

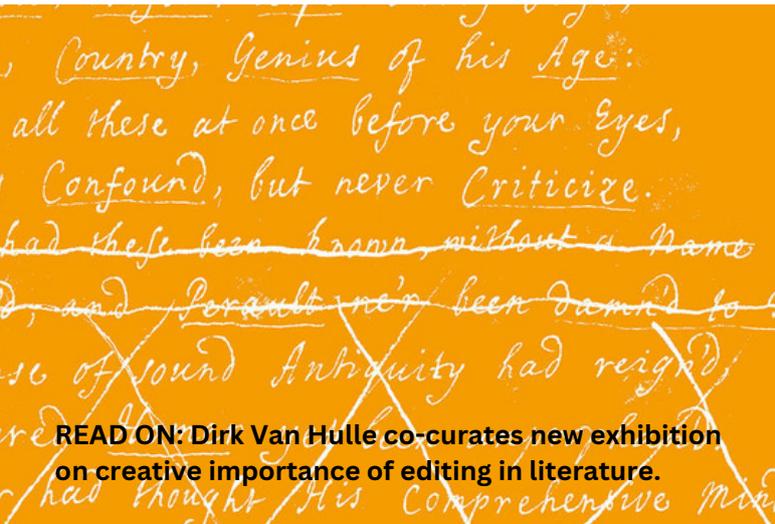


College Newsletter

Hilary Term 2024

Week 7

News and events from across the Jesus College community



READ ON: Dirk Van Hulle co-curates new exhibition on creative importance of editing in literature.



READ ON: Oxford Green Action Week round-up



College receives significant gift towards academic priorities

Jesus alumnus Christopher Richey (1984, *MPhil Management Studies*) and the Richey Family Foundation have made a new significant gift to College to support its academic priorities.

The £380k gift will enable College to fund the creation of several new spend-down posts, including a four-year Career Development Fellowship (CDF) in Academic Skills Support, ten Research Associates in Medical Sciences, a match-funded four-year DPhil Studentship in Computer Science, and a two-year Digital Access Officer position. It builds on Mr Richey's previous generous support to College of a £1m gift to endow a graduate studentship in any subject, and the naming of the Buchanan Tower Room in honour of alumnus and First World War hero Captain Angus Buchanan VC.

Brittany Wellner-James, Director of Development, says, "We are enormously grateful to Chris and the Richey Family Foundation for their continued generosity to College, and for this transformational gift to further support our academic priorities".

The new posts will commence in Michaelmas 2024.



Prize-winning dissertation

Congratulations to recent graduate Jessica Ebner-Statt (2020, *Geography*), who has won the 2023 Political Geography Research Group (PolGRG) Undergraduate Dissertation Prize.

Jessica was awarded the prize for her dissertation ‘*Strategic Citizenship and the “Wandering Jew”*: Emotion, Identity, and Memory in Brexit-Related Pre-Holocaust Citizenship (Re)clamation’, which was praised by the Prize judges for being an innovative and well-structured research project; “Ebner-Statt uses her own experience of re-claiming for Austrian citizenship as the descendant of Jewish refugees as an effective springboard for a clearly articulated research project that innovatively brings together citizenship studies and emotional geography, extending the disciplinary understanding of the operation of power within contemporary citizenship acquisition.”



Student film competition launches



A new student film competition, generously supported by a College alumnus, asks ‘*What does Jesus College mean to you?*’.

The Jesus College Student Film Competition 2024, which launched in Week 2, invites current students to make a short film in any genre about their College experience, with prizes awarded for the top three films. Participants can compete individually or as a team, and the film must be no longer than 5 minutes in length. Entry information can be found on the [College website](#), and the closing date for submissions is 30th April.

Join the College Town & Gown 10km team

This year’s Oxford Town & Gown 10km takes place on Sunday 12th May, and College is looking for runners to join its team.

The annual race takes place around the historic city centre, ending in University Parks, and raises funds for Muscular Dystrophy UK. If you would like to join the Jesus team

- Register yourself on the race website <https://www.townandgown10k.com/oxford/>
- and then complete the **Team Form** which was sent out by email from Helen Gee.

All Jesus competitors can enjoy a well-earned post-race brunch back in College.



Sports fundraising campaign launches

The Development Office has launched a new campaign to raise funds towards College sports. The appeal aims to raise £125k for the creation of a new gym in the Cheng Yu Tung Building, the refurbishment of the Jesus College Boat House and tennis courts, and the restoration of the sports grounds at Barts.

To kick the campaign off, short films featuring interviews with current Jesus students were shared across our social media channels, and many alumni shared fond memories and photographs of their sporting endeavours on a dedicated [College website page](#).



The Kids are Alt Right?

James Tilley, Fellow & Tutor in Politics, presents a new BBC Radio 4 series which examines the relationship between age and vote choice. In *'The Kids are Alt Right?'*, James explores how age and ageing affects our political views. Topics include an exploration of the recent success of radical right parties, and how their support base is often younger, rather than older, people. All episodes are available now on the BBC iPlayer.

Dirk Van Hulle co-curates new 'Write, Cut, Rewrite' exhibition at Weston Library

Opening on Thursday 29th February in the Weston Library, the *Write, Cut, Rewrite* exhibition offers a peek behind the scenes into writers' workshops, drawing upon the Bodleian Libraries' unparalleled collection of modern manuscripts from the 18th century to today, to reveal little-known literary revelations – such as how *The Wind in the Willows* initially had a different title.

The exhibition is co-curated by Professorial Fellow Dirk Van Hulle (pictured right) and Mark Nixon, Professor of Modern Literature and Beckett Studies at the University of Reading.

Often, in the attempt to find the perfect form, an author will cut more words than those eventually published. The expectation is that these discarded fragments end up



*Religion, Country, Genius of his A
Without all these at once before your
You may Confound, but never Criti
Zeith, had these been known, without
Had God, and Perant, ne'er been
The sense of sound Antiquity had
And Sacred Flamer yet been unpr
Now, Ser had thought His Compreh*

in waste-paper baskets, but many are preserved in libraries and archives; a testament to the importance of this form of creative undoing in the writing process.

The exhibition, which runs to January 2025, is accompanied by a new book, co-authored by Dirk and Prof Nixon, to be published on the opening day:

[Write Cut Rewrite: The Cutting Room Floor of Modern Literature](#) (BLP, 2024).

College commissions first carbon inventory

Greener Edge Ltd has been appointed by the College's Environmental Sustainability Working Group to undertake our first carbon inventory, which involves a detailed analysis of our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

The company will gather data on outputs such as energy consumption, waste management, and travel, from the 2022-2023 academic year, and analyse this data to produce a report on our baseline carbon footprint. The first report, which is due in early June, will inform the next steps we need to take to reduce our emissions, and yearly reports will enable us to measure our progress.



Students take on climate negotiations at Digital Hub workshop

Fifty students from across the University tested their negotiation skills at the 'Good COP, Bad COP: Can we stop climate change' workshop in early February. The event, led by Jesus alumnus David Preece, used the EN-ROADS global climate simulator to explore how climate policies such as introducing a carbon tax might impact factors such as sea temperature or air quality. The students formed groups representing different countries, and debated how each might find common ground on a range of policy proposals.

Oxford Green Action Week round-up

Oxford Green Action Week 2024 took place in Week 6, and College members led a number of activities aimed at raising awareness of green issues.

The JCR held a flower pot painting and seed planting workshop, and hosted a talk on climate change and biodiversity loss by Rosemary Gillespie, Visiting Senior Research Fellow in Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity. Ahead of the Jazz Ball, they also ran a formal dress swap which encouraged students to share and/or hire dresses as a sustainable alternative to buying new outfits.

Elsewhere, the bar served traditional handcrafted beers from the Church Hanbrewery in West Oxfordshire all week, and Head Chef Anand Dube served venison (the UK's most sustainable meat choice) alongside regular vegetarian dishes at a Sustainable Lunch Day.



The Environmental Sustainability Working Group hosted a forum to update the College community on the steps we're taking to become more sustainable, and discussed ideas for further action. Topics included improvements to the College fabric and buildings, divestment and the [OxFarm2Fork](#) initiative, of which Jesus is a partner. To coincide with the forum and following previous feedback to the Working Group, the DACC rolled out a new College-wide labelling system to help everyone separate their waste more efficiently.



Arthur Nortje

Talk on alumnus and poet Arthur Nortje

Tuesday 27th February, 17.00-19.00.

Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub

Jesus College alumnus Arthur Nortje (1965, English Literature) was a South African poet who spent his life fighting for racial equality. He died in Oxford aged just 27, while studying for a DPhil, and is buried in Wolvercote Cemetery. His poetry, published posthumously in the collections *Dead Roots* (London, 1973) and *Lonely Against the Light* (Grahamstown, 1973) is permeated with reflections on identity and belonging.

We are delighted to welcome Athol Williams, poet, social philosopher and Lecturer at the Said Business School, to College on Tuesday 27th February to give a talk on Nortje's life, and how he has been an inspiration for William's own life and struggles. The talk will take place in the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub, and will be followed by a Q&A and drinks reception. Everyone is welcome to attend, and you can book your place [here](#)

Organised by the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

International Food Night - Japan

On Wednesday 30th January, College hosted a Japanese international food night.

The Catering Team produced an impressive menu of Japanese dishes, including miso soup, egg sushi (below), yakitori chicken, daikon salad, nasu dengaku and matcha anmitsu, all washed down with a (small) glass of sake.



The hall was decorated with Japanese flags, and each table setting came with a beautiful origami bird created by Violeta Budreviciute from the Accounts office (see right).



X (Twitter) meets Wales for St David's Day



To celebrate St David's Day and Jesus' close bond with Wales, the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub programme is hosting an event on March 1st which explores the spread and evolution of the Welsh language on social media.

Professorial Fellow David Willis, who is the Jesus Professor of Celtic at Oxford, will give a talk on his research into mapping geographic variations in Welsh through social media, followed by a tea and cake reception during which you can try your hand at an English language quiz, and let a computer guess where you're from, based on how you speak. The event starts at 3pm in the Digital Hub and everyone is welcome to attend.

Booking essential. Click [here](#) or visit the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub events page on Eventbrite.

Learning from bookbindings in the Fellows' Library

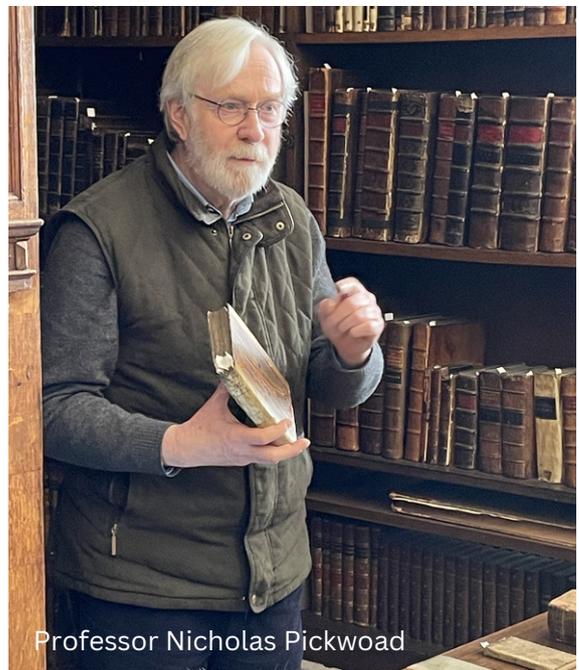
Dr Sarah Cusk, Rare Books Cataloguer

In the wintry first week of Hilary Term, the Library team hosted two hands-on workshops for the Oxford Bibliographical Society with Professor Nicholas Pickwood, an internationally renowned book conservator and historian.

The workshops looked at one particular feature of the early printed books in the Fellows' Library: their bindings. Academics, students, and librarians from across the University joined booksellers and bibliophiles in the chill of the Fellows' Library (a bracing 9 °C!) to discover what the coverings of individual volumes can tell us about the production and use of books in the early modern period.

Professor Pickwood's particular interest is in bindings which often go unnoticed: using cheap or recycled material (reused parchment or leather, old manuscripts, scraps of paper) and constructed as quickly – and as cheaply – as possible.

By looking in great detail at these bindings, not just their decoration but the materials. and



Professor Nicholas Pickwood

techniques used to make them, Professor Pickwood taught us all a new way of 'reading' books from this period: one that considers not only their authors, but the artisan bookbinders who made it possible for their work to circulate..

Oxford to celebrate life and works of Kafka

Starting in June, the Bodleian Library is to present a major exhibition, '*Kafka: Making of an Icon*', as part of a wider initiative to commemorate the centenary of the death of Franz Kafka, and the remarkable archive of his life and work in the collections of the Bodleian.

The exhibition is curated by members of the Modern Languages Faculty, and there will be an associated programme of talks, symposia, and related activities.

Also part of the initiative, *Oxford Reads Kafka* aims to encourage an appreciation of different scholarly disciplines and approaches to Kafka's famous story *The Metamorphosis*, through reading the text from the perspectives of the four academic disciplines, with an academic lead



Credit: ©OUIImages/John Cairns Photography

taking forward each of these readings. Tim Coulson, Professorial Fellow in Zoology, will read from the perspective of entomology and species decline.

More information on the Kafka exhibition and programme will follow in a future edition of the newsletter.



Rob Laidlow

Double funding success for Rob Laidlow

Congratulations to Rob Laidlow, Career Development Fellow in Music, who has been awarded funding for two research projects.

The '*PLAY: Connecting Video Game Controllers, Musical Composition and Live Performance*' project involves working with a research software engineer at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) to create open-source software that turns common video game controllers into digital musical instruments, and offers a new perspective on how people interact with these objects. It is funded by the University's Cultural Programme, with support from Jesus College and PRISM at the RNCM.

Rob's second research project '*Everyday Objects and Musical Improvisation*' explores whether certain gestures linked to repetitive, and therefore embodied, interactions with everyday objects can be harnessed for musical expression, and whether common objects can be transformed into accessible musical instruments. The project is funded by the Oxford-UdK Berlin Partnership in Arts and Humanities.



Upcoming events

- **Torpids - 7th Week**

Wednesday 28th Feb - Saturday 2nd March

Head down to the Cherwell to cheer on the Jesus Boat Club crews as they compete in Torpid Bumps.

- **X (Twitter) meets Wales**

Friday 1st March, 15.00, Digital Hub

Explore the spread and evolution of the Welsh language on social media.

- **ESI Next Gen**

Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th March, Digital Hub

Two-day conference on the integration of video games and esports in education.

SAVE THE DATE: Kafka book launch

On **Friday 7th June 2024**, alumna Leah Tompkins (Classics and Modern Languages, 1983) will be discussing her new book '*Franz Kafka and the Truths of Leadership*' in a conversation with the journalist and broadcaster Shelagh Fogarty. This event will form part of the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub programme for Trinity term.

Challenging the popular view of Kafka as patron-saint of the underdog, and emphasising the significance of his own work as a leader, Leah's book explores Kafka's expertise in the exercise of power. Kafka anticipates many of the core themes of leadership - both good and bad - but especially leadership of the populist, 'post-truth' kind, where facts are often overpowered by fictions and fantasies.



Leah Tompkins

Bookings open after Easter, and more information will follow in a future edition of the newsletter

GET IN TOUCH

If you have news or an event you'd like to share across our community, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Jude Eades, Communications Manager, at jude.eades@jesus.ox.ac.uk

Deadline for Trinity Week 1 edition: March 25th 2024



Jesus College
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