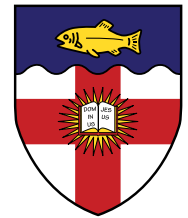


# REGENT'S NOW

**2013/14**

Regent's Park College is a  
Permanent Private Hall of  
the University of Oxford



**Regent's**  
Park College  
OXFORD

## **FEATURE**

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## **FEATURE**

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# Welcome to Regent's Now

**It's a great pleasure to be able to write an introduction to the 2013-2014 issue of Regent's Now. To be able to give, as this publication does, a snapshot of college life during the year is a fine way to celebrate the achievements of the members of the college community. It also gives a further welcome opportunity for us to connect again with our wider college community beyond Oxford and thank you for continuing interest and support.**

Student life here has been marked by the usual mixture of social high points, sporting excellence, cultural engagements, and various extra-curricular forms of education! The panto was Dick Whittington (oh yes it was), and the Final Fling took its theme from the World Cup as a Copacabana Carnival. Unfortunately, while the revellers partied England began their slide out of the tournament. The JCR's main charity event this spring morphed from a football tournament into a birthday party for Emmanuelle. We celebrated the many achievements of Regent's students in the wider university with the help of Michael Symmons Roberts (1983-86) who read us one of his early published poems, written in his room in main block.

I know that many of you want to hear about our college sports teams and I'm happy to report that they've had a good year—with the men's football team reaching the semi-final of Cuppers, and the men's boat coming within a whisker of that sought-after fourth bump in summer eights. We had more university blues too away from college including this year in women's cricket and basketball.

Amid all this, undergraduate, postgraduate and ministerial students (many of whom are already making an impressive impact in the work of many churches) continue to achieve remarkable academic results. We are primarily, after all, an educational institution. I do recall, however, one of the pithy quips of the then Senior Tutor (Rex Mason) during my own student days who suggested that 'one mustn't let work spoil one's education.' While we focus very much on examination results, quite properly, we are also interested in helping rounded human beings flourish during their time in Oxford. Indeed the College's new Director of Development, Julie Reynolds, describes Regent's students as 'interested and interesting' – a term that rather strikes a chord with me. You can read more about Julie's first impressions of the College, as well as the College's new annual giving club – the 1810 Society – on the centre page spread of this magazine.

This year the Angus Library's outreach project has gathered pace with two major exhibitions (on slavery, and the changing role of women), and work with schools and others. We had the opportunity to show the slavery exhibition once more when we were visited by the Home Office minister responsible for introducing the new government legislation on modern slavery and human trafficking this year: she chose Regent's as the venue to make a statement on the bill. Mentioning The Angus' remarkable collection is a reminder of the importance of research in the college's operations, and this year has also seen a steady output in publications by staff and graduate students and a number of conferences.

As I write the sun is shining and the quad full of sixth formers and their parents, looking around in anticipation of applying to Oxford in the autumn. Some of these could be the class of 2015. We have said goodbye to a cohort of students at our June Valedictory, we prepare to welcome the new group starting in October, and already we are looking ahead and into the future of the college. Despite the considerable increase in fees paid by undergraduates especially, Higher Education funding is precarious—and very little of the extra fee charged to students dribbles down to us here in college. An Oxford education is a great privilege, but also an expensive one to deliver. I would like to thank everyone who has made a gift to Regent's in the past year either financially or in the many other ways in which Alumni and Friends give back to the college community. Your generosity is valued not just in pounds and pence but in the companionship that such support signifies.

With best wishes,

**Robert Ellis, Principal**

**WE KEEP A CLEAR FOCUS ON  
FORMING THE FUTURE LEADERS  
IN SO MANY SPHERES**



## FINAL FLING

**Morgan Harries**  
(English Language and Literature)

**The 2014 Final Fling was a reflection of the Regent's spirit. Our theme took inspiration from the world-famous Brazilian samba carnival; because while the Copacabana beach may be a good few thousand miles away from Regent's, we feel that it shares the same joie de vivre and sense of community as our own student body.**

We turned the quad into a maelstrom of colour and activity to rival Brazil's own summer streets; there were brightly coloured parasols creating shade for our quieter seated areas, bunting and tissue pom-poms livening up every available surface, and even a pandemonium of beautiful parrots greeting the guests to add an element of the exotic to the college.

The site team were a great help in the week leading up to the event, with ladders and tools being carried around all day in order to erect the two beautiful white marquees that held our bar and shisha tent. These great expanses of white canvas were subsequently transformed by every available undergraduate in college armed with armfuls of orange and pink organza, so that by the time our guests entered the doors of the reception, the quad's honey-coloured stone walls were ablaze with light and colour. Even the guest's own faces added to the riot of colour as they queued up to get their faces decorated with custom designs by two lovely face painters situated in the Collier room.

The night started off with a champagne reception before an excellent, Latin-inspired meal from the talented Mark Ripington, the College's head chef. But a surprise performance by Oxford Brazilian drumming group SolSamba interrupted dessert and got the night off to a loud and impressive start. Later on the hall played host to a live salsa performance as well as a funk set from the in-demand student band Dot's Funk Odyssey. The event ended on a high note with the traditional silent disco playing such Regent's classics as Gold and Park Life, so it's safe to say that by the end of the night everyone was suitably tired out from hours of non-stop dancing.

Keeping dancing students' stomachs satisfied was in the hands of a wonderful local Brazilian food company who dished up bolitas and coxinhas, as well as a not-so-Brazilian (but equally delicious!) crêpe stand. Regent's own very talented barman Alex Rennison had spent months in advance planning the dynamic of the bar, and his work undoubtedly paid off; guests were served refreshing authentic caipirinha cocktails made from traditional Brazilian spirits, as well as simpler spirit and mixer drinks at our larger, professionally staffed bar.

The Final Fling was undoubtedly a success in the eyes of all the guests in attendance. Everyone on the committee and all three of the Chairs put in a great deal of time and effort to produce one great night, and we are all very proud of our achievement. We hope that we have helped to continue Regent's legacy within the Oxford community of being the most welcoming, fun College out there.

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## EMMANUELLE SOCIETY

We are thrilled to welcome two new members to the Emmanuelle Society. Members of the Society, which this year celebrates its 5 year anniversary, donate £400 to endow a book for the library in perpetuity.

**Denis Clifford and Family** Subject area: English Literature and Poetry, and **Rachel Third (Matric. 2009)** Subject area: Philosophy, Theology and English

If you would like to become a member, please email [alumni@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@regents.ox.ac.uk) or go to [www.giving.ox.ac.uk/regents](http://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/regents)



## EMMANUELLE'S ANTICS

(from Emmanuelle's perspective)

**Honor Fitzgerald (Classics)**

This year has been one of the most eventful of my 38 years at Regent's. It started just like any ordinary Trinity term; basking in the sun; avoiding croquet balls on the quad; being fed by loving students. There were a few rocky patches when I fell ill just days before my birthday party, but the journey to the vet was exhilarating, I've never travelled so fast! The wind on my shell, the open road, the smell of car freshener... Besides all that excitement I ended up with a new home in Balding 6 (middle Balding really is where the party is) where I was trained up for the annual Corpus Christi tortoise race.

With Rocky's 'Eye of the Tiger' in my mind, and with a renewed vigour, I took on the challenge and claimed third prize. I'm still rather bitter though, as first and second place went to terrapins. There was me thinking a tortoise race was for tortoises! My birthday party made up for the injustice; there was a bouncy castle, live music, a performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, games, food and drink, and all to raise money for British charity Meningitis Now ([www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org)). Tortoises came from colleges far and wide to convene on the majestic quad under the golden sunshine. I felt honoured that such a great number of people and tortoises turned up, it was certainly a year to remember.



# COLLEGE REPORTS



**THE COLLEGE RETAINED ITS FRIENDLY, FUN LOVING REPUTATION**

## JCR REPORT

### Will Obeney, JCR President (PPE)

2013-14 has been an outstanding year for the Junior Common Room, with both college teams and individuals succeeding in a variety of areas. The College retained its friendly, fun loving reputation, with an organised social event every Friday night after formal hall. The pick of the socials included Tequila Mockingbird (a literary cocktail evening), wine tasting, and a murder mystery. Alongside these, every term featured a RAG (Raise and Give – OUSU’s Charitable Wing) event, from a talent competition to a casino night, all raising money for worthwhile charities.

In recent times, Regent’s has had quite the air of thespianism to it, and this year was no different. Regent’s students have produced an impressive portfolio of plays in venues including the Burton Taylor Studio, Keble O’Reilly, and the Oxford Union. Two stand-out producers are James Gandhi (English Language & Literature), also elected as Treasurer of OUDS in Hilary, and Rebecca Roughan (Classics & English), now making a documentary on Oxford students. We also have several famed actors at Regent’s, among them finalist Alice Porter (English Language & Literature) who travelled to the Edinburgh Fringe with OUDS to perform in Ben Johnson’s satirical comedy *The Alchemist*. Back in college, students and staff enjoyed a welcome staple of the College’s Christmas celebrations - the annual pantomime which, this year, was *Dick Whittington*. Other Christmas events included an Advent formal hall, carols in the quad organised by the MCR, and the Annual Carol Service, organised primarily by Dr. Myra Blyth (College Chaplain) and held this year in the church of St Mary Magdalen.

In Trinity, a new JCR event was born. It has been commonplace in recent times for Regent’s to organise a charity football competition to raise money for Meningitis Now, but with the University Club being less welcoming this year, a change of plan was required. In place of the competition, we held a birthday party for Emmanuelle in the college quad. With beautiful sunshine, a bouncy castle, Pimm’s, cakes, live music, and an open-air production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, not only was the day a highlight of the year, but it also raised almost £800 for the meningitis charity in memory of former student Antonia Bruch.

Sporting success featured this year with the new Regent’s darts team winning the university third division, placing it against tougher opposition next year. In rowing, *Torpids* was a washout but the *Eights Regatta* saw the men bump on all but one day, taking the boat to its highest position in the competition since it first competed in 1970. The women rowed over on all but one day, when a bump saw them get even closer to the ‘fixed divisions’ which do not require a qualification race. The college also had teams in netball and tennis, and the football team just missed out on another *Cuppers* final. A few individuals also did the college proud, with Blues awarded to Miriam Hargreaves (Theology) in basketball, Shivani Oberoi (PPE) in cricket, and Amelia Gurley (History & Politics) in water polo. Meanwhile the Blue allocation system was not so kind to Laura Jenkins (Classics & English), who still represented the university in netball, and skiing alongside fellow RPC student Ella Atkins (History & English).

The list of achievements by JCR members in the university can only astound. From sailors and singers, to the work of Jack Wakefield and others to provide hot food to the homeless, to Beth Hibbert (Philosophy & Theology) and Henna Shah (PPE), editors of *The Sophist* ([www.the-sophist.co.uk](http://www.the-sophist.co.uk)), and Olivia Yallop (English Language & Literature), founder of *Vulture* interdisciplinary journal, not to forget the President of the Graduate Theology Society, Lexi Eikelboom (Theology). It shows that the college is the perfect place for encouraging students to get involved in exciting opportunities and proudly represent Regent’s. Long may this continue!

## MCR REPORT

### Matthew Mills, MCR President (Theology)

The MCR at Regent’s maintains a friendly, vibrant and evolving community. In Michaelmas, we welcomed new members from a wider range of academic disciplines, and from a more diverse range of backgrounds than ever before, and we are immensely grateful for the new perspectives and contributions they have brought. In the last year, our members have continued to work hard, contributing to scholarship through publications, and by presenting papers at conferences across the world (including Leeds, Geneva, Jerusalem, and Michigan). Members also continue to make great contributions to the life of the University.

Congratulations and thanks must go to Emilie Noteboom (Theology), for being part of the women’s rowing team who performed splendidly in the Summer Eights, Lexi Eikelboom (Theology) for her presidency of the Oxford Graduate Theology Society, and Ed Youansamouth (Theology) for his service as a student representative on the Joint Consultative Committee of the Faculty of Theology and Religion. We are always looking for ways to improve the MCR and we are currently planning an ambitious refurbishment project – watch this space!

## RECOGNITION DINNER

On Friday, 6th June 2014, Regent's Park College JCR held its Annual Recognition Dinner. Poet Professor Michael Symmons Roberts (1983) gave an encouraging speech to all present before reading out a list of JCR members whose actions or accomplishments placed them worthy of celebration this year. The following students were recognised and awarded a bottle of wine.

**Michael Blake** (PPE) Oxford Forum for International Development, Funding Officer

**Sarah Blakemore** (Geography) Oxford Hub, Rights and Development Coordinator

**Madeleine Clinton** (Theology) Oxford University Chorus, Publicity Officer

**Kathryn Cole** (History & Economics) Oxford University Sailing Club, Social Secretary

**Emma Cookson** (Philosophy & Theology) Cherwell, Deputy Lifestyle Editor

**Benedict Coulter** (Theology) Oxford Live Below the Line, Organiser

**Imogen Crane** (English Language & Literature) Oxford Student, Deputy News Editor

**Alexandria Eikelboom** (Theology) Graduate Theology Society, President

**Alexander Figurski** (PPE) Oxide Student Radio, News Editor Oxford Student, Deputy Music Editor

**Honor Fitzgerald** (Literae Humaniores) OxPolicy, Events Manager

**Rachel Forster** (English Language & Literature) Oxford University French Society, Vice-President

**James Gandhi** (English Language & Literature) University Drama (Producer)

**Amelia Gurley** (History & Politics) Water Polo Half Blue

**Miriam Hargreaves** (Theology) Basketball Blue

**Beth Hibbert** (Philosophy & Theology) University Cheerleading Society, Vice-President The Sophist, Treasurer

**Evie Ioannidi** (English Language & Literature) University Drama (Actor)

**Laura Jenkins** (Classics & English) University sport (Netball, Skiing)

**Bethany John** (Geography) Oxford Christian Aid, Secretary

**Su Yun Kiew** (Jurisprudence) Bar Society, Secretary

**Philippa Kiralfy** (History & Politics) Oxford University Chorus, Secretary

**Hope Levy-Shepherd** (English Language & Literature) Afro-Caribbean Society, President Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, Chairperson

**Benedict Newman-Sanders** (History) Varsity Athletics

**Oluwafemi Nylander** (PPE) Afro-Caribbean Society, Treasurer University Drama, Actor

**Will Obeney** (PPE) University Drama (Producer) OUSU Scrutiny Committee, Chair

**Shivani Oberoi** (PPE) Cricket Blue

**Jennifer O'Connor** (Sociology) Oxford Microfinance Initiative, Team Leader

**Camilla Rees** (History) University Drama (Writer and Director) Industry, Deputy Editor. RAG, Social Media Officer

**Rebecca Roughan** (Classics & English) University Drama (Producer)

**Phoebe Scott-Green** (Theology) Just Love, Just Living Representative

**Henna Shah** (PPE) The Sophist, Editor. Students Supporting Streetkids, President

**Madeline Shott** (Geography) RAG, Sponsorship Officer. Oxford Microfinance Society, Secretary

**Elizabeth Walker** (Geography) University Drama (Prop Store Manager and Stage Manager)

**Olivia Yallop** (English Language & Literature) Vulture, Founder

**Edward Youansamouth** (Theology) Theology Joint Consultative Committee, Graduate Representative



# Regent's Boat Club

## MEN'S BOAT CREW

### Will Tomsett (History)

**This has been a successful year for the men's boat, and despite a number of setbacks and pitfalls along the way we managed to pull off a very respectable showing in Summer Eights.**

As Michaelmas approached in all the dreary glory of its cloudy mornings, the men's boat, with two returning rowers and one very experienced cox, looked set for a good year. The 2013-14 cohort of freshers - with a 50:50 split between men and women - amply filled out the remaining seats in the boat, and before we knew it we were back to the old rhythms of rowing again, with early mornings on the water and tank sessions at the weekend. Coached by the well-honed eye and ceaseless energy of Peter Bond, we looked forward to a successful Torpids.

But then disaster struck. Rain, rain, and more rain - a Biblical flood lasting even longer than forty days and forty nights - poured down from the heavens over the Christmas holidays, resulting in ten solid weeks of red-flagged river. Thankfully, the Boat Club had invested its training budget for 2014 in refurbishing the Rowing Room with two new 'ergs' (rowing machines, to the nautically challenged!), taking our total to four, and making it altogether less dungeon-like. Even despite this, the lack of water time meant that an increasingly dispirited team spent a gruelling five weeks on the erg machines in the Rowing Room sweating and panting every day - only for Torpids to be cancelled at the eleventh hour by OURCs barely a week before the regatta was due to be held.

So after a disappointing Hilary, it was with renewed spirits that we returned to the glorious sun and balmy heat of Trinity, and during these summer afternoon training sessions we slowly started to remember the pleasing feeling of eight bodies moving together in harmony as we picked up the pieces from Michaelmas term, nearly five months prior. And before we knew it, Summer Eights was upon us and the starting gun was firing. Our first race saw us bump Pembroke III within barely twenty strokes - due mainly to our impressive strength built up during Hilary rather than to their terrible racing line (or so we like to believe). Day two saw us bump Christ Church III under

Donnington Bridge, and as Day Three began we believed we had a good chance of blades, if we could catch St John's II before they caught St Peter's II. Sadly however, John's caught up with Peter's in barely thirty strokes, and we were bumped by Christ Church III behind us due to confusion in the Gut. This was dispiriting - but bumps racing is an inherently unfair sport. The final day saw us re-bump Christ Church III, and although we missed out on blades, we did finish 54th on the river, the highest position that the men's boat has ever been in in its 44-year history. An achievement to be proud of which topped off a successful year for a crew with much to celebrate. Onward to next year!

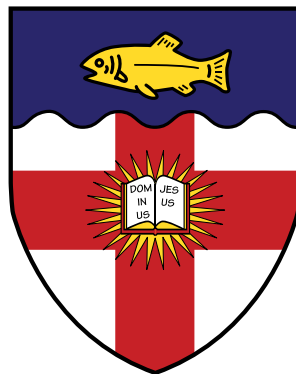


**Over the Christmas holidays our Coach, Pete Bond, and President, Will Tomsett, spent some time refurbishing our Rowing Room. The place, previously a snooker room, was lacking a lot of love and was not a motivational place to train.**

However, with a lick of paint, two new ergs, a weights set, erg mats, framed photographs and crew lists of the RPCBC crews which have won blades in the past twenty years - and, of course, our oar design painted on the wall - we now have a room showcasing our Club's achievements whilst spurring current rowers on to further glories. This is really a space that the club can be proud of for years to come.

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## WOMEN'S BOAT CREW

**Philippa Kiralfy (History and Politics) and Phoebe Scott-Green (Theology)**

The women's boat has had an exciting and successful year, both on and off the water. The year started with the purchase of a new boat for the women's team (named 'Regenereight') which has made a real difference to both training and racing capabilities. Due to the high level of interest in rowing this year we were able to create a second women's crew which raced in the Isis Winter Leagues in Michaelmas. Both boats entered in the IWLS did very well, beating the times of last year's crew despite the wet conditions. Over Christmas the boat club renovated the training room in Regent's, purchasing two new erg machines as well as redecorating the room with mirrors, photos of past teams, and blades. Little did we know how useful this would be; Hilary Term saw the river reach its highest levels for 40 years, with ten consecutive weeks of 'red flag' making training on the water impossible. The women's team continued to train hard throughout Hilary, and although Torpids was unfortunately cancelled, we made significant progress which carried through to Trinity and Summer Eights.

We had an exceptionally successful Summer Eights, with the RPCBC women's boat climbing a position on the river after four days of tough competition. The first day saw the women's boat narrowly miss out on a bump on St Catherine's College

as their boat held off our advances down the length of the course, and the second day saw RPCBC close massively on the St Catherine's crew about halfway through the race before the race was klaxoned. The third day saw RPCBC bump St Edmund Hall, and meant we raced a second time (being given a chance to rise into Division IV) but yet another klaxon meant that we were denied the chance of promotion. On the final day a long, hard slog saw the women row the length of the course, holding off fierce competition from behind, and again having a chance at promotion in our second race of the day. This second race, however, was unlucky, with a series of early bumps by other boats meaning that there was no one ahead of us to chase (all the other boats had dropped out) - meaning that we rowed the length of the course once again and finished at the head of Division V, looking towards promotion over the coming year.

**We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, Blackrock, for making possible many of the improvements made to the capacity for women's rowing at Regent's, as well as to our wonderful coach, Pete Bond, whose endless dedication to the Boat Club and encouragement to the teams has helped us achieve some great things this year.**

**WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WHICH CARRIED THROUGH TO TRINITY AND SUMMER EIGHTS.**



# Sports teams

## NETBALL

### Miriam Hargreaves (Theology)

Regent's 2013/14 netball season was one of our best to date as we were promoted to division 3. We had an influx of new talent from the fresher girls, who added to a collection of strong players. The girls quickly gelled and formed a team that meant serious business. We took on some strong sides, such as LMH and Magdalen 1st, winning comfortably, and proving to the big colleges, who boast about their talent and personal netball courts, that little Regent's Park is a force to be reckoned with. We may be small but we are mighty. We managed to hold a 4 game winning streak before sadly loosing out to a strong Oriel side.

Enthusiasm this year has been great, with lots of girls stepping up to play at the last minute when we found ourselves short of players, and my thanks goes out to them! This year also saw interest from the boys soar. I would be cornered weekly in the JCR and asked "when can I play?" It seemed that they all were desperate to play should a boy be called upon (we were allowed one boy in centre court if short of players). As the interest was there, we entered the mixed Cuppers tournament in Trinity term, a great day indeed! We were an impressive and undefeated side, winning one match and drawing the rest. Though unfortunately we failed to qualify into the final round, we did manage to hold a draw against Worcester (my loyalties were tied as I also play for Worcester - though obviously my heart belongs to Regent's). Worcester went on to not only win the tournament, but also won every other match they played! It seems they just couldn't beat the mighty RPCNC.

**Overall, this year has been a wonderful year for netball! I have seen all the players improve and really come together as a team, and I know that next year, as we play together more, we will continue to grow stronger.** We are also currently in the process of getting netball stash, including printed culottes so we can advertise our Regent's pride from behind! I look forward to what next year has in store for RPCNC.

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## TENNIS

### Sam Livingstone (English Language & Literature)

Following another star-studded season of tennis, the pressure was on to keep up the free-flowing brand Regent's had come to be associated with! With Harrison Denner (Jurisprudence) and Mikey Blake (PPE) often unavailable due to Finals, James Woodbridge (English Language & Literature), Stefan Nippes (Visiting Student Programme), Jonny Streatfeild (Geography), Miriam Hargreaves (Theology), Shivani Oberoi (PPE) and Honour Fitzgerald (Literae Humaniores) all stepped in to the breach with me.

Sadly, after a very close draw against Worcester 2's, form deteriorated rapidly and a swift exit from Cuppers soon followed at the hands of a very capable Pembroke team despite the valiant attempts of the VI. A trip to St Catherine's was up next where Shivani made her debut for RPCLTC. Unfortunately, our navigational skills were sadly lacking, so a round trip via Marston eventually took us to their courts much closer to the city centre. Stefan and I managed to get the better of our opponents in a closely fought doubles match, although regrettably Miriam and Shivani were narrowly defeated as tensions built up leading to a tempestuous singles match between Miriam and her opposite number. Sadly, this was chalked off as another defeat taking us to our last match against Kellogg College where my best attempts at pair-organisation were thwarted by an expert mature line-up. This was Honour's debut and she was on the end of many booming serves from our opposition leading to a dispiriting but determined opening performance with, hopefully, many more to come! Fortunately, James managed to restore some pride to a battered and bruised Regent's team with a comprehensive, if not routine, singles victory achieving the first and only 'bagel-ing' of the season!

Thus ended a disappointing season for a team that is still finding its feet amongst the behemoths of Division 7. Nonetheless, it has been a hugely enjoyable summer with many sunny and balmy days out and hopefully with a bit more practise and development next season will be the one where RPCLTC fulfil their potential.

**I am handing over the captaincy to a very safe pair of hands in James Woodbridge, and I am sure he will do a better job of galvanising the team – Cuppers glory is never too far away!**

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## UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL

### Miriam Hargreaves (Theology)

This year I joined Oxford University Basketball club, and have had a great year playing for the Blues team. It's been a challenging as well as rewarding and enjoyable year. At the beginning of the season, my fitness was not what it once was, to say the least, and the gruelling 7am fitness sessions were a killer! But as my fitness improved and I formed great friendships with the other girls on the team it all started to fall into place. We really bonded as a team as I took on the (unofficial) role of Social Secretary. We had great team nights out that really brought us together off court and made us stronger on court. Next year, my position as social secretary will be official and I look forward to developing a really strong unit as a club.

**Our season was a mixed bag, we had a great first match against Exeter, winning comfortably which looked to be the beginning of a good season.** We unfortunately struggled to get players together for away matches and so our game dropped. We lost to a strong Cardiff team and a questionable King's, as well as having a nail-biting match against London South Bank, which saw us 2 points down in the last 30 seconds, and due to some dodgy umpiring, unable to get it back at the last minute.

After Christmas we were back with a vengeance and determined to qualify for our final 8 championships. We were training harder than ever, working so much better as a team and our efforts paid off. We thrashed Kings in the second leg and gained a 15 point lead in our match against South Bank which we managed to maintain! This win was crucial as it meant we qualified for the final championships. This was a weekend in London playing the best teams in the country. Though we lost both our matches (against Loughborough- who won last year) and Cardiff (who have a team GB Olympic player) it was a great weekend of basketball and the highest standard I will probably ever play against! Some of the girls there will go on to play professionally.

My varsity match against Cambridge was also very memorable. We were unprepared for the strength and talent of the Cambridge side. One player in the team was on loan from Duke University in the US where she is on a basketball scholarship; Duke is well-known for its Basketball. She was just incredible! Although we lost, it was such an amazing day. Most of Regent's came to watch and dominated the side-lines. Every time I looked over I saw a Regent's face with banners and could hear the chants and shouts, all for me! I've never felt more honoured! Even my tutor, Tim Bradshaw came down to show his support! It was a great moment of Regent's pride and a classic example of how wonderful and supportive our close knit community is.

I was also awarded a Blue which was very exciting. I went to a special Blues Presentation and Awards ceremony at the Union and am now entitled to membership at Atalantas (the female version of Vinnies) and a snazzy blazer! All in all it has been a treat year at OUBbC and I can't wait for next season!

## DARTS

### Will Obeney (PPE)

As noted by the Principal in his Valediction speech this year, darts has a lot going for it: unlike most sports where players might end up at the bar by the end of the day, darts starts in it. Following the arrival of new pumps in the JCR bar, the creation of a college darts team seemed to follow naturally.

**Just before Michaelmas, the dartboard was installed in the common room, and freshers and finalists alike started practicing their trebles and doubles (once they had mastered hitting the dartboard at all).** The university has three intercollegiate divisions containing sixteen teams from twelve colleges, and we entered into the bottom division, described by those supposedly in-the-know variously as 'really good' or 'the beer league', so going in to the first game against Wadham Girls' brought much uncertainty and we prepared our best losing faces.

But the team's short period of training had paid off, and the doubles were landing. The match ended in a 9-3 victory (eight players on each team play a singles and doubles match each). The training got better, with two of our flock, Luke McLaughlin (Matric. 2000) and Sam Hurst (PPE), managing the elusive score of 180. Home and away games against Pembroke, Worcester Girls', and another at Wadham, oddly all ended in 9-3 victories bar a 6-6 draw at Worcester – our promotion rivals who proved a real test in both matches. With St Peter's College withdrawing from the league before the season was over, our score became unassailable and in our first year of existence, Regent's Darts Club had won promotion to the university second division. We expect the standard to increase significantly.

The Club must now try and cement its position as a part of the JCR. With many of the most successful throwers leaving us for pastures new, more freshers and postgraduates will need to join the fray. I have passed on the captaincy to Tom McKenna (History & Politics) who aims to do this and more. Our first nine-dart finish is surely not far away...

# Sports teams

## FOOTBALL

### Sam Livingstone (English Language & Literature)

**2014 saw the last season for many stalwarts of RPCFC for the past 3 years and, given the exceptional season before under the guidance of Tim Wickenden (Theology), I felt I was stepping into some very large shoes!**

Thus an overwhelming sense of anticipation greeted the first match against St. Peters under the vice-captaincy of Stephen Richardson (History). Sadly, a couple of defensive lapses meant a 6-4 defeat in our first game of the season.

Next up was a St. Anne's away game without the presence of our talismanic striker, Ben Newman-Sanders (History), due to his brief flirtation with the dark side of St John's. It was a decision he would come to regret as the team put in one of the best performances of the season with a superb left-footed strike from Sam Hurst (PPE) helping the team to a 6-0 thrashing of a team that would be re-visited in calamitous circumstances later in the season.

A special mention goes out to Jaylee Ali (Geography) for a stellar performance marking his transition to a pivotal player in the Regents XI. At last our Cuppers campaign started with a very tricky encounter against St Catz 3's and a cagey affair was settled with two late goals from Mr Newman-Sanders and Mr Hurst in a solid defensive performance. Our next Cuppers game was somewhat of a walk in the park as Regent's dismantled St John's 9-2.

By now, the team was settling down to a solid 4-3-3 shape driven forward by a very sound midfield of Pete Timothy (Applied Theology), box-to-box midfielder Alex Figurski (PPE) and the scrapper Mikey Blake (PPE). Nonetheless, we were powerless to prevent a 4-0 defeat to our Cuppers finals nemesis of 2013, New College 2's, as injuries struck towards the Christmas vacation. Fortunately, the Cuppers run continued with a sedate 4-0 conquering of Exeter.

Cuppers fever was now beginning to hit Regent's, and league form drastically dipped with a few heavy defeats leading to us slipping alarmingly down the league as well as the biblical weather making any sort of outdoor activity a non-entity at the beginning of Hilary. By hiring the local 3G Artificial Turf pitch, we faced Worcester in our Quarter-final (and probably the performance of the season!) which saw a free-flowing Regent's recover from an early setback to romp home 5-1. The match was characterised by a domineering performance from Pete Timothy who scored all 5 goals; a feat which saw him take home the Player of the Season Award at the Team Dinner following the conclusion of the campaign. Heading into the semi-final, Regent's faced St Anne's who had previously been dispatched

at the beginning of the year. Dreaming of consecutive trips to Iffley Road, we had an early crisis to deal with as we had to kick-off with ten men due to the dire organisation of Tim Wickenden who had left his boots in College and had to cycle back on a retrieval mission. Anne's twice took the lead, in ill-deserved goals that the ever-dependable Rhys Eden (Theology) in goal was unfortunate to concede. Heartbreak followed in the 90th minute



as a counter-attack goal left Regent's filled with resentment aimed vociferously at a poor refereeing display!

The following league games proved somewhat of anti-climax despite a thrilling 4-4 draw in the final match with the returning Paul Whelan snatching a 90th minute equaliser clinching league safety for another season. Ultimately, it was a year of enthusiasm and talent which delivered repeatedly, yet fell short at the penultimate hurdle. With a vast chunk of the team leaving, next season will be a chance to refashion the Regent's football spirit under the undoubtedly zealous captaincy of Jonny Streatfeild (Geography), who deserves great credit in recovering from a burst appendix to feature regularly and impressively towards the back end of the season. It has been an absolute privilege to captain such a hard-working, skilled, and most importantly, fun bunch of guys this year.



## CROQUET

### Imogen Crane (English Language and Literature)

Despite the rain hampering efforts at the beginning of term, and disrupting Cuppers practice much to the disappointment of the croquet fans, by the second half of Trinity, the sun shone and the croquet set was permanently in use. Regent's sadly did not win the Cuppers Croquet this year, but all five teams who took part had a great time. Teams travelled great distances to play at various grand croquet lawns, including Magdalen, Lincoln and Pembroke. However, some college lawns were unimpressive according to teams, with both Brasenose and LMH apparently offering unkempt lawns, bumpy routes and broken mallets.

Regent's hosted a couple of games, in the hope that the cross-country nature of our quad would throw opponents off. Sadly this was not the case, although there was a very painfully drawn out game held between Jonny Streatfeild (Geography) and Will Yates' (PPE) team against LMH. Two teams made it as far as round 3, but that was unfortunately the end of Regent's teams in Cuppers. Commiserations to all who made it that far! **Croquet has been returned to its box until next Trinity, when I am sure it will be back out with the same enthusiasm.**



## LEIF DIXON

I was an undergraduate at the University of Sussex, and moved to Oxford to pursue doctoral work, before taking up a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2008. I moved back to Oxford in 2012 to work at Brasenose College, and am now delighted to be working as the Director of Studies for History at Regent's Park.

I am responsible for teaching the British and European early modern papers, and for organising the rest of the tuition for Regent's undergraduate historians. My main research area is theological culture in Reformation-era England. My first book, a study of Calvinist sermons and pastoral literature - Practical Predestinarians in England, 1590-1640 - was published in 2014. I am currently conducting research into early modern anxieties about atheism.

## VALERIE ANDERSON

Valerie joined the College as Academic Administrator on 6th August 2014, taking on what is now an extremely varied and complex position. In larger colleges four or five people might do the work which Val will be doing here – Admissions Secretary, Graduate Admissions Secretary, Tutor's Administrator, Students' Administrator, and some colleges now have an administrative Senior Tutor – though they will of course be dealing with larger numbers of students. It does mean that the role here requires a jack of all trades, who can multi-task and remain calm at all times (at least on the surface!).

Val worked in the design aspect of the educational publishing industry for 17 years before moving into administration at Oxford Brookes University where for 5 years she was responsible for servicing a number of Examination Committees and preparing the Law School examination processes. She also assisted in the managing of graduation ceremonies, with 24 ceremonies in a 6 day period to organise. Her more recent work experience was through a temping agency which gave her various placements, including her step into Oxford University with 5 months as Diploma and Centre Administrator at the Law Faculty, and then a couple of months in the Estates Services which looks after all the University buildings and property, including graduate accommodation. Val was also able to have a 10-day handover with her predecessor during the long vacation which included the A level results week, and so able to familiarise herself with her office and most of the tasks ahead of her before the start of the academic year.



# The 1810 Society

## Julie Reynolds, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

**On a warm and sunny Monday morning this June, I walked through the front door of Regent's Park College for the very first time as a bona fide member of the College staff.**

As an outsider, the Dreaming Spires and gowned academics of the University of Oxford can seem slightly daunting. Images of highly intelligent, otherworldly students are conjured from the descriptions given by many non-Oxford types, and a general air of mystery prevails. Yet walking over the star and out into the quad, I saw only a host of normal young men and women – interested, interesting people with a commitment to excellence.

Regent's has always celebrated outstanding academic success – all of the 2014 leavers received a 2:1 or higher. Additionally, the College boasts a wonderfully friendly, welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Nobody who has visited can deny that. Perhaps it has something to do with the small size of the College. Perhaps it has something to do with its central location within the city. Perhaps it has something to do with the wise old tortoise meandering through the quad. In any case, the warmth that is present throughout the place is something very special – something that should be cultivated and allowed to continue well into the future.

The pre-fee days of Higher Education in the UK are long gone, and places like Oxford face a real danger of becoming financially unobtainable for prospective students, and ultimately financially unviable as institutions. We face a relatively new era in British Higher Education where Universities are turning to alumni and friends to help continue to provide educational services. Unlike our American cousins, a strong precedent doesn't exist for alumni to give money back to their alma mater. An interesting dichotomy can be seen between British Universities who have begun to fundraise as a necessity from a constituency not accustomed to the idea of such philanthropy and American Universities who fundraise almost as a luxury (Harvard has an endowment of \$32billion), from alumni used to giving in this way.

Although we are not hoping to emulate Harvard's successes overnight, it is important that Regent's starts involving alumni and friends in thinking about the future of the College. For that reason, I'm proud to launch the 1810 Society – a giving club for those wishing to make a regular donation to help Regent's flourish. Named after the year of the College's foundation on its original site in East London, the 1810 Society aims to recognise alumni and friends whose continued support is helping to realise Regent's mission of remaining a thriving centre of educational excellence. All those who have given at least £1810 in a single financial year automatically become members of the society for that year.

	Annual	Cost
Recent Leavers (previous year)	£18.10	N/A
Young Alumni (<30) & Ministerials	£181.00	£15
Alumni	£1810.00	£150

In order to ensure that the 1810 Society is attainable to all, the Society operates on a tiered giving system. Below is a comprehensive chart detailing exactly how much you must donate in order to be recognised as a member of the Society.

### Members of the Society are entitled to the following benefits:

- An 1810 Society pin featuring the College Shield, and the year of Society Membership
- An 1810 Society certificate
- Named recognition in the College Almanac
- A termly e-news letter
- Preferential rates to College events

In addition to the benefits above, donors who give at the full rate of £1810 will be invited to Formal Dinner, with a guest, once a term. Anyone currently giving at a rate equal to or greater than the 1810 Society's thresholds will be notified by email in the next few weeks and will be sent their pin and certificate. It is my hope that the Society will continue to grow so that the College can continue to provide the world class education and friendly, thriving atmosphere that has evidently existed since its foundation.



## Professor Pamela Sue Anderson, Professor of Modern European Philosophy of Religion

**Imagine Freshers' week in Oxford 1979. The Philosophy Sub-Faculty is hosting a Drinks party at 10 Merton Street. Like other sherry parties you've attended, questions are asked. A philosopher approaches, 'What are you studying?' 'Philosophy and Theology'.**

'What philosophy interests you?' 'Twentieth-century French philosophy'. 'Really! Which philosopher?' 'Paul Ricoeur'. 'I've not heard of him...what area of philosophy?' 'Philosophy of Religion'. 'Oh! What topic?' 'Free will and evil'. 'So...why are you in Oxford? No Oxford Philosopher teaches Ricoeur on free will or evil?' You are deflated, if anything like me. As a young woman, philosophy student I was marked 'a mid-westerner'. Everyone seemed to know that meant 'the Bible-belt', from where US students come with, as one tutor said, 'fertile minds'. Yet this did not make me feel better. Later I'll learn how to answer aggressive questions: no reason for complete candour, only to be crushed.

Imagine a reception later that year at Oriel College, with Christian philosophers of religion. Questions are posed. 'Which one is your husband?' 'I am not married...' 'Oh, why are you here?' 'I'm interested in philosophy of religion'. 'What topic?' 'Evil in Ricoeur's Symbolism of Evil.' 'Never heard of Ricoeur?' 'He will give the Sarum Lectures on Narrative Theology'.

'So, what is narrative theology?! This was disheartening... With Christian philosophy of religion went ordained men and their wives. The question, 'whose wife are you?' was my first, not last indication of patriarchy. I was an oddity, a woman without a husband, in Oxford talking about modern European philosophy. Advice came for answering, 'whose wife are you?'...' from a chaplain: 'Tell them, "I'm divorced, and remarried [although neither]," you won't be bothered!' When hassled by one Christian, it worked, he left me – alone. And I was left on my own.

Hilary Term 1980 when Ricoeur delivered the Sarum Lectures in the Exam Schools few attended them. That term my tutorials were with Mary Warnock. I suggested Ricoeur for apostgraduate thesis. Her response baffled me: 'We are not sure yet, if Ricoeur is worthy of an Oxford DPhil'. But I was not talking about Ricoeur writing a DPhil. Later I understood: Oxford graduates write on dead philosophers recognized as worthy of study. Warnock's review of Ricoeur's *Freedom and Nature* (1966) represented twentieth-century Oxford Philosophy: 'there is no doubt that the philosophical style of the twentieth-century in France is one of the most barbarous styles there has ever been. Obscurity is piled upon obscurity, and the resulting language is an intolerable mixture of French and German' (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 1967: 279). Thus obstacles to studying, and later writing, modern European philosophy are clear.

My recognition of the difficulty on my chosen path, not only in Oxford, but in Paris, and abroad was simple: a philosopher's life is a lonely struggle. Although I wrote on a dead philosopher, Kant, he did not make life easier in championing 'the categorical imperative' and 'religion within the boundaries of mere reason': an unconditional sense of morality and rational rigour. Yet, 'he' proved successful for Oxford Philosophy: my answers

to philosophical interrogations became respectable. Further recognition came - eventually.

Imagine 31 July 2014. A letter from The Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford, read in disbelief: 'I am pleased to say that it has been agreed to confer on you the title of 'Professor of Modern European Philosophy of Religion'. The past floods back: old questions, naive answers. Is it possible? Modern European Philosophy of Religion in Oxford? A highly distinctive recognition instantly transforms the past. An intuitive power of memory changes Philosophy through an individual and collective path of recognition. A debt is recognized in narratives making sense of memories and lost time. Ricoeur's *The Course of Recognition* (2005) confronts the 'unrecognisable' in Marcel Proust: 'an example of the threatening aspect that attaches both to change and to time that passes...gives recognition an emotional dimension [which his] literature explores' (65). The unrecognizable replaces sensational memories of Freshers' parties in Oxford. Baffling changes transform appearances, as in Proust's *Time Regained*.

I found myself suddenly in the main drawing-room, in the middle of a party...very different from those that I had attended in the past (2000, 286).

I had difficulty in recognizing the master of the house and the guests and why everyone in the room appeared to have put on a disguise – in most cases a powdered wig... I was silent... [presented with] a spectacle which seemed to extend the boundaries within which the transformations of the human body can take place... For whereas at a fancy-dress ball...civility leads one, if anything to exaggerate the difficulty – to talk even of the impossibility – of recognizing the person beneath the disguise, here on the contrary an instinct had warned me to do just the contrary; I felt that the success of the disguise was no longer in any way flattering... [T]he difficulty which I experienced in putting a name to the faces before me was shared evidently by all those who, when they happened to catch sight of mine, paid no more attention to it than if they had never seen it before or else laboriously sought to extract from my present appearance a very different recollection (289). But such traces of the past are not the whole story.

Modern European philosophy of religion captures an intuitive power of memory not only in material and sensual, but spiritual life. Affective survivals of past in the present become the future. When life has no pattern memory's intuitive power re-assures us. The taste of sweet sherry returns; the joy of life affects in generating new meaning. Affections become cognitive, changing that first taste of Oxford as remembered. Recognition of that taste ensures us of making sense: love of life makes sense.

As the new Professor of Modern European Philosophy of Religion, I hope to make sense of [my portion of] life. In our human capacity to affect each other, we create affective ties. In narrating lost time the philosopher holds onto 'the "joy of yes" in the sadness of the finite', and generates a shared course of recognition. As professor and student of modern European philosophy, I've sensed the future in the present-past. Love's affections continue to tie us together, in living up to death.

# Music Master Class with Renée Fleming



## Johanna Harrison (English Language and Literature)

'Might you be free for a master class with Renée Fleming?' began one of the best emails I've ever received, and the only message that has ever produced mass hysteria in my apartment. What resulted was, without a doubt, the best twenty-two minutes of my life. The excitement of meeting Renée Fleming was (for me at least) not so much the fact that she had sung for Obama, or even that she'd done marvellously well as a guest American singing 'Rule Britannia' at the Last Night of the Proms in 2010, but rather more to do with the fact that Ms. Fleming sings 'from the gut' not just in the technical sense but also in her stagecraft; she assures the listener that they are in safe hands, that in her finest moments she will achieve the

very essence of emotional communication, and she will share that with you along with her utter joy in the music.

To the master class I brought the 'mad scene' from Handel's *Hercules* - Dejanira's accompanato and aria at the point where she realises she has caused the death of her husband. I had just finished playing the role in Oxford and, in the post-production lull, had become frustrated with several underlying technical issues with the piece. Renée Fleming, as a meticulous diagnostician, identified these and then pushed me further into thinking about the nature of stagecraft and the effect it has on technique; in the intensity of the 'mad scene' I had practically started knotting up through muscle memory right on the first line of 'Where shall I fly?' I was dubious, therefore, when she asked

me to show her how we had staged it in production, and I shared a look with the director of *Hercules* in the audience; we had created a mad scene that despaired all over the stage, and the Holywell Music Room was a slightly more demure setting, certainly lacking our smoke machine from Act 3. The recreation ended up with her stopping the scene when I was down on my knees, and I'm fairly sure I asked her permission to stand up again. With everybody, she handled technical issues with great sensitivity and tackled performance problems with creativity and a completely fresh approach.

Throughout all her utterly charming personality - we have now all learnt that Renée Fleming carries a supply of Halls Soothers in her 'mummy purse', which has now become a household phrase back in Somerset - and her incredible skills as a diagnostician and singer, the biggest lessons I took away were to allow the music to take on the role of teacher and to trust in my own dramatic instincts. The affirmations she gave to each and every one of us are now chinks in the armour that every performer must have against audition disappointment. And even though you could hear a room of young singers' teeth gritting upon 'I haven't done an audition in a hundred years', everyone present fell in love with a lovely woman and a remarkable artist. **Huge thanks must go to the Humanitas team and to Dr Michael Burden (Professor of Music, New College) for organising this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.**

**SHE HANDLED TECHNICAL ISSUES WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY AND TACKLED PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS WITH CREATIVITY AND A COMPLETELY FRESH APPROACH**



# Up from the Rabbit Hole

## Peter Timothy (Applied Theology)

**Bruce Wayne has the Bat Cave. Ernst Stavro Blofeld has a volcano. And Regent's has the MCR.**

Is there a superhero or an evil genius at work in our Middle Common Room? Not quite. For starters the Bursar would have charged rent that would even make Batman baulk! However, there is a common theme that links the three. All are the underground bases for a hidden but significant group of people, often anonymous, but nevertheless committed to their chosen cause.

Enter the ministerials. Away from the much larger undergraduate body that dominates day-to-day college life and reflects the increasingly strong ties with the wider University, a small group of men and women can be found drinking coffee and training for Baptist Ministry.

A motley mix of ages, background and academic ability, the ministerials invade the MCR every Monday and Tuesday, occasionally raising their heads above the parapet for the college photo or to check their pigeon hole.

Hardly the line-up needed to rescue Gotham or plan world domination.

Indeed, most are blissfully unaware of the many Regent's rituals, be it Friday night Bops, tortoise races, or (just whisper it!) late night quad runs. Yet this group continues to play an important part in college life, albeit a part that goes largely under the radar of many.

The ministerial body can be found serving in telethons, representing Regent's across the UK and beyond, and, perhaps more predictably, sustaining much of the College's spiritual life.

In fact, Regent's continues to find much of its identity in its rich tradition of providing formation for Baptist Ministry. Meals are eaten in a hall named after the Baptist forefather Thomas Helwys, many of the teaching staff are ordained Baptist ministers, and even in what are quite literally the college foundations, lies The Angus Library and Archive - a world leading resource for all things Baptist!

Yet there remains something of a divide between this side of the college community and those who inhabit the many halls of residence on a daily basis.

Perhaps this is inevitable. The points of mutual contact are minimal. Meals are eaten together but rarely shared, with ministerials usually taking advantage of the chance to catch up with one another and undergraduates simply there for sustenance. Differences in age, responsibility and home life all contribute to a gap that is difficult to bridge.

Except that's not quite been my experience over the course of three years at Regent's. Along with several other ministerials, I have enjoyed enriching friendships with a number of undergraduates, all brought about through playing football.

Every Monday lunchtime we have risked the wrath of our tutors by desperately playing out a "next goal wins," well aware that time is ticking, and the run back from the five-a-side pitch would inevitably mean a late (and sweaty) entrance to our 2pm class.

Thankfully the tutors are (usually) gracious; perhaps aware of the positive effect these lunchtimes are having on the college community. For these games have succeeded in uniting the JCR with the MCR, and have put some names to the anonymous faces, otherwise labelled "ministerial".



I have also been fortunate enough to represent the college football team, and have enjoyed the growing bond between fellow players. United under the badge of Regent's, gutsy tackles and passionate celebrations are a sign of our shared love for the college.

In the course of successful runs to the final and semi-final of Cuppers we have laughed, cried and fought together. These bonds, strengthened every Monday lunchtime, have enhanced my own experience of Regent's, and have perhaps shed a little light on the hidden world of the ministerial.

At the very least it has perhaps shown that, while not exactly superheroes, the ministerials down in the MCR are equally enthused by college life, and feel just as much a part of the community as those upstairs in the JCR.

**Amongst our differences, long may we stand together, proud to be part of a unique place.**

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# COLLEGE LIFE

## REGENT'S v ORIEL LAW MOOT

### Dr Tim Bradshaw (Senior Tutor)

On Thursday, 5th December 2014, a high level law moot was held between Regent's and Oriël. The event, held in our own Helwys Hall, was preceded by an enticing 'juice and donuts' preliminary for the gathering audience. A surprising capacity for donut consumption was evidenced! The audience for the moot was some fifty in all. It attracted some practising lawyers and tutors from the Faculty as well as students.

A moot is a mock case heard by a panel of law teachers, a method of teaching law dating back a long way. A moot resembles a formal debate in having two speakers on each side, a lead and a junior, acting as barristers in a law court, usually as here a civil law suit. The case name given to the moot in question was *Snow v Parkville City Council*, in the Supreme Court, before Lord Pill, Lord Evans and Lady Ferguson. This panel of lawyers was very distinguished indeed and the students were aware of being privileged in arguing there before them. Lord Pill in reality is Sir Malcolm Pill, a recently retired Lord Justice of Appeal with many distinguished judgements to his credit. Lord Evans is Regent's alumnus Professor Malcolm Evans (Matric. 1979), Professor of Law at Bristol University, and one of the world's leading Human Rights lawyers, member of the UN Torture Panel, and an advisor to the Home Office. Professor Evans is also chairman of the College Council. Lady Ferguson is Professor Lucinda Ferguson, Rhodes and Magdalen class of 1997, and now Fellow and Tutor in Law at Oriël as well as Director of Studies for Law at Regent's.

The case being fought over concerned a Local Authority, Parkville, and its removal of speed restriction signs. The hypothetical situation involved a petrol tanker skidding and

engulfing a school in flames, with a former teacher of the school (an onlooker) suing for negligence in respect of his trauma at witnessing the conflagration.

The undergraduates and panellists were sent 'bundles', large bundles I can testify, of relevant former cases to trawl over and synthesise with respect to this particular case - a mammoth task. The quality of the legal argumentation was high, as noted by the panel later, and the submissions of all the mooters were well presented and powerful.

The two Regent's mooters were Su Yun Kiew (Jurisprudence) and Rebecca Chia (Jurisprudence), for Oriël Jessica Hunter and Regent's student Anna Liu (Jurisprudence). Lord Pill summed up and gave the verdict of the three judges after conferral. The best mooter was adjudged to be Regent's own Anna Liu, acting on Oriël's behalf.

A dinner followed the moot at which the students were able to talk further to the panel, and there was much competition

to be seated close to them! **This was a splendid event, of high academic quality, and it was clearly exciting for the students to be arguing in the presence of real live practising law specialists.**

A special word of thanks goes to Malcolm Bishop QC (Matric. 1963) who was the original inspiration for the event, and who acted as overseeing 'MC'. He is a tremendous friend of the College, and one of its most distinguished legal alumni. The event combined high level intellectual thinking and arguing with the feel-good factor of the dinner afterwards. Professor Ferguson designed the question and its scenario, and the 'bundles' of cases, and she encouraged the students in their participation, so a major vote of thanks to her also. We trust that Sir Malcolm will grace our halls again soon. Professor Malcolm Evans of course is a valued supporting visitor. Who knows, maybe we can arrange another such occasion sometime?

## KAREN BRADLEY'S SPEECH

### Katie Pearce (Learning and Participation Officer)

On Thursday, 1st May 2014, Karen Bradley, Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime, spoke at Regent's about the challenges faced when tackling modern slavery. The Minister urged businesses to take responsibility for ensuring their suppliers are not involved in trafficking and exploitation. She also stated that efforts were being made to work with high risk countries to try to prevent victims falling prey to traffickers.

**To coincide with her speech, The Angus Library and Archive displayed an exhibition titled, Slavery: Historical and Modern Perspectives.**

The exhibition included original texts, manuscripts and letters from the archive which document the history of the Slave Trade and the Abolition Movement. Karen Bradley noted that the exhibition acted as a fascinating reminder of the historical fight against slavery, stating 'the more we can raise awareness of the fact this evil crime still exists in 21st century Britain, the more chance we have of being able to consign it to the history books where it belongs.'

## DRAMA ROUND-UP

### Saskia Mair (English Language and Literature)

It is often said that for 'such a small college' Regent's punches well above its weight: this is certainly true of our commitment to drama. This year alone has seen students write, direct, produce and, of course, act, in productions ranging in everything from Shakespeare to new writing and pantomime.

Regent's drama kicked off in Michaelmas in strong form with *The Death of Maria* at the Burton Taylor Studios. The gripping story followed a woman accused of witchcraft in 16th century Germany, a tale made all the more poignant by the fact that it was based on a true story. Timed to be performed around Halloween, the play had audiences on the edge of their seats, showing the protagonist (played by Evie Ioannidi) as she was interrogated and increasingly alienated from her family. It embodied the College's extensive participation in drama, written and directed by second year Camilla Rees, and featuring Regent's students acting, producing and lighting.

Indeed, individual students have been involved in a vast number of very different productions: first year Oluwafemi Nylander not only performed in the acclaimed *Sweeney Todd* at the Keble O'Reilly, but also took the lead in the Christ Church Cathedral garden production of *Othello*. James Gandhi produced plays such as

*Frankenstein* as part of his work with Rough-Hewn Theatre Company. Rebecca Roughan produced *Lungs* for Brasenose Arts Week as well as *12 Angry Women* at the Oxford Union, which also starred Alice Porter. Based on Reginald Rose's script, *12 Angry Men*, the rehearsed reading also raised money for the Oxford sexual abuse and rape crisis centre.

But Regent's wouldn't be Regent's without the enthusiasm found within college. The year of college-based drama began with the Cuppers production, *Bacchanale*, offering many of the Freshers a first look at university theatre. Written and directed by Lucy Clarke, the piece depicted the actions of a man who believed he could act without consequences. Perhaps a backdrop falling halfway through the performance was a slight obstacle to our attempts to maintain dramatic tension; nonetheless, Cuppers offered the chance to get to know each other and a very rewarding rehearsal process.

Michaelmas of course brought the pantomime, an established Regent's tradition. This year it was Dick Whittington's turn to take the stage. Featuring rats, a Bollywood dancing Sultan and a leotard-wearing cat, the pantomime balanced traditional pantomime slapstick with jokes centering on everyday College life, allowing the audience to laugh with (and, let's face it, more probably at) other students. James Gandhi, who directed, emphasised the dedication of everyone involved, from lighting and costume to

acting: 'the biggest challenge is organising such a big team, but that's also the best part of it! Seeing the Fairy Godmother and King Rat from Dick Whittington perform a version of Will.i.am's "Scream and Shout" was hilarious!' Other highlights have to include the impeccably choreographed 'Reach to the Stars' and the side-splitting performances from the pirates.

Trinity brought with it the opportunity for even more thespianism. The summer play, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, formed part of Emmanuelle's Birthday Party, taking place at the end of a day filled with music, cake, Pimm's and a bouncy castle. Luckily, even the weather had decided to co-operate, allowing the performance to take place in the sunshine on the quad, decorated with big brightly coloured sweets by Morgan Harries (English Languages & Literature) and Emma Cookson (Philosophy & Theology). Despite facing the challenges of creating a chocolate river, transforming a character into a blueberry and forming a great glass elevator, the story enabled us to be particularly inventive with characterisation and humour, featuring slapstick, dancing Oompa Loompas, and colourful costumes and props. Aside from the day being great fun, it was also fantastic to know that we had helped to raise money for Meningitis Now.

**Unsurprisingly, it is impossible to do justice to all the year's achievements in a single article. But it has undeniably been an entertaining and exciting year for theatre at Regent's.**

## WYLIE PRIZE

**Amy Watson** (History) has been awarded the Wylie Prize for the best undergraduate thesis on American history for her work titled, 'Ideas Regarding the Nationhood of Louisiana, c. 1801-1812.' As it is a single prize on a large and popular subject competed for by students from all colleges, this is a wonderful achievement.

## STATON ESSAY PRIZE

The theme for the 2013 Staton Essay Prize was 'Ambition'. We are delighted to announce that the winners included:

**Ian Simpson**, Overall Winner and Literary Worlds Winner. Bishop Wand Church of England School, Sunbury-on-Thames

**Dillon Harindiran**, Contemporary Worlds Winner. Dulwich College, Dulwich

**Alex Davis-White**, Historical Worlds Winner. Worth School, Crawley

The Staton Essay Prize is an interdisciplinary essay competition open to all students currently studying in Year 12 anywhere in the UK (or its equivalent in the EU and internationally). One prize is awarded in each of the two categories in the competition: £250 to the best overall essay, and £150 each to two

runner-up essays. Prize winners and their parents or carers are invited to a special Awards Dinner at Regent's.

The prize is designed to give entrants the opportunity to explore connections between the subjects they are currently studying or are interested in, develop their abilities for independent research, and encourage them to apply for undergraduate courses that may be interdisciplinary.



# CHURCH LIFE

## THE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION'S YEAR

Ruth Gookey (Applied Theology)

**Well, how can you possibly sum up a year in just a few short paragraphs? This year has had its fair share of laughter, tears and, as ever, a lot of theological reflecting!**

Michaelmas Term saw a group of fresh-faced first year ministerials receive a warm and generous welcome from their fellow students. 0th Week in Michaelmas Term was on 'Entrepreneurial Mission', complete with a Dragon's Den style ending. There were some valuable insights gained, and the necessity of each group coming up with a 'pitch' to put to the Dragons certainly helped everyone get to know each other better! For many of the third year students, the demands of the Settlement process began in earnest – this is a process which, among other things, helps those who are coming to the end of their training find a church in which to minister.

Hilary Term began with a 0th Week on 'Relationships and Sexuality', with some very memorable sessions led by those from within and outside of the college. There were sessions on marriage, on singleness, and also a day with Jason Royce and Sarah Percival from Romance Academy, who helped us think through relationship issues for young people and young adults. In the wake of the Marriage (Same Sex) Act passed in 2013, as well as voices and questions from within the wider Baptist Union on this issue, this was timely and helpful opportunity to discuss these questions with Rev. Andy Goodliff. The highlight of the week however was the evening of skittles, a chance to relax and have fun together – and to witness what can only be described as a grudge match between two of the tutors who shall remain nameless! At the end of Hilary Term we had the opportunity to hear the 2014 Whitley Lecture given by Helen Dare.

Then, before we knew it, Trinity Term was upon us. We began with the topic of 'Crossing Cultures', which was very apt for the year in which Baptists celebrate the Bicentennial relationship between Jamaican Baptists, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and the Baptist Missionary Society. The sun started shining, the croquet set appeared on the quad and Review Interviews for the year were coming up. For the second year ministerials, it was time for them to begin thinking about Settlement and while many of the third year students had been called to be ministers in their placement churches, others were continuing on in the process this term, whilst continuing to minister in their placement churches and complete their academic studies. We appreciated a day spent with the new Baptist Union President, Chris Ellis, who led us in a session of quiet reflection and then preached in a chapel service. The day after this was not so quiet, however, as it was the final day of our ministerial year together, marked with punting and a picnic. The 'pirate punt' will live on in the memory as will the wonderful communion service which ended the day, led by Principal Rob Ellis.

**WE HAVE ALSO BEEN FUNDRAISING TO RADICALLY REFURBISH THE CHAPEL**



I have given you a whistle-stop tour of a wonderful college year for ministerial students. As ever, thanks must go to our families and friends who often bear extra burdens while we are away at college or are desperately trying to get an essay completed around the demands of ministry life. Thanks also, of course, to our tutors at Regents, who do so much more than pass on their considerable knowledge and experience, but who also support, encourage and pray for us.

## CHAPEL

**The Christian community at Regent's is vibrant and ecumenical, made up of members of all three common rooms in College.**

The past year has been an especially busy year for the Chaplaincy Team, which has worked hard to improve the fabric and resources of the Chapel. In the autumn, we produced a new worship book, *In the Shadow of Your Wings*, to replace our old prayer book produced in 1994. We were very grateful to members of the Chapel community for contributing ideas, time and funds to help with the production of the book and especially to the Principal for writing the foreword. We have also been fundraising to radically refurbish the Chapel with new furniture, lighting, and A-V facilities. So far, we have raised approximately £20,000, but with an aim of £60,000 we still have some way to go. Of course, donations are always welcome! We hope that the Chapel will continue to provide a spiritual centre for Regent's, cherishing our Baptist heritage whilst embracing all members of the College community. **Every week in term time, we have regular Morning Prayer, and Evening Prayer (Compline by candlelight!) on Tuesdays at 9pm – all are welcome.**

## ACCESS AND OUTREACH WORK

### Dr Lynn Robson

**Regent's Access and Outreach work is growing and developing: the academic year has finished with the appointment of Dr Victoria Condie as part-time Access and Outreach Officer. The aim of Regent's programme is to achieve 40 first-choice applications for undergraduate degrees.**

Our main focus is on children in Yr 10 and above. After a very successful visit in 2013, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) repeated a day trip to Oxford with Year 12 children from London. About 50 children visited St Catherine's College in the morning and, after lunch, walked in groups with Regent's students to 'Taster Sessions' with Dr Victoria Condie (English) and Dr Lucinda Ferguson (Law). The students particularly enjoyed a Q&A session with two Regent's undergraduates. The relationship with SEO is developing – Dr Lynn Robson attended one of their seminars in London to discuss applying to Oxford, and we plan to host a study day for their SEO Scholars in 2014. The Staton Essay Prize (for Yr 12 students, launched in 2012) received 54 entries, a significant increase from its first year. The standard of entries was higher and competition for the 3 prizes was tough. The overall winner and two topic winners joined us for Formal Hall in November 2013. Over 250 prospective students, their parents and teachers attended our Open Days at the end of June 2014. Several members of Regent's academic staff participated in the University's Oxbridge Student Conferences, travelling the country (and visiting plenty of stadiums!) to give presentations on their subjects and raise the ambitions of the students attending.

Regent's continues to support raising the aspirations of younger children and has welcomed groups from IntoUniversity (Year 6) and Mount Grace School, Potters Bar (Yr 9) into College this year.



**REGENT'S CONTINUES TO SUPPORT RAISING THE ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNGER CHILDREN**

The children from IntoUniversity worked with some of the undergraduates on a questionnaire about the college and student life. After lunch, they gave short presentations about the people and places they had researched during the week and were given their graduation certificates in the college Chapel. Students from Mount Grace School worked with college tutors from English, History and Theology to develop short presentations using archival resources from The Angus Library and Archive. A particular focus of this study day was interdisciplinary work, a perspective enjoyed by both the students and their teachers. The success of the study day was enhanced by the initiatives that have resulted from an HLF grant to The Angus.

The success of Regent's Access and Outreach work depends on the enthusiasm and expertise of staff and undergraduates but a special mention should go to our JCR who are fundamental to inspiring the next generation of students.

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## CHRISTIAN UNION

### Jack Wakefield (Theology) and Isabella Morse (Theology)

**Regent's Park Christian Union still regularly meets on Wednesdays, and over the past year we have been increasing our engagement with the wider college.**

As well as Text-a-Toastie and Message-a-Milkshake, we've hosted a pancake breakfast for all of college the morning after Final Fling, offered 'favours' to stressed finalists, and have big plans for the coming year. As well as trying to demonstrate a greater love within college, several members of CU are well involved with Just Love, a student society acting on and raising awareness of injustice. Even as a small college and small CU, our members have helped to organise flash mobs and protests about trafficking, delivering left-over food at lunch to a local homeless shelter, and are involved with the leadership of the organisation.

We've been blessed to have such a great variety of people in the CU at college, as well as people on various points of the evangelical to liberal spectrum, we now have a Catholic who enthusiastically comes along. It's been encouraging to have unity despite disagreement, and this is something we hope to grow in as we continue studying here. We want the CU to be open to absolutely everyone, as a place to encourage one another in faith and challenge us to a greater level of obedient trust in Jesus (Rom 1:5). The past term we've broken away a little from OICCU's suggested teaching, to explore Spiritual Gifts and God's call on our lives. It's been exciting to watch people grow in these and understand more about God's plan for them.

# THE ANGUS

## Emma Walsh (College Librarian)

**We are over half way through our Baptist History: Hidden Treasure project, which has seen hundreds of people engage with The Angus and the College in new ways.**

We have newly catalogued over 6000 items from the library collection, a number of which are unique. We have found items such as a book that was censored by the Spanish inquisition, a pamphlet owned and annotated by famous hymn writer Isaac Watts and an early example of one of the first children's picture books from the eighteenth century. Our Modern Cataloguer has created records for items in over 25 languages.

The Archivist position has been filled with work beginning on cataloguing the archival backlog in the second half of this year. By the end of the project, anyone, anywhere in the world will be able to search The Angus' catalogues online.

**We have also been running an exciting program of outreach activities, including:**

- Archive Taster Sessions for students aged 14-18, helping them to develop their enquiry skills using primary sources. Feedback included: 'I'm touching history', 'It made me re-evaluate my misconceptions of Oxford' and 'Brilliant to watch minds expand.'
- Two exhibitions each with accompanying talks, the first on slavery and the second on the changing roles of non-conformist women. These have been visited by over 400 people. Feedback from attendees included: 'Excellent exhibition, very informative with great sources and materials.' 'Amazing!', 'Fascinating and inspiring.'

- A free training session which helps churches preserve their records and learn how to write engaging and informative church histories. Feedback included: 'It was very informative and helpful.'
- The newly developed and launched website has approximately 500 visitors and over 2000 page views a month:  
<http://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk>

We are now getting ready for our next exhibition taking place in November, 'For Liberty Against Tyranny' which will commemorate the First World War. Alongside this exhibition we will be hosting two free First World War talks on 10th and 11th November, for further details please see our website. We are also working with schools to develop resources for teachers to use in the classroom, as well as further developing opportunities for teachers and pupils to visit The Angus.

It has been a very busy year, but also a very rewarding one, as we have seen a much larger number of people discover The Angus Library and Archive, ensuring that the treasures that have lived in the basement are beginning to see the light of day.

For further information about what is happening at The Angus please visit our website: <http://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk>

 @RPCLibrary email: [angus.library@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:angus.library@regents.ox.ac.uk)



THE  
Angus Library  
and Archive







## THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: THEOLOGY, RELIGION AND SPORT

### Dr Rob Ellis (College Principal)

**Since watching the Welsh rugby team lose narrowly to the All Blacks on a small black & white TV in 1963, I have been a keen (actually, very keen) sports fan: not just rugby, almost anything really.** Those who know me quite well have not been terribly surprised, then, to discover that I have been engaged over the last six years or so in a research project on religion, theology and sport. Those who don't know me well, on the other hand, often look dumbfounded at first, but then say things like—'how interesting, now that I think about it even for a moment, sport is a bit like a religion, I suppose.'

Well I've found it interesting, and my book published during Trinity Term this year has been well received so far. In it I ask whether it is indeed appropriate to think of sport as having religious aspects, and also offer some theological reflection on the meaning and significance of sport. Important data for this was provided by a survey I conducted among sports participants and fans on what they thought about their engagement with sport. Rather than just speculating about it, I wanted to ground my argument in the actual experience of sporting activity. I enjoyed writing it with an eye on American sports as well as ones more familiar in the UK. And in finishing I have also identified a few more research questions in the area. I am drawing breath before thinking about the next lap. The book is available, as they say, from all good bookshops and the usual online suppliers. I'd be interested to know what you make of it. Meanwhile, I still keep waiting for Wales to beat the All Blacks.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### **The Revd Dr Paul Cattermole MBE** (Matic. 1968)

The Revd Dr Paul Cattermole MBE was awarded the DMin from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in October 2012. His thesis was entitled Teaching the British Army's Values and Standards to Soldiers in the Context of MacIntyrean Virtue Ethics.

'My research provided a tripartite engagement between military ethics, just war criteria and MacIntyrean virtue ethics, to help formulate a moral theory. I asked whether MacIntyrean virtue ethics could make a contribution to teaching values and standards to soldiers in the context of the British Army, and could they provide a coherent moral framework? I presented a theoretical argument that MacIntyrean virtue ethics presupposed a teleological framework, that is, that human life has a purpose or telos, and that consequently the military virtues, as opposed to military values, could be understood in the light of this end.'

### **Flora Gill** (Matic. 2010)

'When I was at Regent's, I remember being so nervous revising for my prelims. One night I got back to my dorm and found a large chocolate egg with a note saying "good luck from CU". I immediately started racking my brains for my secret admirer with the initials CU. Eventually I figured out it was from the Christian Union. Despite my lack of a suitor, it really lifted my spirits and helped me push forward. When I left Regent's I set up Tuck in the Box - an online store that sells care packages to send to students at University or Boarding school. Having been through it all I know what students really need, especially at stressful times such as starting university or exams, but also for celebrating. Our 'Be Wise, Revise' boxes at the end of this academic year were sent across the country with such lovely messages of support and love. We can't wait to see more of them this Michaelmas.'

[www.tuckinthebox.co.uk](http://www.tuckinthebox.co.uk)

### **Wes Pue** (Matic. 1974)

Wes Pue has returned to his Professorial position in the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus following ten years of work in university central administration, including service as Provost for the Okanagan campus of UBC. He is currently Visiting Research Scholar at the School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University, where he is working on public order policing, USA 4th amendment (protection from search and seizure) case-law, and the history of the English Bar.

### **Dr Don Sweeting** (Matic. 1981)

Dr Don Sweeting, president of Reformed Theological Seminary's Orlando campus, and former pastor of Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in the Denver area (12 years), was named a fellow of the Centennial Institute in Colorado. This institute is a think tank affiliated with Colorado Christian University (CCU) that sponsors research,

events and publications to enhance understanding of the most important issues relating to faith, family and freedom facing the state of Colorado and the USA. Sweeting will serve as Fellow in contemporary thought.

## IN MEMORIAM

**David Gwyn Morris**  
(Matic. 1963 d. 28.04.2012)

**Glyn Prosser**  
(Matic. 1945 d. 16.01.2013)

**Sir Godfray Le Quesne**  
(Chairman of College Council 1957-87 d. 02.10.2013)

**Trevor Davis**  
(Matic. 1957 d. 04.12.2013)

**Clarice Morgan**  
(wife of the Revd Cyril Morgan and donor, d. 22.02.2014)

**The Revd Peter Saunders**  
(Matic. 1953 d. 07.07.2014)



## Greyfriars Event

In July, we held our first ever Regent's and Greyfriars London Drinks at the Oxford and Cambridge Club on Pall Mall. It was a great opportunity to catch up with some familiar faces and for alumni who have previously not had an opportunity to meet to get together.

Next year, we'd like to put together a Greyfriars newsletter to encourage alumni to get back in touch and celebrate their achievements. If you attended Greyfriars and would like to contribute some news, please send us an email at:

[development@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@regents.ox.ac.uk) or call the Development Office: **01865 288141**.

Send us your news throughout the year at: [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/rpc](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/rpc)

# STAFF NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### Julie Reynolds (Director of Development)

**I am really pleased to be able to write to all our alumni and friends to say how excited and happy I am to be the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Regent's.**

Since I joined in June 2014, I have been getting to know the college, staff and students as well as the beautiful city of Oxford. Prior to the move west in September 2013, although Scottish, I had been living in London for 15 years so coming to Oxford has taken a bit of adjustment. I did spend 10 years living in Edinburgh however, so I'm not completely unfamiliar with beautiful buildings, raucous students and pavements in summer teeming with tourists!

I began my career in London working in recruitment dealing mainly with Investment Banks, Legal firms and Management Consultancies but after a frantic and exciting five years, I decided to change direction and took a role fundraising for the disability charity, Scope. I have now spent 11 years in fundraising, raising income for a variety of causes including cancer research, refugee children, and mental health support for young adults. The last role prior to my move to Oxford was as a fundraising manager for the National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), managing a team of 5 fundraisers. I am really enjoying applying my fundraising knowledge in the role at Regent's and am keen to build on the groundwork done by my predecessor Tim Pottle to develop our fundraising strategy.

One of my first jobs in the post was to organise the telethon. I know that many alumni will have been contacted by our student callers and I know they really enjoyed talking to former students about their time at Regent's. I am pleased to say that we raised over £50,000 in pledged income (forecast over a 5 year period) and I'd like to thank everyone who gave so generously and took time to speak to our student callers. Going forward my main goal is to increase our endowment significantly to allow us to safeguard the future of Regent's for the coming decades. However, we can only do this with the help of our alumni which is why we are sending out a questionnaire with this year's magazine. We really want to hear from you about your time at Regent's, what you are doing now and how best the Development Office can support you to make the most of our programme of events. I am also happy to provide information to alumni who wish to support Regent's financially so please do get in touch on: **01865 288141** or **julie.reynolds@regents.ox.ac.uk**

### Will Watt (Development Officer)

**I am thrilled to be joining the Regent's Park Team in the role of Development Officer.** I moved to Oxford in January of 2013, and have spent the past 18 months managing alumni events at Exeter College over the course of its 700th Anniversary. In September of 2013, I was seconded to the Rhodes Trust to assist in their 110th Anniversary reunion.

Originally from Devon, my background has been in customer service and sales (with a brief stint working in a golf resort in Scottsdale, Arizona!), as well as event management and catering which is what led me to Oxford in the first place.

Through my time at Exeter College, I came into contact with a host of wonderfully inspirational students and alumni who sparked in me a deep appreciation of the University of Oxford as an institution. It is wonderful to see bright young students who are genuinely passionate, engaged and interested, and it is fantastic that these students are able to learn in one of the most beautiful cities in England, regardless of their background or financial situation.

I am pleased to have joined the famously friendly College and look forward to ensuring that Regent's can carry on teaching far into the future.

Please do get in touch if you'd like to know more about any of the College's fundraising initiatives, or if you would like to get involved with any of the College's Development activities:

**01865 288129** or **will.watt@regents.ox.ac.uk**

## NEW ACCESS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

### Dr Victoria Condie (Faculty of English)

**I started as Access and Outreach Coordinator on Tuesday, 1st July, and my introduction to the role came in the form of the July Open Days.**

Thanks to the hard work and inspirational contributions of the Student Ambassadors and tutors, these two days were our most successful to date with over 160 prospective students and teachers visiting Regent's.

I am looking forward to developing our existing links with the London state schools associated with the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, especially after the successful day of taster sessions and question and answer forums Regent's hosted together with St Catherine's in February.

Currently we are working with the Development Office in planning a Teachers' Gaudy, which we hope will not only bring together former Regent's students who have entered the teaching profession but also help widen further our access and outreach activities.





## FAREWELL TO STACEY

### Dr Timothy Bradshaw, Senior Tutor

**Dr Stacey McGowen took up the key post of Academic Administrator, two years ago.** This is a job involving the highest administrative abilities, qualitatively in terms of sophistication and also in terms of sheer quantity of work to be covered. In all dimensions of her performance she is leaving with a truly impressive record. This includes her personable, approachable style and availability to students and work colleagues alike. Her reluctant decision to leave after two years is a blow to Regent's; she will be much missed by staff and students alike.

Stacey's activism and key involvement with the University level committees of her peers has led to significant reforms benefiting Regent's. The baneful 'opt out' clause applying to Regent's in the undergraduate admissions process has finally been uprooted, largely due to her highly intelligent argumentation on those committees. Likewise Regent's' status in postgraduate admissions is now on a par with all other colleges, again because of her persistent logical criticism of the old system in the wider University context.

But alongside such high level proactive work we also note the enthusiastic promotion of developments such as the finalists' dinner and the re-timing of the freshers' dinner to make that a more definite event: that illustrates Stacey's pastorally sensitive strengths. Helping develop college open days to optimal effect, right down to the touch of buying pizzas for the student team,

has been another example of her robust enthusiasm to forward the interests of college. Stacey, with a doctorate in Classical Archaeology and university teaching experience helped develop more attention to study skills sessions for students. She took part in the interview process for Classics in 'Admissions' after Michaelmas term, as well of course as managing the vastly complex, exhausting process of the admissions system.

As with her predecessor, she was punctilious in fixing special arrangements for students with disabilities, their collections, computers, scribes where needed, invigilators, and contact with GPs and the Disability Unit. The growing numbers of students coming to Regent's, notably postgraduates, add considerably to the task of Academic Administrator. Governmental demands over visas have added to the burden of this role, and with potential fines of £10K hanging over colleges for errors over, for example, tutors used without the necessary 'right to work', this is at the highest level of responsibility. Stacey has shown herself willing to work beyond her strict remit in various ways, as academic colleagues will testify, going 'the extra mile' often.

So we say farewell to a star in the firmament of academic administration. Tutors attending the Tutorial Committee will join with me especially in thanking her and wishing her well in the new post at Rhodes House, and we expect to hear of her initiatives in helping that famous institution thrive into the future. Stacey's Texan 'can do' approach will go down very well there, as it did here!



Website: [www.rpc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rpc.ox.ac.uk)



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