First Term at Nuffield

I write this the morning after the College pantomime. I knew nothing about this until I arrived, innocent and naïve at the beginning of September, to find that ALL new members of the College are expected to take part. Needless to say, the social scientific genius of the College led to a theatrical triumph, somewhat derivative of Batman movies, and poking gentle fun at most of the Governing Body, including the new Warden, playing the Warden. It was a great end to what has been an enormously enjoyable first term here. One of the delights of Nuffield seems to me to be its small scale, which makes the sense of community powerful and quick to develop with each new cohort of students, post-docs, Fellows and staff, and the pantomime has a special place in that community.

I still feel that I have much to learn about the College and its workings, but to be surrounded by social scientists has been a special delight, and my first stated meeting dinner and seminar last week was a strong reminder of the importance of our being ‘a place for co-operation between academic and non-academic persons’. The external world facing Nuffield has changed very significantly in the last fifty years, both in the University and outside it, and Nuffield has changed in response, and will need to go on changing. We seem to me to be extremely lucky in our foundation and in our physical, financial and human resources, and with our task of doing and celebrating social science and the contribution it can make. I feel privileged to be able to work here for the next ten years, and excited about the challenges ahead.

Andrew Dilnot
Warden

From the Editor

Lord Nuffield started making cars in 1913 and died in 1963. The College and the Nuffield Foundation are working together to arrange suitable commemoration of these anniversaries, building on increasing appreciation of Nuffield’s remarkable philanthropy (the College’s gift of Nuffield Place to the National Trust in 2011 proving to be most instrumental). See notice on Page 2.

Our cover photograph shows the College in early Summer 2012 when scaffolding encased the Lower Quad, temporary roadways covered the lawns and a ramp for dumper trucks replaced the Quad steps. Not since canal barges unloaded coal has so much material been disgorged here. In this case it is stone roofing slates by the crateful in all different sizes which are replacing the original Collyweston slates. Austen Harrison designed the College buildings in 1938/39 with flat roofs which suited the restricted site. The second design with pitched roofs, to appease Lord Nuffield, was undertaken in the war years but the building contract was not let until 1955. Significant changes were made during construction because of increased costs but the site layout was unaltered. To achieve proportionally sized quadrangles the College buildings remained narrow, but the architect was forced to adopt a very high pitched roof to get a three storey building on the same footprint. The choice of Collyweston (probably not made by Harrison himself) was not a happy one. The College Fellows took endless pains in agreeing the tower and spire, much to Harrison’s frustration, but seem to have been quite indifferent to the stone roof*. The slates were much thinner than most Cotswold stone and were reputed to achieve a patina of age quickly but are now crumbling and delaminating. Due for completion around 2016 the new slates, with additional insulation, should shelter many future generations of Nuffielders.

With best wishes,
Gwilym Hughes

*’Conversation between the Warden and Mr Austen Harrison recorded at Nuffield College, Oxford 24 August 1970’. The College archive.

Front cover photo: Spot the difference! Taken in Summer 2012, this picture really demonstrates the difference between the old and new slates.
The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the College.
Politics Reunion Dinner
Friday 15 March 2013

Bill Emmott will look at why Italy is now at the centre of Europe’s economic whirlwind, and at its prospects of emerging from it stronger.
If you wish to reserve a place, please e-mail: events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

Bluebell Walk
Saturday 28 April 2013

A Bluebell Walk will take place at Nuffield Place. All current and former members of Nuffield College (plus guests) are welcome.
Bring your own picnic!
Contact us at events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk for further details.

Sociology Reunion Dinner
Friday 21 March 2014

A reunion dinner for current and former Nuffield sociologists. Invitations will be sent by e-mail in late 2013. If you wish to reserve a place, or have any queries, please contact us at: events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

Gaudy 2014
Friday 4 July 2014

For those who started at Nuffield between 1975/6-1984/5 and pre-1964
Invitations will be sent out in late 2013. For queries and early reservations, please e-mail: events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Alumni Weekend including Nuffield Society AGM & Dinner
Friday 19 - Sunday 21 September 2014

All Old Members are encouraged to attend the AGM and following dinner.
Guests may be invited to Dinner.
Full details will be available in Spring 2014. E-mail: events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

For any queries regarding events, please do not hesitate to phone or write requesting further information from: Nuffield College Events, Nuffield College, Oxford, OX1 1NF, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1865 278527
Alumni News

Carney, Mark (S 1993-94)
Mark Carney has been appointed Governor of the Bank of England, from 2013.

Mazey, Sonia (S 1979-83)
Sonia is now Pro Vice-Chancellor, Business, Economics, and Law, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Roth, Wendy (S 1995-97)
I was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. My first book, entitled Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race, has just been published by Stanford University Press. It examines the influence of migration on changing cultural conceptions of race – for the migrants, for their host society, and for those who remain in the countries left behind. The study is based on my dissertation research, which was awarded the 2007 American Sociological Association Outstanding Dissertation Award. I also just had my first child, Jonas Roth Tietjen, in February 2012.

Ruano-Gomez, Lorena (S 1997-2001)
My latest edited book has just been released: The Europeanization of National Foreign Policies towards Latin America, Routledge, 2012. Contributors include, among others, Laurence Whitehead, Georges Couffignal, and José Antonio Sanahuja. It is the most comprehensive study on national and EU policies towards Latin America written in the English language. I was also awarded a Jean Monnet Chair from the European Commission.

St John, Ian (S 1990-94)
2012 saw the publication of my monograph The Making of the Raj: India under the East India Company (Praeger, USA).

Walker, David (GF 1998-99)
I’m chairing the ESRC’s methods and infrastructure committee – we were glad recently to recruit Professor Gordon Marshall, former Nuffield fellow, as chair of the UK Data Service. I’m hoping to contact existing and former College people for the history I’m writing to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the creation of SSRC.

Nuffield Directory

Since the first edition of the Nuffield Directory was distributed by e-mail last summer, we have been inundated with requests to be included. We are delighted with the response, and many of you have told us that you welcome the Directory as a very useful resource.

If you would like your details included, please send your name, job title/affiliation and e-mail address to events@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

The deadline for receipt of this information to be included in the 2013 edition, is Easter 2013. We look forward to hearing from you.

Abbreviations: EF Emeritus Fellow GF Guardian Fellow GGF Gwilym Gibbon Fellow HF Honorary Fellow OF Official Fellow PF Professorial Fellow NCF Norman Chester Fellow S Student VF Visiting Fellow

Sadly, we note the deaths of the following former members:

Ian Little (S 1947-48, OF 1952-71, PF 1971-75 & EF 1975-2012) died on 13 July 2012. Obituaries appeared in The Telegraph and The Independent, and a well attended Memorial Meeting was held at Nuffield in October.

CHAPEL & CHOIR

The beauty, peace and tranquillity of Nuffield College Chapel are easily missed – it is tucked away two floors above the Large Lecture Theatre and Clay Room on L Staircase. This modern chapel, which was dedicated by the Bishop of Oxford in December 1961, demonstrates the brilliance of artistic designs by the late John Piper. It not only contains unique examples of Piper’s modern stained glass windows, created by Patrick Reyntiens who worked with Piper on the windows for Coventry Cathedral, but also a cross and reredos by the talented sculptor John Hoskin.

In February 2011, the chapel had an unusually large number of visitors to celebrate its 50th anniversary. A special commemoration service was attended by many College members – the Warden, Fellows, staff and students. We were also fortunate to have relatives of those particularly important in the creation of the chapel. As well as members of John Piper’s family and Lord Nuffield’s great nephew, this included relatives of Margery Perham (Official Fellow 1939-63 and Honorary Fellow 1963-1982). Margery took a leading role in ensuring that Nuffield College had a chapel and her recent biography notes that “the dedication of the chapel – a small but beautifully appointed liturgical space – was a singular triumph for Perham”. College was also immensely fortunate to have the service led by Canon Ed Newell, Sub-Dean of Christ Church and a former student and Research Fellow of Nuffield, and the sermon given by The Right Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford. In addition to bible readings, there were contributions by various College members including Emeritus Fellow Chelly Halsey who charted the history of the chapel. The readings were beautifully punctuated by a range of music delivered by the Chapel Choir, led by student Jeff Howard, with accompaniment by student David Millican on both piano and harpsichord.

College continues to hold a Carol Service at the end of Michaelmas Term and the Chapel Choir recently excelled itself once more following extensive tutelage from its new conductor, student Eric Schneider, and with a new pianist, student Dingeman Wiertz. On the day, Iain McLean (Official Fellow) conducted as Eric was unable to attend. Other events in chapel during 2012 included the annual photographic competition and an excellent summer concert performed by the singer-songwriter Mary Leay.

Each year the Chapel Committee chooses a local charity to support. This has included collections for Gatehouse, a drop-in centre for the homeless, and – more recently – Emmaus, which enables people to move on from homelessness, providing work and a home in a supportive, family environment.

As well as being a venue for services and other events, the chapel provides a quiet space for members of college – of all faiths or none.

The Chapel Committee
(Lucy Carpenter, Dee Danchev, Andrew Dilnot, Christine Hobden, Ed Newell, Laura Rienecker, Gill Smit)
Once every fifteen years the College is required to elect one of its members to serve for twelve months as either a Proctor or an Assessor. In March 2011 I entered into office as the College’s fourth Proctor (following on from Uwe Kitzinger; John Flemming; and David Miller), and was allocated the “Senior” position, (owing to the great time that has elapsed since my matriculation). This note is a brief “report back” to those who elected me, with perhaps some prompts for whoever may come next. My efforts were greatly assisted by the willing and constructive contributions of my two pro-Proctors, Lucy Carpenter and Gwilym Hughes.

The post is extremely ancient – dating back even before there was a Vice-Chancellor – but, of course, the current responsibilities are mostly far removed from those of earlier centuries. There are still some residual duties – part ceremonial, part disciplinary – that hark back to a distant past. As in other segments of British public life, the “decorative” parts of the university constitution are still treated with surprising solemnity. So it is both an honour and a test of resolve to assume the outward trappings of the office, to benefit from its status, and to live up to its formalities (without becoming a mockery of oneself). For almost the whole of my three hundred and sixty five day stint I dressed like a TV actor in an episode from Trollope. In June that meant leading the Proctoral officers who were maintaining public order and good humour outside the Examination Schools. In August Japanese tourists kept trying to enlist me in the street as the centrepiece for a group photograph.

Despite these absurdities, there is also a very serious and worthwhile side to the role. As a collegiate university Oxford needs to maintain equilibrium between the centre and the constituent colleges – each of which is a separate charitable entity with its own distinctive mission, endowment, trustees, and nowadays a separate regulator. It helped that I already knew much of the background, owing to the five years I had served on the university Audit and Scrutiny Committee, and its Nominations Committee, prior to my admission to the Proctorship. Wellington Square is currently under great pressure to standardise all the activities of the university and to centralise them under unitary control. But that is neither legally permissible, nor educationally advisable. The Proctors’ Office balances between these contending parties. Its officers enjoy extraordinarily privileged access and influence at the centre (for a strictly limited period of time), while subsequently bringing back to their constituent colleges their insights and experience. In principle they can generate trust and understanding, and lubricate co-operation between otherwise potentially antagonistic partners. Of course the Proctors do not do this alone. (Recently the Conference of Colleges is becoming a more effective counterpart to Council.) It is a system still undergoing successive waves of somewhat improvised restructuring, and is not yet stabilized. So there remain risks that it could veer off course, and/or lose cohesion. But Proctors serve full-time to address such frictions; they have unrestricted access to the Centre; can call for papers from any part of the system. These are powers that must be deployed with prudence and discretion. My experience is that there is potential to make a substantial contribution.

While I seized the opportunity to probe into almost every aspect of the university – from visiting the CCTV system and the Swindon book depository, to reading poetry in the Cathedral – my speciality was university governance and finance. Perhaps the biggest highlight of my year was the day spent with the (very substantial) OUP publishing venture in Madrid. As a temporary Delegate, and member of the Press Finance Committee, I gained unparalleled access to how the local management team were preparing for Spain’s breaking economic tsunami. It was never predictable where the next issue of contention might arise. I gained insight into some domains that would normally have been entirely outside my field of vision. On occasion it was necessary to take an uncomfortable stand on a matter of principle. More often it was possible to steer carefully chosen contentious issues away from deadlock. This is a challenging and absorbing task. It takes a while to learn the ropes, and one might develop bad habits if it went on too long. But the routine and schedule for demitting is as fixed (to the last hour) as the ceremony of induction. At the end it is necessary to abruptly relinquish all such activism, and to trust to one’s successor to fulfil the role as they see fit.

Laurence Whitehead
Senior Fellow
Forthcoming Art Highlights

Nuffield’s Art Committee series of conversations with artists continues. The following artists have agreed to speak at 6:15pm (prior to High Table).

**Sophy Rickett**
Friday 22nd February
The distinguished young photographer Sophy Rickett will talk informally in front of her photograph in the SCR, one of a series Twelve Trees, M40. This much liked work was our first significant purchase of contemporary photography.

We are hoping that there will be other conversations in spring and summer. Dates will be announced as they are confirmed

- Look at our page on the new website
- Ask to join our mailing list for News and Events: ArtCommittee@nuffield.ox.ac.uk
- The catalogue is posted on our intranet and is also available to former members on request.

Above: The north side of the Lower Quad was finished before Christmas, and work has progressed to the Upper Quad.

NEW COLLEGE WEBSITE

The College website has been upgraded, and we hope you’ll agree, much improved. Many of the changes have been to the behind-the-scenes structure, enabling updates and changes to be made much more easily. It is our intention that it should be a first port of call containing most of the information you need about events and privileges. To that end, if you have any comments about the site and how it could be used, we are always interested to hear from you.

Alumni information is now listed on the front page under the tab ‘Alumni & friends’. News from the Art Committee can be found under ‘General>Art and Architecture’.
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