



August 2018

# St Benet's News





## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



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 in producing an annual, rather than a termly edition. We are therefore featuring a pictorial "Year in the Life of Benet's", giving a flavour of what has been happening here over the past academic year.

Undoubtedly, the main event 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 publicly 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 Gaudy, which was quite a task to organise 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.

Thank you also to all those alum who have kindly given in to 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](mailto:alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk).

I hope you enjoy this roundup of the year and very best wishes to you all.

*Katy Griffiths*

*Alumni Relations 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 our new Development Director 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.

# MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER



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

Prof Werner G Jeanrond  
Master

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

### September 30<sup>th</sup>: 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, such as Diwali and Thanksgiving. Dinner at Benet's is also the most over-subscribed ticket for the Inter-College Graduate Exchanges!

*(Photos: Benet's Grad Students)*

### October 1<sup>st</sup>: Arrival of new undergrads and Fresher's Week



Benet's welcomed 21 new undergraduates this year: 12 men and 9 women. Freshers Week saw the continuity of traditions such as the historic pub crawl of Oxford, but also the addition of a new tradition of having a treasure hunt around Oxford. Organised by 2nd year Classicist, 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!

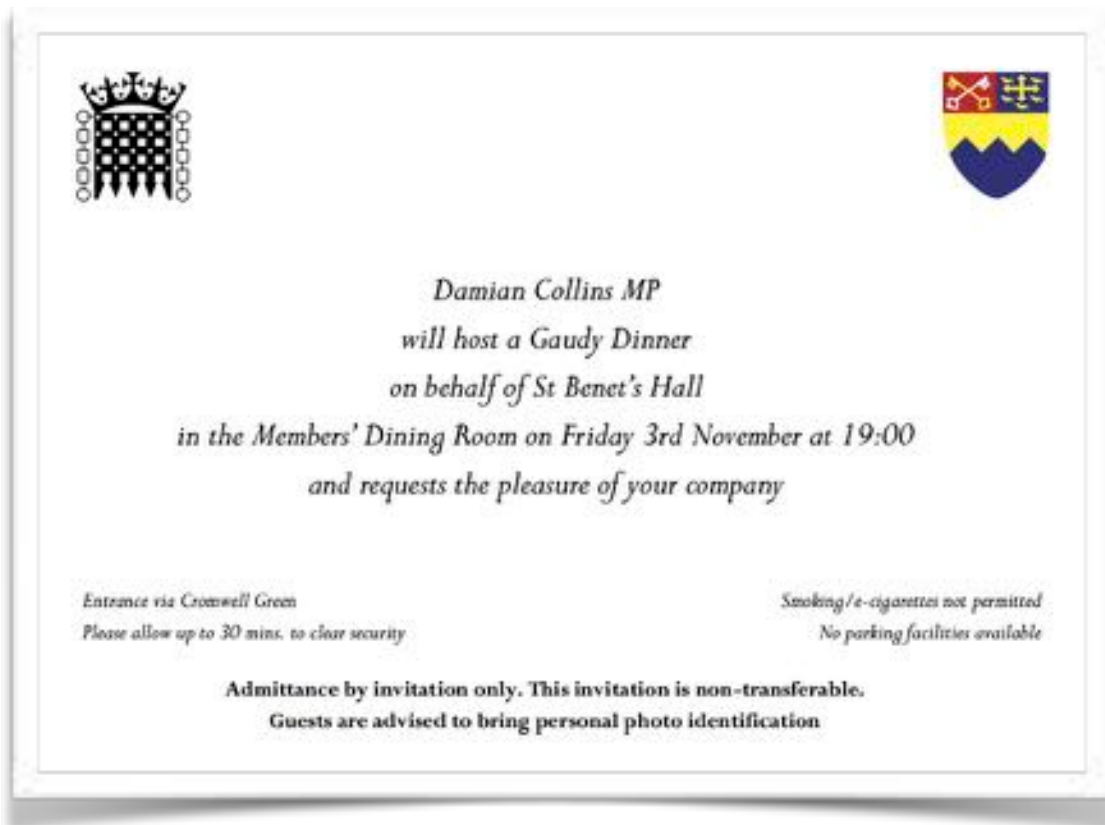
*(Photos © Dom Walker, 2nd year Classicist)*



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

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



See pages 26-30 for full coverage.

## November 4<sup>th</sup>: 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.





# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

**November 5<sup>th</sup>: Generous gift from Lord Bamford,  
Chairman of JCB**



Photo: 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 £4million. 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 £6million 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 £4million.

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.



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

### November 11<sup>th</sup>: 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.



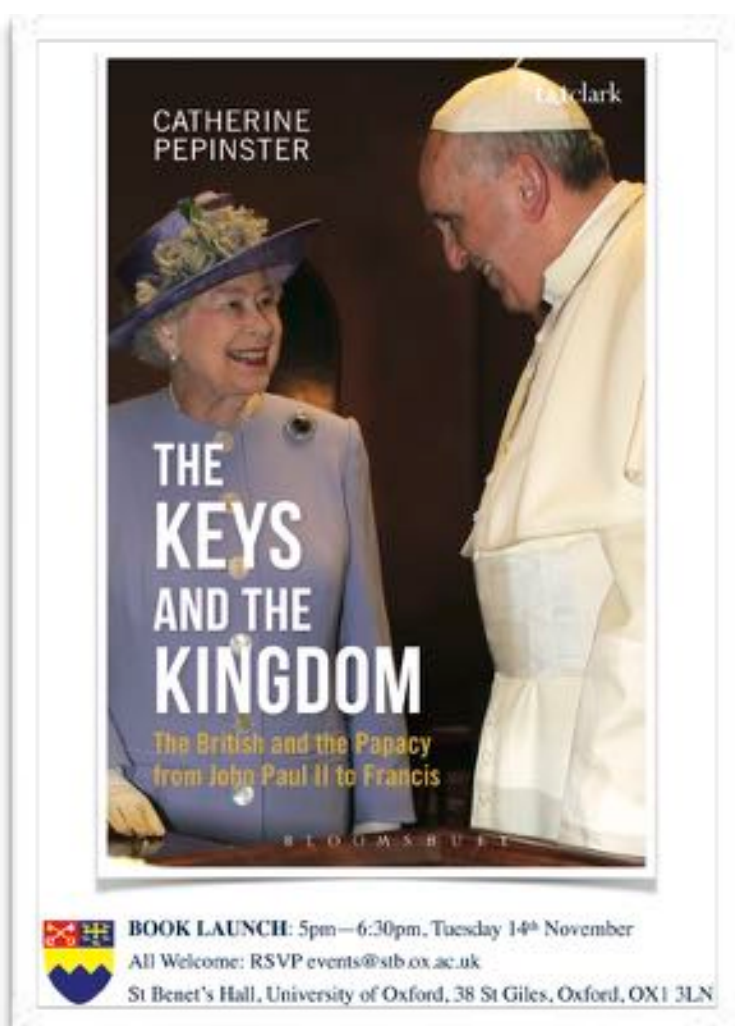
(Photos: Benet's Undergrads)

This charity provides lawyers to refugees, and was suggested to the JCR by 2<sup>nd</sup> year Historian, Alice Gent. University wide, JCR's have been donating to this charity, and planted reps in colleges to sell T-shirts at a cost of £10 each to help pay these fees. Alice represented the charitable spirit of St Benet's by selling the third highest amount of T-shirts in the university, proving that, although we are smaller in size, we can rival the numbers of larger colleges through our mass participation.

### November 14<sup>th</sup>: 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 started writing the book at the Hall.



(Poster design: Roo Waters, Photo: Bloomsbury)

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

### November 28<sup>th</sup>: Carol Service and Christmas Dinner

A first for Benet's (we think), the Benet's Choir made their debut at this year's St Benet's Carol Service. Thanks to Natasha Frank and Beata Adams, we were able to amass a 12 person choir, with moving renditions of Adolphe Adam's "O Holy Night" and "In the Bleak Midwinter".

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 at long last!





# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Michaelmas Term

### November 30<sup>th</sup>: 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:





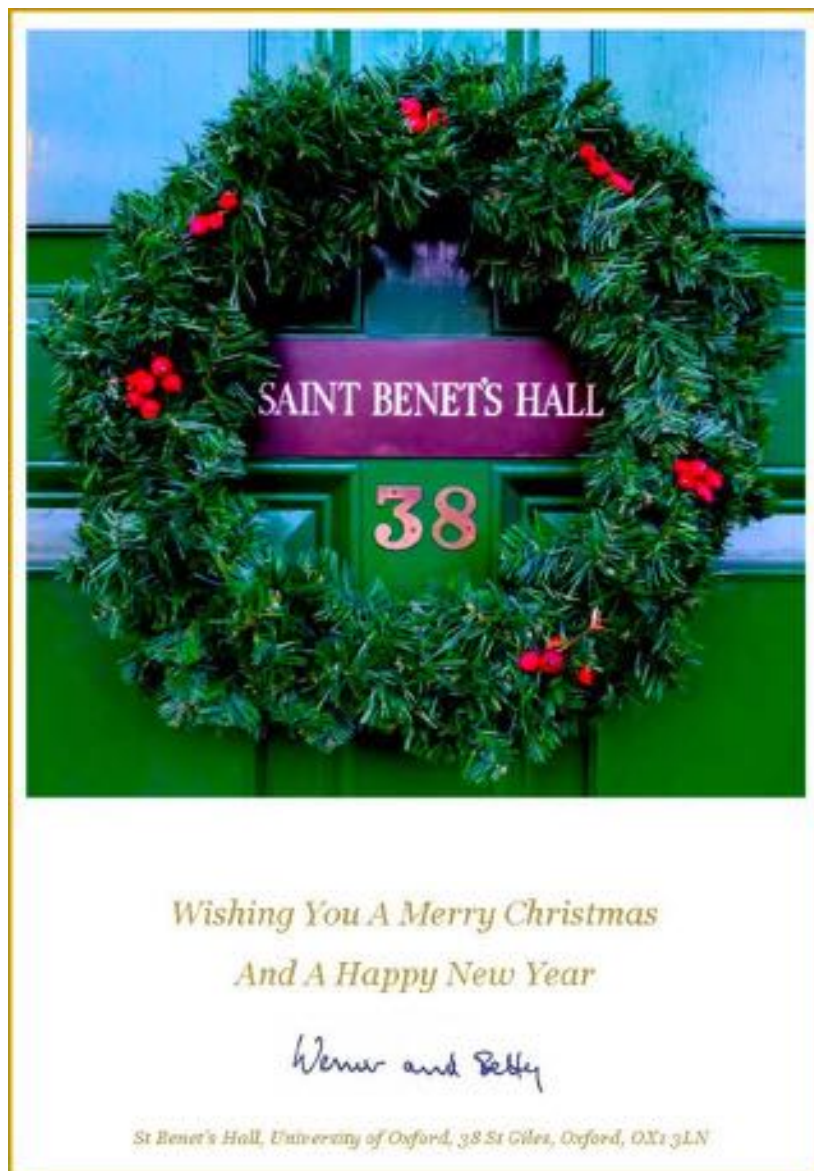
# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Christmas Vacation

### December 1<sup>st</sup>: Ampleforth/Benet's Alum Drinks Party

We were 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.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

### **January 7<sup>th</sup>: 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 8<sup>th</sup>: 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 Acting Master, a task which she managed with sensitivity and great enthusiasm.

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.



## Hilary Term

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.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018



ORDER OF SERVICE

*Students and the bottom frame of the Acting Master, Professor Lee (3) at*

The Subject Matter of the Report is as follows:

Source of information	Impact of information
Local and national newspapers, journals, magazines, etc.	Local and national newspapers, journals, magazines, etc.
Government and non-governmental organizations	Government and non-governmental organizations
Academic institutions	Academic institutions

Number of days with no [a] had and percent used

Fighting with the angels

1997-1998

*"This is great!"*

... di essere in un'aula di scuola, con un professore che ti spiega le cose, e tu che ascolti e prendi appunti. E' un'aula di scuola, ma non è una scuola vera e propria. E' una scuola di... di...

concluding remarks (the horse studied

Adult Long Horn

## Addition to the Sample

[illegible]



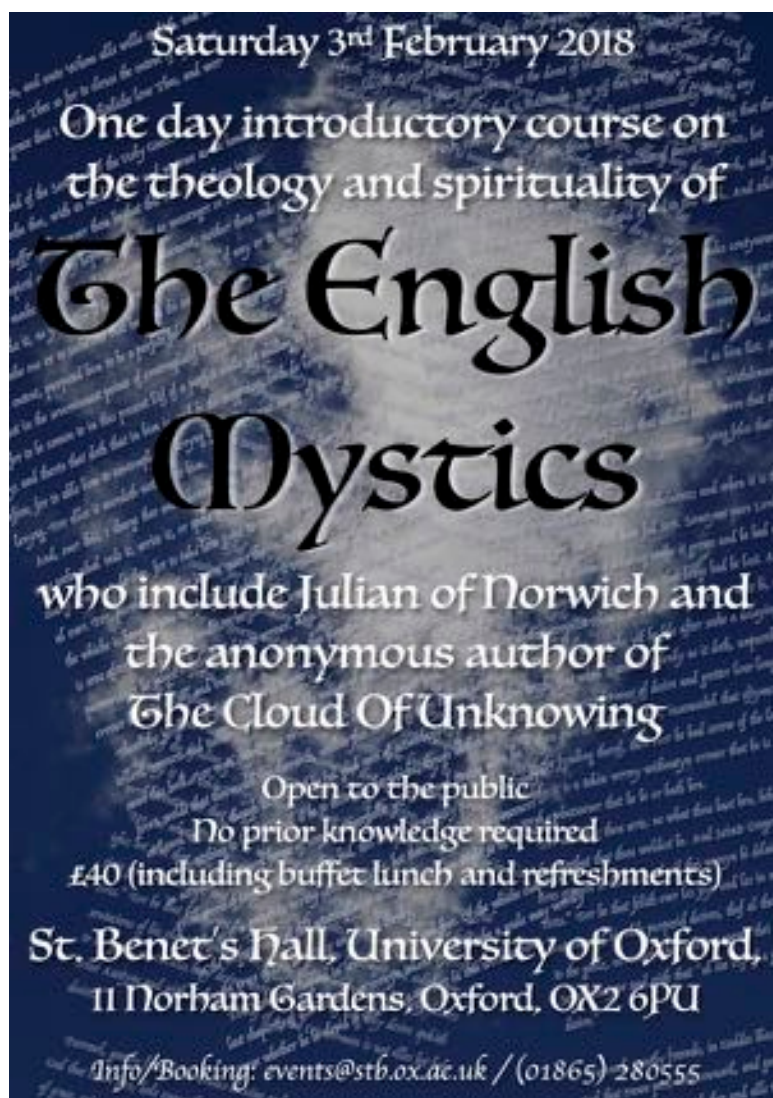
# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

### February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Spirituality Day Workshop

The first in a new series of one-day workshops on Benedictine Spirituality took place this Spring.

Starting with 'The English Mystics', 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).



(Poster Design: © Roo Waters)



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

### February 12<sup>th</sup>: 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 degrees. This year was particularly special as the diners included our first intake of female undergraduates, who have been instrumental in transforming the character of the Hall and bringing Benet's in line with all the other colleges.

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

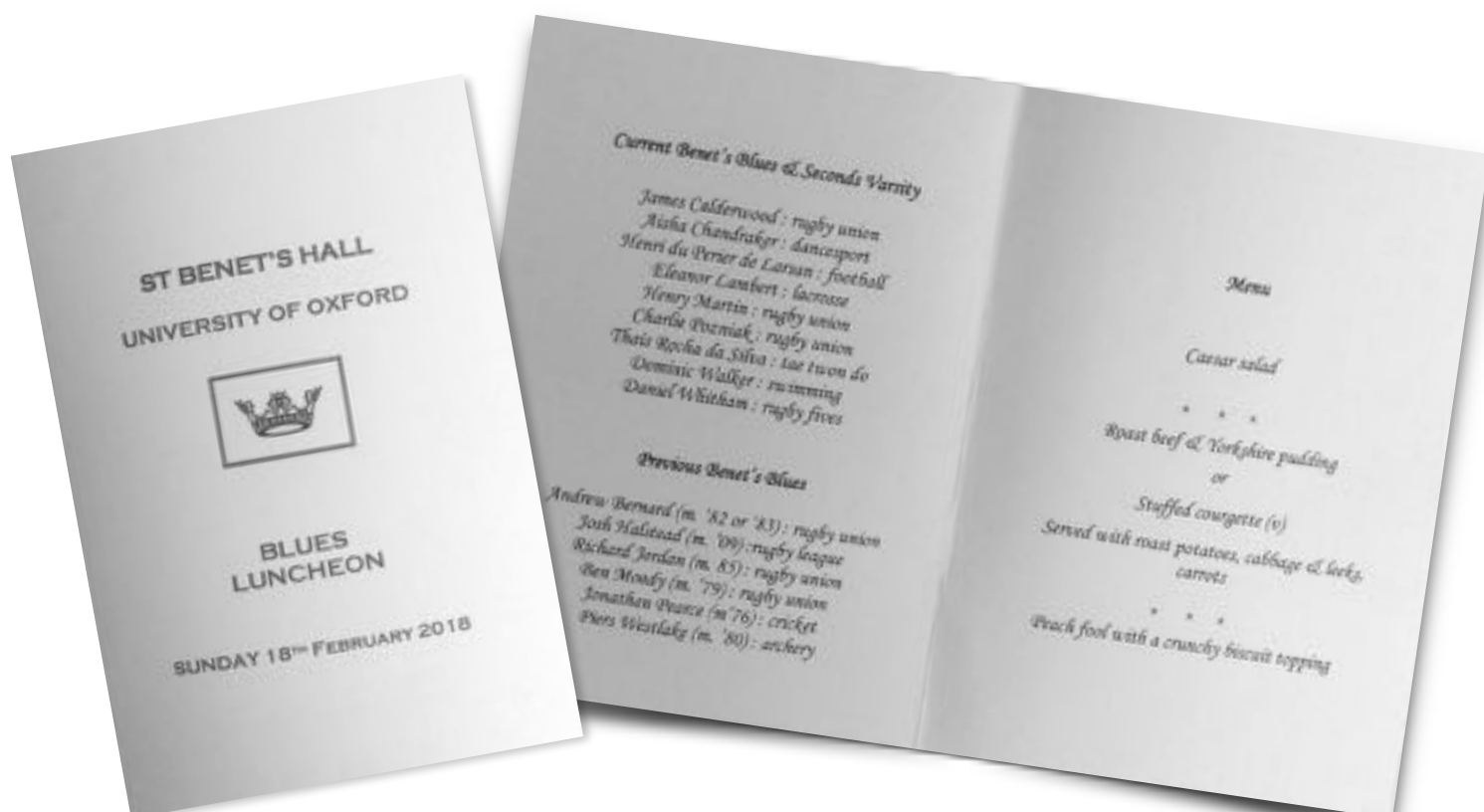
### February 18<sup>th</sup>: Inaugural Blues Luncheon

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 with us at [events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk) and we will invite you to the future Blues events.*



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



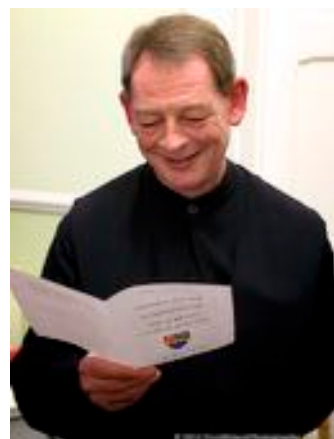


# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

### February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Blessing of Norham Gardens

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



### Message from the Last JCR President, Gurpal Khera (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Oriental Studies)



I hope this Newsletter is able to provide you with an insight into what we have accomplished this year. We pride ourselves in the community spirit we are able to provide, and hold on to the traditions that maintain this spirit, and strive to create new traditions that will do so.

A small number of our current students, me included, were able to enjoy the Gaudy this year. Set in the House of Commons, it was a privilege to be there, and to witness the wonder of Benet's through the years. It was apparent that our Hall has always had a special sense of community, and it gave us the inspiration to want to work hard to ensure we maintain that community spirit for the years to come to enjoy.

Particularly after the Gaudy, we hope we can build upon our relationship with our ever-growing alumni network, and so would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to future events, such as the Smoker, ChariTea and JCR Parties.

Thank you for your support, and please do contact us if you wish to join us for any events in the future.

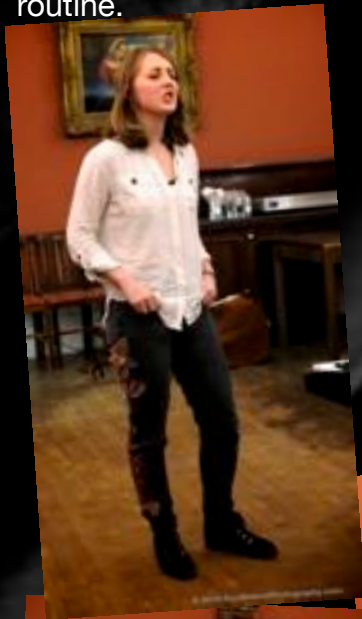
*With thanks to Gurpal for this article and for additional text in this calendar section.*

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

### February 25<sup>th</sup>: Smoker

Why 'Smoker', a poor unsuspecting Fresher will ask each year. At which, patient second and third years will explain at length 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.





# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Hilary Term

### March 6<sup>th</sup>: Wedding of Visiting Scholar, Dr Heikki Haara to Ms Nanne Isokuortti

“Did you do anything nice at the weekend?” our hugely popular Academic Visitor, Dr Heikki Haara was asked 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, one of whom was honorary Benetian, Fr Gerard Ryan SJ. What could we do in the circumstances but arrange a celebration party?

Many congratulations to Heikki and Nanne (who have now returned home 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 10<sup>th</sup>: 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.



*(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)*

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Easter Vacation

**March 16-18<sup>th</sup>: 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 grand events, including a gala dinner at the Villa Miani and Sunday Brunch at the British Ambassador's Residence, Benet's held a drinks party for alum and friends at the Venerable English College.

Benet's are grateful to the VEC for being such generous hosts and to all those who attended.



(Photo: University of Oxford Alumni Office)



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Easter Vacation

### March 19<sup>th</sup>: 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 both match the subject of the talk and also provide a convivial venue for the after-speech drinks' party. In the past couple of years, we have enjoyed talks by 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); and 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 were delighted to welcome the prominent religious historian, Karen Armstrong, to 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 our special guests and catch up with each other.

Monday  
19<sup>th</sup> March  
2018  
18:30 Optional tour  
19:15 Talk  
20:15 Reception



Speaker  
**Karen Armstrong**  
(prominent religious historian)

**Is Religion  
Essentially  
Violent?**





Info/Booking  
events@stb.ox.ac.uk  
+44 (0)1865 280555

St Benet's  
in London  
Annual Talk

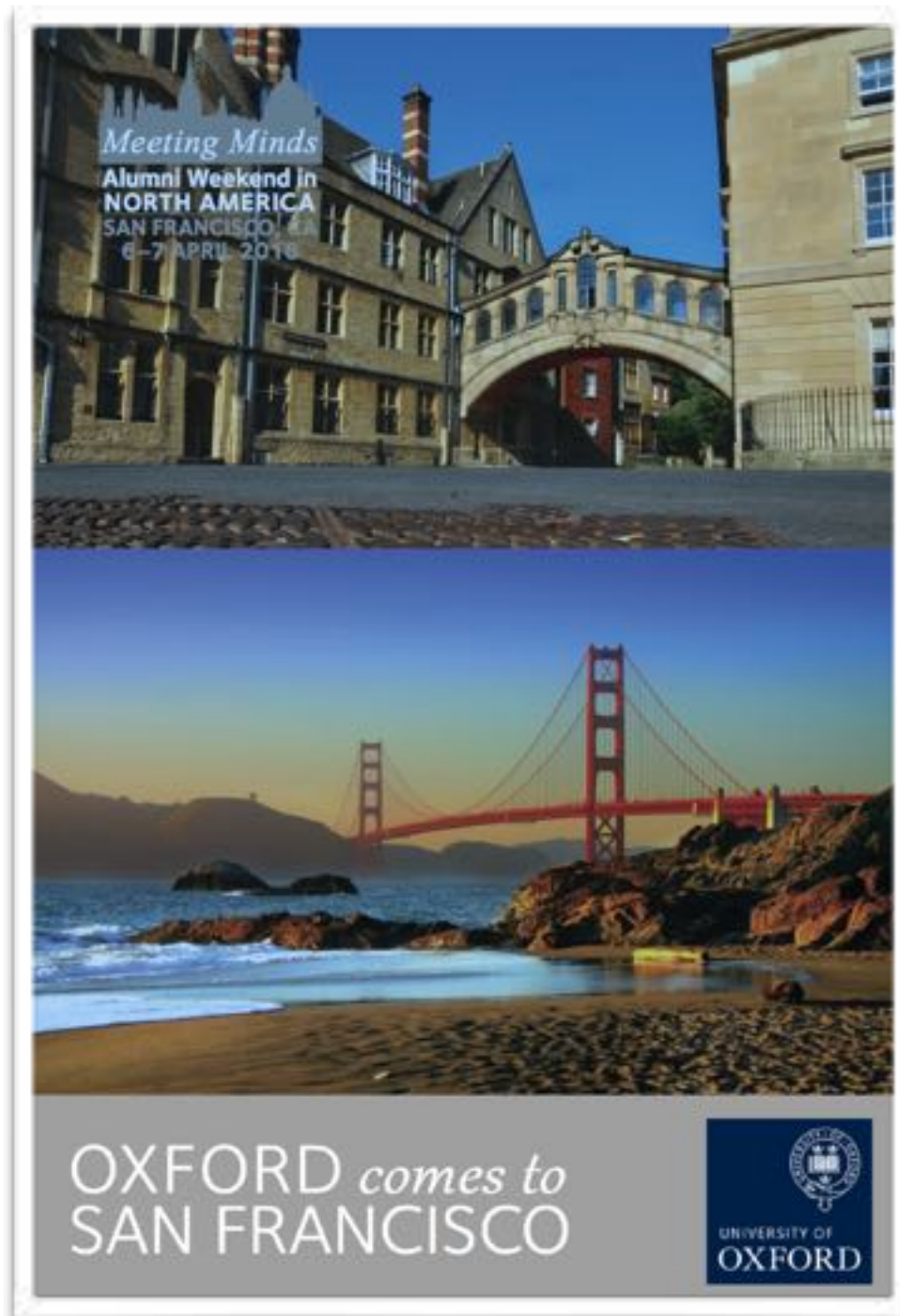
**The Charterhouse**  
London, EC1M 6AN  
(former Carthusian monastery, recently opened to  
the public)

(Poster Design: © Roo Waters)

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Easter Vacation

**April 6-8<sup>th</sup>: Alumni Weekend in San Francisco, USA**



(Poster Design: University of Oxford Alumni Office)

The North American University Office organised this year's US Alum Weekend in San Francisco, which included a magnificent Gala Dinner at the Ferry Building. As the present Master was still on Sabbatical, Benet's was represented by Sue Fisher, Development Director for Ampleforth (who has also been successfully 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.



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

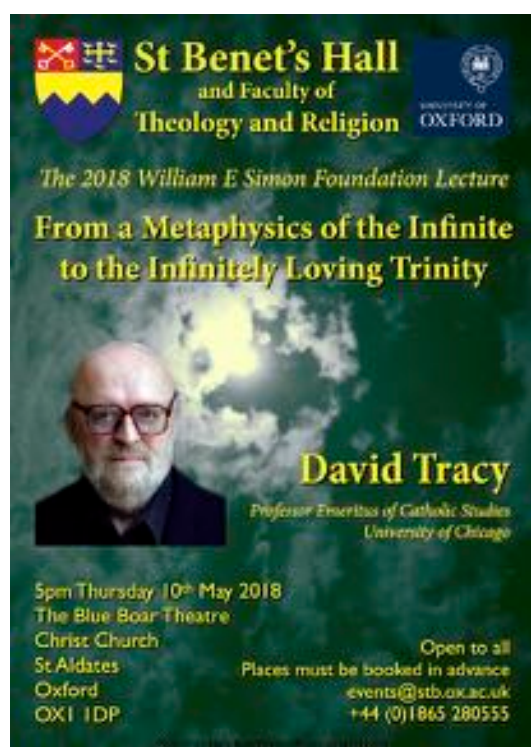
## Trinity Term

### May 5<sup>th</sup>: Graduation

The sun shone for this term's degree day celebrations, enabling the champagne celebration to be held in the garden. Two BA's and two MBA's were awarded and graduands included our former Junior Dean, Gemma Robson who flew back specially from the Sudan where she is working.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



(Poster Design: © Roo Waters)

### May 10<sup>th</sup>: 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 speaker for the last in the series was 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.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Trinity Term

### May 27<sup>th</sup>: EMBA Lunch & Croquet

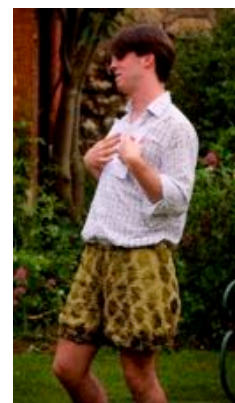
This year, Benet's welcomed its first-ever cohort of EMBA's (Executive Master of Business Administration). This is a part time course run by the Said Business School, delivered in 16 one-week modules over a total study period of 20-21 months. To celebrate the end of their first academic year, Benetian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



(Photos: Monique Rodrigues)

### May 27<sup>th</sup>: 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 funny with some great acting and much enjoyed by packed audiences.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Trinity Term

### June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Boat Club Alum invited to Sunday Lunch

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



### June 5<sup>th</sup>: 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 until recently lost contact.

### June 10<sup>th</sup>: JCR Picnic in Port Meadow

A long-standing Benetian tradition was favoured this year with glorious weather. The all-night JCR barbecue & bonfire in Port Meadow was a success: everyone had a great time, nobody got lost, nobody was ill, and no stray horses or cattle gatecrashed. As is traditional, though, there were a lot of bleary eyes and sore heads the next day.



(Photos: Benet's Students)

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Trinity Term

### June 12<sup>th</sup>: 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.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)

### June 14<sup>th</sup>: 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!



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BENET'S

## Trinity Term

### June 16<sup>th</sup>: 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 the very best for the future and look forward to following their career paths.



(Photos: © Roo Waters Photography)



### June 19<sup>th</sup>: 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 religious dimension of modern art, Jiushuang is also a celebrated artist & 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.



(Poster Design: © Jiushuang Chen)

# 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

## Benetians Attending (by matriculation year)

1958



1964



1967



1975



1980



<b>Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB</b>	1956
William Bellasis	1957
Jeremy Nixey	1964
<b>Fr Felix Stephens OSB</b>	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



# 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	2012
Cormac Connelly-Smith	2013
Nick Scott	2013
Lance Baynham	2013
Ben Lacaille	2013
Sam Gomarsall	2013
Ed Sparrow	2013
Rory Farquharson	2013
Tina Hinchliffe	2014
Tom Kearns	2015
Connie Cha	2015
Youchen Xin (Luke)	2016

1981



1993



1997



2001



2004

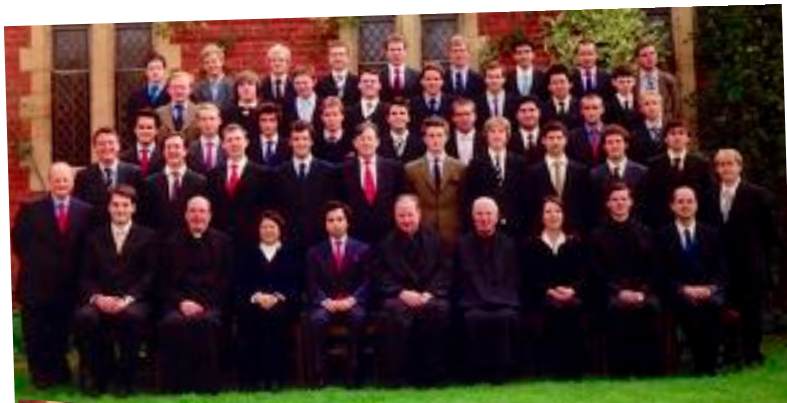




# 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

2006



2009



2011



2014



## 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 Santha 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.



# 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017





# 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GAUDY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017





## SPORTS UPDATE

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 (OS Sanskrit) immediately joined the University's Dancesport Blues squad (as well as its organisational committee as Publicity Manager); Dilara Yoon-Yildiz (OS Turkish) entered the Volleyball setup, and Daniel Whitham (PPE) Rugby Fives. The standout sport is Rugby, where two freshers have entered the setup: Charles Pozniak (History) was 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. 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, competing in his third consecutive Varsity. Elsewhere, Pablo Garcia Moreno-Dora (3rd Year PPE) comped 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 year 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, given the talent the Hall currently holds, whilst the extensive Football practice gives greater hope to this year's five-a-side team.

# STOP PRESS

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!



(Photo: Benet's Students)

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].



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

*With thanks to Henri du P rier de Larsan for much of this article.*



## OF NOTE

### Tuesday Night Speakers

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

(Photos: St Benet's Hall)



**Martin Parlett** (2006), who worked on Barack 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 Betjeman 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.

**Zahra Latif** (2015), Private Secretary at No 10 Policy Unit (see page 37)

### 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 also won a Highly Commended commendation for the University of Oxford Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Award in the Role Model category earlier in the year, with the following citation:



(Photo: Zakir Gul)

*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

Research Fellow, **Dr Brian Klug**, was this year's guest speaker at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, USA, with the theme "If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem, The Use and Abuse of Jewish Memory".

Amongst other high-profile engagements, he also gave the University of Cambridge's 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture on "The Power of Words: Public Debate in the Context of Human Rights and the Freedom of Speech" and was a speaker at a symposium in Lund University, Sweden in October, entitled "What is Left of the Enlightenment?"

Fellow (and Acting Master for the Hilary Term), **Prof Susan Doran** was the keynote speaker at the Queen's House Conference, in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich in April, talking on the subject of "Memory and Commemoration of Elizabeth in the Early Years of her Successor". She was also awarded a travel grant to spend the summer conducting research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Fellow **Dr Fran Reynolds's** forthcoming book, "A Babylonian Calendar Treatise: Scholars and Invaders in the Last First Millennium BC" is now in production and will be published by Oxford University Press next year. She is also featured discussing her forthcoming book in a Faculty of Oriental Studies' Research Conversation with Prof Jan Joosten on the Faculty's YouTube channel.

Fellow and Dean, **Dr Pieter Francois** has been made an Associate Professor in Cultural Evolution. Since October 2018 has also been Director of Studies in Human Sciences at Benet's.

Lecturer **Dr Nadia Jamil** has been seconded as a Senior Researcher for the ERC Advanced Grant funded project, Documenting Multiculturalism: Co-existence, law and multiculturalism in the administrative and legal documents of Norman and Hohenstaufen Sicily, c.1060-c.1266.



(Poster Design: CMES, Harvard University, USA)



# ALUMNI NEWS

## 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. Amongst the guests were a sizeable number of Benetians, 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 at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, 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) (one of our Tuesday night speakers this year) won the 2017 Public Monuments & Sculpture Association's Marsh Award in November for his statute of 'Women of Steel', sited in Sheffield and celebrating the work of women during the two World Wars.



*(Photo: Steve Russell Studios)*

**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 awarded an OBE in the December 2017 New Year's Honours. This follows a four year posting in Germany, where he was responsible for reducing the Army's presence in the region and moving soldiers and their families back to the UK.

*(Photo: Nicholas Channer)*

**Fr Michael Fava QHC** (1983), who was a Tuesday Night Speaker at Benet's in November 2017, has been named as the next Deputy Chaplain-General to Her Majesty's Land Forces Army and will take up this position in November 2018. He is the first Catholic Chaplain to have reached such an appointment in any of the three Services.

*(Photo: © Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales)*



## ALUMNI NEWS

**Dom Martin McLaughlin OSB** (1992) was appointed 6th Abbot of Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester, having previously served as Bursar to the Abbey.

**James McDonaugh** (1997), founder of Art Tours Ltd, was appointed by the University of Oxford to organise the official tour of Rome preceding the Alumni Weekend there in March 2018.

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

**Dr Ulrich Schmiedel** (2012) has been appointed 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 Private Secretary for the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at No 10 Downing Street. 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), co-founder of St Louis Abbey, Missouri, USA. Died, aged 96 on 27 April 2018.

**Fr Philip Wilson OSB** (1951), monk and school teacher at Portsmouth Abbey, Rhode Island. Died, aged 92 on 22 September 2017,

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

**Andre F. Lascaris** (1966). Writer & tutor at the Dominican Research Centre at Nijmegen in the Netherlands. Died, aged 77 on 6 July 2017.

**Gerard Joseph (Basil) Postlethwaite** (1972), formerly from Ampleforth. Went on to serve as a priest in El Salvador during the Civil War. Died, age 66 on 16 September 2017 whilst on pilgrimage in Spain.

**Fr Damian Sturdy OSB** (1986) from Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester. Died, aged 70, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Jagraj Hundal** (later became Jagraj Singh) (1998). Died on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 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.



## STAFF LEAVERS

September 17<sup>th</sup>: **Gemma Robson** (Junior Dean).

As well as being the first Junior Dean at our second property, 11 Norham Gardens, and for the first mixed sex intake of undergraduates — a role that she managed with authority and unfazed calm — Gemma was also a Women's Rugby Blue and was part of the winning team at the Twickenham Varsity match in December 2016.

She graduated with an MPhil in International Development and went to work in South Sudan on for a girl's education project. She was a huge asset to the Hall and we were delighted to welcome her back for her graduation in May.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

January 26<sup>th</sup>: **Dr Chris Mallan** (Classics Tutor)

We were all sorry to bid farewell to Dr Chris Mallan, who was highly respected tutor and lecturer, and a popular member of the Hall. He contributed greatly to Benet's, both with his initiatives such as the weekly Research Forum, and with his sociability and humour.

Whilst most people assumed on meeting Chris that he was English through & through, we were reminded of his Australian roots when he accepted the position of Senior Classics Tutor at

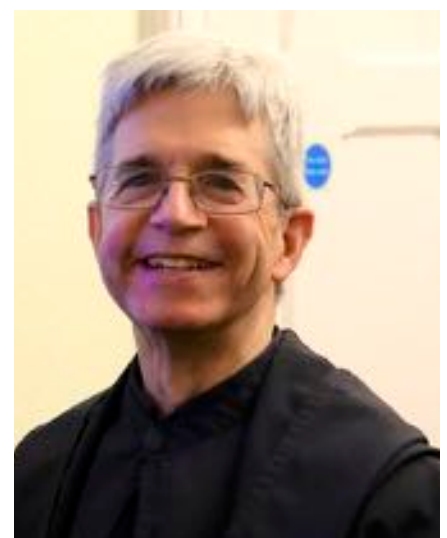
the University of Western Australia in Perth and he and his wife - and honorary Benetian - Helen, returned to their home country. They are both greatly missed, as the screen shot from a student forum shows.



March 29<sup>th</sup>: **Fr Gabriel Everitt** (Librarian)

Following his retirement as Headmaster of Ampleforth College, Fr Gabriel Everitt came to Benet's and took up the position of Librarian, where he (and Fellow Librarian, Dr Yvonne Cornish) successfully achieved the Herculean task of splitting the Hall library in St Giles and setting up a second one in Norham Gardens.

Fr Gabriel was very much loved across the Hall and he was a perfect fit for role as Graduate Welfare Advisor. His recall to Ampleforth Abbey to take up the role of Prior Administrator & Acting Superior of the Community was a great loss for Benet's and many of the community were in tears at his leaving speech at his last formal dinner.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

## STAFF LEAVERS

May 25<sup>th</sup>: **Martina Stancheva** (Hall Administrator)

Martina was the public face of Benet's. She greeted visitors to the Hall and was the first point of contact for any queries or problems with bed & breakfast guests, students, fellows and other staff members. The huge number of thank-you cards that she was given throughout her three years at Benet's reflect her warmth, efficiency and empathy.

Benet's were very fortunate that Martina was also a trained accountant and as such was responsible for introducing new systems and bringing order to the Hall's financial reporting. She was agony aunt to many of our students (and staff) and her departure to a senior financial role in another college leaves a great void.

August 31<sup>st</sup>: **Cristina Dumitru** (Junior Dean)

Cristina joined Benet's just before the start of the last Academic Year as (probably) our first Scientist. Studying for a DPhil in Pathology, she combined long hours in the laboratory with a demanding role as Junior Dean and did so with grace, efficiency, sound judgement and kindness. Her former career as a pharmacist was also very useful when dealing with first years' concerns and maladies.

To everyone's delight, Cristina also became engaged in May this year to her partner, Arthur Dyer. We wish them both every happiness for the future.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

August 31<sup>st</sup>: **Werner & Betty Jeanrond** (Master & Master's Wife)



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

*This valediction was to have been given by a senior member of the extended community but a last-minute situation meant that they were unable to deliver this, so it has been written by Werner's PA instead.*

Being Personal Assistant to someone gives a unique insight into their life and character, a mix of the public and private persona. Working for Werner over the past 2¾ years has been hugely rewarding and enjoyable. He encouraged staff and students to use their initiative and to push themselves. He was always extremely kind and thoughtful, with charming manners. He would make a point of thanking people personally for their efforts and always remembered what was happening in people's lives and asked after them.

Nobody should under-estimate quite how much work is involved in the role of Master. Whilst each term is planned out in great deal far in advance, the role is also hugely reactive. (Recently he was hosting a large family event when a potential crisis arose, requiring him to spend much of the meal sending emails back and forth at the table, without the vast majority of diners noticing



## STAFF LEAVERS

anything was amiss). As well as hosting three formal dinners a week, there were often a further two or three evening events a week that Werner attended outside Hall, in order to represent the Hall, to promote the Hall and to form alliances that could help the Hall. The Master is on call all day and every day. I once asked whether he really needed to be present for all the meals but his response was that he could gauge the mood of the Hall at the meals and often pick-up on any potential problems before they became issues. And, indeed, his informality and dislike of hierarchy meant that he was accessible to every person in the Hall. He knew every member by name and his open door policy encouraged people to come and talk to him without formality.

In making decisions, he would take advice: he listened carefully to what was said and could quickly sift out the significant facts but he would not waiver in making decisions that he thought were best for the Hall, even if they were unpopular. Invariably he was proved to be right.

Werner travelled extensively (over 100,000 miles in his six years), meeting alumni — which he always enjoyed greatly — and fundraising, a task at which he never felt completely comfortable but at which he was extremely good, as donors trusted and believed in him. His vision was far reaching: when offered the role of Master, he told Ampleforth that he would only accept if he could lead the Hall into going co-educational. They agreed and he did so, almost seamlessly (although with an extraordinary amount of work for Werner and Fellows behind the scenes). His successful efforts to obtain and secure a second building have been chronicled in previous Newsletters. Whilst he could not have done this without a lot of support, Benet's would not have this building nor be in such a successful place as it now is were it not for his leadership and determination.

Nor should Betty's role be underestimated. As the Master's wife, Betty also attended the Hall's three formal meals a week, as well as the many external Head of House events, and was always unflappable and welcoming. With extraordinary good humour and patience, Betty never appeared anything other than composed and charming but was also down to earth and great fun when she came into the office to say hello. Her support of Werner and her wise counsel were immeasurable: she embodies the saying, 'behind every great man, stands a great woman'.

Finally, and not least, Benet's are also losing Emmy, Werner and Betty's daughter, who has been living with them over the past years whilst pursuing a career in the retail sector. Emmy was herself a post-graduate at Oxford, and is close friends with many students and staff at Benet's. She was also my trump card at the formal dinners she attended since she could be sat next to absolutely anyone and she would bring out the best in them every single time. Her warmth, generosity of spirit and *joie de vivre* are infectious. She is a credit to her parents and she will be sorely missed as she moves to Sweden for the next step in her career.



(Werner's Leaving Card Designed: Roo Waters & Katy Griffiths)

## STAFF LEAVERS

August 31<sup>st</sup>: **Katy Griffiths** (Alumni Relations Officer, Communications Officer, PA to the Master)

*Editor's note: Thank you very much to the two members of the Hall who have written this.*

"Katy has raised the profile of Benet's" said the Master at her leaving drinks. Without her, we would have little social media presence, which is where most people outside Benet's now know about the Hall, with the wonderful photos that she commissioned. "This is also the first time that the Hall has a fully comprehensive record of the Hall's alumni" Werner continued. "And wherever I go in the World, I know that I will get to where I need to be and I will meet up with Benetians with whom she has made contact, often bringing them back into the fold for the first time in years.." Her work has made a huge difference to the alumni network. For the first time, we have a real community and we really look forward to the events. We will miss her enormously — for everything she has done for Benet's and for her smiling face and for always being happy to help.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)

August 31<sup>st</sup>: ... and with Katy Griffiths, **Andrew 'Roo' Waters** (Photographer-in-Residence and Graphic Designer)

On my second day at Benet's, the Financial Times Picture Desk rang, asking for a photograph of the building that they could use for an article about the Hall going co-educational. We had a problem: we had no good photos. Fortunately, there was a solution: a quick SOS to my partner, Andrew 'Roo' Waters, who fortuitously runs his own photography and art company, so he dropped everything, came round, took the photos and we were able to send them through to the Financial Times for publication. Since then, Andrew has kindly donated his time and expertise to take an astounding 41,000 photos at 93 Benet's events. He has

also designed most of the Hall's posters, newsletters, cards and other publicity materials over the past 2.5 years, all for *free*, and our gratitude is immense!

August 31<sup>st</sup>: ... and also with Katy Griffiths, **Boffin** (Hall Dog)

As the Master (hitherto a 'non-dog-person') remarked at a Hall event watching students calling Boffin into a group photo: "Having a dog here makes the Hall more human". Boffin is the latest in a long line of Benet's dogs and most have been black labradors. Mostly to be found sleeping contentedly in the PA's office, with occasional sorties into the Calefactory to check who is in there and whether anyone has a treat for her, she has also roused herself to participate in a Hall Garden Play and to be a special guest at a JCR ChariTee. She has also been on Meet & Greet duty at many recent Degree Day celebrations and other events. Thank you to everyone who has made a fuss of her over the years, she has considered Benet's to be her second home.



(Photo: © Roo Waters Photography)



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*To be announced.*



**ST. BENET'S HALL**  
**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

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