

NEWSLETTER HILARY TERM 2012

A FINE OXFORD TRADITION: SUMMER

Each summer for nearly 125 years students have converged on Oxford to explore such diverse subjects as International Politics, Philosophy and the crime novels of Charles Dickens.

The first of Oxford's 'Summer Meetings' took place in 1888. The purpose: to bring adult learners together for shared learning in small groups, amid Oxford's inspiring surroundings. Sound familiar? Those who have taken part in our summer programmes know what an amazing experience this is.

Today's students come from all corners of the globe: over 1300 students from 50 countries joined us in summer 2011, living and learning in the historic colleges of Christ Church, St Antony's, New College and Exeter, and in Rewley House, our much-loved base in Wellington Square.

The breadth of the programme has expanded enormously since our early days. There are over 100 courses on offer for Summer 2012. Most are one week long; a few are longer programmes, such as our three-week Creative Writing summer school. Our ['Oxford Guide to Summer'](#) on the following page gives you an overview of all our offerings.



Then and now: a group from our 1911 'Summer Meeting' (above) enjoys an al fresco lesson; our 2010 Oxford Experience summer school (left) dines in Tudor splendour in the Great Hall at Christ Church. Learn more about our summer schools by clicking on the image below.



REV'D DR ROBIN GIBBONS, ECUMENICAL CANON



Dr Robin Gibbons

The Reverend Dr Robin Gibbons, our Director of Studies in Theology and Religious Studies, has been appointed Ecumenical Canon at All Saints' Cathedral College in the diocese of Edmonton, Canada. The appointment, made in recognition of Dr Gibbons' broad experience in theological education and outreach, is both an honour and a strong gesture of friendship between the Anglican churches of Canada and the United Kingdom.

Historically, the duties of cathedral canons might include maintaining the daily round of sung services or teaching. All Saints' Cathedral College is reinvigorating an ancient tradition by promoting educational outreach, in particular theological continuing education for clergy. Dr Gibbons will conduct yearly retreats, with lectures and seminars, on site at All Saints'.

Dr Gibbons has recently spearheaded the creation of a new Oxford qualifications course: the [Undergraduate Certificate in Theological and Religious Studies](#), a one year, part-time award programme which launches in the autumn of 2012. Read the full story online at: <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/robingibbonsecumenicalcanon>

EVENTS

Sir Andrew Motion: Reading & Poetry Masterclass

31 January 2012, 16.45 for 17.15
Kellogg College, Oxford

Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate from 1999-2009, conducts this critical reading master class as part of the Creative Writing Seminar Series. Refreshments at 16.45. Please book by emailing: bookings@kellogg.ox.ac.uk

(Events continued on next page)

AN OXFORD GUIDE TO SUMMER

An exceptional learning experience awaits: the hardest part may be choosing between over 100 courses on offer at five historic locations in Oxford.

While full information can be found on our website, the guide below gives you an at-a-glance overview of our summer offerings.

The Oxford University Summer School for Adults (OUS-SA)



offers 40 accredited one-week courses in the Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences, over four weeks. Classes are kept to a maximum of twelve students to facilitate discussion and to provide a generous amount of one-to-one time between student and tutor. Students are expected to undertake assignments before and during the summer school. OUS-SA takes place in Rewley House, our base in Wellington Square in central Oxford. Students who require accommodation may opt to stay at Rewley House or at St Peter's College. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oussa

The Oxford Experience



offers 60 non-accredited, one-week courses in the Humanities over a period of six weeks. Students live and learn in Christ Church, one of the University's most impressive and beautiful colleges, founded in 1546. All meals are taken in the College's magnificent Tudor dining hall. Classes meet in small, friendly groups of up to twelve people. Tutors are selected both for their subject expertise, and for their considerable experience in teaching adult students. There are no homework assignments for classes in the Oxford Experience. This summer school maintains a balance between study time and free time, with lectures in the mornings, and optional excursions or time to relax or explore Oxford in the afternoons. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oxex

Our Oxford International Summer Schools



comprise seven individual programmes, each devoted to a single topic, and each held in one of Oxford's historic colleges. Subjects on offer are Creative Writing, English Literature, History, Politics & Society, International Human Rights Law, International Politics, Theology, and our English Language Teachers' Summer Seminar. Course length varies between programmes, but are typically between one and three weeks duration. Teaching is done in small group seminars and larger lectures. Participants usually have a university degree, or a minimum of two years

at university. These programmes are not accredited; those seeking credit at their home institution will receive a certificate that documents their time and activities. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/intlsummerschools

Additionally, the Department offers a number of bespoke summer schools, such as our IARU Oxford Seminar in Global Leadership, a programme designed solely for current students of member universities of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU). For more information, please email: ip@conted.ox.ac.uk

EVENTS

(continued from front page)

Open Evening: Diploma in Creative Writing

7 February 2012, 19.00
Rewley House, Oxford

Learn about this popular, multi-genre part-time programme from Course Director John Ballam. Please email ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk for more information.

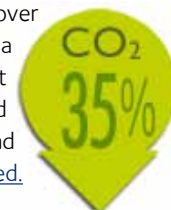
Open Day: Postgraduate Certificate in Historical Studies

14 February 2012, 14.00
Rewley House, Oxford

Meet the Course Directors, have your questions answered and tour the library and Rewley House. Please book by emailing: kristine.macmichael@conted.ox.ac.uk

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

We're very pleased to announce we've seen a 35% decrease in CO₂ emissions over the past two years, along with a 69.7% reduction in the amount of heating gas we consume. And the good work continues – read the full story at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/news/sustainable2011



VOTE: 2012 'CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY' AWARDS

The uncovering of a massive Norse longhouse at Skara Brae in Orkney is the work of archaeologist Dr David Griffiths, Director of Studies in Archaeology. He and Dr Jane Harrison, outreach officer on the East Oxford Community Archaeology project, have written a research article, *Settlement Under the Sand*, which is a contender for Current Archaeology magazine's 'Research Project of the Year 2012'. Please vote at: archaeologyawards.org/2012/research-project-of-the-year-2012.htm

Keep in touch
on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/oxford.university.continuing.education



QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE FOR WILDCRU

The University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), which was founded in 1986 to apply practical solutions to conservation problems worldwide, has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize. The team's approximately 50 graduate and post-doctoral researchers travel the world studying endangered species: their work takes them from the Scottish Highlands to Africa, Patagonia to the forests of Borneo. Read more at: www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_stories/2011/111125.html



The Department offers, in partnership with WildCRU and the Department of Zoology, a [Postgraduate Diploma in International Wildlife Conservation Practice](#); read more on our website, at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/D447-15

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MARK STRAARUP



Mark Straarup

Mark Straarup attended the Oxford University Summer School for Adults (OUSSA) to broaden his business school experience, and to gain course credit for his degree programme in Copenhagen.

'I am a student studying economics and philosophy as an undergrad at Copenhagen Business School. Prior to university I served five years in the Danish army as a Sergeant and infantry section commander. During my time in the army I did a seven-month tour in the Helmand province of Afghanistan in 2009.'

'I took three philosophy courses at last year's OUSSA: *Science, Reason and God*; *God and the Philosophers*; and *Greek Philosophy*. Having had a very practical job before, it was the feeling of gaining a strong knowledge of these topics that I found the most engaging.'

'I have two years remaining at Copenhagen, which might lead to an additional two-year postgraduate degree; working with new approaches to conventional business is something I am interested in.'

Read Mark's full story on our website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/studentspotlights/OUSSA.php

Did you know?

You may now apply course credit from many of our summer schools, online classes, day & weekend events and our weekly class programme toward an Oxford Qualification: the Certificate of Higher Education. Nine subject areas to choose from; designed for students anywhere in the world. Learn more online at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/certhe

TURING'S WORLDS

A weekend school, 23-24 June 2012, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Mathison Turing.



Best known for his work at Bletchley Park, Turing had achieved fame well before the second world war in theoretical computation and with his solution to the *Entscheidungssproblem*. An Olympic-class marathon runner whose refusal to conform to the narrow sexual standards of the day led to persecution and an early death, Turing did fundamental research on artificial intelligence, computer programming and even mathematical biology. Learn about one of the great minds of the twentieth century, his life and his times. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/G100-20

OPEN SESAME

The Department has been awarded £99k in funding from the JISC Open Educational Resources (OER) programme. The one-year 'Sesame' project aims to help part-time weekly class tutors to better understand, use and create openly licensed teaching resources. Sesame will be managed by the Department's Technology-Assisted Lifelong Learning (TALL) team. Further information is available on the project website at: www.tall.ox.ac.uk/research/current/sesame.php

ONLINE ACCOUNTS & SHOPPING BASKETS

As a direct result of your input, we've added two new much-requested features to our website: the ability for students to create their own personal online accounts, such as those found on Amazon and elsewhere; and a new online 'shopping basket' functionality. What does this mean for you? And what new features are we currently working on? Read the full story, and offer your input at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/accounts

2011 saw the creation of ten new online courses, the launch of the *Rewley House Studies in the Historic Environment* book series, the first walking tour of Professor Marcus du Sautoy's *Maths in the City* project, and many other highlights. We've put last year's best stories into a slide show on our website for you to enjoy. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/highlights2011.php

2011

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

'Risk', a Rewley House Research Seminar: three speakers consider the concept and experience of risk: Professor Jonathan Michie (economic risk), Dr Nigel Mehdi (risk in the built environment) and graduate student Adam Josephs (risk and technology). See the video online at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/risk



REWLEY HOUSE
RESEARCH SEMINARS

CREATIVE WRITING

MSt in Creative Writing alumnus **Patrick Toland** has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize for his poem, *How to Eat a Quince*. **Erik Boman** won this year's A M Heath prize for fiction for his work on *Wanderlust*, a novel set in Copenhagen in 2053. The **MSt programme** was featured in Oxford Today magazine: <https://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=1390>

This year's Poets' Workshop, one of our weekly classes in Creative Writing taught by tutor **Olivia Byard**, has had a bumper crop of student successes. Student **Veronica Beedham** won the £2500 Troubadour International Poetry Prize 2011; and seven other students on the course - **Annette Volfing, Chris Earle, Sarah McLeod, Kate Bradbury, Helen Reid, Laura Garrett** and **Katherine Riley** - had successes in publishing and poetry competitions.

Tutor **Jenny Lewis** is the recipient of a 2012 Hawthornden Fellowship; the fellowship is a writing retreat held in Hawthornden Castle in Scotland, where she will work on a new translation of some passages from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*.

Short stories written by Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing students **Mick Smith** and **Fay Wrixton**, have been published in the Five Stop Story ebook.

IN BRIEF

The book **Europe's Troubled Peace, 1945-2000** by **Dr Tom Buchanan**, Director of Studies in History and Politics, has been published in Polish: *Burzliwy pokój Historia Europy 1945-2000*.

Oxford 28 - Cambridge 10: Oxford University trounced Cambridge at the Varsity rugby match on 8 December, and the Oxford squad featured five students on Departmental programmes. They are John Henry Carter, the team's Captain (Master's in Psychodynamic Practice), Tom Mitchell and Derek Asbun (Postgraduate Certificate in Historical Studies), and Jason Law and Jonathan Direen (Master's in Sustainable Urban Development). This match was the biggest victory since 1988. Go team!



Derek Asbun breaks through Cambridge's attempted tackle

Weekly classes tutor **Caroline Dalton** has published a book on the work of Sir John Vanbrugh as a landscape architect. Please see: www.amazon.co.uk/Sir-John-Vanbrugh-Vitruvian-Landscape/dp/0415611644/

'Bags for Life' now available online - please see: www.oushop.com/conted

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

FIELD TECHNIQUES FOR SURVEYING MAMMALS & REPTILES

An online course starting 1 February 2012

This short, stand-alone, tutor-led training course is international in its use of case studies, and is intended for students and practitioners worldwide in conservation and management wishing to improve their ability to conduct mammal & reptile surveys. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/F850-1

WAR IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC THEATRE, 1941-45 3-4 March 2012

Between 1941 and 1945 Japan's bid for supremacy in Asia and the Pacific brought war on an unprecedented scale to the entire region. The conflict dealt a fatal blow to the European empires, and marked the emergence of the United States as a superpower. This weekend school features an impressive panel of expert historians who will explore the full dimensions of the war from many different perspectives. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V100-93

EVIDENCE-BASED DIAGNOSIS AND SCREENING

16-20 April 2012

This module aims to critically appraise and apply, at an advanced level, the best evidence on diagnostic tests. The course is led by Dr Annette Pluddemann, Director of the Horizon Scanning Programme at the University of Oxford. For more information please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ebds2

PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)

15-20 July 2012

This event includes a five-day short course (presented by the British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group, University of Oxford Department of Public Health and the Department for Continuing Education) followed by a free one-day workshop organised jointly with the World Health Organization. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ncdox12

Bursaries are available

The Department offers means-tested bursaries for students in need. Please contact your course administrator for more information.