IN THIS ISSUE

04  Foreword
05  Meet the Editors
07  Seeing, Saying, Sorting: a Gap Year as a Porter
08  Margaret’s Media Corner – Podcasts for the Road
10  The Linacre Library, Reborn
12  Let’s Talk about Money
14  Top Cafés in Oxford

Linacre Voices
16  The Kids & I Take on Oxford
17  Welfare Corner
18  Perfume Obsessions
20  Reflections: My Time at Linacre
This magazine has been a labour of love. Its compilation is the result of the submissions by Linacrities and the determination and tenacity of the editorial team. Think: Week 7 and 8 deadlines while compiling, editing, and publishing a magazine. A round of applause for Ken, Margaret, and Maria. You will meet them in the coming pages.

This edition of *Linacre Lines* serves as a taste of the potential of our college publication as a space for creative freedom and a peek into student life. In these pages, you will find stories about taking chances, managing your money, and making memories at Linacre. The feature story encourages us to visit the renovated Linacre Library to experience the community and camaraderie that it invokes. This is my cue to visit our library. Dear Radcliffe Camera, I love you but I'm ready to spend time at other libraries.

Jokes aside, as you read, I hope you will check out new cafe spots in Oxford, consider new podcasts as you walk the city's beautiful streets, or unearth a new interest in luxury fragrances ahead of your next visit to Selfridges.
MEET THE EDITORS

Shaniek Parks | Editor-in-Chief
Shaniek is an island girl who loves beach trips and visiting new places, with 27 countries under her belt. She’s at Oxford pursuing a D.Phil. in Population Health as a Vital Strategies Healthy Food Policy Fellow. Prior to joining the D.Phil. programme, Shaniek worked as a communications consultant with the World Health Organization in Jamaica. She possesses an M.A. in International Communications from the University of Leeds and a B.A. in Media and Communication from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

Ken Yoneno
Ken is studying for an M.St. in Linguistics, Philology, and Phonetics, with a particular interest in sociolinguistics and French. He served as assistant editor for his undergraduate journal, Angles, and as an editorial intern for Nikkei Asia during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in February 2020. When Ken learned that Linacre Lines was rebranding after a three-year hiatus, he did not hesitate to get involved in the “rebirth” of our college magazine. Before coming to Oxford, Ken studied English and Linguistics at Sophia University (B.A.) and British Studies at the University of Tokyo (M.A.). He enjoys listening to classical music, especially German Lieder.
Margaret Cunliffe
Margaret is studying for an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet, with a focus on the effects of risk assessment algorithms on judicial decisions in American criminal law. Prior to coming to Oxford, Margaret worked for three years in the U.S. as a paralegal at a civil rights law firm, and received her B.A. in History from Columbia University. After years of editing history papers and dry legal briefs, Margaret is delighted to join the Lines editorial team and further explore her passion for creative writing. In her free time, Margaret enjoys going to the cinema, reading fantasy novels, and hunting for Oxford’s best iced latte.

Maria Kaminska
Maria is a current M.St. student in Comparative Literature and Critical Translation, looking into the evolution of the contemporary novel from a transnational perspective. She completed her B.A. in English at the University of Cambridge, where she was involved in the student journalism scene, publishing in, among others, The Cambridge Review of Books and The Mays Anthology. Having moved to Oxford, she is very excited to contribute to the freshly resurrected Linacre Lines. Outside academia, Maria is a keen admirer of (sometimes!) outrageously actionless independent cinema. She is also newly initiated into the good old art of knitting.
The holders of all lost Bod cards and keepers of secret knowledge about the astounding number of your weekly Amazon orders, Linacre porters are the stupendous force that keeps the College running. I met with Grace Shyirambere, one of the friendly faces who greet us in the Linacre lobby, to get to know the reality of her work.

Having just graduated from high school last summer, Grace took a gap year and joined the porters’ team this academic year, taking the opportunity to save up for future travels. Although still a bit of a fresher, she already feels as a part of the squad. “It’s been so lovely so far. I’ve got to talk with all of the people,” she enthusiastically says.

Grace’s work routine seems to be often about seeing, saying, and sorting. She is the one who monitors the college entrance, ensuring the smooth flow of people and goods. But being the first point of contact for every person who visits, Grace also needs to nurture the art of saying the right thing at the right time. She especially values the heart-melting chats with Linacre alumni who often drop by, very eager to share with her some anecdotes from their college times.

Grace notes straight-on: “the most rewarding part of my job is speaking with so many people.”

For Grace, being a people person is at the heart of being a porter. Apart from the Oxford
lingo and too many details about rowing, Grace feels that what she's learned through her work is mostly about how to relate to others. "When I started my first day, I was shocked about how many people I had to talk to."

But with time, things became easier and now Grace feels that she can have a satisfactory conversation with every person who comes by. Anyone who has fallen under the spell of Grace's cheerful presence wouldn't doubt that she excels in social interaction, but this aspect of her personality came to Grace herself as a surprise: "I always thought I was quite shy. But actually I'm not. I love getting to know people and this is such a huge part of my work."

Apart from the social aspect, there is another side to the porter's work, a bit less exciting one: sorting parcels. LOTS of parcels. Grace doesn't hesitate when I ask her about the biggest con of her job. But there's a light in the tunnel — we can easily make it smoother for her. If you want to make the porter's life easier, Grace suggests, please wait for the notification that your parcel is ready to collect from the porter's lodge. Don't come earlier. Being on friendly terms with the porters' team depends on that.
As an off-site student who steadfastly refuses to purchase a bike — the Cowley roundabout is scary, y'all! — I spend a significant amount of my time walking. Although England’s spontaneous downpours and cold spells have tested my patience of late, I’ve come to enjoy my daily treks to Linacre and my department. I can’t worry about doing my readings or writing my dissertation while I’m walking (if you have advice on how I could better use this time, please do not share it with me).

For 25 minutes each way, all I have to think about is putting one foot in front of the other, remembering that cars drive on the left side of the road here, and following along with whatever podcast I’ve chosen to listen to that day. Here are a few of my favourite podcast recommendations for the next time you’re making your own journey back home, to Boathouse Island, or wherever the term takes you:

**Normal Gossip**

Normal Gossip is all the giddy fun of whispering with your friends after a few too many drinks with none of the messy downsides of typical gossip. In each episode, host Kelsey McKinney tells her guests anonymous, drama-filled but utterly typical stories from listeners — think scandals in a neighbourhood knitting circle and the epic highs and lows of the gay kickball league. McKinney is a fantastic storyteller, and each gossip’s twists and turns will have you gasping on your walk down St. Cross Road.
Who? Weekly
As the title suggests, Who? Weekly covers celebrities who might make you go “who?” if a friend mentioned them: reality TV stars, influencers, unknown actors, WAGs for the Brits among us. I often recommend podcasts to my friends on the basis of their “host chemistry,” a term that I made up yet still insist is vital to most great shows. Who? Weekly’s Bobby Finger and Lindsey Weber have immaculate host chemistry, and their easy rapport with each other makes every episode a treat even though I frequently have no idea who they’re talking about. Come for Finger and Weber’s back-and-forth, stay because, after enough episodes, you might actually want to know what Rita Ora’s up to.

You're Wrong About
As a person who hates admitting that I am ever wrong about anything, the title You’re Wrong About initially put me off. However, once I started listening, it was impossible not to get sucked in by the friendship between host Sarah Marshall, former host Michael Hobbes, and their guests, and Marshall and Hobbes’s unique combination of humour, empathy, and righteous indignation in covering an array of wrongly-maligned celebrities and misunderstood phenomena in American history. For the true crime fans, I highly recommend YWA’s series on the O. J. Simpson trials. Once you’ve binged the series, I’m also an evangelist for what I refer to as “the You’re Wrong About cinematic universe,” Michael Hobbes’s other podcasts, Maintenance Phase and If Books Could Kill.

You Must Remember This
For the history and film buffs of Linacre, You Must Remember This paints a vivid picture of Hollywood in the 20th century. Across various seasons, host Karina Longworth spins out stories of debauchery, crime, and the unsung heroes of the early film industry.

Like You’re Wrong About’s hosts, Longworth approaches her subjects with curiosity and a genuine desire to move beyond the salacious details and highlight the humanity of those involved. I am currently slowly making my way through the season on Hollywood’s blacklisting of creatives at the height of the Red Scare, and the former history student in me envies Longworth’s archival research skills.
THE LINACRE LIBRARY, REBORN

KEN YONENO

It is, perhaps, safe to assume that none of the freshers have seen the Linacre library before it was closed for renovation last summer, at least in person. I have seen on the Internet some photos of what the library looked like pre-MT 2022, and I am still trying to figure out what happened to the iMacs we had. During Fresher’s Week, I learned that the library used to be a chapel of a convent; until then, I had not realised that our main site used to house the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. (The Society was approved by Pope Leo XIII in 1887.)

So, if you ever get asked by your friends from Exeter, Magdalen, or Trinity if we have a chapel, just tell them it is now a sacred place of study (reading newspaper articles, writing e-mails to your supervisor, killing time after lunch before your next class). Our old chapel — the new library — also boasts a high and consistent attendance rate by members of the College, regardless of their devotion to studying.

The opening of the new library in November 2022, however, came with a trade-off. Many students were getting used to studying in the cosy Nadel Room, which was temporarily open to students, and losing access to it came as a disappointment to some. I have actually never studied in the Nadel Room, let alone pretend to be the Dowager Countess of Grantham at her writing desk, but I often saw it occupied by a decent number of people — usually by the same familiar faces — from the College entrance outside.

Still, the idea of a newly furbished library was appealing to many. I remember seeing several aesthetic photos of the library that my friends took and posted on Instagram the first week it opened. For a brief moment in history, the new library became a site of pilgrimage. When I first tried to enter the library, I thought I had to scan my Bod card to
enter; after a few failed attempts, I just pushed the door (I had tried to pull it) and, voilà, it opened. Stepping into the new Linacre library, one can feel the remnants of the past through its architecture, especially the high ceiling and wide, church-like windows.

Even though our library is one of the smallest, if not the smallest, in Oxford, I find it to be an ideal working space for many of us who need the pressure of being watched by others in order to get some work done. As a bonus, if you go to the library during the day, you can also get your daily dose of sunshine. Apparently, one in five adults in the U.K. has Vitamin D deficiency. As a side note, Aleksandra Wolska (M.Sc., Pharmacology) told me that the chairs in the library can crack your back quite pleasantly. Who knew studying in the Linacre library had some health benefits as well?

One February night in the Common Room, two Linacrites enthusiastically expressed their love for the new Linacre library. Maddy Masters (M.Sc., Applied Linguistics), who also plays the French horn for the Oxford University Philharmonia, told me that, as opposed to the “manic and chaotic” Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Old Library, the Linacre library is a “calm space to study in” where, as an “easily distracted” person, she can “get into the zone” and “stay focused.”

Maddy can be seen in the library every day, and on that particular evening, she told me she had been there from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. “I was there all day yesterday — on a Sunday, of all places — maybe because it’s a chapel.” She truly deserved the red wine she was holding with her right hand after a long day.

Just next to Maddy was Gretel Kahn (M.Sc., Comparative Social Policy), our Publicity Officer, who eloquently echoed her friend’s remark, and added, “What I like about the Linacre library is seeing people from my community studying in a communal space. It makes me feel more productive and that I’m supported by my peers, and I just love seeing the faces there every day — the faces of Linacre at the Linacre library.” If that is not good publicity, I do not know what is.

Whether it is to stay focused, see some fellow Linacrites, or crack your back, the Linacre library is open to all, as long as whatever you do does not involve eating and leaving your laptop for five hours.

I will continue to be in the new library to cram an essay while listening to Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier played by the German Japanese pianist Kimiko Ishizaka. That, to me, is the ideal blend of chaos and serenity.
LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

| SHANIEK PARKS |

Living costs are on the rise and everyone is feeling the pinch. For the purpose of this article, we’ll focus on our captive audience: students.

In December, the House of Commons Library published an insightful piece aptly titled, “How is the rising cost of living affecting students?” The piece drew attention to a reality that we feel in our pockets when we visit the supermarket or pay rent. The scariest bit came from the National Union of Student Survey, published in September 2022, which highlighted that 90% of students surveyed stated that the cost of living has negatively impacted their mental health. The report further stated that the cost of living pressures are greater among postgraduates, like us at Linacre.

Not to be all doom and gloom, but establishing that we are in a difficult financial time is critical to making the most of what we have and protecting our mental health. Below are a few tips:

Learn To Budget: If you didn’t learn to budget as an undergrad, now is the time. Track your income vs. expenditures to get a handle on where your money is going. From there, you can make a realistic plan and notice any gaps that you have. Finally, consider getting a budgeting app.

Utilise College Facilities: College facilities are heavily subsidised. Consider having a coffee in the dining hall with lunch, drinks at the bar, eating at hall, or visiting the gym. The CR is great for pool, board games, and socialising. Social activities organised by the social secretaries are cost-effective and allow us to socialise on a budget.

Explore Part-Time Jobs: There are numerous opportunities to take on part-time roles at college or within departments. While this option may not be feasible for everyone, a part-time job is an opportunity to develop new skills, hone existing ones, and even make new friends.

Ask For Help: Financial woes can be stressful. Protecting our mental health is key, so talk to a peer counsellor instead of keeping it all in. The welfare team stands ready to support and direct you toward available resources. Check out the article from our Welfare Rep., Ollie, for more details on the support available to students.
Check Your Eligibility For Hardship Funding: This funding is only available for short-term, unexpected financial hardship. There are several tiers of hardship funding available at the college, department, and university level.

At Linacre, the Academic Office has produced a guide on the Hardship Fund, eligibility, and FAQs. Be sure to reach out for more information before applying for the grants of £500 to £1,000. Check with your department for the hardship support available and ask at the university-level about the Oxford Hardship Fund. You never know until you try!

Thinking about our finances may be scary, but it’s important to be realistic and get a handle on it early.

Consider: we’ve lived through a pandemic, a financial crisis, and numerous atrocities on the world stage. Managing our finances is the least we can do for ourselves.
Finding the best café seems to be the perennial concern of Oxford, and by extension, Linacre students. Our editorial team did a lunchtime voxpop to find out the best coffee spots in town. Only one café can claim the top spot, but there’s something for everyone!

Feeling fancy and mature? Check out Branca!
111 Walton St.

“They do cute crafts of water and really nice pastries, and it’s a very chilled vibe. And you don’t get many students there, so it’s quite nice to go and chill.”

Gus Kingsley-Anderson
M.Phil., Modern and Middle Eastern Studies with Arabic

Cheap and cheerful? Visit Jericho Café or Barefoot.

Jericho Café
112 Walton St.

“It’s close to my department and it’s cheap; it has nice wholesome, filling food... the atmosphere is nice — the people are nice there. Couldn’t ask for more!”

Martha Kashti
M.St., Jewish Studies

Barefoot
74A Walton St.

“It’s probably Barefoot because of their brownies. It’s probably 3.50 or 4 [pounds] per piece. Their coffee is decent.”

Maximilian Manko
M.Sc., Mathematical & Theoretical Physics

The top spot goes to [drum roll]

Society Café!
12-16 St Michael’s St.

“It’s where I like to grab coffee with friends. It’s also where I do tutorials with students. The coffee is really good, and the snacks are even better — they have a really good carrot cake there.”

Pete Young
D.Phil., Population Health

If you’re a lover and not a coffee drinker, visit Rose or the Ivy Brasserie for your next date!

• The Rose Oxford, 51 High St.
• The Ivy Oxford Brasserie, 120-121 High St.

“I usually take hot beverages from home, but I can offer good dating spots for a nice tea, which are Rose’s on High Street or the Ivy—it’s, like 9 to 11 pounds from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.”

Gregor Ardilla
D.Phil., History of Science & Medicine

Cristiana Tisca
D.Phil., Biomedical Imaging

“The Ivy always have oat milk, and it’s fairly priced compared to other coffee shops. It’s around 3 quid. Also, they have a wide variety of snacks, such as banana bread. I would recommend the banana bread.”

Otis Karagkiozelis
M.Phil., Linguistics, Philology, and Phonetics
VOICES OF LINACRE
When I made the decision to move to Oxford with my three children (aged 9, 5, and 6 months in August), there was little to prepare me for what was coming. Almost everyone I knew tried to talk me out of it. It seemed like a foolish decision to uproot the family just as they were back in school after the pandemic, and merely months after I had a baby. “I want them to share the Oxford experience with me,” I always replied to anyone who would listen.

Well, we not only survived the first term, but we did so with memories that will last a lifetime and with new traditions that I know will live on long after we move back home. 15 weekends (and counting) of Knoops hot chocolate followed by museum/park hopping. Endless walks (and sprints!) in the rain. Twice the number of friends we had this time last year.

Oxford, you did not disappoint!
When friends ask me what Linacre is like, I mention our wonderful societies, events, and opportunities. Before all that though, I tell them about the warm and cosy feeling our community creates. About how Linacre somehow feels homely, even though I have only been here for a few months. Feeling welcomed and supported is at the heart of our common room, and, as Welfare and Equality Officer, I have the privilege of sharing that feeling with everyone in the CR.

The rest of the College Welfare team and I recognise that your mental and physical well-being must come first, and we work to support it on all fronts. Sometimes my welfare role means big things, like reviewing college policy to ensure you can get the pastoral and financial support you need, or having a confidential chat about things you’re struggling through at the minute and where you can go for help. Other times, the role means smaller things that have a bigger impact than you might think, like providing doughnuts and cookies at the end of a long week. Or arranging nature walks with a canine friend...

Along with the rest of the Peer Supporters (currently Ali, Olivia, and Julia), I’m here to make everyone feel like Linacre is here for them too.
Indulge me for a moment. We are going to talk about niche perfumes today. What is that, and why should we care? Niche perfumery is an alternative to mass perfume production, usually produced in limited batches and crafted by hand. So it is unlikely you will find those perfumes during your weekly grocery shop (unless you shop at Selfridges every Saturday).

And why? Come on, everyone needs a hobby. Some people draw, some people wake up at ungodly hours to go rowing (shout out to our amazing rowing team, btw!), and some people just like scents. It is more than that. Niche perfumes get to be original because they do not have to be liked by an unlimited audience. While regular fragrances are supposed to smell nice and make you wear them daily, the point of a niche smell is to tell a story. Scents slowly develop in passing waves to let you distinguish different notes and get the most out of the experience.

Another fun part of niche perfumes is their design. Niche scents are developed to release different olfactory blends in three-time blocks, which we call notes. Typically, we have three notes: Top, Heart, and Base. Top notes are whatever you smell when you spray the perfume on your skin; they’re dominant for the first 30 minutes before they change into Heart notes. Those are the notes that you should be buying perfumes for — they are quite strong and are going to release the smell the longest.

The rule is, if you're not going to enjoy the blend of heart notes, don't buy the perfumes. Finally, after a few hours, you can smell Base notes. They are, however, considered more like an under layer, accompanying the other scents rather than being the main players.

All this talk and nothing to show for it. Lately, I have been thinking about spring, summer, and sunny days (maybe because I am mostly spending my time in the library) — let me show you some examples of what I would consider to be a sunny perfume.

Azalai — Stora Skuggan

Stora Skuggan is a small Swedish perfume brand and my latest obsession. This scent is quite complex, with notes of blood orange mixing with saffron, dried fruit, mint, incense, and amber. They bring the impression of gold and warmth, fresh spices warming up in the sun before dissipating into melted sugar. It works perfectly as the scent pays homage to the caravan riders. The Azalai is a caravan route through the Tenere region of the Sahara Desert where camel trains have transported salt and gold for thousands of years. Along the Azalai route stood a single acacia tree, the only living thing in the ocean of sand.
Sundrunk — Imaginary Authors

Imaginary Authors is a brand that tries to capture moments. Sundrunk is for the first summer when you’re drunk on love. It’s a crisp and fresh mixture of orange, rhubarb, neroli, hibiscus, and rose water. Smelling it, you can directly picture a summer afternoon, in which you are lying around the pool with a book. There is a beautiful orange tree just above the water full of fresh fruits. You are drinking Aperol and you are Sundrunk.

Lignum Vitae — Beaufort London

Inspired by the innovative use of materials that allowed early clockmakers to construct the first accurate marine chronometers, Lignum Vitae combines unusual scents to create an intoxicating smell. It starts strongly with desserts — butter, citrus, freshly baked shortbread, and caramel with solid hints of sea salt. It is not a sweet scent either, with pungent ginger and black pepper notes. Beautiful gourmand, a moment in a day when the sun directly hits your face.

I am always happy to talk about perfumes, scents, and how to get into a fragrance hobby without breaking the bank.
REFLECTIONS:

MY TIME AT LINACRE

|SHANIEK PARKS

Let’s take a moment to channel the words of Former Prime Minister (1868 and 1874–1880) and Honorary Oxford degree holder, Benjamin Disraeli, “a university should be a place of light, of liberty and of learning.” While he may have said this over 200 years ago, universities remain amazing places where we mature, regardless of our age and past experiences.

An Oxford college represents a place of belonging as we grapple with essay submissions, formals, making new friends, and, for some, the dreaded VIVA! While we are a postgrad college and each of us have faced the world on our own in some way, we must admit that we needed Linacre when we first arrived in Oxford, and we still do.

We caught up with a few outgoing Linacrites and asked them to tell us about their time at the college. Their responses are heart-warming, making me proud to be a Linacrite!
Mala Gunadasa-Rohling | D.Phil., Developmental & Regenerative Biology

My time at Linacre has been nothing short of amazing and I’ve loved every minute of it! I’ve been very involved with student and college life, serving in a range of positions and duties which have allowed me to interact with management, staff, and many students, so I’ve been extremely privileged indeed. This is such a welcoming and inclusive environment and I feel incredibly lucky to have been accepted to Linacre for my D.Phil. studies.

Melis Karabulutoglu | D.Phil., Oncology

Linacre has been more than just a home to me; it holds a special place in my heart. Oxford was always a dream, and I never thought when I left Cyprus in 2011 that I would end up in this beautiful city. From the very first day, Linacre opened its doors with warm smiles and friendly faces among both the staff and students. Although 2022 was one of the most challenging years of my life, I was fortunate enough to make wonderful friends who stood by me not only during the good times, but also during the tough times. I am deeply grateful to each and every person who has touched my life.

Andrew Jesson | D.Phil., Computer Science

Linacre has been more than just a college to me; it has been a home away from home where I have found a community of like-minded individuals who have challenged and supported me throughout my academic journey. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences that Linacre has provided me, and I will always carry the memories and lessons I have learned here with me as I move forward into the next chapter of my life.
UNTIL

NEXT TERM!