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The Plants and Nature Issue
First Thoughts

Trinity Term 2019 is a term of many new starts and many important endings. Three members of staff who have been with the College for at least a decade are retiring. Jan (our Accounts Manager), Anne (the Development Director) and Alison (the Bursar) have been such a fundamental part of Linacre since I took up my role that the place will feel very different without their presence.

Meanwhile, my office window is firmly shut, despite the warm weather, to mute the thump and slam of demolition work. The monstrous Tinbergen Building opposite Linacre is being knocked down. It was closed in 2017 after it was discovered that it was riddled with asbestos. It will be replaced with a state-of-the-art new centre for life and mind sciences. Internationally renowned architecture practice NBBJ have been commissioned to design the new home for the Departments of Experimental Psychology, Plant Sciences and Zoology.

Linacre’s own Reception area is also undergoing a major transformation. Visits and deliveries to Linacre have more than doubled in the last decade and the current facility cannot cope. We plan for the stunning new Reception to be open in September in time for this year’s Gaudy.

Down the road, the old Radcliffe Science Library (RSL), now no longer used for science journals, is being converted into Oxford’s newest postgraduate college. To be known, for the time being, as “Parks College” the new institution follows in Linacre’s footsteps in catering for a wide range of disciplines and having a strong sustainability ethos. Linacre staff and students are playing an important role in helping the youngest member of the community of post-graduate colleges find its feet.

Change is important in keeping this university at the forefront of intellectual endeavour: but I hope that you will find that underneath Linacre has still the same values and character as always.

Dr Nick Brown
The Principal
News (1960s-1980s)

Professor Leon ("Lee") Irish (1964) has received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for career longevity and unwavering excellence in the field of law, legal education, and international non-profit work.

Congratulations to Professor Franco Gianturco (1965) for being awarded an honorary doctorate in Natural Sciences by the University of Innsbruck.

Professor Susan Wright (1972) has been awarded a Danish knighthood (ridderkors af dannebrogordenen). The award was for establishing educational anthropology as a new field of research and education in Europe and for developments in political anthropology and organisation studies, including building up critical university studies and a Centre for Higher Education Futures.

Congratulations to Professor Jesús Seade (1972) for taking up the role as Undersecretary for North America at the Secretariat of External Relations of Mexico.

Professor Edward Chen (1973) has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa from the Education University of Hong Kong.

Dr Carolyn Browne (1981) was appointed as Director of the Verification Division at the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) in The Hague, in January 2019. She has previously worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a number of years including as British Ambassador to Azerbaijan (2007-2011) and to Kazakhstan (2013-2017).

Dr Christopher Nock (1984) and Ramona are still together after all these years! Catch up with them on ResearchGate.net via Chris “Research Project: Consolidating and Expanding Existing Research Themes”.

News (1990s-2010s)

Dr Chandy Nath (1993) has moved to Cambridge to take up the position of Executive Director of the Scientific Committee on Antarctica Research.

Congratulations to Mr Nicholas Craig (1994) who was appointed Queen’s Counsel at the beginning of March.

Congratulations to Mr Federico Oliva (2010) who was featured in Forbes 100 under 30 (Italian Edition). He was named as one of the five most influential Italians under 30 in Finance.

Congratulations to Mrs Jennifer Star (2011) who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours List 2019. The OAM was awarded for Services to Education, predominantly for her work training teachers in India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan through her NGO Tara.Ed.

Ms Julia Maciel (2012) has been elected Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations. She is the only woman among the 16 experts on the Committee, and the first woman ever to be Vice Chair of the Committee since the UN was founded 73 years ago.

Mr Tim Revell (2017) and the Oxford University Polo Club were victorious in the Atlantic Cup polo tournament hosted by Harvard in September 2018. The tournament was an ‘extraordinary experience with great players, people, and, of course, horses’.

Fellows’ News

Professor Robert Fox (Emeritus Fellow) received the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize, the main prize of the European Society for the History of Science, at the society’s biennial conference in London in September 2018. The prize is awarded every two years for outstanding life-long achievements and major contributions to the discipline of the history of science. The prize follows the award of the History of Science Society’s George Sarton Medal in 2015 and the Alexandre Koyré Medal of the International Academy of the History of Science in 2016.

Professor Andy Hector (Fellow), Professor Gil McVean (Supernumerary Fellow) and Professor Simon Travis (Fellow) all feature in the global list of Highly Cited Researchers 2018. This list recognises world-class researchers selected for their exceptional research performance, demonstrated by production of multiple highly cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in Web of Science.
Births and Marriages

Dr Rob Noble (2009) and Ms Meleesa Naughton (2010) are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Clara Éléa on 19th August 2018 in Basel, Switzerland.

Mr Shaun and Mrs Jennifer Star (2011) welcomed a son, Sebastian, into the world on 16th July 2018, weighing a healthy 3.7kgs.

Dr Franziska Meinck (2009) and her partner Dr Thees Spreckelsen are delighted to announce the birth of their son Samuel Frederick Meinck-Spreckelsen on 6th November 2018.

Mr Jonas Löffler (2015) and Ms Wiebke Rademacher got married on 11th August 2018 in the small village of Lavillat (Ain) in France. They had four amazing days of celebrations, excellent wine, and homemade food with friends from Germany, France, Switzerland, the UK, Canada, and India.

Dr Janet Lei (JRF) and her husband Florian are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Clara on 22 December 2018 at the JR Hospital in Oxford.

Dr Zoe Cormack (JRF) gave birth to a daughter on 5th Feb at 10:01 in the morning. She weighed 7lbs 6oz, and her name is Ifeyinka Miriam Odeleye.

Publications

Dr Eva Wagner (1962) is the proud author of *A New Theory of Tragedy: Storm and Stress Drama*.

Dr Sara McMurry (1964) has, since retiring from a lectureship at Trinity College Dublin, volunteered in India, and has just had her memoir *Re-Tyred: Discovering India* published.

Professor Martin Rudner (1965) has written an article for the Economic History of Malaya Project initiated by HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah, Sultan of the State of Perak (Malaysia) titled “The Evolving Political Economy of Malaysia’s Rubber Development from Colonial Times to Independence”.

Professor Susan Wright (1972) has co-edited a book titled *Death of the Public University? Uncertain Futures for Higher Education in the Knowledge Economy* (New York: Berghahn).

Dr Christopher Harvey (1974) is the author of *Shaping Children’s Services* (Routledge 2019). An analysis of services for children in the UK, across health, education, social care, and the voluntary sector.

Mr Emilio Torres (1976) has written a book of short stories titled *Cuentos y relatos de un Torreja Oxforiano*.

The second edition of Euthanasia, *Ethics and Public Policy* by Professor John Keown (1980) has been published by Cambridge University Press, with a foreword by Lord Judge, the former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.

Dr Cecily Crampin (1998) is the co-author of *Mortgage Receivership; Law & Practice* (Wildy, Simmonds and Hill Publishing).

Dr Sarah McKay (1998) has had her first popular science book published. In the UK it is called *Demystifying the Female Brain* (Orion Spring). A neuroscientist explores health, hormones and happiness. A look at girls’ and women’s health from ‘womb to tomb’ through the lens of neurobiology.


Professor David Collins (2002) is pleased to announce the publication of his third monograph *The Public International Law of Trade in Legal Services* (Cambridge University Press) which he wrote during his sabbatical at UC Berkeley in 2017 and which was supported by a grant from the British Academy.

Mr Jonas Löfler (2015) has co-edited a reader of Georgian (language) short stories in parallel text (Georgian-German) with grammatical annotations for learners of the language. It is called *Georgisches Lesebuch* (Buske Verlag).

Dr Ignacy Marek Kaminski worked on the book *Learning from the Children: Childhood, Culture, and Identity in a Changing World* (Berghahn Books) during his Visiting Senior Membership at Linacre. It has been published in several editions since 2012, and all profits are directly donated to a Rohingya Refugee Camp.
Mission to Monitor Plants from Space

10...9...8...

It was 5.30am on June 29th, 2018 at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. Outside in the swampy marshes of Cape Canaveral, Florida, it was completely dark and quiet, save for a few nocturnal insects and animals finishing their nighttime rituals, the low murmur of an excited crowd, and the NASA launch announcer.

7...6...5...4...

It felt like only yesterday that I was dining at Linacre with Dr Nick Brown, discussing plants and critical ecological questions, and then, somehow, there I was, launching a mission to space to detect plant water use and plant stress levels all over the world.

3...2...1...

[Announcer's voice, crackling through the loudspeaker: “We have liftoff!”]

The burning jet fuel from the rocket lit up the sky, turning night into day. Soon thereafter, as the sound waves caught up to our viewing perch, the roar of the rocket deafened the area. SpaceX’s Falcon 9 was on route to the International Space Station carrying NASA’s latest mission, ECOSTRESS, to advance Earth Science and society.

In April 2007, I was lost in the middle of the Amazon, somewhere up the Andean transition between the rainforests and cloudforests. Our camp had just been attacked in the middle of the night by bears, and we discovered that we now had no water or food. We realized that we needed to leave immediately before dehydration became an issue, so we set out in darkness down the Andes. I suppose it was somewhat ironic that we were worried about dehydration and starvation while fleeing down the Andes, when the objective of our study was to assess how the rainforests were surviving climate change and droughts by migrating up the Andes. We finally made our way out of the jungle and to our waypoint, just as light was emerging over the horizon, illuminating our path.

I returned to Oxford to discuss the data we had collected, science questions, as well as survival tips. There are a lot of key questions we have yet to understand about plants. Which plants and ecosystems are going to survive under climate change, particularly with increasing droughts? Which plants are more efficient with their water use than others? Some plants shut down photosynthesis and transpiration during the day to conserve water, but others do not; yet, we do not know where, when, or why this occurs globally. How can we develop new management practices for agriculture in the face of water shortages?

Eventually, I took a job at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), where I synthesized the discussions I had at Linacre with my previous experiences into a mission proposal to detect plant water stress from space, all over the world. The proposal was selected – the first competed Earth science mission selection for JPL in over a decade – and I was named Science Lead for the ECOSTRESS mission. With the successful launch in June 2018, ECOSTRESS is now bringing light to these important science questions, helping us find our way out of the darkness.

Focus Pieces

Jamaica’s Plastic Ban – a victory for the environment

On New Year’s Eve, 2018, the Jamaican media and other representatives of government agencies and civil society were invited to the Office of the Prime Minister for an urgent press conference. Jamaica’s Minister with responsibility for Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investment, had called the press conference to address concerns expressed by the public and other stakeholders, including the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), about the implementation and enforcement of the impending ban on single-use plastic grocery bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam food and beverage containers. Much to the relief of JET and several others attending the New Year’s Eve press conference, the Minister announced that there would be no backing down by the Jamaican government, and that the ban on the single-use plastic items would come into effect, as planned, on January 1, 2019.

Jamaica’s ‘Plastic Ban’ represents a significant victory for Jamaica’s environmental movement; coming after decades of advocacy by JET to have Jamaica’s plastic pollution addressed by the Jamaican government.

JET has been working on the challenges presented by single use plastic packaging since the mid-1990s. The composition of Jamaica’s waste stream has changed significantly during the past three decades. Beginning in the 1990s, the average Jamaican household experienced a shift from a family focused, home centred lifestyle to a daily routine where convenience and mobility have become increasingly important. Home cooked meals have gradually been replaced by take-out and pre-packaged meals. Biodegradable packaging, once common in Jamaica in the 1980s, has been completely replaced by containers made from non-biodegradable materials. Food and beverages which were once served in cardboard boxes and glass bottles, are now sold in single-use Styrofoam containers and plastic bottles. Plastic bags replaced paper bags in the supermarkets and wicker baskets at the market.

Despite the shift in the composition and quantities of Jamaica’s garbage, until recently there had been limited response from the Jamaican government to this changing waste stream. Several attempts by private sector interests to establish a nationwide recycling programmes for plastic produced little result, partly due to the prohibitive cost of transport and partly due to the lack of support from the government.

Suzanne Stanley.

Suzanne Stanley.
Meanwhile Jamaica’s plastic consumption multiplied exponentially, and the deficiencies of the country’s solid waste management system became increasingly apparent. In 2010, Jamaica manufactured and imported the equivalent of 18.5 million pounds of plastic bottles; by 2016, this number had sky rocketed to 29.2 million pounds. With a population of 2.8 million Jamaica was importing or manufacturing approximately 183.8 PET bottles per person per year in 2016, a figure which increased by 45% in 2018. Similarly, in 2010 Jamaica imported approximately 10.6 million pounds of single-use plastic bags; by 2015, this number increased to 15.4 million pounds. One hundred and eighty plastic bags weigh about two pounds, meaning that Jamaica’s annual plastic bag consumption rose from approximately 865 million in 2010 to 1.3 billion in 2015.

The increased consumption of single-use plastic packaging coupled with deficient solid waste management infrastructure and systems, and a lack of enforcement of anti-litter laws by the government has led to a solid waste crisis in Jamaica. In the absence of garbage bins and regular collection, Jamaicans’ typical poor attitude towards waste management resulted in an increase in illegal dumping of garbage in the street, open lots, gullies and drains. In areas with high population densities, the problem is even more evident – waterways and rivers are littered with garbage, which in heavy rains is transported to the coast, washing up on Jamaican beaches before it floats out to sea. In 2010, 44,077 plastic beverage bottles were removed by volunteers from beaches across the island on International Coastal Cleanup Day; last year, the number of plastic bottles collected increased to 255,232.

In 2010, 44,077 plastic beverage bottles were removed by volunteers from beaches across the island on International Coastal Cleanup Day...

Plastic bottles, bags, straws, and Styrofoam – things we use once for a few minutes in most cases – persist for hundreds of years. Long after we used them, and long after we are dead.

The newly imposed ban on several categories of single-use plastic packaging is one part of the solution to Jamaica’s solid waste crisis. The ban tackles plastic pollution at its source – removing several types of non-biodegradable packaging from the market and the country’s waste stream. The bold move by the Jamaican government is in line with global trends to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic packaging – across the globe governments and multi-national corporations are eliminating plastic packaging. Garbage reduction strategies like the plastic ban also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although by global standards Jamaica is not a huge contributor to greenhouse gases, we have a responsibility to pursue low carbon development strategies to promote sustainability within our local economy.

However, implementation of the ban hasn’t all been smooth sailing. Public education from the government began only a few weeks before the plastic ban came into effect and included very limited information about the alternatives. Many Jamaicans have therefore criticized the plastic ban as being not well thought out. The impact the ban on plastic grocery bags will have on the containerization of garbage by households is also uncertain at this stage. Plastic grocery bags (commonly called ‘Scandal’ bags in Jamaica) have been well-established as “free” garbage bags and are used by many for that purpose. The cultural shift required for Jamaicans to begin purchasing large garbage bags to package household waste will not happen overnight. This could have implications for Jamaica’s garbage collectors. Garbage left loose in bins and on the roadside takes significantly longer to clear up, placing added strain on already inadequate garbage collection services.

There also remains an urgent need to tackle other aspects of Jamaica’s weak solid waste management system, including the waste generated by plastic bottles and the strengthening of Jamaica’s solid waste management legislation.

Thankfully, Jamaica’s plastic ban is being implemented using recently updated laws – Jamaica’s Trade Act is the main instrument. Last amended in 2009, Jamaica’s Trade Act has stiff penalties by local standards, which pose a significant deterrent. Public education around the plastic ban is also raising the profile of environmental issues in Jamaica – something JET is already seeing in response to our national public education campaign on solid waste – Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica.

Suzanne Stanley (2007) is the CEO of the Jamaica Environment Trust.
In the preface to the 2010 book *Wytham Woods – Oxford’s ecological laboratory*, Professor Lord Krebs said that “If there were a Nobel Prize for Ecology, and if you could award it to a place rather than a person, Wytham Woods would surely be a prime candidate. It is almost certainly unmatched anywhere in the world as a place of sustained, intensive ecological research extending over nearly three quarters of a century.”

The 350 hectares of woods were given to the University in 1942 by a local philanthropist and landowner Raymond ffennell (1871-1944) with the provisos that the University should preserve their present state of natural beauty, use them for instruction of suitable students, provide facilities for research, and ensure that the woods should remain available for enjoyment by the public.

In terms of research, well in excess of 150 DPhils have been completed in Wytham, and a comparable number of other researchers, post-docs, research assistants and visitors have carried out ecological research there. These have included investigations into vegetation succession, studies of animal abundance and density, studies into the evolution of behaviour in an ecological context, a very long-term investigation into birds, particularly blue and great tits. Some insects have also been studied in great detail, as well as some mammals, including voles and wood mice, badgers and in relatively recent years since they have become a nuisance, deer and to a lesser extent squirrels.

Much of the work was carried out, or at least initiated, by people who became giants of ecology; they include Charles Elton (1900-1991) who was a founding figure in ecology and conservation and was among the most important and influential ecologists of the twentieth century; David Lack (1910-1973) was the leading British ornithologist of his time, though he also achieved great success as an evolutionary biologist, ecologist, and population biologist. Though he is best known for his book *Life of the Robin* (1943). He switched to tits after a visit to the Netherlands, where he was impressed by how easy, compared with robins, it was to study a bird that nested in nest boxes. Thus began the long-running studies of tits at Wytham. The fact of climate change has given the study a greater significance than the largely academic interest that it might once have had, since the Wytham tit data, which stretch back long before climate change became recognised as an issue, offer some of the best insights available from any wild population anywhere in the world into what is happening to natural systems.

Others who have made significant contribution to ecology include: Henry Ford (1901-1988) for his work on ecological genetics; George Varley (1910-1983), an entomologist, whose work on the Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) provided a strong basis for understanding insect-plant interactions, especially the timing and abundance of the caterpillars. Sir Richard Southwood (1931-2005), an entomologist, was regarded as a towering figure among his generation of British zoologists. He was also Vice-Chancellor of the University. Mick Southern (1908-1986) was a
founder of Britain’s Mammal Society. He is probably best known for his 13-year study in Wytham Woods of the numbers and turnover of a population of Tawny Owls and of its two main species of prey, the bank vole and the wood mouse.

On the botanical side, Colyear Dawkins (1921-1992) was well ahead of his time with his concern for climate change. His main legacy to Wytham is the accurate map he made of the Woods and the grid system of plots with its markers (orange topped posts at 100m intervals) that he meticulously surveyed. There are 164 permanent 10 x 10 m sample plots in Wytham located on alternate intersections of a 100 x 100 m grid.

Wytham is a delightful and attractive place for walks and other activities, within easy reach of Oxford. Today, anyone who has a permit can use the woods (free permits are available online from the Conservator of Wytham Woods), and there is an excellent pub nearby. The woods are no longer managed for producing timber, but largely left to grow as nature intended. Interventions are needed occasionally to control deer numbers and grey squirrels, otherwise tree regeneration would not occur. The woods are probably at their most attractive in spring, when bluebells are in flower. From some vantage points, wonderful views of Oxford can be obtained. The “Singing Way” is the main track running through the woods. It is said to have got its name from an earlier period, when medieval monks on pilgrimage from Cirencester to Canterbury, got their first view of Oxford – with its promise of a meal and a roof over their heads and so broke into song.

The long and stable tenure of Wytham Woods has allowed continued long-term ecological research in many fields of biology. The data accumulated is increasingly being applied to conservation management regimes. The strength of research carried out in Wytham Woods lies in the number of long-term data sets that exist not only in terms of particular species, but also increasingly for a range of habitats and management techniques.

Dr Peter Savill, Emeritus Fellow and co-editor of Wytham Woods: Oxford’s Ecological Laboratory.

Vegetation monitoring started in 1974.

Research on bees and other pollinators commenced in 2017.
By Students, for Students: Creating a Greener College

This year, the Environment arm of the Common Room Executive Committee has been working closely with the Linacre Green Society, College administration, the Oxford City Council and students to make food recycling a habitual practice across kitchens in various college accommodations. The campaign has been well-received by students, with many actively separating and voluntarily disposing of the food waste accumulated in the students’ kitchens, overseen by “Food Recycling Volunteers” on each floor.
The Linacre Green Society has also been taking part in “Green Impact”, a university-wide sustainability competition. The competition offers a structured framework of achievable actions as small as printing double-sided, recycling plastics or foods, switching off lights, or cycling to work. To raise environmental awareness, we have interacted with Linacre members in different ways to help increase the impact of the work. Recently, a cooking recipe competition was launched for Linacre CR members to use up items in the fridge – aiming to keep the food waste at minimum. We are also organising a “Green Bar Quiz” to make people think about nature, conservation of creatures and the future of our planet. We will also be running awareness campaigns and host the Inter-House Energy Competition to promote energy conservation. With all of these, and many more initiatives, we are well on our way to achieving Linacre’s carbon-reduction target of 40% energy reduction from 2009 levels by 2020.

The CR Environment Officer, together with the RSPB (Royal Society for Protection of Birds) also embarked on an exciting project to install swift nesting boxes in the Linacre College premises, as a part of the RSPB’s “Oxford – Swift City” project. As the birds known as swifts have declined by more than 45% in Oxfordshire, this project hopes to bring numbers up again by providing safe nesting sites for the birds, whom we hope to see in Linacre come May!

The CR Executive Committee also started an initiative with the Linacre Film Society, which focuses on showing environmental documentaries and productions throughout the year, as an awareness-raising activity. On the 14th April 2019, the documentary “RiverBlue” was shown, exploring the pollution of freshwater carried out by the global fashion industry. It provoked much debate and discussion among the student community.

We are hoping to continue keeping Linacre green!

Merve Aksoz is a DPhil student at MRC Molecular Haematology Unit and one of the Green Students.

Amayaa Wijesinghe is studying for a MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management and she is the College’s Environment Officer.

The Linacre Green Society was founded in 2007. The society is run by the Green Students (one behavioural change student and one technical student) which are appointed by the College every year. It aims to promote environmental awareness and works with all members of the College to make Linacre clean, green, and environmentally friendly. Linacre is the first Oxbridge College to become carbon-neutral and gain fair trade status.
Passion for Parasites

They are not everyone’s idea of beautiful. These ethereal, ghostly and sometimes downright bizarre ‘blood-sucking blossoms’, which sometimes scarcely even resemble plants at all. But parasitic plants have captivated me since my childhood. And it’s not just me: these botanical oddities have aroused curiosity among natural historians for centuries. As a botanist and botanical artist, I’ve been fortunate enough to see some of these extraordinary plants in their natural habitats around the world, and then capture my experiences on canvas. These paintings tell the story of my passion for parasites.

Botanically speaking, parasitic plants remain one of the most poorly understood groups of all the flowering plants; indeed much of their evolutionary biology and life history remains a mystery. There are over 4,000 species of them and they occur in all major ecosystems from tropical rainforests to arctic tundra. They attach to the roots or stems of their so-called host plants, from which they extract water and nutrients. Many derive all their nutrition from their hosts and so have lost the features typical of most plants, such as leaves, stems and even roots.

One of the most peculiar, indeed dubbed ‘the strangest plant in the world’ is parasitic Hydnora. This remarkable, yet poorly known group ‘vegetable vampires’ grow in the semi-arid regions of Africa, Madagascar and southern Arabia. All species of Hydnora are parasitic on the roots of plants shrubs and trees. They only emerge above ground to flower, and can even damage infrastructure and erupt through pavements! Eight species of Hydnora have been described officially of which one was named only last year. Unpredictable flowering, coupled with remote distributions, indicate more species await discovery. Some years ago I picked my way across the dry, rocky hillsides of Little Karroo Desert in South Africa on a Hydnora hunt. In the shimmering desert sunshine, among scrabbling tortoises and marching armies of ants, I eventually found what I was looking for: suddenly there, beneath a succulent Euphorbia thicket, burgeoning and monstrous-looking blooms were all around me, pushing their way up through the orange dust. Few people are lucky enough to see this botanical marvel and my encounter with it on that sun-baked rocky hillside is a memory I cherish.

My research centres on plant evolutionary biology. Since I joined the Botanic Garden in 2017, I have initiated a new programme of research projects focussing on parasitic plants. One such project examines the biology of another parasitic plant, Cistanche – a poorly known genus that inhabit deserts, dunes and alluvial sands. Genetic relationships and status among the species remain largely unexplored, and this is of international concern, because some species are illegally traded with disastrous conservation implications. So in collaboration with Professor Julie Hawkins at the University of Reading and the PhD student we are co-supervising, Majed
Zaal Aldughayman, we are seeking to understand species diversity and distributions in the genus to inform setting conservation priorities. Of the handful of known species of *Cistanche* two occur in Israel but their ecology, distributions, and relatedness to other taxa remain completely unexplored. This spring, funded by the Linacre College JRF Travel Grant, I will accompany botanist Dr Ori Fragman-Sapir from the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens on a ‘plant hunt’ to attempt to find a very rare and poorly known species of *Cistanche*: *C. salsa*. This aim of this excursion is to assess the abundance of this elusive plant, and to understand better its ecology and level of conservation concern. Working with scientists at the University of Reading we will analyse plant material we collect as part of the wider project to disentangle the taxonomy of *Cistanche* species in a global context.

Most famous of all the parasitic plants is *Rafflesia*, which produces the largest single flower on Earth. There are about 30 species of them in the forests of Southeast Asia; the largest is *R. arnoldii* the flowers of which can span over a metre across. Curiously, *Rafflesia* completely lacks leaves and roots, and spends most of its life embedded within the tissues of its host plant, a tropical vine in the grapevine family (Vitaceae). *Rafflesia* resembles rotting flesh and broadcasts a strong, putrid aroma far and wide across the dingy rainforest floor to attract pollinating flies. An Indonesian guide first exclaimed ‘come with me sir...a flower very large!’ to Dr Joseph Arnold and Sir Stamford Raffles in 1818. And some years ago, I myself was ushered feverishly through the hot, steamy Bornean rainforest by my enthusiastic local naturalist companion to peer into the cavernous bloom of the world’s largest botanical enigma: there, surrounded by giant cabbage-like buds, bursting through the thicket, lay the gargantuan warty, dusky-red flower. What an extraordinary and unforgettable encounter.

Experiences such as these – encountering rare and unusual plants in their natural habitats – give a thrill without compare. With paintbrush in hand, I recreate them in my little turpentine-soaked studio: slowly conjuring to canvas a dusty desert plain, or a thriving rainforest thicket, staging the plant I am about to illustrate. And just for a moment, I am transported back: to a remote and precipitous hillside somewhere, with the sound of a waterfall somewhere in the distance, the warbling trill of tropical birdsong maybe; amid a grove of beautiful monsters.

Chris Thorogood is Deputy Director for the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum and an EPA Cephalosporin JRF at Linacre College. All illustrations shown feature in his latest book *Weird Plants*, published by Kew, and will be exhibited at Edinburgh Botanics this summer.
Oxford College Bursars have a formidable reputation – magisterial city types, more interested in the FT than student welfare, often haughty and remote.

For the last twenty-nine years Alison Reid has brought a very different style to the Linacre Bursary. She slipped into the post of part-time College Accountant in 1990 very quietly and modestly; an Oxford mathematics graduate and a chartered accountant who was looking for a part-time role compatible with being a new mother. Alison immediately made her mark as someone who could bring order to chaos. The Bursary was struggling to move from hand-written ledgers and manual double entry bookkeeping into a new era of computerised financial systems. Alison took charge of the process and with her typical delight in creating efficient systems she transformed the College’s accounting practices. So impressed were the Governing Body with her expertise and eye for detail that when the Finance Bursar retired two years later, Alison was the obvious candidate to replace him. She brought a fresh-faced, straight-forward, business-like approach to the role, and whilst her infant son crawling round the Bursary may have caused harrumphing in some of the more dusty corners of the University, everyone very quickly appreciated that Linacre had one of the most capable Bursars around.

After twenty-seven years in charge, Alison has decided that it is time to retire. She leaves the College in considerably more robust financial health than when she joined. She has played a crucial role in that development, advising the Governing Body on financial strategy and overseeing the major changes to our investment policy, but most importantly as a meticulous accountant. She and husband Alex are keen to pull on their walking boots and set off on adventures that daily office jobs have not allowed them to enjoy. Linacre will miss her infectious giggling, her enthusiastic participation in Linacre music-making and her stern eye over all of us who manage budgets.

The Principal.

Jan Krendler has retired from her post as Accounts Manager after almost 16 years at Linacre. She has looked after the fees and battels accounts of generations of students ensuring they get charged correctly for everything from tuition, meals and drinks, rents and printing. Whilst Jan’s role included chasing for unpaid bills she always did that with empathy, and has sometimes been nicknamed “Mum” by various members of college for the understanding way she dealt with students who had problems paying their bills and her willingness to assist with anything. A stickler for efficiency she always aimed to get the monthly battels bills out early on the morning of the first of the month.

Jan was also responsible for payroll so also kept generations of student bar staff and porters happy as well as the permanent staff, ensuring they were correctly paid on time.

She is retiring (early) at the same time as her husband, Mike, so they can spend more time together traveling and with their family and grandchildren.

The College wish them well in their retirement.

Following Jan’s retirement, the position of Accounts Manager has been filled by Marta Adamczyk who has worked most recently at the University Estates department and previously at Jesus College.

Alison Reid, Finance Bursar.

Jan Krendler, Accounts Manager.

College Staff Retiring
Dr Anne Keene, our Development Director, will be retiring in July after 18 years in this role.

Anne first joined Linacre twenty years ago, as the Alumni Relations Officer. At that time the Development Office was a comparatively new venture for the College and there was uncertainty about whether this was the right direction to go. Many of the College’s Governing Body members were concerned that this type of activity in Oxford would alienate our Old Members, based on their experience of professional fundraising in the US Higher Education sector. Anne’s background as a graduate of Edinburgh, Oxford and Brookes Universities meant that she was sensitive to the very different academic culture in the UK and understood the challenges of being a postgraduate student. She had written her PhD thesis on “The role of the Principal of an Oxford women’s college 1879-1925” and knew in detail of the struggles of new Oxford colleges trying to establish themselves at a long-established and conservative university.

Anne spent only two years in the Alumni Relations role before being promoted to Development Director, but that experience has had a lasting influence on her approach to Linacre Development. Anne has seen Development not just as fundraising but about creating a close-knit community of Old Members who share her love of Linacre and her passion for supporting its academic mission. This is not to imply that she has not been hugely successful in building Linacre’s tiny endowment into something far more robust. She has lead two major campaigns that have dramatically increased our scholarship provision, funded new student accommodation and lifted our finances out of the danger zone. But her focus has always been on building relationships, and not only the bank balance.

A colleague in the US told me, not many months ago, that mailings from his US alma mater go straight in the trash, unopened, but that letters from Linacre are opened “because they’re like getting letters from home”. This exemplifies Anne’s approach. Her interest in our Old Members is genuine – she knows birthdays and what people’s kids are studying at college. As HE Development becomes ever more a hard-nosed, data-driven profession, Linacre will miss Anne’s very warm personal touch.

The Principal.

“Retirement”

Until fairly recently I viewed this word with curiosity. But suddenly that same word, which some might argue could do with a name upgrade, took on an allure. It signalled opportunity – as I’m sure many “retired” readers of Linacre News know very well. Someone has written to me recently: “Very few people actually retire, they do something different”. As he kindly suggested, I’m hoping to come into the “something different” category.

I have hugely enjoyed fulfilling the role of Director of Development at Linacre over an 18-year period. It’s been a great pleasure to meet so many fascinating College members, and to see Linacre expanding and maturing, thanks to the wonderful generosity of those members and friends. This college is unique; I never cease to wonder at its role as catalyst. Thousands of students have come from their home country to this little site in the heart of the city, have had what we hope is a transformative Oxford experience, and have gone out to all corners of the globe to take up significant leadership roles. Once when travelling through Cologne station at night I glimpsed a slogan, enhanced by the empty platform: “Hier handelt die Welt”; the world trades here. We could say of Linacre: “Hier versammelt sich die Welt”;

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A Musical College

“Music at Linacre”; these two words have long been linked. Musical events in College and news of gifted musical Linacre members have abounded over the years. But it’s only recently that Scholarships and Junior Research Fellowships in Music have emerged. We are thrilled, and extremely grateful to the donors. Thanks to the recipients, and to many other current College musicians, a thriving Music Society, Linacre Singers, and Community Choir, have emerged. We would now love to create an annual Music Prize, for a student taking an active part in fostering the musical life of the College; £6,250 would endow the prize. Mirroring similar roles at other colleges, this would be a significant step change for Linacre Music, as the College moves towards its seventh decade of existence. Alison Reid, our Bursar who is retiring in July, herself an accomplished musician, has provided initial and very generous support. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to join Alison in making this Music Prize happen; we would warmly welcome your participation.

Below we introduce some of our key musicians.

Dr Mark Doffman (Susan and George Brownlee Junior Research Fellow)
I enjoyed a marvellous three years at Linacre as the Susan and George Brownlee Junior Research Fellow in Music. This coincided with my holding a Leverhulme ECF, a research position in the Faculty of Music, which focused on the psychology of time and timing in music performance. One of the main outputs from the study is the Oxford Handbook of Time in Music, which I am editing with fellow Linacrite, Dr Toby Young. In the last year, I have enjoyed something of a life change and moved to Sheffield to take up a four year teaching post in the Department of Music, while keeping contact with the Faculty of Music in Oxford, and continuing to teach and research here.

Emma Kavanagh (Professor Louis J. Curran Scholarship in Music)
I came to Oxford to study for a DPhil in Musicology after studying for a BA at Jesus College, Cambridge and for an MA at the University of Nottingham. My DPhil research will explore French exotic opera and the fin-de-siècle crisis of masculinity in France during the Belle Époque. It has been wonderful to become a part of such a vibrant community in Oxford. I sing with a number of choirs around the city, and I co-convene the Music Faculty’s Research Colloquia series. It has been particularly exciting to be a part of the growing music scene at Linacre, where I am Vice-President of the Music Society and a member of the newly-formed Linacre Singers chamber choir.
Vincent Roy-Di Piazza  
(President, Music Society)

The Linacre Music Society is the College Society in charge of promoting and animating musical life at Linacre. It gathers musicians, singers and enthusiasts to perform and enjoy a wide variety of musical styles, from classical music to rock and jazz. With a brand-new committee, the Music Society relaunched with Linacre’s 2018 Christmas Concert. Current activities include the Linacre Community Choir and the newly-formed singing ensemble Linacre Singers. In 2019 the Society is looking forward to bring more live music to Linacre, such as open mic evenings, live karaoke, and a classical string ensemble.

Luca Stoll (Franco and Carolyn Gianturco Scholarship Holder)

My thesis looks at the music of jazz saxophonist Coleman Hawkins from historical, analytical, and philosophical perspectives, with a special stress on the notion of heroism and its associated expressive format, the monologue. Linacre is an ideal place for writing: there is a sense of purpose and of concentration that impregnates the walls, perhaps carried over from the times when the building was a convent, yet the atmosphere is always warm and relaxed, creating a fertile work environment. The quiet study rooms and the beautiful library provide the right atmosphere to stay focused on one’s endeavours, while the cozy garden allows for regenerating breaks. Meeting interesting people over lunch and discussing a broad range of topics is also very inspiring.

Dr Toby Young (Franco and Carolyn Gianturco Junior Research Fellow)

It has been a delight to spend three years at Linacre – an amazingly warm community, full of endlessly kind and fascinating people. During this time, my research focused on the relationship between popular music and philosophy, leading to the publication of several articles, an EP (due for release later this year), and a book contract with Cambridge University Press. This work has also led to the award of a knowledge exchange fellowship and a public engagement award, enabling me to develop my outreach beyond academia. Alongside research, I have enjoyed helping to develop the music society at Linacre, expanding its activities to be as inclusive and diverse as possible (involving several cameo appearances around the college singing in concerts and DJing at the bops!).

Carolyn & Franco Gianturco Scholarship News

The College is immensely grateful to Franco and Carolyn for generously increasing their Scholarship Fund at Linacre. Together with a 40% matching donation from the University under its Graduate Scholarship Matching Scheme, this gift enables a full Music Scholarship for a Linacre student, in perpetuity. The new donation also enables the existing Gianturco College Fee Scholarship for a student in Theoretical Chemistry to be endowed, so that will also be a fully continuing scholarship. To our thanks for the Gianturcos’ generous previous gifts, we add further warm appreciation for enabling Linacre students in these two academic areas to be supported year on year. This is excellent news; it is warmly welcomed by all Linacre members, and especially by our students.

Generous Gifts

Although many of these are not named publicly, we’d like to thank the hundreds of alumni and friends who have given from their personal finances to Linacre this year, to help us transform and continually enhance this wonderful College. Thank you! We also warmly thank the trusts, foundations, and companies who support the College, some ever since the 1990s.
**New Domus Prize**

Linacre’s Development Director, Dr Anne Keene, has played a key role in transforming the College’s fortunes over the last 20 years. To mark her retirement in July, the Principal has suggested that a fund is set up to endow a Linacre Domus Prize. Three prizes of £500 each are awarded annually to students for outstanding communication of their research activities. The popular competition culminates in a series of 15-minute presentations in front of an enthusiastic audience of Old Members and current students. Anne, who is a keen supporter of the prize, has said, “Two Domus prizes are already endowed, but the third is currently funded by College. It would be a huge honour to have the third prize endowed to mark my retirement.”

Anne herself has given £500 to kick-start the fund and some alumni have generously responded to her challenge. We are delighted to announce that three years’ worth of Domus Prize money has already been donated or pledged. Our aim is to raise £12,500 to endow the fund in perpetuity.

If you would like to help celebrate Anne’s magnificent career at Linacre and support the exciting Domus Prize competition, then please get in touch. [https://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/old-members-friends/giving-linacre/antonella.dimarzio@linacre.ox.ac.uk](https://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/old-members-friends/giving-linacre/antonella.dimarzio@linacre.ox.ac.uk)

Gifts of any amount are warmly welcomed. We look forward to seeing you at the competition final, which this year will be held in College on Saturday 21st September.

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**Legacy appreciation**

The College is indebted to Professor Margaret Blunden (1974), who left £10,000 in her estate to Linacre. We are very glad to use this for our Women in Science Scholarship fund; as we are aiming to endow that scholarship, this gift is a very welcome addition; the fund hasn’t yet reached the £85,000 total, but thanks to Margaret’s bequest, is very much closer to the goal. As Margaret, who frequently attended Linacre alumni events, was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost at the University of Westminster, and a committed exponent of higher education, this is a fitting use for her generous provision, for which we are most grateful. A tribute to Margaret can be read in our Legacy Donors’ book, viewable in the Nadel Room.

All bequests received by Linacre are much valued; those who have informed us of their legacy provision become members of our Thomas Linacre Circle, and anyone pledging £10,000 or more is hosted by College in Michaelmas Term, in our Small Dining Room.

**Donors’ Dinner**

In March, the College held its first-ever dinner dedicated specifically to major donors. Long-standing and significant benefactors were present to welcome the Vice-Chancellor and Guest-of-Honour Professor Louise Richardson, and to meet some of the student and postdoctoral recipients of their great generosity.

During the evening an important ceremony was held to celebrate two new Honorary Fellows, Professor Franco Gianturco (1965) and Professor Carolyn Gianturco (1967). Both Carolyn and Franco were lauded for their significant academic achievements in Italy and further afield, and warmly welcomed to Honorary Fellowships at Linacre.

![The Vice-Chancellor in conversation with Ignacio Martinez Neghme & Emmanuel Mawuli Abalo, Linacre Scholarship Holders.](image)

**Bar Stools**

If you read Linacre News assiduously you might remember that in the last issue we published a Bar Stool opportunity. If you were thinking of naming one, and didn’t get around to it the first time, you still have time to do so; £500 will secure this; please e-mail antonella.dimarzio@linacre.ox.ac.uk

Gifts of any amount are warmly welcomed. We look forward to seeing you at the competition final, which this year will be held in College on Saturday 21st September.
Interview with Old Member Stefan Buczacki

What brought you to Linacre, and what are your most treasured memories?
I had graduated at Southampton and been awarded a scholarship to stay and do a PhD there when my tutor was approached by a colleague in Oxford to say he had a grant from NERC for a most interesting DPhil project in forestry. Could he suggest a suitable student; the position offered the opportunity to join Linacre. I did not need to be asked twice and my most treasured memories are of our late much loved Dean, Len Leyton, interviewing me and when he saw I had read botany commenting: ‘A noble subject’. How right he was. Then when I arrived to take up my place, John Bamborough immediately made me and my fellow newcomers welcome with the memorable accolade: ‘You have all arrived here by a selection process at which the mind boggles’.

When did you first become interested in plants/nature?
As far back as I can remember; the natural world has always been my abiding passion; initially zoology but fate decreed that professionally I became a botanist although the wider natural world remains as compelling as ever. I sometimes summarise my passions as ‘Living things and telling people about them’.

Any key career moments that took you to where you are today?
I had been engaged in horticultural research for several years and had begun writing books in the evenings. One day I was interviewed on our local radio station about a book I had written on mushrooms and toadstools. Someone commented that I ‘came over rather well; and I was encouraged to send a tape to the producer of Radio 4 Gardeners’ Question Time. I did not know that the programme’s resident scientist had that very week announced he was to retire and I was invited to do three programmes; I stayed to do 600, was soon recruited to television and soon after left research to become a full time writer and broadcaster. Over 2,000 programmes and 60 books later, here I am. My writing has branched out far beyond gardening however and two of my most recent books have been socio-political biographies.

Are you working on any new exciting projects?
Yes, two major natural history books are at the planning stage and I have the background research for three possible biographies.

Born in Derbyshire; my father was a Polish airman who came to England in 1940. My mother was from an old Derbyshire family that included many journalists; hence writing was in the blood. Married Beverley, a teacher, in 1970 and have two sons – Simon an academic surgeon and Julian an army Brigadier. Four grandchildren.
As a young forest ecologist, I was fascinated to read the works of Dr William Julius (Joe) Eggeling who worked as a Conservator of Forests in the Uganda Forest Department in the 1930s and 1940s. Dr Eggeling who was born in Scotland, obtained a BSc in Forestry at the University of Edinburgh, and attended the Colonial Service Postgraduate Course in Forestry at the University of Oxford. He collected over 3,800 specimens for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British Museum (Natural History). A book he published in 1940, *The Indigenous Trees of Uganda* still remains a key reference point for botanists, foresters and naturalists. I was particularly inspired by his 1947 publication in the Journal of Ecology where he described the succession pattern of the Budongo Forest, the largest remaining tropical rainforest in East Africa where I have spent over 20 years of my career attempting to follow in his footsteps. Fundamental for Eggeling and his contemporaries was the quest to understand why tropical rainforests had vast number of tree species per unit area compared to other ecosystems. To this day, this question is still on the debate floor of ecologists. No doubt, the complexity of tropical rainforests generates more questions time after time.

One evening while observing the beautiful *Ficus mucuso* tree at the Budongo Conservation Field Station, located in the heart of Budongo Forest, I envisioned that the multiple branches on this tree depict the many questions that emerge with a new tree branch. In one of the half a dozen long term studies I have been undertaking with my colleagues, we noted a sharp decline in the number of fruiting trees in the forest over a twenty year period.

The immediate question, call it the first tree branch, was to find out what was causing the decline. Initial thoughts examined whether the increased use of pesticides in agricultural fields around the forest had caused a decline in the population of insect pollinators. Alternatively, we thought that climate change (there is an observed increase in minimum temperatures over the past 20 years) could be affecting tree flowering and eventual fruiting. We found some evidence pointing to climate change, but are yet to establish the linkage to reduced population of insect pollinators. However, we are growing in the belief that this could be a cycle that happens due to changes in the forest structure over time. Ecologists have not reported it before due to absence of long term observations of flowering and fruiting patterns of tropical rain forest tree species. Well, that is another motion tabled on the debate floor for ecologists.

Turning to another tree branch I wondered how animals such as chimpanzees that predominantly eat fruits would respond to the decline in fruit availability. Given
that chimpanzees and humans share over 97% of their DNA, I directed the question to how I would respond. Possibly, I would migrate to a new habitat with more food or possibly expand my home range to get enough to eat. However, given that chimpanzees are territorial; there was no evidence of this response to reduced fruiting. The second proposition was that there would be a decline in the animal population to meet the carrying capacity of the habitat. There was no evidence to this either. The third theory was that the animals would switch to other food sources that are not their favourite. Comparing the past and present dietary composition, indeed we noticed that chimpanzees were eating more leaves recently than they did 20 years ago. We also noticed that they were hunting and eating monkeys more frequently than they did before. At the same time, we observed that the frequency of crop raiding of agricultural crops planted close to the forest edge by chimpanzees and other wildlife had increased. This has definitely incensed the local communities and generated more questions for conservation agencies. This was indeed an unexpected tree branch to emerge.

While enjoying the beauty of the ficus tree and pondering the extra work load for conservation agencies due to reduced tree fruiting, I felt sympathy for the chimpanzees that face an extra danger of being killed while supplementing their diet with agricultural crops. The sympathy was compounded by an article I read that evening that postulated that climate change is causing an increase in tannin concentration in leaves. Whereas increased tannin concentration may affect decomposition rates and nutrient recycling dynamics, it also decreases palatability of the leaves. I am contemplating what this new branch brings along. If chimpanzees and other herbivorous wildlife are eating leaves as the main course for their meal, how does the increased tannin content affect their body physiology? Well, I don’t want to contemplate how many more tree branches are yet to emerge on this beautiful ficus tree. Nonetheless, I am thrilled by the many motions flowing on the debate floor and I am indebted to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and Earthwatch Institute that have supported this long term research programme that generates a new question for every new tree branch.

Fred Babweteera (2001), Director, Budongo Conservation Field Station. Dean, School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences; Makerere University.

Black and white colobus monkeys often hunted by chimpanzees. © Julie Larsen Maher.
Life with Lichens

Growing up on a farm helped me develop a strong interest in nature and plants from an early age, but it was not until university that I first started to take an interest in fungi. An interest that would in turn lead to a career studying lichens. Lichens are a symbiosis between fungi and a photosynthetic partner, usually an alga.

It was as President of Nottingham University Biology Society, that I first came in contact with David Smith, one of Linacre’s first Senior Members, and later an Honorary Fellow. I invited him to give a lecture on lichens and when I mentioned my interest in doing research on them, he accepted me as one of his graduate students, and recommended I apply to the College. My research into the movement of carbohydrates produced by photosynthesis of the algal partner to the fungus earned me a DPhil, and afterwards I continued to explore other aspects of lichenology.

Moves to Ontario, Trinity College Dublin and back to Nova Scotia, Canada, have meant that I have been able to visit and collect lichens in England, Australia, and the High Arctic. What is remarkable are the changes in the lichen flora of Britain since the 1960s. Then, there were no lichens in many city centres, but rich lichen floras in the rural areas. Now, with the reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions and smoke along with other controls, some of the more pollution tolerant lichens have re-colonized cities, especially younger trees whose bark has not been acidified. The trees have gone from being blackish due the absence of lichen, or green from the growth of the very pollution tolerant lichen Lecanora conizaeoides (which was common in the woodlands close to Oxford), to having leafy gray or yellow lichens. Thus, the suburban, and even city centre tree trunks are becoming silver and gold.

In contrast, rural area lichens, exposed to more nitrogen fertilizers and nutrient rich dust, are declining in diversity except in the very remote undisturbed parts of Britain. To see such changes, in a single lifetime career, is fascinating but also disturbing. On the bright side, the increasing number of amateur lichenologists and people with concerns about the environment are making great efforts to help ensure the conservation of rare lichens, both in the UK, other parts of Europe, and North America.

Professor David Richardson (1964).

Dr David Smith and Dr David Richardson following the granting of a DPhil, Oxford, 1967.
In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the death of the following Members of Linacre:

I met Dan Robinson when he invited me to join the Psychology Department at Georgetown University of which he was then Chair. I was very impressed by his energy, learning and efforts to reform psychology which had lost its way. He was a large man in every way, irascible when confronted by folly and amiable when appreciated. He was a notable host. He and Francine lived a 30 mile drive outside Washington, and parties at his home were notable gatherings of the wise and the witty. He had a sabbatical coming up and I realised that he would be an ideal visiting member to Linacre. And so it proved. In no time he had found a place for his ideas about psychology and law in the lecture list. He gave a marvellous annual lecture series in the Philosophy Department. He and Francine set up a permanent Oxford home, a base for his annual visit. For a while he had a visiting membership at Oriel, which satisfied his romantic image of ‘ancient Oxford’. But Linacre was where he felt most at home and in the millennium, he rejoined us. He was impulsive, excitable, and reckless in his interpretations of texts, and a marvellous companion.

Written by Dr Rom Harré (Emeritus Fellow)

Professor John Rogerson (1962) died on 4th September 2018.


Mrs Gloria Cigman (1965) passed away peacefully in December 2018. She was for a long time an active member of the alumni community and will be greatly missed.

Sonia Scott-Fleming (1966), who died in October 2018 aged 95, was a long-standing member of Linacre. Her research was in codicology, the study of manuscripts, focusing on thirteenth century ones and analysing stylistic techniques with a view to identifying where individual manuscripts came from. Her BLitt/MLitt thesis on this (1969) was subsequently published in book form. She was also a prolific writer of fiction, publishing numerous short stories and three novels. She had wide interests in the arts and was for many years in charge of arranging exhibitions of pictures in the Common Room. Her Scottish heritage was very important to her and that is where she is now returning.

Written by Professor John Miller (Adjunct Fellow)

Mr John Ijichi (1967) died on 9th October 2018. He had very fond memories of his time in Oxford and kept in touch with College throughout his life. He is survived by his two children, Dominic and Siobhan.

Professor Carlo Dell’Aringa (1967) has sadly passed away. He will be greatly missed by his wife Maria, children Marta and Stefano, and grandchildren Olivia, Georgina, Tobia, and Frida.


2019 Tanner Lecture on Human Values

The 2019 Tanner Lecture on Human Values, ‘A President for Dark Times: the Age of Reason Meets the Age of Trump’ was given by The Hon. Strobe Talbott at Rhodes House on 2nd May. Strobe Talbott is a Distinguished Fellow in Residence at The Brookings Institution, Washington, where he served as President until 2017; and is a former US Deputy Secretary of State. A recording of the lecture is available from www.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/tanner-lectures.

Strobe Talbott at Rhodes House © Ashley Tsai.
Contact Details and Events

Upcoming Events

September 2019
Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd:
Saturday 28th: 20th Italian Linacre Lecture in Rome.

October 2019
Thursdays 24th and 31st:
Philosophy seminars at Linacre.

November 2019
Thursday 7th November:
Philosophy seminar at Linacre.

Linacre Alumni Gatherings 2018-2019
The pictures speak for themselves; members of our global Linacre community enjoyed the following convivial events over the last few months.

Francis Crick Institute Talk by Professor Maggie Dalman and Reception, November 2018.

19th annual Italian Linacre Lecture, Modena, September 2018.

Tokyo Ark Hills Club Dinner, March 2019.

Singapore Swiss Club Dinner, March 2019.


We also had a lovely Business, Finance and Law Network dinner in London.

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