BRONZE AGE DISCOVERY IN EAST OXFORD

Prehistoric worked flints, medieval floor-tiles and Roman pottery were unearthed at our Minchery Farm dig.

A 4,000-year-old Bronze Age arrowhead was one of many exciting discoveries made during our East Oxford Community Archaeology dig at Minchery Farm, site of a 12th century priory, near Blackbird Leys this past October and November.

The five-week dig revealed the medieval decorated glazed floor-tiles showing heraldic designs such as birds and griffins. Roman pottery and tiles, and a collection of prehistoric worked flints suggest that the site was in use in earlier times.

Enthusiastic volunteers, guided by project staff, revealed stone walls, floors and hearths, and showed the buildings on the site were once much more extensive. More than 700 volunteer hours were logged over the five week period the excavation took place.

To read more about the dig and the history of the Littlemore Priory, please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/bronzeage

VISITING FELLOW: URBAN GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND JAMAICAN EDUCATION

Dr Kevon Rhiney joins us for Hilary Term from the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Mona, Jamaica, as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Fellow.

A Lecturer in Human Geography at the UWI, Dr Rhiney will be focusing on the fields of urban geography and sustainable urban planning. He has come to Oxford with the aim of revising and updating the syllabus content for urban geography at the UWI. His areas of expertise are social research and theory, sustainable urban development, climate change impacts, public health and safety and agri-marketing. He will be working here on a three month fellowship, consulting with a number of colleagues in the UK, all of whom have regional interests in Latin America and the Caribbean, and who possess a wealth of experience researching urban development challenges in developing countries. To read more, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/kevonrhiney

EVENTS

OPEN EVENINGS: JOIN US!

From now through to May 2013 we are hosting over ten open evenings for a wide variety of courses. Join us to learn more about our part-time undergraduate and postgraduate Oxford qualifications programmes in Creative Writing, Literature, History, History of Art, Archaeology, Local History, and more. Please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/open2013 for more information.

FILM STUDIES TALKS

Tutor Kiri Walden takes Film Studies at OUDCE into the community this term with two special film screenings, in collaboration with local art cinemas. At the Ultimate Picture Palace in Cowley Road on Sunday 10 February, Kiri will do a post-film Q+A for Woody Allen’s Sci-Fi comedy, ‘Sleeper’. At The Phoenix in Walton Street, Jericho, on Sunday 3 March, the classic ‘The Red Shoes’ will be preceded by a short introductory lecture. All are welcome. Please see the theatre listings for times.

Pi DAY LIVE

An interactive online event with Professor Marcus du Sautoy

On 14 March at 1.59pm GMT, (3.14159), Professor Marcus du Sautoy will host Pi Day Live, an interactive exploration of the number that has fascinated mathematicians throughout the ages. We need your help to rediscover Pi using ancient and intriguing techniques in this online event that is open to all. You can connect with Marcus and Pi Day Live via our online lecture theatre or by watching online on the ‘big screen’. For more information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/piday
**HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH GRANT**

*International human rights treaty ratification: examining domestic effects.*

Dr Nazila Ghanea, University Lecturer in International Human Rights Law, is Principal Investigator on a major two-year project examining the domestic effects of international human rights treaty ratification. Nazila is working with colleagues from UCL, Georgetown and Qatar University on the research. The project runs from November 2012 to October 2014.

The research examines domestic mechanisms of human rights treaty effects on the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council; the relationship between state-led and civil society-led human rights efforts; and the role that the United Nations institutions play.

The grant is for $670,000 and has been awarded by the National Priority Research Program of the Qatar Foundation. The grant is historical – not only because it is the first grant that the Foundation has awarded in the field of human rights, but also because this will be the first study considering the domestic impact of international human rights treaties on the member states of the Gulf region. The findings will constitute an important resource and policy-guiding document for a variety of stakeholders, including for the States themselves, national human rights institutions, NGOs in the region and the United Nations.

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**PHILSOC ESSAY PRIZE**

Free entry to a new essay prize is open to all Philosophy students on the Department’s termly courses, whether online or attending weekly classes. The competition is the initiative of Rewley House’s thriving Philosophical Society, Philsoc, who are keen both to support OUDCE and to encourage a serious interest in philosophy. Three prizes are awarded each term for submitted essays written as part of course-work. All prize-winners, in addition to receiving book vouchers and certificates, have their essays published and are awarded a year’s free membership of Philsoc. For full details, please see Philsoc’s website: [oxfordphilsoc.org](http://oxfordphilsoc.org).

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**CHARITABLE TRUST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

An alumnus from the Department’s Master’s course in International Human Rights Law has donated an initial $50,000 to set up a charitable trust. Income from the Morris Charitable Trust will go to the benefit of students on the Master’s course.

Students and graduates of the programme engage in a range of Human Rights activities worldwide, including working in refugee camps, running an obstetrics unit in Malawi, defending detainees in Guantanamo and at the International Criminal Court, and much more. For more information, please see: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/MorrisTrust](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/MorrisTrust).

**SCHOLARSHIP TO AID SUSTAINABILITY IN INDIA**

Mr Sandip Kumar, founder and principal architect of a New Delhi design consultancy services firm, is the recipient of a full scholarship to study on the University of Oxford MSc in Sustainable Urban Development. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding candidate from India who is able to present a consistent record of excellence both academically and professionally. Mr Kumar joined the third cohort of students on the Master’s programme last term. For more information on the scholarship and the Sustainable Urban Development Master’s programme, please see: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/SandipKumar](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/SandipKumar).
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SHAUN MORLEY

Former Thames Valley Police Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley began his study of Local History with the Advanced Diploma in 2004 and completed his DPhil in late 2012.

‘I have always been interested in history, but the great people and major events held my attention for only a short period. I was far more interested in everyday life, how the hidden majority lived and survived. The study of Local History was a perfect match to my interests. Searching through dusty records in archives to further personal research, inspecting sources that had remained largely hidden from view for generations, and interpreting the social history through linking a variety of evidence was the enjoyable challenge. It has resonance to my days as a detective investigating serious crimes.’

You can read Shaun’s complete story on our website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/studentspotlights/localhistory3.php

WATERLOGGED

A rare Roman basket and shoe are among items found in a waterlogged pit at Marcham during excavations that took place between 2001 and 2011. To read the complete story, see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/roman

CHINESE LEADERS GAIN PERSPECTIVE

23 university leaders and administrators from China received three weeks of training on our Leadership and Public Policy (LAPP) programme last December under a new Chinese Ministry of Education scheme. Participants looked at Oxford and other universities’ educational systems in the context of transitioning the Chinese university model from one that is effectively politically controlled to one which is academically determined – but still within the constraints of the Chinese system. Some 4,000 Chinese officials – around a third of them in higher education – have passed through the Oxford leadership programme. For more information on the LAPP, please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/lapp

IN MEMORIAM: DIANA WOOD

Dr Diana Wood, formerly Departmental Lecturer in Local History and course director of the Undergraduate Diploma in English Local History, died suddenly in July 2012 aged 71. She was a distinguished scholar and teacher of medieval history and will be remembered by many of the Department’s local history students. Dr Adrienne Rosen, Lecturer in Local and Social History, remembers Dr Wood on our website. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/dianawood

IN SUPPORT OF DEFRA ECONOMISTS

Professor Jonathan Michie has been appointed to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Economic Advisory Panel.

The role of the panel is to provide an independent challenge and support capacity to Defra’s economists.

Speaking of the appointment, Professor Michie says, ‘From 2008 to 2010 I ran an Economic & Social Research Council seminar series on the use of “complexity economics” in analysing environmental issues, with a series of fascinating meetings at Rewley House and elsewhere. Our starting point was that the world does not fit the textbook economic model, and we need to learn from other disciplines to really understand ‘big’ issues such as how to tackle environmental problems. This led to my 2011 book on The Political Economy of the Environment, and I’m delighted to now have a chance to contribute to policy advice and formulation.’

SUMMER SCHOOLS CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

The first Summer Meeting was held at Balliol College in 1888, and was such a success that over one thousand attendees came to the second meeting in 1889. For many dedicated, working class students, the time in Oxford was their only holiday of the year. The Summer Meeting was the culmination of the year’s Extension activities, bringing students together from the various Extension centres for a shared experience in Oxford. We are delighted to announce that 2013 marks 125 years of this proud tradition. For more information on the history of our summer schools, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/history/summermeetings.php
IN BRIEF

The Oxford Experience Summer School was described as ‘an intellectual smorgasbord’ in the Forbes.com travel blog. Read the post at: www.forbes.com/sites/janetrodgers/2013/01/04/live-and-learn-at-the-oxford-summer-school – and learn more about our full range of summer schools at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/summerschools/

Dr Jonathan Healey has won research funding from the Economic History Society for a project on ‘The Cost and Fluctuation of Poor Relief in England’, 1600–1770.

Dr Nazila Ghanea is quoted in the Times Higher Education Supplement of 22 November on how online learning offers an ‘alternative public realm’ for Iranians. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/THESGhanea

Melanie Hollihead, an alumna of the MSc in English Local History, won the 2012 Sir Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History for her dissertation, The Social Condition of Wives and Families Receiving Allotments of Pay from Royal Navy Sailors in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Portsea Town. The prize is awarded annually by the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London which will publish the work in its journal Historical Research. Melanie is now a part-time DPhil student at OUDCE pursuing her research on Portsea’s Victorian naval wives.

Two students from our Foundation Certificate in History have been offered Oxford places for next year – Sam Bower at Oriel and Bonnie Emmett at Hertford. Both students will go straight into the 2nd year of the BA Degree in History. Congratulations to Dr Christine Jackson, Dr Tom Buchanan and all the others who assist with the course – and of course to Sam and Bonnie!

CREATIVE WRITING

Weekly classes student Heather Dunmore was a runner-up in the Guardian readers’ travel writing competition 2012. To view Heather’s entry, please visit: www.guardiantravel – scroll down to The Aussie barbie.

Diploma in Creative Writing students have had a successful first term: Honor Somersett’s first published poem is included in an anthology produced by the Poetic Republic. Lucinda Kowol was given honourable mention in the Cinnamon Press Concrete Poetry Competition as a ‘poet whose work stood out in a very strong field’. And Gail Anderson’s short memoir First Day was shortlisted for the Rubery Award and will be published in their anthology in February.

Alumni and students on the Master’s in Creative Writing have had a bumper crop of forthcoming book publications and agent acquisitions. Highlights include James Benmore’s first book, Dodger, the UK release of Prajwal Parajuly’s The Gurkha’s Daughter, and Jeremy Hughes’ second novel, Wingspan, forthcoming next autumn. For more information please see our news page: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/MScCWAchievement

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

Begins March 2013

Designed to meet the needs of high-calibre professionals working in transport and related fields, across the public, private and third sectors, the University of Oxford’s Global Challenges in Transport Programme is targeted at existing and future leaders who seek a greater understanding of the key economic, societal and environmental issues facing global mobility in the 21st century. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/F850-1

GEOMETRY FROM EUCLID TO EINSTEIN

22–23 June

Following the success of last summer’s Turing weekend, this year we are devoting a weekend to a popular account of the achievements and importance of geometry. Geometry from Euclid to Einstein will run on June 22–23 and involves talks from a considerable number of well-known popularisers of mathematics, including Sir Roger Penrose. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/fromeuclidtoeinstein