Welcome to the latest issue of the St Benet’s newsletter! For this edition, we have followed the example of many of the other colleges to produce an annual, rather than a termly edition. We are therefore featuring a pictorial “A Year in the Life of Benet’s”, giving a flavor of what has been happening here over the past academic year.

Undoubtedly, the main event from this period was the 120th Anniversary Gaudy, held in the House of Commons on Friday 3rd November 2017, hosted by alum, Damian Green MP. 176 Benetians and friends came together on that evening to celebrate the Hall’s history. It was particularly pleasing to have three Benet’s Masters together for the event. The present Master, Prof Werner G Jeanrond was joined by Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB (1990-2004) and Fr Felix Stephens OSB (2007-2012).

As many of you will have heard, Prof Werner Jeanrond, will end his six-year term as Master of Benet’s at the end of August 2018 and will take up the Chair of Dogmatics at the University of Oslo. Under his leadership, Benet’s has successfully gone fully co-educational, has acquired a much-needed second building; has expanded its graduate numbers considerably and is extremely well-regarded across the University. (The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Louise Richardson has publically stated: “Oxford needs St Benet’s”). Recruitment for Werner’s replacement will start in the autumn and news of the Interim Master will be announced shortly.

I will also be leaving my role as Alumni Officer & PA to the Master at the end of August. I have loved my role and my time at Benet’s and it has been a huge pleasure to be the Alum Relations Officer for such a friendly and welcoming group of people. I have worked in Event Planning for many years but have found the Benetian events to be amongst the most enjoyable of all (even the last Gaudy, which was quite a task to organize single-handedly). I’d like this opportunity to thank Nick Kazaz (m 2004) and all of the St Benet’s Hall Association (aka the Alum Association) for their immeasurable help and advice over the past few years. Particular thanks must go to the President of the Association,

Thank you also to all those alum who have kindly given in to my appeals to come and be a guest speaker at Tuesday night dinners. Talks by alum are always hugely popular, please see details of this year’s speakers later in this newsletter. If you would like to put yourself forward as a future Tuesday Night speaker, please get in touch at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk

News of my successor will be circulated in due course but, in the meantime, I hope you enjoy this roundup of the year and very best wishes to you all.

Katy Griffiths
Alumni Officer & PA to the Master

Many Thanks To Our Donors

A huge thank you to all those of you who have very kindly made donations to St Benet’s Hall over the past year: without your help, Benet’s would struggle to survive. One of the initiatives that Ethan will be pursuing is to ensure that donors (past, present & future) are properly thanked, with invitations to special events at Benet’s. He will also be overseeing the ‘naming’ campaign, which will include plaques commemorating the donations for the new Refectory table and chairs, as well as a donors’ wall in Norham Gardens.
ST BENET’S HALL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Master
Prof Werner G Jeanrond

Oxford, 27 April 2018

To All Members of St Benet’s Hall

Dear Members of St Benet’s Hall,

I would like to inform you of my decision to leave the position as Master of St Benet’s Hall at the end of this academic year. I have greatly enjoyed my six years at St Benet’s Hall. Working with all the members of the Hall has been a privilege and a delight for both Betty and me.

In view of Brexit and of my desire to return to full-time academic work, I feel that this is the right time to hand over the Mastership of the Hall to a successor to be appointed by the St Benet’s Trust. The Trust will appoint an Acting Master from September until a new Master can take up her or his position.

I have not made this decision lightly but I am confident that St Benet’s Hall will continue to flourish under the new Mastership and I will of course continue to support the Hall in any way I can.

In September, Betty and I plan to move to Norway where I shall take up the chair of theology (dogmatics) in the University of Oslo.

With all good wishes for Trinity Term

Werner

Prof Werner G Jeanrond
Master
A Y E A R  I N  T H E  L I F E  O F  B E N E T ’ S
Michaelmas Term

September 30th: Arrival of new grad students

Our graduate numbers are growing rapidly year-by-year. This year we welcomed 22 new grads, making 26 in total, embracing 15 different nationalities. Unsurprisingly (given that Benetians are always up for a party), this is led to an explosion of themed dinners and celebrations of the various national and religious events. Dinner at Benet’s is also the most over-subscribed ticket for the Inter-College Graduate Exchanges!

October 1st: Arrival of new undergrads and Freshers Week

Benet's welcomed 21 new undergraduates this year: 12 men and 9 women. Freshers Week was wonderfully imaginative this year, with a Treasure Hunt around Oxford organised by 2nd year Harry Thorneycroft. Tasks included: hugging a stranger, getting a selfie with a college porter, visiting the rooftop of the Varsity Club, and finishing with a celebratory drink in the Turf. And hugely enjoyed by all!

(Photos © 2nd year, Dom Walker)
A Year In The Life of Benet’s

Michaelmas Term

November 3rd: 120th Anniversary Gaudy at the House of Commons, hosted by alum, Damian Collins MP

November 4th: Graduation

We were delighted to welcome back so many graduands for November’s degree day. Degrees awarded on this occasion included 5 BA's; 1 MA; 1 MPP (Master of Public Policy); 1 MPhil and a DPhil.

See pages 26-30 for full coverage.
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET’S
Michaelmas Term

November 5th: Generous gift from Lord Bamford, Chairman of JCB

Report from Sue Fisher, Development Director, Ampleforth

St Benet’s Hall has celebrated many momentous occasions in its 120 year history and the past 6 years has seen a number of these occasions in quick succession: the appointment of the Hall’s first lay Master and becoming co-educational are just two. The introduction of female students was made possible by leasing a second property in Norham Gardens. The last six years has also seen St Benet’s Hall go from strength to strength: academic results are excellent and continue to improve; our student numbers both post and undergraduate, continue to increase as does the number of females studying at St Benet’s Hall.

You will all have heard about why it is so important for St Benet’s Hall to purchase Norham Gardens, thus providing Benet’s with a promising and sustainable future. Indeed, without Norham Gardens it would be difficult to see how St Benet’s Hall could survive. Therefore, we were all delighted that in February this year, Norham Gardens became a permanent part of St Benet’s Hall.

We are indebted to Lord Anthony Bamford (Chairman of JCB), whose generous donation of a significant, leadership gift has provided Ampleforth’s Chapter with the confidence to go ahead and purchase Norham Gardens. We are also immensely grateful to The Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who have been both supportive and generous in their patience with us whilst the Ampleforth Community made this decision.

However, I should emphasise that we continue to fundraise towards the funding gap of circa £4 million. Ampleforth Abbey Trust is meeting the funding gap with a mix of reserves and a loan which need to be replenished and repaid. We are in conversation with other potential funders and are hopeful that the full £6 million will be raised through the generosity of donors.

Therefore, whilst we can and should celebrate this momentous and successful moment, we cannot rest on our laurels. We therefore, continue to ask for your prayers, support and advocacy whilst we fundraise for the remaining £4 million.

A further show of our confidence in our future is our commitment to invest in a dedicated fundraising resource. We are delighted to welcome our new Director of Development, Ethan Kuhn, who joins us from the States and will be starting in his post on 3rd September 2018. He is looking forward to getting to know you all.
November 11th: ChariTea

Benet’s JCR hosts an annual Charitea (also known as ‘Gerard’s Charitea’ after Benetian, Gerard Miles, who started this initiative when he was a student here 10 years’ ago). The event is greatly enjoyed for its vast quantities of cakes and raises a considerable amount of money for the chosen charity. This year’s Charitea was renamed ‘Solidaritea’ in support of the charity, SolidariTee, which campaigns and raises money for Advocates Abroad.

November 14th: Catherine Pepinster Book Launch

We were very pleased to welcome back Catherine Pepinster, former editor of The Tablet, for the launch of her latest book, ‘The Keys and the Kingdom: The British and the Papacy from John Paul II to Francis’. Catherine was a Visiting Scholar at Benet’s in 2014/15 and a good friend to the Hall.
November 28th: Carol Service and Christmas Dinner

A first for Benet’s (we think!), the Benet’s Choir made their debut at last night’s St Benet’s Carol Service. With beautiful renditions of Adolphe Adam’s ‘O Holy Night’ and ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’.

The Chapel was packed with Benetians of all faiths and none. The congregation comprised undergrads, graduates, fellows, staff and visitors and the Chapel was absolutely packed, with people of all faith and none.

On the same evening was the Hall’s Christmas Dinner where, with the new larger table in place, we were able to accommodate 72 diners in total, with no waiting list and room to swing if not a cat then at least a knife and fork!
November 30th: JCR Christmas Party

In the JCR’s across Oxford, Benet’s is probably best known for its superb JCR parties. The Christmas party this year did not disappoint, as the pictures show:
December 1st: Ampleforth/Benet’s Alum Drinks Party

We were very pleased to resurrect the lost tradition of hosting regular drinks party for Old Amplefordians at Benet’s but we updated it to include Benetians as well (and why wouldn’t we!)

The evening was a joyful occasion and it was agreed during the evening that this would become a regular event (and indeed the second joint party was held at the end of Trinity Term). Future dates will be announced shortly.
A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET’S

Hilary Term

January 7th:  Death of Peter Sutherland KCMG, President of the St Benet’s Hall Board of Regents

We were deeply by the death of Peter Denis Sutherland KCMG, United Nations Special Representative on Migration and President of the St Benet’s Hall’s Board of Regents. Peter died at St. James’s Hospital, Dublin on Sunday January 7th, age 71, in the presence of his family. He was a firm supporter of St Benet's Hall and its particular focus on the personal development of undergraduate and graduate students in the spirit of the European Benedictine tradition. He was also a hugely popular guest speaker at talks on Europe and integration in both Oxford and London.

In August 2013 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his deep commitment to the academic and educational ambitions of the Hall. His expertise and conviction has helped to shape the future direction of the Hall. He was strongly convinced that Benet's future lay in the acquisition of a second building, 11 Norham Gardens, which would allow the Hall to become fully coeducational and to expand in both student numbers and facilities. His enthusiasm and determination was a tremendous support in this ambitious cause and it is a tribute to his vision that this plan has now come to fruition. He gave very generously of his time and experience and was a true friend to St Benet's. He will be greatly missed.

January 8th:  Sue Doran takes on role of Acting Master

For the Hilary Term 2018, the current Master, Prof Werner Jeanrond, went on a well-deserved sabbatical and Prof Sue Doran stepped into the role of Master, a task which she managed with sensitivity and great positivity. The Carnival Guest Night had a particular ‘historical’ theme as historians from around Oxford were invited as special guests. This was a huge success and has initiated a new scheme of having an occasional ‘themed’ guest list for these termly dinners. Amongst many other events, Sue also hosted the first Sporting Blues’ Luncheon and the Benet’s Rome Alum Event (see later in the term), both with warmth and aplomb.
Burn’s Night is always a hugely popular dinner at Benet’s and this year was no exception. Alas, for the first time in many years, we had no piper of our own but were very kindly helped out by William Powlett Smith from the Oxford Caledonian Pipes and Drums. The Ode to the Haggis was enthusiastically performed by first year, Theo Dick. With thanks also to our wonderful chef, John.
February 3rd: Spirituality Day Workshop

We were very pleased to launch the first in a new series of one-day workshops on Benedictine Spirituality. Starting with ‘The English Mystics’, which provided an introduction to Julian of Norwich and The Cloud-Author, sessions were headed by Dr Santha Bhattacharji and Dr Louise Nelstrop (both Benet’s staff) and Dr Emma Pennington (Vicar of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath).

February 12th: Half Way Hall

Half-Way Hall is a special dinner for second year undergrads to commemorate the fact that they have reached the halfway point in their first degree. This year was particularly special as the diners included our first intake of female undergraduates, who have been instrumental in transforming the Hall and bringing Benet’s in line with all the other colleges.
February 18th: Inaugural Blues Luncheon

To celebrate the fact that Benet’s has more Blues/Half-Blues per head than any other college, Prof Susan Doran, Acting Master, hosted an Inaugural Blues Lunch to which Benet’s Blues from past years were invited to come and celebrate with current Blues over a champagne reception and Sunday lunch. We were delighted to welcome back a number of Blues, some of whom had not been back since they left decades before. It was a hugely enjoyable event and, assuming that our sportsmen & women continue to do so well, we plan to repeat this in future years.

If you are a Blue/Half-Blue and did not receive an invitation, please get in touch at events@stb.ox.ac.uk
February 22nd: Blessing of Norham Gardens

The records books in Hall reveal that Benet’s has a long history of Blessings’ Services. These include the expected, such as that for the building in St Giles back in 1923, that of subsequent Masters and of the new Refectory Table. There are also more unusual blessings, for boats and even for particular cars. The blessing of our second building, 11 Norham Gardens, was a particularly uplifting occasion: an occasion to give thanks for the gift of the premises and to anticipate Benet’s years to come in the building.
February 25th: Smoker

Why ‘Smoker’, a poor unsuspecting Fresher will ask each year. At which, patient second and third years will swiftly point out that it is of course derived from the PG Wodehouse story, ‘Tried in the Furnace’ and is short for the ‘smoking party’, an annual talent show at the Drone’s Club where slapstick is very much the order of the day. This year, we had no slapstick at Benet’s but a wide selection of very talented individuals (students and fellows), who sang, played instruments, recited their own poems and performed a comedic routine.
March 6th: Wedding of Visiting Scholar, Dr Heikki Haara to Ms Nanne Isokuortti

“Did you do anything nice at the weekend?” was the question addressed to our hugely popular Visiting Scholar, Dr Heikki Haara one Monday lunchtime in March. “Well, Nanne and I got married” Heikki replied. Such events rarely manage to remain secret at Benet’s but Heikki and his lovely fiancée, Nanne, had secretly got married with only two witnesses. What could we do in the circumstances but arrange a celebration party? Many congratulations to Heikki and Nanne, who have now returned to Helsinki. (Heikki must surely be unique in having a first career as a professional footballer before moving to academia and becoming a Doctor of Theology!)

(Photo by Rachel Movitz)

March 10th: Graduation

Degree Days are one of the most enjoyable – and enjoyed – events of the term, with a lot of pomp and ceremony at the Sheldonian, followed by a champagne reception and first-rate lunch back at Benet’s. It’s a great pleasure to welcome back recent and older Benetians and hear what they have been doing in life-beyond-Benet’s. This term our graduands included 5 BA’s, an MBA and an MA. Boffin, the College Dog, who was on hand to welcome the guests was particularly delighted to welcome back Gus, her favourite Benetian.
A Year In The Life of Benet’s

Easter Vacation

March 16-18th: University of Oxford Alumni Weekend in Rome

This year’s University of Oxford Alumni Weekend was held in Rome, where Benet’s were represented by the Acting Master, Prof Sue Doran, and the Prior, Fr Oswald McBride OSB.

As well as the Central University’s very grand events, Benet’s held a drinks party for alum and friends at the Venerable English College.

With thanks to the VEC for being such generous hosts and to all those who attended.
A Year In The Life of Benet’s

Easter Vacation

March 19th: St Benet’s in London Annual Talk, speaker: Karen Armstrong

The art of planning the St Benet’s in London talk is to engage a speaker who will entice Benetians from their workplaces on a weekday evening and find a venue that will match the subject of the talk and provide a convivial venue for the after-speech drinks’ party. In the past couple of years, we have fielded Anthony Geffen (alum and member of the St Benet’s Hall Board of Regents) speaking on his hugely successful career in documentary film making and Virtual Reality at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (2016). This was followed by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, speaking on the subject of ‘Eurasia: The Next Hundred Years’ at Asia House in the West End.

For 2018, Benet’s invited the prominent religious historian, Karen Armstrong, who spoke on ‘Is Religion Essentially Violent?’ at the Charterhouse, a 14th century former Carthusian monastery in the heart of the City of London and a stunning venue for a fascinating talk. Thank you to all who came, these talks are always a great occasion for alum and current Benetians to meet and catch up.

Monday 19th March 2018
18:30 Optional tour
19:15 Talk
20:15 Reception

St Benet’s in London Annual Talk

The Charterhouse
London, EC1M 6AN
(former Carthusian monastery, recently opened to the public)

Speaker
Karen Armstrong
(prominent religious historian)

Is Religion Essentially Violent?

Info/Booking
events@stb.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 280555
A Year In The Life of Benet’s

Easter Vacation

April 6-8\textsuperscript{th}: Alumni Weekend in San Francisco, USA

The North American University Office organised this year’s US Alum Weekend in San Francisco. As the present Master was still on Sabbatical, Benet’s was represented by Sue Fisher, Development Director for Ampleforth (who has also been working on Benet’s fundraising for the past couple of years). As this was the first time that Benet’s had visited California, it was a great opportunity to catch up with Benetians there who are often unable to get to the more frequent meet-ups in New York and Washington DC.
May 5th: Graduation

The sun shone for this term’s degree day celebrations, enabling the champagne celebration to *eh?* With only four graduands at this term’s degree day ceremony, celebrations were a particularly small *Rhubarb, Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit*…

May 10th: David Tracy Lecture & Ascension Day Guest Night

We are very grateful to the William E Simon Foundation in the USA, who have sponsored a series of high-profile lectures that St Benet’s Hall have hosted in Oxford over the past few years. The last in the series was given by one of the greatest figures in contemporary Theology, Professor David Tracy of the University of Chicago. Benet’s joined with the Faculty of Theology and Religion to host this lecture in the Sir Michael Dummett Lecture Theatre at Christ Church. The talk, entitled ‘From a Metaphysics of the Infinite to the Infinitely Loving Trinity’ was extremely popular and well-received, as was the follow-up seminar given by Professor Tracy for grad students the following day. The lecture was followed by the Hall’s Ascension Day Guest Dinner, at which theologians from across Oxford joined Benetians for a splendid feast.
A Year In The Life of Benet’s

Trinity Term

May 27th: EMBA Lunch & Croquet
This year Benet’s welcomed its first-ever cohort of EMBA’s (Executive Master of Business Administration). This is a part time course, run by the Said Business School, delivered in 16 one-week modules over a total study period of 20-21 months. To celebrate the end of their first academic year, Benetian EMBA student, Monique Rodrigues invited her course mates to a Sunday lunch at Benet’s, followed by a croquet match against monks and fellows.

May 27th: Garden Play
A comic play that includes a naive monk, several students in drag, love triangles and violence taking place in the peaceful garden of St Benet’s Hall? Well, why not! With the imprimatur of Benet’s good-humoured Prior, Fr Oswald McBride OSB, this year’s garden play was Perry Pontac’s ‘Fatal Loins’ (a reimagining of Romeo & Juliet). Directed by first-year, Ned Seagrim, the play was very, very funny with some great acting and much enjoyed by packed audiences.
June 3rd: Boat Club Alum invited to Sunday Lunch

Boat Club alumni/ae were invited to join the community for a Sunday lunch this year, rather than the previous special Boat Club lunches. Apart from being able to charge alum considerably less to attend, it also gave the alum an opportunity to meet and chat with a wider cross-section of the Hall, and was hugely enjoyable.

June 5th: Benet’s Reception in NYC, USA

Prof Werner Jeanrond hosted his final overseas event as Master at the Cornell Club in New York and it was a pleasure to welcome such a range of ages to the reception, including some with whom Benet’s had previously lost contact.

June 10th: JCR Picnic in Port Meadow

A long-standing Benetian tradition was favoured this year with glorious weather. The all-night JCR barbeque & bonfire in Port Meadow was a great success: everyone had a great time; nobody got lost; nobody was ill and no stray horses or cattle gatecrashed.
A Year in the Life of Benet’s

Trinity Term

June 12th: Werner’s Farewell Dinner & Fr Henry’s Blessing of the Table

It was a huge pleasure to welcome back Former Master, Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB, to join the current Master, Prof Werner Jeanrond, for the last formal dinner of the year (and Werner’s last formal as Master). Fr Henry blessed the new refectory table, the funds for which were given anonymously in his honour. Werner and Betty were also presented with farewell gifts from the community, including a Benet’s scarf from the JCR Committee in anticipation of their move to Norway.

June 14th: JCR Garden Party

It would be difficult to think of a better celebration to the end of year than the JCR Garden Party and this year’s did not disappoint!
June 16th: End of Term – Finalist’s Departure

The end of the Trinity Term is bitter-sweet: joy that exams are over but also sadness that our finalists are leaving. Shown here is the very international line-up from the Graduate Leavers’ Dinner which followed on a couple of days after the Undergrad Leavers’ Dinner. We wish all our departing students all the very best for the future and look forward to following their career paths.

June 19th: Art Exhibition

The very last event of term was a Photography Exhibition by one of our Academic Visitors, Jiushuang Chen from the University of Tsinghua University in China. As well as studying for a doctorate in the religion dimension of modern art, Jiushuang is also a celebrated artist and photographer and Benet’s were pleased to turn the Refectory into a temporary Gallery and to host a launch party. We are also very grateful to Jiushuang for donating a couple of his framed images to the Hall. They can be seen in the stairwell between the first and second floors.
Benetians Attending
(by matriculation year)

Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB 1956
William Bellasis 1957
Jeremy Nixey 1964
Fr Felix Stephens OSB 1964
Desmond Bell 1964
HRH Prince Shabaz Pahlabad 1967
Peter de Simone 1973
Michael Nolan QC 1974
Nicholas Baker 1975
Jonathan Pearce 1976
Dr Christopher Browning 1977
Brian Regan 1977
Simon Livesey 1977
David Gerard 1978
Jeremy Tigue 1978
Prof Julian Hughes 1979
Wade Newmark 1979
Piers Westlake 1980
James Nolan 1980
Michael Lacey-Solymar 1982
Col Nick Channer 1982
Mark Stevenson 1982
Michael Vaughan 1984
Milan Shah 1989
Dr Gerard Gillen 1991
James Blann 1992
Giles Heather 1995
Joe Townley 1996
Br Colman O’Clabaigh OSB 1996
Richard Fattorini 1996
Fr Anton Höslinger Can Reg 1997
Mark Fields Davidson 1997
Dr Philip McCosker 1997
Fr Edward van den Bergh CO 1997
John Wetherell 1998
Kevin Watson 1999
The Revd Stephen Coleman 1999
Dr Luigi Gioia 1999
Fr Hugh Allan O.Praem 1999
Fr Bede Price OSB 2000
Ben Fleetwood Smyth 2000
HIH Grand Duke George of Russia 2000
Dominic Mattos 2002
120th Anniversary Gaudy
Friday 3rd November 2017

Benetians Attending
(by matriculation year)

Sam O’Gorman 2003
Chris Lock 2003
James Sladden 2003
James Murphy-O’Connor 2003
Nick Hanson 2003
Frederick Tatham 2004
Leo Meredith 2004
Nicholas Kazaz 2004
Alex Stafford 2005
Konstantin Schober 2006
Martin Parlett 2006
Chris Lake 2006
Nicky Wingfield Digby 2006
Alan Kenny 2007
Tom Carew Hunt 2007
Paddy Page 2008
Charlie Furber 2008
Oli Elliott 2008
Sam Collingwood 2008
David Goldberg 2009
Rahul Ahluwalia 2009
Tim Bano 2009
Jake O’Keeffe 2010
Fr Cuthbert Elliott OSB 2010
Mark Salib 2010
Federico Zangani 2011
James Charteris-Black 2011
Marcus Lee 2011
Tom Lambert 2012
Sanesh Mistry 2012
Tom Scrope 2013
Roberto Weeden-Sanz 2013
Cormac Connelly-Smith 2013
Nick Scott 2013
Lance Baynham 2013
Ben Lacaille 2013
Sam Gomarsall 2013
Ed Sparrow 2013
Rory Farquharson 2013
Tina Hinchcliffe 2014
Tom Kears 2015
Connie Cha 2015
Youchen Xin (Luke) 2016
VIP’s
The Rt Hon Damian Collins MP
(host and alum m. 1993)
Prof Louise Richardson
(Vice Chancellor of the University)
Peter Hennessy, Baron Hennessy of Nympsfield (Honorary Fellow)
Professor Peter Tufano (Trustee & Dean of the Said Business School)
Mr Allan Dodd (Trustee & Bursar of Mansfield College)
Ms Katushka Giltsoff (Acting President of the Board of Regents)
Lord Bruntisfield (Member of the Board of Regents)
Ms Maria Bentley (Member of the Board of Regents)
The Rt Hon Lord Gill (Member of the Board of Regents)
Anthony Geffen (Member of the Board of Regents & alum m. 1980)
Ms Sue Fisher (Development Director, Ampleforth)

BENET’S STAFF
Prof Werner G Jeanrond (Master)
Mrs Betty Jeanrond (Master’s wife)
Fr Oswald McBride (Prior)
Fr Gabriel Everitt (Librarian)
Katy Griffiths (Alumni Relations Officer)
Dr Sartha Bhattacharji (Senior Tutor)
Prof Sue Doran (Fellow)
Martina Stancheva (Hall Administrator)
Fra’ John Eidinow (Fellow & DoS for Classics)
Dr Fran Reynolds (Fellow & DoS for Oriental Studies)
Dr Mary Marshall (Fellow & DoS for Theology)
Dr Brian Klug (Research Fellow)
Dr Mark Sheehan (Dean & Research Fellow)
Harald Edinger (Junior Dean)
Cristina Dumitru (Junior Dean)
Steve Rumford (Bursar)
Fr Hugh Lewis-Vivas OSB (former Bursar)
Dr Michael Kenworthy-Brown (former Hall Doctor)

Notes:
1. Names in bold denote Masters (past & present).
2. Names of then-current students who attended the Gaudy cannot be listed for data protection reasons.
120th Anniversary Gaudy
Friday 3rd November 2017
This year has seen a real blossoming of sports at Benet's, be it at a university or a college level.

An intake of very athletic freshers has led the Hall to break ground with new sports: Aisha Chandraker (Sanskrit) immediately the university’s Dancesport Blues squad (as well as its organisational committee as Publicity Manager), Dilara Yoon-Yildiz (Turkish) entered the Volleyball setup, and Daniel Whitham (PPE) is set to play Rugby Fives Varsity next term. The standout sport is Rugby, where two freshers have entered the setup: Charles Pozniak (History) will be starting as a lock in the Varsity Game at Twickenham, while Henry Martin (Theology & Religion) (along with OURFC stalwart James Calderwood, 3rd Year PPEist) starred in a 24-7 victory over Cambridge LX in the seconds Varsity.

Eleanor Lambert (2nd Year Historian) has become a regular starter in a currently undefeated Lacrosse Blues squad, and is therefore set to upgrade to a Full-Blue next term. Dominic Walker (2nd Year Classics) will be re-entering the Swimming Varsity squad, having won Varsity last Hilary. Thais Rocha da Silva (DPhil Egyptology) remains part of the Taekwondo Blues squad, and Matthew Haji-Michael (3rd Year History) narrowly missed out on the Discretionary Blue for the second time this summer. Andrew Fanthorpe (4th Year Classics) has continued to make his mark in the Hockey Blues squad, and will most likely be competing in his third consecutive Varsity. Elsewhere, Pablo Garcia Moreno-Dora (3rd Year PPE) is still competing to fit the harsh requirements for a Gymnastic Blue, and Henri du Périer de Larsan (3rd Year Turkish with Persian) returned to the Football setup after his year abroad where he helped take Boğaziçi University to the Istanbul quarter-finals. One of the most impressive commitments this term has been that of Edward Macdonald-Buchanan (3rd Year Classics), performing in Golf, Tennis and Eton Fives (1st team).

With this extraordinary proportion of sports players in the Hall, it would have been a shame not to put it to good use by entering competitive teams in college sports. The 1st XI has therefore played its greatest amount of games ever (6) under Henri du Périer de Larsan’s captaincy, and leading goalscorer Pat Bunker (2nd Year PPE) achieved a magnificent tally of 7 goals in the Reserves Cuppers quarter-finals, after having dismissed both Lincoln and Christchurch’s second teams in the previous rounds. There is talk of mixed Hockey and Basketball teams entering competitions in the future, and lots of excitement surrounding the Rugby Sevens squad for Trinity 2018, given the talent the Hall currently holds, whereas the extensive Football practice gives greater hope to this year’s five-a-side team.
In mid-June the Benet’s 7’s rugby side became Cuppers champions, beating Wadham/Trinity in the finals. The team included the following Benetians:

- Charlie Pozniak
- Ned Seagrim
- Henri du Perier
- James Calderwood
- Henry Martin
- Tom Channer

...together with several honorary Benetians. An extraordinary achievement for such a small college!

In rowing, another first for Benet’s with the Women’s boat qualifying for Summer Eights. Whilst weather conditions and other misfortunes (including essential elements parts of the boat coming apart in the middle of a race), meant that Benet’s did not fare as well as last year when Benet’s won blades, nonetheless there is a huge amount of talent and commitment amongst the crews and there are great hopes for next year. [And if anyone reading this would like to give a donation towards a new boat, it would be greatly appreciated - and naming opportunities are available. With a decent boat, Benet’s would (probably) be unstoppable].

With thanks to Henri du Périer de Larsan for much of this article.
Tuesday Night Speakers

Amongst are varied range of Tuesday Night Speakers, we were delighted to welcome back the following Benetians:

Martin Parlett (2006), who worked on Barak Obama’s successful Presidential campaign and subsequently wrote a book about it, entitled “Demonizing a President: The ‘Foreignization’ of Barack Obama”.

Fr Michael Fava, Deputy Chaplain-General of the Army (1983)

Sculptor, Martin Jennings, (1976), who is perhaps best known for his statue of John Betjemin at St Pancras Station in London. (See the ‘news’ section later in this newsletter for his most recent award).

Matt Jeffrey (1996), Head of Business Development & Strategic Content at Rebellion Computer Games.

Current Students

We are very proud to announce that Zakir Gul, one of our undergrad finalists in Oriental Studies (Arabic) has been awarded the James Mew Senior Prize for an ‘outstanding performance in Arabic Language paper’ along with the Mustafa Badawi Prize in Modern Arabic Literature for ‘the best essay in English on an aspect of modern Arabic literature.’

Zakir was also been shortlisted for a University of Oxford Vice-Chancellor’s Diversity Award in the role model category earlier in the year, with the following citation:

*From his first term at St Benet’s Hall, Zakir has promoted diversity of faith and of socio-economic background. He campaigned against the axing of ‘community languages’, such as Bengali and Turkish, at A-level arguing that this reduces diversity in Higher Education. He served as St Benet’s first BME JCR representative, and on the Committee of the Oxford University Islamic Society, where he launched the Society’s lecture series on Muslims and the Arts. Zakir plays a key role in promoting and realising the Society’s strong commitment to engagement and understanding between Muslim students and staff, and students and staff of all faiths and none.*
Fellows’ & Lecturers’ News

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Congratulations: Marriages & Engagements

Chris Lock (2003) on his marriage to Ana Luisa Leal de Oliveira Fernandes.

David Goldberg (2009) on his marriage to The Rev’d Christine M. Faulstich at Galveston, Texas in June, with a sizeable number of Benetians among the guests, including Fr Felix Stephens (former Master of Benet’s) and Prof Werner G Jeanrond (current Master of Benet’s).

Tim Ball and Jane Lee, who both came back from Hong Kong, to get married in Woodstock, Oxon, in May.

Rahul Ahluwalia (2009) on his recent engagement.

Further News & Congratulations

Nicholas Plummer (1975) and his wife, Marielle, have designed and launched a luxury hotel, which they are now running in the Petit-Saint-Bernard Pass on the French/Italian border. In partnership with the Hyatt hotel chain, La Rosiere opened in December 2017. Definitely a venue for a future Benet’s reunion!

Martin Jennings (1976) won the 2017 Public Monuments & Sculpture Association’s Marsh Award in November 2017 for his statue of ‘Women of Steel’, sited in Sheffield and celebrating the work of women during both World Wars.

Anthony Geffen (1982), and his company, Atlantic Productions, won two awards at the Waimea Ocean Film Festival in Hawaii in January 2018 for their production, David Attenborough’s Great Barrier Reef.

Colonel Nicholas Channer (1982) was appointed an OBE in the December 2017 New Year’s Honours, following a four year posting in Germany.

Fr Michael Fava QHC (1983) has been named as the next Deputy Chaplain-General to Her Majesty’s Land Forces Army from November 2018. He is the first Catholic Chaplain to have reached such an appointment in any of the three Services. We were delighted to welcome Fr Michael back to Benet’s as a Tuesday Night Speaker in November 2017 and wish him all the best in his new role.
Dom Martin McLaughlin OSB (1992) was appointed 6th Abbot of Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester.

James McDonagh (1997), founder of Art Tours Ltd, was appointed by the University of Oxford to organize the official trip preceding the Alumni Weekend in Rome in March 2018.

David Goldberg (2009) has been appointed as Ethics Commissioner for the City of Houston, Texas one of four such City Council appointees.

Dr Ulrich Schmiedel (2012) has been appointed as lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the University of Edinburgh.

Lance Baynham (2013) has been awarded a Lord Haldane scholarship from Lincoln’s Inn, where he will be studying for the Graduate Diploma in Law from this autumn.

Zahra Latif (2015) has been appointed as Private Secretary for the Prime Minster’s Policy Unit at No 10 Policy Unit. Zahra was also the first alumna to come back as a Tuesday Night Guest Speaker, giving a stirring talk on ‘Power, privilege and progress - reflections from the margin’ in celebration of the centenary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, in March 2018.

R.I.P.

We are sorry to have to report the deaths of the following alumni:

Prior Timothy Horner OSB (1949) from St Louis Abbey, USA. Died, aged 96 on 27 April 2018.

Fr Philip Wilson OSB (1951) of Portsmouth Abbey, Rhode Island, died 22 September 2017, aged 91.

Fr Timothy Wright OSB (1951), former Abbot of Ampleforth, died 13 May 2018, aged 77.


Fr Damian Sturdy OSB (1986) from Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester.

Jagraj Hundal (later became Jagraj Singh) (1998) at the tragically young age of 38. Having joined the British Army shortly after graduation, Jagraj went on to become an influential Youtube educator, raising awareness of the Sikh faith.
LEAVERS

September 17th: Gemma Robson (Junior Dean)

MMM DDth: Dr Chris Mallan (Classics Tutor)

May 25th: Martina Stancheva (Hall Administrator, Domestic Bursar)

August 31st: Cristina Dumitru (Junior Dean)

August 31st: Werner & Betty Jeanrond (Master & Master's Wife)
August 31st: **Katy Griffiths** (Alumni Relations Officer, Communications Officer, PA to the Master)

August 31st: ... and with Katy Griffiths, **Andrew ‘Roo’ Waters** (Photographer-in-Residence and Graphic Designer)

August 31st: ... and also with Katy Griffiths, **Boffin** (Hall Dog)
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To be announced.