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MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

Dear Alumni and Friends of St Benet’s Hall,

This year we celebrate the 120th birthday of St Benet’s. The Houses of Parliament will provide a fitting location for our next Gaudy on 3 November 2017, when we can give thanks for our history, enjoy each other’s company, and contemplate the future of our Hall. I hope that you will be able to join us for this special celebration.

The summer examination results have just come in and add to our celebratory mood this year. Not only have we accomplished the co-educational transformation of the Hall without any problems, but we have also achieved outstanding academic success both on the undergraduate and postgraduate level, with three undergraduate Firsts and two postgraduate Distinctions. Academically we are in a good place and enjoy respect and admiration in Oxford and beyond. Thus, the ever increasing number of our international academic visitors at St Benet’s will not come as a surprise.

Since the beginning of this year I have been travelling a great deal in order to meet as many alumni and friends of St Benet’s as possible. I have especially enjoyed our recent gatherings in New York City, Houston, Hong Kong, Singapore and London. Everywhere I have encountered a great desire to learn more both about our efforts to follow Benedictine values in co-operation with Ampleforth Abbey and about our ambitious project of making St Benet’s fit for the future. The Hall’s Fellows, Monks and Administrators have worked tirelessly in order to enable our continuing communal, intellectual and structural development. They have received valued support from our colleagues in Ampleforth.

In April this year my family and I were able to move into the newly refurbished Master’s flat at Norham Gardens. Now the monastic community resides in 38 St Giles, and the Master and family in 11 Norham Gardens. This is how we are trying to make sure that both parts of our vibrant community of students, fellows and monks form a cohesive unit.

My primary concern remains finding the funds for purchasing the Norham Gardens site. Time runs out at the end of this year for this project, which is absolutely necessary for the future of St Benet’s. In this jubilee year, therefore, I wish to appeal especially to you to help us to gather these funds, which are needed to guarantee the future of the Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Gaudy in November, I remain with warmest greetings and best wishes

Werner G Jeanrand
Master

Photos from the Benet’s Summer Garden Play, Rookery Nook, directed by Claudia Graham (LMH), and starring: Tim Baark, James Cameron (St Catz), Sam Cheney, Alice Gent, Niarn Simpson (LMH), Dr Nick Waghorn, Tom Wilding.

Front cover photo of 38 St Giles by Dom Walker (1st year Classicist)
GRADUATION MARCH & MAY 2017

We were delighted to welcome so many graduates back to Benet’s this year. Graduation is a celebration of all the hard work and effort that has been put in by our students during their time in Oxford and we are honoured to share in this with our alumni and their families and friends.

Graduation on 4th March included seven Benetans who matriculated in 2008/9, and came back en masse to receive their MA degrees. The full list from that day is as follows:

Sam Collingwood (MA); Dan Draper (MA); Oliver Elliott (MA); Ian Holland (BA); Nadia Kaan (MSc Anthropology); Tom Kearns (MSt Theology); Zara Le Sueur (MBA); Marcel Miller (MA); Luke Nutkins (MA); Paddy Page (MA), and Lucien Smith (MA).

On 8th May, we were very pleased to host our second degree day celebrations of the year. Graduands on this day were: Lance Baynham (BA History); Connie Cha (MBA); Sam Marks (BA Classics); Tom Scope (BA Phil & Theology); Difaf Sharba (Master of Public Policy); Ed Sparrow (BA History); Roberto Weeden-Sanz (BA History), and Audrey Yvert (MBA).

Congratulations to all and we look forward to following your future progress!

A JUNIOR DEAN’S VIEWPOINT

As anyone who has spent time in Oxford knows, there is often significant resistance to any attempt to break with tradition. An oft-stated joke when I was an undergrad went like this:

**Question:** how many Oxford academics does it take to change a lightbulb?

**Answer:** Change??!

Yet at St Benet’s, this academic year has seen significant change, with the introduction of the first ever cohort of female undergraduates, and the opening of a new building, 11 Norham Gardens, in which to house them.

As the Hall’s first female Junior Dean, based at Norham Gardens, I have had the pleasure of seeing this change take place first-hand. In October, I was on site to welcome the 9 women and 9 men whose arrival signified the end of single-sex education at the University of Oxford, and over the last 6 months we have all negotiated life here at Norham Gardens. There have been the usual teething problems (19th century buildings were not built with ease of Wi-Fi signal in mind), and the layout of the student accommodation block has been the downfall of many confused parents found wandering lost around the corridors on moving day, but it is without doubt a wonderful place to live, socialise and study.

As for the student body itself, there have been the usual smattering of problems, with road signs turning up in unexpected places and the occasional party at inappropriate hours. But overall, the last three terms have gone incredibly smoothly. The first-year intake are fantastic and I am constantly blown away by their sensitivity, maturity, and ability to stack pizza boxes neatly in the recycling bin.

The undergraduates have taken everything in their stride, and the women have made their presence known in the Hall. In case anyone hadn’t quite caught on yet, an all-women performance of “It’s Raining Men” (for the first time in history, Benet’s Has Women) at the St Benet’s Smoker, organised and choreographed by some of our talented first years should have done it. In many ways, nothing has changed. For example, the common table is as busy as ever. But equally, Benet’s is carving out a new reputation in the university as not just academically successful, but also as friendly, inclusive, and welcoming. I consider myself very lucky to be working within this close-knit community of St Benet’s, and to be a part of this important period in its history.

Gemma Robson, MPhil Development Studies & Junior Dean 2016/17
RECOGNITION AND NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Giving a donation to St Benet’s Hall will ensure that the Hall has the facilities to offer to all its students the unique climate of personal development, academic enquiry and spiritual exploration that is St Benet’s.

There are naming opportunities open to donors to St Benet’s Hall, including:

- A chair in the Library at 11 Norham Gardens .................£400
- A chair in the Refectory at 38 St Giles ......................£600
- A table in the Library at 11 Norham Gardens .............£1,500
- Student annual travel grant fund ................................£12,500
- The Library at 11 Norham Gardens .........................£150,000
- Seminar rooms at 11 Norham Gardens ....................£150,000
- Student annual bursary fund ....................................£155,000
- Library in St Giles ...............................................£250,000
- Lectureship/Director of Studies ..............................£2,250,000
- 11 Norham Gardens .........................(minimum) £3,500,000

If you would like to discuss these or other means of supporting St Benet’s Hall, please contact Katy Griffiths on katy.griffiths@stb.ox.ac.uk or 01865 280555.

RECENT DONATIONS

We are extremely grateful to all our donors, without whose generosity Benet’s would not be able to continue, including:

- **The RC Archdiocese of Birmingham and The William E Simon Foundation** in New York towards the acquisition of Norham Gardens

- Donations by members & friends of the Oxford Consulting Group in Houston, USA, towards the proposed St Benet’s Hall Cardinal Newman Chair in memory of Fr Bruce Noble

- **Fr Nick Smith** of St Louis in the USA, who has set up the Fr Nick Smith Bursary, a post-graduate support fund for St Benet’s students in Classics and History

- **The HW Wilson Foundation** in the US towards library improvements in Norham Gardens

We would also like to say a big thank you to those alumni, students and their families who have given donations, many of whom have asked to remain anonymous. Whilst we have not listed individuals here, we will be holding a Donor’s Reception later in the year to enable us to thank benefactors personally.

If you would like to make a donation now, you can do so via the Oxford Thinking campaign website at: https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=2845

NEW COMMON TABLE FOR THE REFECTORY

The Common Table in the Refectory (opposite) is central to the ethos of Benet’s, where friend and stranger, fellow and student sit together as equals.

As our numbers have grown, we have struggled to fit everyone around the table at our more popular events. We are therefore extremely grateful to the anonymous donor who got in contact after our appeal in the last newsletter and offered to fund a new, larger table in honour of Fr Henry Wansbrough (Master of St Benet’s from 1990 to 2004).

We are all looking forward hugely to having the new table installed in time for the Michaelmas term and to welcoming Fr Henry back to bless the table and to celebrate with us.
FELLOWS’ & LECTURERS’ NEWS

OUSU AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TUTOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Benet’s are proud to announce that Dr George Bitsakakis, Fellow and Tutor in Economics, Director of Studies in Economics and Dean of Degrees, won the award for Outstanding Tutor in Social Sciences in the Oxford University Student Union’s 2017 Teaching Awards on 11th March 2017.

Dr Bitsakakis, who studied at Athens University, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor and the London School of Economics, holds three Masters degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science and Philosophy, and a PhD in Economics (LSE). He is also the author of various highly-regarded graduate textbooks and numerous academic articles.

Dr Nadia Jamil Senior Instructor in Classical and Modern Standard Arabic at the, Oriental Institute and tutor at St Benet’s Hall was shortlisted for the Outstanding Tutor in Humanities category of the OUSU 2017 Teaching Awards. Dr Jamil’s book on Ethics and Poetry in Sixth-century Arabia will be published by the Gibb Memorial Trust on 28th September.

Dr Brian Klug, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy was invited to give a paper at Princeton University in May at the conference on The Balfour Declaration: One Hundred Years in History and Memory. He was also the Hilda B Silverman Lecturer for May 2018 at The Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

THE MONASTIC PRESENCE AT ST BENET’S

The Monastic community remains a much-valued element of the Hall’s life. Below is a report by the Prior, Fr Oswald McBride OSB.

The liturgical life of the Community continues to be stable. The format of our new English sung Vespers has proved both flexible and prayerful. Compline and daily Mass have continued to be popular, with some finalists and also some of our visiting academics making good use of times for prayer and reflection. Sunday Mass has also been as popular as ever. Particular delights this last term were welcoming Br Emmanuel from Glenstal (in Oxford for the launch of his most recent book) and hearing Br Jarek demonstrate his talents as a violinist at the Ascension Night Guest Evening.

Fr Oswald addressed the finalists at the beginning of term with respect to welfare issues and stress. This seems to have been appreciated, and he has tried to talk with each one each day, or as often as they are around. Other students as well as finalists regularly come for advice and support. Fr Gabriel and Fr Oswald are also in discussion with the Graduate representatives at the Hall concerning how Graduate welfare can be strengthened.

The monastic community is also working with senior students to form a new committee for the “Listening Together” project, with a view to restarting this programme in the new academic year. Fr Oswald is very aware, not only of the religious diversity within the Hall, but also of the wide varieties of Christian denominations amongst the student body. For example, Sam Hodson, ex-JCR President, is now the President of the Oxford University Christian Union. Whilst obviously wishing to safeguard our Catholic ethos, it is clear that there is much scope for more explicit Christian discussion and co-operation. Just before Easter, Fr Oswald gave a paper on “Chaplaincy for Students of all Faiths and None” at a study day organised by Santha Bhattacharji for the Churches’ Fellowship for Psychical and Spiritual Studies.
SPORTS UPDATE

**Andy Fanthorpe (JCR Sports Secretary & 3rd year Classicist)**

This has been another successful year for sports at Benet’s. A significant number of Benetians have been participating at the University level in their respective sports. Particular congratulations must go to Classics Fresher Dominic Walker who received a Swimming Full Blue for participating in the Varsity match last term, winning his race in an extremely quick time. Andrew Fanthorpe also achieved his 2nd Full Hockey Blue this year as vice-captain of the team, helping them win the Varsity match at the end of the Trinity term.

Other members of the college deserve special mention for their commitment to University sport; 1st year historian Eleanor Lambert has been playing Lacrosse at University level, just missing out on a Blue. Our very own Junior Dean, Gemma Robson, has achieved a Rugby Blue, participated in the Varsity Game at Twickenham (pictured below). Thais Rocha once again participated in the Taekwondo Varsity, winning both her individual bout and contributing to Oxford’s overall victory. Matthew Haji-Michael has maintained his sailing prowess from last year, whilst James Calderwood, playing for the University Rugby 2nd team, became possibly the most televised sporting Benetian ever after his involvement in the half-time kicking competition at Twickenham during the Varsity match.

Of course, it is not all about the individual achievements of Benetians in sport, but perhaps more importantly the inter-college competitions. Benet’s has made history this year by putting out our first ever female rowing boat in Torpids and participating in its first ever Football 11 a-side league.

Finally, this year saw the creation of a small sports fund from within the JCR’s funding. Initially this fund has been used to help support our sportsmen and women competing at a University level pay for their subscriptions and equipment, but I hope in the future the fund will be able to grow such that it will be possible to help pay for Benet’s kit and other sporting costs. If anyone is interested in supporting this scheme and would like to know more, please contact me at andrew.fanthorpe@stb.ox.ac.uk.

The JCR’s sport has continued to develop greatly this year, and I am confident that it will continue to do so in the years to come.

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GRADUATE NEWS

Benet’s has had its largest ever cohort of graduate students this year, consisting of 17 individuals and 11 nationalities. We have been pleased once again to welcome students studying for MBA’s at the Said Business School and MPP’s at the Blavatnik School of Government, alongside more traditional subjects.

The Graduate Leaving Dinner in late June was a bitter-sweet occasion, as we bade farewell to 11 of the group, all of whom have played a significant role in shaping Benet’s character over the past year. In particular, they have given the Hall an invaluable insight into their cultures and religions and an opportunity to share with them in festivals, such as the memorable Diwali celebrations, a very informative talk at a Tuesday formal on Cameroon by Armand Tchenguou Touani and not forgetting Chike Pilgrim’s outstanding rapping at the last Benet’s Smoker.

Our grad students have been travelling widely this year to pursue their field studies. Thais Rocha da Silva (DPhil Egyptology) spent a month on a dig in Middle Egypt as part of the Amarna Project (pictured left); Matt Taylor (DPhil Archaeology) is in the States, working with an underwater acoustic positioning device to georeference 3D models of shipwrecks, and Sarthak Malhotra (MPhil Social Anthropology) is currently doing fieldwork in Agra, India, looking at religious nationalism in Contemporary India.

Finally, many congratulations to Jim Matarazzo on attaining his DPhil in Theology. Congratulations also to Kelly Carlton (pictured right) on achieving a distinction in her MPhil in Buddhist Studies.

All photos on this page © Thais Rocha da Silva
REVIEW BY SAM HODSON, JCR PRESIDENT 2016-17

Having begun this academic year welcoming women undergraduate students to the Hall, while making full use of the new building at 11 Norham Gardens, we as Benetians currently find ourselves undergoing what is perhaps the biggest transformation St Benet’s has ever experienced. While it has been as smooth a transition as could be hoped for, my sense is that these last three terms have cemented and built up the sense of community that this Hall prides itself upon.

One of the ways we have seen this sense of community realised has been through our formal dinners. First we celebrated Burns night in January, with a fine address to the haggis given by Ed McGovern, a toast made to the lassies and the reply given by Alec Badenoch and Alice Gent, both of which dished it out to the men and women of the Hall alike. More recently we enjoyed our Carnival formal dinner, where great food, fine wine and fancy masks all abounded.

This year has also seen the emergence of new JCR events, including a cheese and wine night (left) hosted in the Calefactory by our social secretary, Matthew Haji-Michael.

Another new event to grace Benet’s, open to students and staff, has been the St Benet’s Hall Bake Off, where a brave few had their own baked goods put to the test in front of the masses. It was a great success, as any event involving large quantities of cake ought to be, and raised money for the Oxford Students’ Refugees Campaign in the process. Big laughs and entertainment continued throughout the term in the termly Benet’s pub quiz as well as the Smoker; a showcase of the musical, theatrical and comedic abilities of members of the Hall.

Finally the terms always draw to a close with the JCR parties, a highlight of each term, celebrating the eight weeks enjoyed together. For the Hilary term, guests were stunned on arrival as they entered, finding themselves walking along a Hollywood-style red carpet. It contained all the glitz and glam of a night at the Oscars; black tie, beautiful dresses and a champagne reception. Many enjoyed dancing late into the night as the band dug out 90s hit after 90s hit. For the Trinity Term, we were lucky enough to enjoy glorious weather, which allowed a memorable 50’s garden party. Both events were a lovely way to conclude the terms of hard work and busy schedules, alongside the people with whom we have journeyed through it.

Photo © Natasha Frank

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BENET’S GET BLADES

Congratulations to the Benet’s M1 team who won Blades in this year’s Summer Eights. The team, captained by Marco Hughes (2nd year Historian) bumped Pembroke III, Wolfson III, Exeter II and St John’s II on successive days. Discretionary blades were awarded in Summer Eights 2013 but before this Benet’s last won Blades in 2006 (photo below). These were the Boat’s Club’s glory days with a winning streak in which - according to the then Captain of Boats, Rob Pepper— Benet’s Boat Club had not been bumped down a position by an opposing crew in nine years of biannual competition – a remarkable feat and a challenge for our current rowers to pursue.

ST BENET’S HALL BOAT CLUB CONTINUED

REPORT FROM OUR WOMEN’S CAPTAIN, JENNY KIRKPATRICK (1ST YEAR ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES)

This year has been full of exciting developments for the St Benet’s Hall women’s squad. With a small pool of women in college to pull from, I am especially proud that we managed not only to fill a boat, but to compete (in the earliest stages) in both Torpids and Eight’s week. This was largely thanks to the fantastic St Stephen’s women who have been integral and talented members of the team, making up half the boat. We are grateful to them for their energy and enthusiasm. The women’s squad typically trained Monday, Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings on the water, as well as Saturday afternoon sessions on the ever-punishing erg with the men. Although our campaign was sadly short-lived as we failed to make the qualifying time for either Torpids or Eights, we have learned from the experience and will make every effort to improve and give our supporters a race to remember next year! It has been a pleasure to watch the women grow as athletes, both in terms of performance and confidence, in this sport which was new to all of us on beginning this academic year.

INTERVIEW WITH JOE LORD, (1ST YEAR CLASSICIST AND BENET’S COX)

Rowing was something entirely new to me at Oxford and so being able to be part of the Boat Club is such a great experience - my coxing has definitely improved leaps and bounds since those first few outings of hitting trees and houseboats, (but still has some way to go before I can consistently land us at the right pontoon at the end of the outing!).

It’s really special to be part of SBHBC, as we’re smaller and more tight-knit than other clubs, and so it really is a team effort for all of us, and I’m very proud to be coxing the Benet’s M1, hopefully to more future success!

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE / SBHBC LUNCH AT THE BLUE BOAT, HAMMERSMITH ON 2ND APRIL

Current and former Boat Club members & friends —many in their new SBHBC blazers— assembled for an enjoyable celebratory lunch on Boat Race Day at the Blue Boat in Hammersmith and were able to watch Oxford narrowly win the Race. Plans for future Boat Club events in Oxford and London will be announced next term.
**PUBLIC TALKS**

**Benet’s in London talk: Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint**

The third St Benet’s in London talk was held at Asia House, London W1 in March 2017 and was on the topic of *Eurasia: The Next Hundred Years*. The speaker, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, is an expert on both Asia and Europe, having formerly been the Chairman of HSBC bank, as well as the Minister of State for Trade & Investment. He has published books on European identity, as well as being an ordained minister in the Church of England and a member of the House of Lords. He is also on the St Benet’s Hall Board of Regents.

The event proved hugely popular and we had to call on the goodwill of Asia House to accommodate us in a much larger room than we had originally booked. Thank you also to all alumni and friends of St Benet’s who made both the talk and drinks reception such an enjoyable and memorable evening. The speech was highly informative and thought-provoking and much appreciated by the audience. For those who were unable to attend, the transcript is available here.

**John Henry Newman talk**

The three Catholic PPH’s at the University of Oxford take it in turns to organise the annual John Henry Newman Lecture. Benet’s were the organisers for 2017 and were delighted to welcome Monsignor Philippe Bordeyne, Rector of the Institut Catholique de Paris, to Oxford on 31st May to speak on the subject: *Experiencing the Transforming Power of Faith Today*. Msgr Bordeyne gave a powerful speech, which resonated with many in the congregation. The transcript of his speech is available here. (Photo shows Fr Wulsten Peterburn, Headmaster of Ampleforth Ampleforth College (l), Msgr Philippe Bordeyne (centre) & Prof Warner G Jeantond, Master of StH (r).)

**Tuesday Night Speakers**

Tuesday night formal dinners are greatly enhanced by our tradition of inviting illustrious speakers to dine with the community and give a short speech on a subject in which they have an in-depth knowledge or a passion. Among our speakers this year were: politician, Lord Alderdice; Maria Bentley, Global Head or HR at Nomura and member of the Benet’s Board of Regents; Achim Boehme, CFO of the Lomar Shipping Line (pictured below with the Master and Nick Kaza); Old Amplefordian Alex Brazier, who participated in the SPEAR17 Antarctic Exhibition (right), Dr Cédric Gobeil from the Egypt Exploration Society and Professor Markus Muhling from the Leuphana University of Luneburg in Germany.

We are grateful to all who gave their time to come and dine with us.
BENET’S SPORTING BLUES
PLEASE HELP US COMPLETE OUR RECORDS

We are very proud to be able to say that over the past two years we have more Blues per head than any other college across the University.

With the help of Vincent’s Club, we have drawn up a list of all Benet’s Sporting Blues and Half-Blues since 1965 and will be hosting a celebration in the forthcoming year. If you can help us with fill in the missing details in the table below, or if you know of anyone else that should be on the list, please let us know at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<td>1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Bayham</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>James Charteris-Black</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>1986</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Hockey, athletics, golf</td>
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<td>?</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>Simon Halliday</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<td>Gemma Robson</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Alasdair Turner</td>
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<td>Karate</td>
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<td>Dominic Walker</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Piers Westlake</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Archery</td>
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ALUMNI EVENTS 2017

THE ’97 MATRICULATION REUNION DINNER IN LONDON ON 3 JUNE 2017

With thanks to Fr Edward van den Bergh, we are pleased to report on a recent reunion dinner, organised by alumni who matriculated 20 years’ ago. The evening commenced with drinks at the Admiral Codrington, followed by a meal at Daphne’s, both in South Kensington.

The evening was a great success. Fr Henry Wansbrough (Master of Benet’s from 1990—2004) came down from Ampleforth Abbey, whilst other Benetians travelled as far away as Los Angeles, Qatar, and Vienna.

At dinner, they reminisced about their time in Oxford 20 years’ ago and talked about the future, before toasting Fr Henry and St Benet’s and returning home.

If other years are interested in organise reunions, please get in touch with the Alumni Office at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk and we can help you reunite with your year group.

OVERSEAS EVENTS

The Master has also been pleased to host alumni events this year at the following: in New York at the University’s North American office in 5th Avenue; in Hong Kong at the China Club, and in Singapore at the University Gala Dinner at the Marina Sands Hotel. As ever, it was a huge pleasure to renew acquaintance with old friends and to meet new ones.
LIFE AFTER BENET’S

What do our students go on to do after Benet’s? Apart from a large number of religious (as expected), our alum statistics are very much in line with that of the University as a whole. The most popular professions are Finance, the Church, and Law. A significant number of Benetians have gone into the Army, whilst amongst more recent graduates there is a trend for entrepreneurship: two categories that do not appear in the Central University’s figures.

Benet’s New Mentoring Scheme

One of the benefits of Benet’s being so small is that we are therefore able to have a far more personal relationship with our alum than many of the larger colleges. We are introducing a mentoring scheme to help current students learn more about professions in which they are interested. Thank you to those who are already providing guidance and, if you would like to join the scheme, please get in touch at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk or join the University’s Oxford Alumni Community and tick the ‘Willing to Help’ option.

You can also link up with old classmates and friends through the University’s new online Oxford Alumni Community network, which is similar to LinkedIn but open only to authenticated University of Oxford alumni and staff. This is a recent innovation and Benet’s numbers are small growing steadily. We would encourage you to join at www.oxfordalumnicomunity.org

THE ST BENET’S HALL ASSOCIATION
(FORMERLY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION)

With the introduction of our first female alum, the name ‘The Alumni Association’ no longer fits the bill and the Association has now reverted to its previous title, The St Benet’s Hall Association.

We are delighted to welcome Roberto Weeden-Sanz (m ’12) to the Association.

A huge thanks to members of our Alumni Association, past & present, who very kindly agreed to participate in Benet’s first Careers Speed Dating evening on 7th March this year. Each alum gave a 3-minute talk about their professional area of expertise, followed by a buffet dinner, where current students had an opportunity to seek informal careers’ advice. The subjects discussed were:

- Maritime Law by Nick Kazaz (m ’09), President of the St Benet’s Hall Association
- Careers in sustainability by Tom Harrison (m ’08)
- Entrepreneurship by Connie Cha (m ’15)
- Political speech writing by Ben Fleetwood Smyth (m ’00)
- Tutoring by Nicky Wingfield Digby (m ’06)

Students were delighted to have this opportunity to talk about career options with fellow Benetians and we will therefore be rolling out this event to include other professions in the Michaelmas and Trinity Terms. If you would like to participate in forthcoming careers evenings and help current students make informed choices, please get in touch at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk.
CONGRATULATIONS: BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & ENGAGEMENTS

- Martin Tomaszewski ('98) and Georgina Christie on the birth of their son, Henry
- Robert Pepper ('05) and Helen on the birth of their child, Arthur
- David Goldberg ('09) on his engagement to Christine Faulstich
- Dominic Clark ('08) on his marriage to Rebecca Clark
- Jonny Riches on his marriage to Meredith White
- Zahra Latif ('15) on her marriage to Towhid Iman (pictured below at their Legal Ceremony)

FURTHER NEWS & CONGRATULATIONS

- Damian Collins ('93) was re-elected as MP for Folkestone & Hythe in the recent general election
- Matthew D Taylor ('92) became the headmaster of King's College, the British School of Madrid (HMC) in January 2017
- Connie Cha ('15) was one of eight finalists in the Unbound London '17 Female Founders Startup Challenge with her company, Tax Forward
- Anthony Geffen ('80) and his company, Atlantic Productions, has won the first ever BAFTA award for a Virtual Reality film with David Attenborough’s Great Barrier Reef Dive VR
- Colonel Nick Perry DSO MBE ('92) has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier and has assumed command of the 16 Air Assault Brigade

R.I.P.
We are sorry to report the deaths of the following alumni:

- David Anselm Banks (m '69), died November 2016, aged 77.
- Fr Bonaventure Knollys OSB (m '56) died February 2017, aged 81 and was buried in the Monks’ Wood at Ampleforth.
- Fr Augustine Measures OSB (m '51) died February 2017, aged 89 and was also buried in the Monks’ Wood at Ampleforth.
- John Jack O'Reilly (m.'64) (formerly a monk at Ampleforth) died January 2017, aged 74, in Palo Alto, California.
- Peter Wallace (m.'74) (was Br Anthony) died January 2017, aged 64

If you have news that you would like to be included in the next newsletter, please contact Katy Griffiths (Alumni Relations Officer) at alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk

WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED BENET’S MAN NEEDS FOR THE GAUDY

Our new Benet’s cufflinks have proved remarkably popular. We still have a limited amount of stock available so if you’re looking for that special finishing touch for the Gaudy or other occasion, they can be purchased from the Hall Office priced £22 (plus p&p at cost).

Silk bow ties in Benet’s colours are also available at a cost of £24.99 (plus p&p) and lapel pins at £4.00.

PHOTO CREDITS
A huge thank you thank you to Andrew (Roo) Waters (of roowatersphotography.com) for donating his valuable time and expertise in photographing a wide range of activities and events at St Benet’s and in helping with the design and layout of this newsletter.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

120th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GAUDY

at the House of Commons

An invitation to our 2017 Gaudy will have accompanied the mailing of this newsletter (both electronic and hard copy versions). It will be held in the House of Commons on the evening of Friday 3rd November (with many thanks to alumnus, Damian Collins MP).

The Gaudy will be commemorating 120 years since Ampleforth Abbey first established a Benedictine hall of study in Oxford and we are looking forward to celebrating with members from Ampleforth, previous and current Masters, Fellows, staff and of course students and alumni. By popular request, each Benetian may also bring a guest to the dinner. This will be our largest and most prestigious Gaudy since they were started 10 years’ ago and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

The invitation is extended to every Benetian, past & present. Alumni/ae are also welcome to bring a guest. The cost for alum and for their guests is £85 per person. For further details, please contact events@stb.ox.ac.uk

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