccia** is Director of the Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology, where his research focuses on translating basic science findings on the role of hypoxia in tumour progression and resistance to therapy to pre-clinical models of cancer and ultimately into the clinic.

**Jagdeep Nanchahal** is Professor of Hand, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology. As a surgeon scientist, he focuses on defining the molecular mechanisms of common diseases and translating his findings through to early phase clinical trials.

**David Ray** is Professor of Endocrinology in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. An expert in the physiological importance of circadian mechanisms, his research has discovered how the dimension of time regulates metabolism, and coordinates diverse tissues to deliver optimal organismal performance.

**Nicola Smart** is Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Development and Regeneration in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics. She specialises in the study of myocardial and coronary vessel development and the embryonic heart.

BBC University Challenge

MIKE PERRIN, MARY CAPLE, CLAIRE JONES AND RYAN WALKER DID WOLFSO PROUD

Wolfson took to the screen in Michaelmas Term with a strong run in BBC2’s University Challenge. After edging past the University of Sheffield in the first round, Wolfson comprehensively out-quizzed the University of Edinburgh in round two before falling to Durham University in the quarter-finals.
Possible Futures

WORKING WITH AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECTS PENOYRE & PRASAD, WOLFSON HAS DEVELOPED A MASTERPLAN TO GUIDE THE COLLEGE’S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

The masterplan gives the parameters for Wolfson’s development in the years to come: more space for students to live, for the arts, and for sports and events. The two images above show how the front of College might be developed and what might be possible in a spectacular Long Gallery underneath A Block.

Aping Around

Research from Wolfson DPhil students Dan Schofield, at the university’s Primate Models Lab, and Arsha Nagrani, at the Visual Geometry Group, Department of Engineering Science, on how chimpanzees recognize faces through deep learning was published in the journal Science Advances, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

READ NOW
Read the full research article at Science Advances website:
https://bit.ly/2RF3VV1

Sunand is co-founder of Penoyre & Prasad. He has played a central role in the design, procurement and delivery of a majority of Penoyre & Prasad’s more than 300 projects of many building types across commercial and public sectors. Sunand was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) from 2007 to 2009 and was voted one of the Independent’s top 100 environmentalists for his work in ‘greening RIBA’. He has served in several key advisory and policy positions, and has regularly chaired Design Review Panels for high profile projects around the UK. Sunand has authored many books, articles and broadcasts on architecture, sustainability, retrofit, hospital design and urbanism.

PenoyrePrasad
Sarah Skeels is an Interdisciplinary Bioscience DPhil student in the Department of Zoology. Her primary interest is in understanding why animals behave the way they do. Skeels has been exploring how sensory systems (that detect environmental stimuli) and motor systems (that respond to stimuli) work together within an individual to allow them to respond appropriately in a given situation. To do this, Skeels studies weakly electric fish, with her main species being Peters’ elephantnose fish. These fish have the amazing ability to produce and detect weak electric fields, which they can use to find prey, navigate their environment, and communicate with one another.

One technique Skeels frequently uses is something called operant conditioning. This is where she trains the fish to learn a particular task using reinforcement (e.g. using food to reward a correct behaviour). Despite popular misconceptions, fish do have the capacity to remember things over long periods of time. Once the fish have learned the task, Skeels makes changes to the original setup, which enables her to better understand the learning process, such as what cues are necessary for completing the task.

She is currently exploring the role of body movement for shape discrimination. Additionally, she is able to record the electric signals of the fish during various behaviours, which gives her some insight into what information they are able to obtain from the environment in different contexts. By controlling the sensory input and studying the motor output of these fish, Skeels makes inferences on the neural mechanisms involved in the integration of environmental information collected from their electric sense, and how this might help the species to cope with ecological challenges.
Over the last fifty years the Buttery has been a place of meeting, learning and socialising. The innovative improvement project, designed by BGS Architects, links the Old Lodge and Buttery to the Academic Wing. The architecture is sympathetic to the original designs by Powell & Moya and blends in with the themes of recent new buildings added to the College such as the Leonard Wolfson Auditorium.

**The Buttery Re-freshed**

*AFTER MONTHS OF WORK, WOLFSON OPENED THE REFURBISHED BUTTERY IN SUMMER 2019*

Wolfson’s Buttery was originally conceived as a ‘Drugstore’, a pharmacy which also sells toiletries and other articles – though it is not clear whether it was ever operated in this way (please get in touch if you remember it as such!). For a short period in the 1980s, it was run as a café. In the original Powell & Moya drawings in the college archives, there are two references to the ‘Drugstore’ as being the name of the room. In ‘Some memories of the College’s early days’, Glen Dudbridge, one of Wolfson’s earliest Fellows, comments on the naming of the room: “We drew back from a proposal to name one space in our building ‘the Drugstore’, to call it the Buttery.”

*FROM THE ARCHIVES*

Spooky vibes as children attend a Halloween party in the Buttery in 1998.
Da Capo!

THE FOURNIER TRIO CELEBRATES A DECADE AT WOLFSON

In November 2019, the Fournier Trio returned to Wolfson for their tenth anniversary concert. Formed in 2009, the internationally award-winning trio has rapidly established itself as one of the leading young chamber ensembles in the UK. The Fournier Trio consists of pianist Chiao-Ying Chang, violinist Sulki Yu, and cellist Pei-Jee Ng.

LISTEN NOW
Scan the QR-code with your phone camera to listen to the Fournier Trio on Spotify.

Best Film at the Berlin International Film Festival

Wolfson student Curtis Winter won the Best Film award in the Encounters Competition at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival for his eight-hour epic *The Works and Days (of Tayoko Shiojiri in the Shiotani Basin)*.

The film features fourteen months of the work and non-work of farmer Tayoko Shiojiri in a village of forty-seven residents the mountains of Kyoto Prefecture, Japan.

WATCH NOW
Scan the QR-code with your phone camera to watch the trailer.

Wolfson turns a new leaf

A GREENER START OF THE YEAR FOR THE PLANET

Wolfson began the new decade in the ‘Veganuary’ spirit by implementing more vegetarian/vegan options across the College. The catering team introduced a new vegan salad bar in Hall, held an entirely vegetarian formal, and highlighted the vegan and vegetarian options available in the servery. For the first time the vegetarian/vegan meals overtook the traditional meat and veg options with 12,700 versus 11,800 served in the 2019/20 academic year.
The new post is the first endowed postdoctoral fellowship in the UK in Assyriology – the study of the language, history, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Mesopotamia (a region encompassing modern Iraq, north eastern Syria, south eastern Turkey, and north western and south western Iran). It will further strengthen Wolfson’s expertise in Assyriology and the Ancient World, with the Fellow working alongside Jacob Dahl, Professor of Assyriology, and complementing the College’s two existing endowed graduate scholarships in Assyriology, the Jeremy Black Scholarship and the Reginald Campbell Thompson Scholarship.

Wolfson also received a generous donation to establish an endowed research fund for Assyriology, which will fund fieldwork and archival research in the field at Oxford University and bring Assyriologists from around the world for short stays in Oxford.

"This gift represents an unprecedented opportunity for Oxford Assyriology to continue and strengthen more than 125 years of research on ancient Mesopotamia and its neighbours. I look forward to the many opportunities this development provides for education, research, and collaboration both within the field of Assyriology and with colleagues from related fields."

JACOB DAHL, PROFESSOR OF ASSYRIOLOGY

Dr Nikita Sud, Associate Professor of Development Studies, has been appointed Wolfson’s new Vicegerent, with effect from 1 October 2020 and succeeding Professor Jeremy Johns. The Vicegerent is one of the most senior College officers, always an experienced academic, and is responsible among other things for student discipline and for acting as the deputy and alternate to the President where required.

Dr Sud’s research focuses on the politics of development, the neo-liberal transformation of postcolonial states and governance, and the political sociology and political economy of contemporary India. She says: "I'm looking forward to being Wolfson’s next Vicegerent. It is an honour: I do have a knot in my stomach, but that may be par for the course. I would like to be able to speak to and understand the concerns of different constituencies in College. I am well placed to do so, having begun life here as a Research Fellow in 2008."
In March 2020, just before Britain went into lockdown, an audience of Wolfson alumni and friends gathered at the House of Lords. The annual Wolfson London Lecture, *Last Supper in Pompeii*, told the story of the Ashmolean’s blockbuster winter exhibition, curated by Dr Paul Roberts, Governing Body Fellow of Wolfson and Sackler Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean. When Dr Roberts was taken ill at the last moment his deputy, Dr Ilaria Perzia, stepped into the breach to deliver the talk.

*Last Supper in Pompeii* told the story of the Roman love affair with food and wine and how their production, distribution and consumption coloured every aspect of Roman life. The exhibition drew heavily on finds from the Roman sites of Pompeii and Oplontis – both buried by Mount Vesuvius in the catastrophic eruption of AD 79. But the exhibition and talk also looked at the influence of other peoples such as the Greeks and Etruscans and ranged as far afield as Roman Britain.

As well as shaping Roman art, the Greeks, along with the Etruscans of central Italy, and the Italic peoples of the south, influenced and enriched every area of Roman life. They celebrated food and the customs around it in their rituals, especially concerning burial. Etruscans, from whom the Romans derived many social, religious and political customs, put a vast array of kitchen and dining equipment into their tombs. On their burial chests Etruscans portrayed themselves as banqueters, dining into the afterlife. In their sanctuaries, not only in their homeland of Etruria but even at the gates of Pompeii itself in the...
newly excavated sanctuary of Fondo Iozzino, they dedicated vessels used for feasting and drinking. The exhibition featured unique painted panels from the Greek and Italic city of Paestum, south of Pompeii, which also show images of food and drink. These once decorated tombs filled with vessels for food and wine, and even terracotta models of food — snacks for the afterlife!

Like any Roman city, Pompeii needed great quantities of food and wine. Some was imported but most came from nearby vineyards, fields, forests, orchards, and the sea. A superb fresco of Bacchus and Vesuvius, once part of a domestic shrine of the gods or lararium, shows the importance of the gods and the fertile soils (thanks to Vesuvius). Wine was especially important and Pompeii’s countryside was filled with farms and estates centred on viticulture. The lecture then turned to the city, looking at the hustle and bustle of the streets, and the world of commerce. Fruit and vegetables, corn, olive oil, meat (especially sheep and pig) and fish filled the city’s shops, bars and markets. Pompeii’s many bars were a source of food, in particular for the less wealthy but, of course, they were also places to drink. Drinking wine was core to Roman daily life, from the bar to the banquet to the altar.

Visitors to the exhibition and the audience at the lecture then entered a Pompeii house to see the importance of beauty and display in the entrance or atrium, including the gods that were worshipped at altars and shrines with offerings ranging from fruit to eggs, from pine-cones to chickens. Then came the garden — the heart of the home — with greenery, sculptures and fountains: the perfect spot for relaxation (and summer dining). The climax of the exhibition and lecture was the dining-room or triclinium — Greek for ‘the room of the three dining couches’. This space showed the great debt which Roman culture owed to Greece, from the triclinium’s name to its mosaics, frescoes, furnishings and the food and wine served in it. Beautiful garden frescoes from Pompeii’s House of the Golden Bracelet offered an evocative backdrop to the themes, including interior design, music, dining customs (such as reclining), diet, and beautiful tableware. Yet amidst the pleasures of the feast was a stark reminder of mortality. A mosaic panel, once the centrepiece of a triclinium, shows a grinning skeleton. Such an image may challenge or frighten, but then again he is carrying two wine jugs, as if to say “let’s have a good time”. In Horace’s words “...carpe diem...”: ‘Seize the day’.

In Pompeii, the kitchen formed the grubby engine of the house’s elegant banqueting machine. Nothing here was ever touched or seen by the owner or family. Instead, slaves powered the systems of preparation, service and disposal with a large array of vessels and utensils, from kettles and grills to dormouse jars. A selection of carbonised food
showed ingredients of Roman meals, sometimes from thousands of ‘food miles’ away – a truly modern society.

In the last section, the exhibition and lecture showed how Roman ideas on agriculture, distribution and cuisine were exported to Britannia. As in Italy, the gods featured large and there were complex patterns of production, focusing in Britain not on wine, but on beer. Newly discovered wooden documents from London tell of an industry growing up around beer, with records from a cooper, a brewer and a pub landlord. From Britannia’s drains, burnt deposits, and water-logged soil came remains of food, much of it imported. From Mediterranean pine cones to olives and barrels of wine from southern France and pepper from India, the people (and gods) of Britannia could eat well. In some rich British dining rooms people ate and drank from vessels of silver, pewter, and imported fine glass and pottery. People reclined in Roman fashion surrounded by frescoes and mosaics. Even in death – and even in far-flung Britannia – the banquet and all it represents is important, and many tombstones show the deceased reclining as if at a banquet, as a good Roman should.

The resin body cast of a sadly nameless woman closed the exhibition and the lecture. She lived and died in the shadow of the vine-covered slopes of Vesuvius and was almost certainly part of a family involved in producing and distributing wine and food. She had no tombstone, nor did any rituals of food, wine, or incense mark her passing. But we can imagine her afterlife as she would have wished it: reclining with her friends and loved ones, drinking and feasting into eternity.

**DEATH AT DINNER**
Mosaic panel (emblema), from a dining-room showing a grinning skeleton holding two askoi (wine-jugs). From Pompeii. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, (MANN 9978)

**OLIVE OIL**
Glass bottle containing solidified olive oil. From Pompeii. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, (MANN 313337)

**DR ILARIA PERZIA**
A native of Tuscany, where her family made olive oil and pickles, Ilaria Perzia is assistant exhibition curator and administrator for the Ashmolean’s Department of Antiquities.
Mosaic panel (emblema), showing marine creatures. From Pompeii. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli. (MANN 120177)
In last year’s Wolfson: Plans & Prospects, we announced a campaign to endow the Jon Stallworthy Poetry Prize, awarded each year for the best poem by an Oxford graduate student in English verse.

The prize was established by Wolfson and the English Faculty in 2016 in memory of Professor Jon Stallworthy. A much-loved tutor, scholar and poet, Stallworthy was a Fellow of Wolfson between 1986 and his death in 2014 and was twice Acting President of the College.

We launched the campaign in October 2019 with a reception to celebrate Stallworthy’s life and legacy, with reminiscences from his lifelong friend Sir Richard Sorabji and from his student and colleague Elleke Boehmer, and with readings of his poems from Julie Curtis and Dame Hermione Lee.

To raise awareness, the College hosted an exhibition of some of Stallworthy’s most significant works, created a video of Wolfson members reading his poem ‘Self-Portrait in Snow’ and recorded a podcast in which Sir Richard Sorabji reflected on their friendship.

Thanks to Wolfsonians’ generosity, we have now received almost £70,000 to endow the prize as a permanent tribute to Professor Stallworthy. We need just £5,000 more to reach our target of £75,000. All donations, large and small, will help nurture outstanding young poetic talent and bring us closer to securing the prize’s future.

We need just £5,000 more to reach our target of £75,000. To make a donation to the Stallworthy Prize, visit: www.development.ox.ac.uk/wolfson-college.

I can’t think of a lovelier way to honour Jon than this... the Prize creates chances for talent to surface that might otherwise remain silent or hidden.

Donor to Stallworthy Prize

Self-Portrait in Snow for Tom Fairfax

Members of the College read out Jon Stallworthy’s poem ‘Self-Portrait in Snow for Tom Fairfax’ to promote the campaign.

Watch now
Scan the QR-code with your phone camera to watch the video.
"Have you ever seen a polypropylene molecule? It’s one of the most beautiful things... It’s like looking at a cathedral that goes on and on for miles."
-Susan Freinkel, Plastic: A Toxic Love Story

It’s noon in the plastic cathedral and the light hums urgent through the walls — it surges through the arching vault, along the ribbed and moulded seams; it warms the spindled balconies and billows down, then in between, the columns, their acanthus scroll; it finds us older, getting old, and kneeling in the nave to pray, our lips well-versed in supplication, pursed as if with all our weight — with all the morbid eagerness of mourners in a passion play, we ask the thing we always ask, say the prayer we always say, petition for the blessing of a problem we can solve.

As oily incense swirls the hall and wind leaks in cut plexiglass, we tell past miracles and pass around a polystyrene plate, collect the dues we’ll use to make our latest fix for all we lack. It started first with tortoiseshell, and ivory, shellac — the burning need we felt to save them in their native haunts — and became deliverance from want, from nature-bound conditions, from pipes that drip and silk that splits and lines that break mid-fishing: a way to spin our wiring web some more, and more efficient; a film to capture all the worldwide beauty we were missing —

Forgive us this our everyday, our easy formulations. We started from a polymer and built a congregation: a bonded chain no earth or rain or tide can ever hack — our best intentions packed inside, like a bag of other bags. We drone our way through midday mass — we all know all the words — and we move as one communion, like the myth of migrating birds, the host dissolving on our tongues as in sulfuric acid. We get our peace and pass it, grasp our hands and pull in close; then we genuflect, and leave, and paddle home in plastic boats.

The Winner

MICHAELA COPLEN
LINCOLN COLLEGE OXFORD

Though Michaela Coplen is studying for an MPhil in International Relationships, she’s always had a passion for poetry. While she was able to carve out time to write in her undergraduate years, it has been more difficult to do so in the midst of her postgraduate degree. The Jon Stallworthy Poetry Prize therefore presented a welcome opportunity to re-dedicate some time and energy to writing. Many of the themes of Coplen’s poetry are related to her academic research — history, politics, conflict. Lately, however, she’s been writing more and more about climate breakdown, making the theme of this year’s Stallworthy Prize, ‘Plastic’, fitting.

In the process of writing the winning poem, she read Susan Feinkel’s Plastic: A Toxic Love Story. Coplen was struck by a line that described viewing a model of a plastic molecule as "looking at a cathedral that goes on for miles" (the epigraph of Coplen’s poem). Fascinated by the comparison and the parallels it suggests between religion, science, and modern production, Coplen tells that in her poem she tried to highlight these parallels: the appeal and the danger of unthinking faith, and how our best intentions have unforeseen consequences.
Development NEWS

In a year of unpredictability and crisis, one constant has been Wolfsonians’ loyalty and generosity. Throughout the year, this was shown in the support alumni and friends have given to our current students.

We launched a special Coronavirus Hardship Appeal in April with the objective of ensuring that no Wolfson students or early career researchers would have to give up their studies for want of means during the coronavirus crisis today, next academic year, or in the years to come. The response from Wolfson Fellows, Members of Common Room, alumni, staff, and students has been phenomenal, and testament to Wolfson’s remarkable sense of community and solidarity.

More than 220 individual donors have made gifts, from across the world – the UK, Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Israel, the USA, Qatar, Malaysia – and the appeal has now raised more than £250,000. A special auction in aid of the appeal included a work of art kindly donated by Honorary Member of Common Room Bridget Riley, a signed copy of Magnetic Field, given by Poet Laureate and Honorary Fellow Simon Armitage, and vintage wine from the College cellar.

To complete the campaign, we would like to raise £275,000 – and now need just £25,000 more to reach this milestone.

The special appeal followed a number of generous benefactions in 2019-20 to permanently endow hardship bursaries. These included a £60,000 legacy from the estate of Merete Jakobsen, a donation of $20,000 from a Member of Common Room, £10,000 from the Bestway Foundation, and £10,000 from an anonymous donor for the Joyce Bonnie Farley Bursary.

Endowed bursaries are a wonderful way of providing a permanent safety net for Wolfson students who encounter unexpected financial distress, and we are hugely grateful for this support.

Other gifts have allowed students to embark on ground-breaking research at Wolfson – for example, scholarships in physics and quantum computing, thanks to Simon Harrison and described on pages 24 and 25; and in Jewish history, thanks to the generosity of the 2nd J. A. Littman Foundation. In November, Wolfson received one of the largest gifts in the College’s history to establish and endow a Junior Research Fellowship in Assyriology and a research fund in the same field. As well as strengthening our expertise on the Ancient World, the post will provide an invaluable springboard for early-career Assyriologists as they launch their academic careers.

Much has changed in the Alumni and Development Office. As of June 2020, we work largely from home. We cannot – to our great disappointment – welcome Wolfsonians back to College or meet you face-to-face. Our normal programme of events – the summer Gaudy, Syme Society Luncheon, and September drinks reception – is on hold.

But we look forward to the time when these things are possible again, to thanking Wolfson’s alumni and friends personally for your generous support, and to showing how all gifts – large and small – have a direct impact on nurturing the expertise which is Wolfson’s hallmark, and which has never been more important than in today’s world.

Would you consider supporting Wolfson’s students with a bursary or scholarship?

Please contact Dr Huw David, Fellow and Development Director, to discuss how your support can help Wolfson’s students – and their vital expertise – to thrive. E: huw.david@wolfson.ox.ac.uk
Wolfson has always been proud to be a family-friendly college, and welcomes the contributions that partners and children make to college life. We have an active family society that organises a variety of events, including a welcome party for new arrivals and a weekly playgroup.

#YOURHOMEATOXFORD
Share your memories of your time at Wolfson with us on social media: @WolfsonCollegeOxford

The Syme Society was established to commemorate one of Wolfson’s most distinguished fellows and benefactors, Sir Ronald Syme. Anyone who has pledged a bequest to Wolfson in their will and has notified the College of this will be invited to join the Syme Society. This gives us an opportunity to thank those who have remembered Wolfson in their will. Each summer members of the Society are invited with a guest to lunch at Wolfson.

Wolfson’s termly e-newsletter, The Wolfsonian, was launched in Michaelmas 2019 to give alumni and friends regular updates on College news and upcoming events. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please contact the Alumni & Development Office and we will be happy to forward you the latest edition and sign you up for future newsletters.

Kathie Mackay, who has worked as Senior Development Officer for the College over the last seven years, left in April to take on a new role at the Churchill Hospital. We wish Kathie all the best in her new career in the NHS.
ALUMNI COMMUNITY
Announcements

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Professor Matthew Weait  
DPhil Socio-Legal Studies, 1988  
Matthew has been appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Hertfordshire from 1 March 2020.

Dr Michael Jampel  
MSc Computer Science, 1989  
Michael married Helena Da Cruz Lima Rodrigues Alves (now Helena Lima Jampel) on 23 June 2019 in London. Bride and groom were delighted that Prof Harvey Brown and his wife Maita were able to be there. Michael Jampel has recently moved job to work on competition policy for the Financial Reporting Council.

Professor Parveen Yaqoob  
DPhil Biochemistry, 1990  
Parveen has been appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Reading from 1 January 2020.

Dr Bouaichi Abdelghani  
DPhil Zoology, 1992  
Bouaichi was promoted to be Director of the National Center for Locust Control in Morocco where he is in charge of locust and grasshopper management for the whole country.

Jacquelyn Bengfort  
MPhil Social Anthropology, 2006  
Jacquelyn has been awarded a fellowship by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in Washington, DC, for the 2020 fiscal year. This marks her third consecutive year as a DC Arts individual artist fellow.

DR MICHAEL RANDS APPOINTED MASTER OF DARWIN COLLEGE

Dr Michael Rands (DPhil Biochemistry, 1979) has been appointed Master of Darwin College, Wolfson’s sister college in Cambridge. Dr Rands was elected in November 2019 to succeed Professor Mary Fowler as Master from 1 October 2020. He is currently the Director of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative.

"I am delighted to have been elected as the next Master. I believe the College’s intellectually rich and vibrant international community - combined with its collaborative, informal and non-hierarchical ethos - make Darwin an exceptionally important and attractive part of the Cambridge collegiate community."

- Dr Michael Rands

ALUMNI SOCIALS

Wolfsonians in South Africa met on the slopes of Table Mountain (Cape Town) to welcome Dr Mubeen Goolam, who has been appointed Lecturer in the Division of Cell Biology at the University of Cape Town. Good weather and lovely views contributed to a most enjoyable gathering.

Front row (left to right): Singezwe Sibeko, Jimmy Volmink, Mubeen Goolam, Andrew Boynton. Back row (left to right): Guest of Mayleen, Mayleen Shung King, Wendy Reid, Robbie Lindsay & David Reid

OLD WOLVES EVENTS

Wolfson’s archives team (Liz Baird and Dr Ellen Rice) organise termly Old Wolves lunches in Hall and academic talks in the Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, for alumni and former staff and fellows. All are welcome. The events are an opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and learn about Wolfsonians’ research. For information about future events, please see:

www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/events

If you have any news you would like to share with the rest of the alumni community, e.g. marriages, births and publications, please let us know by contacting the Wolfson Alumni Office (alumni.office@wolfson.ox.ac.uk). We would love to hear about your achievements.
MULBERRY
Dr Peter Coles
Since antiquity, few trees have had a greater impact on the world’s cultures and economies than the mulberry. This book tells the remarkable story of the mulberry tree and its migrations from China and Central Asia to almost every continent of the globe.

KANT ON MAXIMS AND MORAL MOTIVATION: A NEW INTERPRETATION
Dr Peter Herissone-Kelly
This book outlines and circumvents two serious problems that appear to attach to Kant’s moral philosophy, or more precisely to the model of rational agency that underlies that moral philosophy: the problem of experiential incongruence and the problem of misdirected moral attention.

CHINA: IN LIFE’S FOREGROUND
Prof Audrey Donnithorne
Audrey Donnithorne was born in Sichuan province, China, of British missionary parents. In her long life she has been a sharp-eyed observer of a changing Asian and Western world. This is her memoir.

ARJUNA-ODYSSEUS: SHARED HERITAGE IN INDIAN AND GREEK EPIC
Dr Nicholas Allen
In this book published shortly before his death in March 2020, Nicholas Allen brings together the study of the Greek classics and Indology. Arjuna-Odysseus provides a comparative analysis of the shared heritage of the Mahabharata and early Greek traditions presented in the texts of Homer and Hesiod.

SELLING THE STORY: TRANSACTION AND NARRATIVE VALUE IN BALZAC, DOSTOEVSKY, AND ZOLA
Dr Jonathan Paine
Applying economic criticism to canonical novels, Selling the Story dramatically changes the way we read these classics and proposes a new model for how economics can inform literary analysis. Literary scholar and investment banker Jonathan Paine locates the economics ingrained within Balzac, Dostoevsky and Zola’s stories, revealing how texts provide a record of authors’ attempts to sell the story to their readers.

THE BRITISH ARMY IN PALESTINE AND THE 1948 WAR: CONTAINMENT, WITHDRAWAL AND EVACUATION
Dr Alon Kadish
Following the end of the Second World War, the main mission of the British Army in Palestine was to contain Jewish attacks and illegal immigration while the fate of the Mandate was being decided. This book is a record of the British Army during the final year of the Mandate and its impact on the course and outcome of the 1948 War.

SUITABLE FOR ALL METHODS OF COMMUNICATION
Jacquelyn Bengfort
Jacquelyn has written her second chapbook of poems, which was published by Ghost City Press.

Books by Fellows
Wolfson fellows have been busy putting new ideas to print this year. Here are some that are on our reading list:

PYRRHIC PROGRESS: THE HISTORY OF ANTIBIOTICS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN FOOD PRODUCTION
Claas Kirchhelle (JRF)

LATIN GRAMMARIANS ON THE LATIN ACCENT
Philomen Probert (GBF)

VARRO: DE LINGUA LATINA
Wolfgang David Cirilo de Melo (GBF)

TO THE VOLCANO, AND OTHER STORIES
Elleke Boehmer (GBF)

LIVES OF HOUSES
Kate Kennedy (RF) and Dame Hermione Lee (HF)

UR III TEXTS IN THE SCHØYEN COLLECTION
Jacob Dahl (GBF)

CONSTANTINA
Mark Merrony (SF)
Why I GIVE

Dr Simon Harrison talks to Clare Norton about his contribution to the College and why he thinks it is so important to encourage the next generation of Wolfsonians.

What brought you to Wolfson?
I had graduated from the University of London with a good physics degree and, at the time, I did not have a particular career path in mind. When I was offered a DPhil place in Kurt Mendelssohn’s low temperature physics group at the Clarendon Lab (Department of Physics, Oxford) it was, I hate to say, the path of “least resistance”. I liked physics and this option gave me time to both learn more and consider career options. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. Mendelssohn was a Wolfson Fellow so it was natural that I would follow his lead.

Who inspired you when you were here?
I matriculated in 1969, which was just the second year that Wolfson accepted graduate students. I don’t remember how many we were but we all fitted into a house on the Banbury Road. This was “Wolfson College” and we were the pioneers! Michael Brock (Vice President), Cecilia Dick (Bursar) and our crown jewel, Sir Isaiah Berlin, were always accessible, taking an interest in our individual progress and issues, and dining with us in our single common room almost every night. I was married in 1971 (still am) and my new wife, Charlotte, was one of the few non-academics in the dining room. I don’t know if this was the reason, but she got on particularly well with Sir Isaiah, and they often sat together at dinner.

What did you enjoy most about being at Wolfson?
The camaraderie of our small group. We knew that we were at the forefront of something special and felt that we had the opportunity to shape the future of the College. I lived at 23B Linton Road in 1969 and 1970 and Jennifer Smith lived in 23A, above. Somehow, Jennifer was given the responsibility of choosing the new College colours. Which she did – they matched her new winter coat! I remember her coming downstairs to show me the new scarf and colours.

What did you learn at Wolfson that has stayed with you throughout your career?
I learned to love Oxford. I wasn’t an undergraduate here, so I felt like a bit of an outsider when I arrived. Wolfson was the perfect place for me to end up as there were no preconceived ideas of college tradition. We arrived from all over the planet and were able to discover Oxford at our own pace and in our own way. I left Oxford with the understanding of what it takes to actually learn something in depth.

You are a great supporter of scholarships and the Wolfson College Boat Club (WCBC). What made you decide to support these areas? What do the scholarships and sponsorship of the WCBC mean to you?
Everything! After leaving Oxford, I quickly ended up on the west coast of America where I put the independence I learned at Wolfson to good use (as it turned out). I wanted to be my own boss, so
I kept my head down, charged ahead, and started five companies over the space of 38 years. When I retired in 2012, I wanted to pay back and also reconnect with Oxford. With the help of Wolfson College and the Clarendon Lab, I was able to offer fully-funded DPhil scholarships in physics each year and, later, a second scholarship in Quantum Foundation theory. We now have 11 students with whom I connect on a regular basis.

I rowed at Henley in 1965 and 1966 for St Paul’s school and later with University of London, so I had a bit of rowing experience when I came to Wolfson and was keen to join the crew. One of the first things I discovered was that we didn’t have our own boat. University College “loaned” us their worst offering that barely floated. I went to Sir Isaiah and asked for funds to buy a decent (used) vessel for us to compete in. It cost £550 and thus the ‘Aline’ came into being. We got four bumps in 1971. I think this was the first time the College excelled in a sporting event!

**What have you learnt from the Wolfson Harrison Scholarship students you support?**

The Wolfson Harrison Scholarship students are so smart it makes my head spin. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with them and, I suppose, to vicariously relive my days at the Clarendon Lab. Six of us just had a wonderful catch-up lunch. Other than keeping up with modern physics, I am accumulating a collection of DPhil theses to put next to the copy of my own from 1972. I take great pleasure in this special “library”.

**What advice would you give students who are at Wolfson now?**

Enjoy your time here and don’t worry too much about the future. You are very fortunate to be receiving the best education available to anyone, so make the most of it and relish every minute! You will look back on these days as some of your best.
IN THE EARLY 1970S when the College site was a sea of mud and new Wolfsonians were scattered all over north Oxford, our place as a serious part of this collegiate university was by no means assured.

Choosing and using our own visual identity was important to establishing our reputation. Dr Joan Mott and I were empowered to move matters forward. First, we enshrined the red and gold of Jennifer Smith’s scarf (the only emblem we had at the time) into everything we did, and viz! our new coat of arms, the College tie, our cricket sweater, boating t-shirt and the blades of our only set of oars where born.

The holistic design approach of ‘branding’ was still in its infancy (and we did not even know of it) but we knew we had to tell people what they were seeing; hence the adoption of a distinctive alphabet, to work in tight concert with our new coats of arms for signage, stationary and the like.

We picked Albertus. It was appropriate on every front. Designed by the Jewish refugee and master typographer Bernard Wolpe, it exudes a legibility and authority born of intellectual rigour – just like the College, you might say. Slightly theatrical, its ‘sharply cut face combining Roman values with individual flair’ fitted the new college and its new buildings perfectly.

So as the new college emerged, so did Albertus. Yet as painting Albertus daunted many a sign writer of that era, it hardly gained a toe-hold before being almost wholly ousted by a plethora of pedestrian fonts.

Happily today, Wolfson’s communications team is leading a counter revolution to take us back to our roots. You can see the great work in progress (in this publication) and with the College’s support, Albertus is once again asserting its power to bring all things Wolfson together, to be the Bindungsglied originally envisaged for it. So sound the trumpets! Clear away the chaotic present! And give us back our Albertus, that unusual alphabet of distinction and discreet beauty.

Revd Dr William Beaver

➤ During the past year the College has been engaged in a design review to try to identify a visual communications style that would fit with our past and look to the future. Willam Beaver (DPhil History, 1971) remembers how important it was to establish a visual identity when Wolfson was first starting out.

Red & GOLD

Gill Sans

ALBERTUS
With a modest endowment, Wolfson College has always been a ‘just about managing’ college: while the endowment has grown steadily, we have continued to spend every penny possible in supporting our students and fellows in their academic endeavours. Whilst this has resulted in the College having a small operating deficit over the last few years, we have slowly been reducing that deficit, and had been on track to achieve in 2019/20 our first, modest surplus (£108k) in several years. This was achieved as a combined result of the kindness of our many benefactors; our talented managers and teams putting in place good cost control, led by our brilliant College Accountant, Kathryn Pocock; growing our successful conferencing and events business, led by our fantastic Steward, Sebastian Stefanov; and the healthy growth of our investment portfolio, greatly helped by our external advisers, Philip Kay, Jonathan Paine, and Allen Zimbler.

Of course, our fortunes have been temporarily set back by the impact of COVID-19 on the College’s income streams and endowment. In the good times, people often ask ‘what actions will you take if there is a financial crisis?’ Of course, there are many actions to take in the event of financial upheaval; however, the real work to prepare the College to withstand such a crisis starts long before. For example, guided by its Investment and Finance Committees, Wolfson has taken many actions over recent years to provide resilience, including splitting its investment portfolio across two investment managers (Sarasin and Oxford University Endowment Management); changing from a UK-biased to a global portfolio; increasing exposure to private equity and ‘shorting capability’; continuing to generate the best ‘total return’ (rather than focusing on income generation); ‘smoothing’ the value of the endowment over five years for drawdown purposes; keeping the annual drawdown from the portfolio at a modest 3%; staying debt free (we have not borrowed to build or gear our investments); and improving budget and cost control processes. These actions have placed Wolfson in a strong position to withstand the current crisis. The College has also been greatly helped by the generosity of so many members and alumni who have given to the Student Hardship Campaign, as well as a very kind legacy we were fortunate to receive. The College was also quick to hold back all expenditure where possible at the outset of the crisis. We are therefore pleased to report that, despite

THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

£1.5m
WOLFSON’S SUPPORT
for students and fellows in 2020/2021

21,000
CUPS OF COFFEE
were served in the Upper Common Room.

70
TRAVEL GRANTS
were awarded to students this year.
the current turmoil, Wolfson is on track to break even at the end of the 2019/20 financial year which, in line with the rest of the university, runs from 1 August to 31 July.

Although the endowment has reduced in value in the crisis, we are comforted that it has fared relatively well compared with the markets in general. For example, while many European markets, including the FTSE100, were down almost 30% at one point, in early June our portfolio is only down around 3% since December 2019 (a fall to £62m from a peak of £64m). This also comes after a very good return in 2019, which saw our portfolio grow by 16% due to strong investment performance and the kindness of benefactors who funded several important new research projects. Over five years the portfolio has grown (net of drawdown) by 38%, from £45m in 2015: Crescat pecunia Wolfsoniensis (as Isaiah Berlin said in 1979). Despite the downturn, we are therefore still able to increase our investment drawdown to spend on supporting students and fellows in the College for 2020/21 to £1.64m (from £1.57m in 2019/20).

The financial year 2020/21 will be challenging for us as the impact of COVID-19 continues. There are a lot of unknowns, but it is certain that our conferencing and events income will be substantially reduced as social distancing continues. Our brilliant conference and events team had grown this income stream to £700k, but it is now unlikely that we will be able to achieve much of this in the next financial year. We are, however, confident that students will join us at Wolfson in their usual numbers in October and that this will keep the fee and accommodation income streams mostly intact. Currently, it looks as though the outcome of next year’s budget will be a deficit of around £560k, even after cutting back as much expenditure as possible. While such a deficit will be manageable for one year, the risk to the College will be much greater if the pandemic continues to disrupt income streams and investment values in the years ahead. We will therefore continue to position ourselves as best we can, with prudence and caution. We had hoped to use our returning surplus to start to lower the College’s carbon footprint through a new heating system, double glazing and insulation – projects that will cost several million pounds. We are still fully committed to this important goal but, sadly, it will now take us much longer.

Our top priority, of course, remains financial support to our students and fellows, with over £1.5m allocated for such purposes in 2020/21. Costs continue to increase in the College each year; of course, and last year we were pleased to adopt a minimum pay rate for all staff in line with that set by the Voluntary Living Wage Foundation. We will continue to keep this under review and ensure that all members of staff receive a competitive salary and benefits package. We are committed to supporting and retaining all our hard working, loyal, and talented staff throughout this crisis, and although some have been furloughed we continue to pay all staff 100% of their salary.

Despite current pressures on our finances, we have had to allocate around £1m for several urgent estate projects, where delays would have breached our legal duties or created much greater expenditure in the near future. Those capital projects are due to go ahead within the next few months, and will see a replacement lift being installed in the Marble Hall, the resurfacing of some courtyards, and the refurbishment of the Common Room balcony. Just before the current crisis started, we had completed a masterplan for the development of the Wolfson estate, which included, as a first phase, adding 50 new bedrooms, and building a ‘Long Gallery’ – a multi-purpose room underneath the ground floor offices in the Berlin Quad and looking out to the Harbour Quad and Harbour. We also aspire to build a new gymnasium and fitness centre as an extension to our squash courts. These projects will inevitably be delayed by the current crisis, but we are continuing to work on ways in which we might raise the finance to progress these in due course.

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HELP FOR STAFF
Wolfson has maintained the full salary of all furloughed staff during the COVID-19 crisis.

WOLFSON | Plans & Prospects

10,609.2 kWh
was generated by our 44 photovoltaic panels.

100%
HELP FOR STAFF
Wolfson has maintained the full salary of all furloughed staff during the COVID-19 crisis.

32,000
MEALS
were served in Hall.
PAIGE MUSTAIN (DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences, 2014) with Jonathan Lakey at the Harbour.

STAY IN TOUCH
The Alumni & Development Office is here to help keep you connected with the University. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Paige Mustain (DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences, 2014) with Jonathan Lakey at the Harbour.
Supporting
WOLFSON

Gifts allow Wolfson to offer scholarships to reduce the cost of studying in Oxford, travel awards to facilitate students’ research, bursaries for students who encounter unexpected financial hardship, and much more.

ONLINE GIVING
Our recommended method – if you are resident anywhere except the USA, please donate online at our special website www.development.ox.ac.uk/wolfson-college. You can set up regular giving there, or make a single gift with a credit or debit card. In the USA, you can donate tax efficiently through Americans for Oxford at www.oxfordna.org/donate.

GIVING BY POST
You can use the donation form enclosed with this magazine or download the form at www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/make-gift. Please send the form to the Wolfson Alumni and Development Office, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD.

TAX EFFICIENT WAYS OF GIVING
Depending on where you live and whether or not you are a taxpayer, there are several ways you can increase the value of your gift to the College.

UK TAXPAYERS
Please make sure to cover your donation under the Gift Aid scheme to increase the value of your gift by 25%, courtesy of HM Customs and Revenue. Higher rate tax payers will get a further deduction from their taxes.

USA TAXPAYERS
Gifts to Wolfson in the United States can be made through Americans for Oxford, the university’s 501 (c)(3) charitable organisation. Gifts to AFO qualify for an income tax deduction to the full extent allowed by law. Gifts can be made online at: www.oxfordna.org/donate or by cheque sent to Americans for Oxford, Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, 32nd Floor, New York, NY 10110. Please include clear instructions that your gift is for Wolfson College, including postal address (Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD).

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN RESIDENTS
Tax efficient giving is available through the Transnational Giving Europe Scheme. For full information, go to: www.development.ox.ac.uk/contribute/worldwide_giving/index.html

CANADIAN TAXPAYERS
The University of Oxford is recognised by the Canadian Revenue Agency as a prescribed institution under Section 3503 of the Canadian Income Tax Regulations. On receipt of your donation, we will ensure that you are sent a receipt for Canadian tax purposes. For full information, go to: www.development.ox.ac.uk/contribute/worldwide_giving/index.html

MAKE A GIFT
Scan the QR-code with your phone camera to make a donation to the College online.
Upcoming Events

Thursday 5 November 2020
OLD WOLVES TALK: MARGARET OLIPHANT AND OXFORD
Merryn Williams

Thursday 12 November 2020
THE SARFRAZ PAKISTAN ANNUAL LECTURE
Farida Shaheed

Tuesday 8 December 2020
LONDON HOLIDAY DRINKS
Oxford & Cambridge Club

Thursday 11 February 2021
OLD WOLVES TALK: TALES FROM A RIVERSIDE MEADOW – 10,000 YEARS OF LIFE BESIDE THE THAMES
Dr Alison McDonald

Thursday 11 February 2021
THE BERLIN LECTURE 2020
Professor Quentin Skinner

March 2021
WOLFSON LONDON LECTURE

Thursday 6 May 2021
OLD WOLVES TALK: WHAT DO BONES TELL US? THE WORK OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGISTS
Dr Nicholas Márquez-Grant

Thursday 6 May 2021
THE WOLFSON HALDANE LECTURE
Professor John Ioannidis

Thursday 20 May 2021
THE BERLIN LECTURE 2021
Professor Ato Quayson

June 2021
ANNUAL COLLEGE GAUDY AND SYME SOCIETY LUNCH

Thursday 4 November 2021
OLD WOLVES TALK: THE HOUSE OF VENUS – LIVING IT UP IN LATE ROMAN VOLUBILIS
Dr Susan Walker

For the latest information about our events, including joining instructions for live-streamed lectures and talks, please see: www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/events.

Thank you for your help
Since its foundation, Wolfson has flourished thanks to the generosity of its many alumni and friends. We are hugely grateful for your support.