



# COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Trinity Term 2024

News and events from across the Jesus College community

**WEEK 1**



**READ ON:** Celebrating College sporting successes



**READ ON:** 50th anniversary of coeducation

## Vili Lehdonvirta awarded ERC Advanced Grant

Aalto University and Mikko Raskinen



Vili Lehdonvirta

Senior Research Fellow Vili Lehdonvirta is one of four University of Oxford researchers to have been awarded [European Research Council \(ERC\) Advanced Grants](#) of up to €2.5 million each to explore their most innovative and ambitious ideas. These grants recognise leading researchers who have a proven track record of significant achievements.

The ERC is the premier European funding organisation for excellent frontier research, and the Advanced Grants are amongst the most prestigious and competitive EU funding schemes. As Professor of Economic Sociology and Digital Social Research at the Oxford Internet Institute,

*“ I am deeply grateful to the ERC for another opportunity to launch an investigation into a new frontier topic, and to the many colleagues who helped me shape this new research agenda. ”*

Vili's research examines the politics and socio-economic implications of digital technologies. His new project will focus on the geopolitics of cloud computing, and the impacts of data being increasingly stored on 'hyperscale' data centres operated by multinational cloud computing providers, rather than on users' own devices. Whilst this concentration generates significant economies of scale and improves energy efficiency, it also creates new systemic risks and impacts international relations, as governments and economies become more reliant on infrastructures that are often situated in another country.

# New building shortlisted for RIBA award

The Cheng Yu Tung Building has been shortlisted for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) South Awards 2024.

The prestigious [RIBA Awards](#) champion and celebrate the best architecture in the UK, and around the world. Successful projects reflect changes and innovations in architecture, but at their core display a commitment to designing buildings and spaces for the improvement, and enhancement, of people's lives. A RIBA judging panel visited the new building in March, and the Regional Awards will be announced in May.

Also in March, MICA Architects represented the College at the Civic Trust Awards (CTA), where they collected an award for the building's outstanding design. The CTA judges selected just 22 winning schemes from over 320 projects entered across the UK, Europe, Canada, and the US.



Hutton + Crow

# AI ethics are ignoring children, say Oxford researchers



Researchers from the [Oxford Martin Programme on Ethical Web and Data Architectures \(EWADA\)](#), including College Principal Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FRS, and DPhil student [Ge Wang](#), have called for a more considered approach when embedding ethical principles in the development and governance of AI for children.

In a perspective paper published last month in [Nature Machine Intelligence](#), the authors highlighted that although there is a growing consensus around what high-level AI ethical principles should look like, too little is known about how to effectively apply them in principle for children. The study mapped the global landscape of existing ethics guidelines for AI, and identified the main challenges in adapting such principles for children's benefit.

**The full research article can be found on the [website here](#).**



# Celebrating Fifty Years of Coeducation

During the next academic year (2024-25), we'll be marking the 50th anniversary of coeducation at Jesus. To commemorate this important milestone in our history, there'll be a range of activities taking place throughout the year, and for all members of our community.

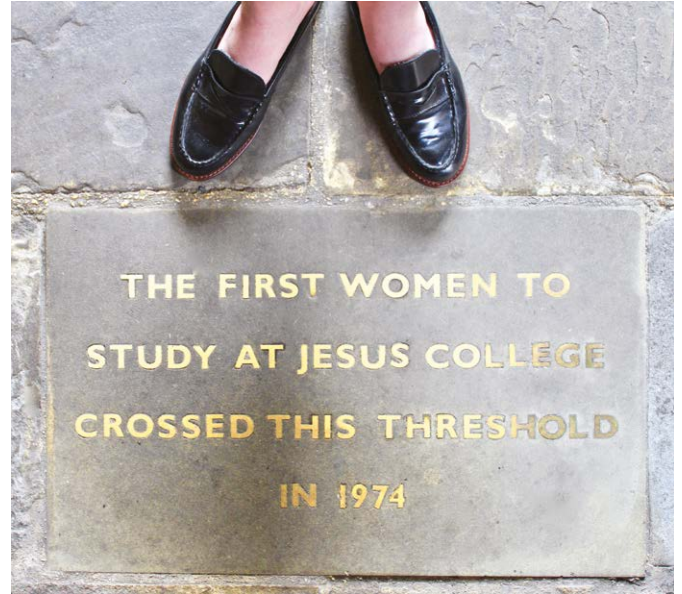
As well as celebrating the history of women (and those who identify as women) at Jesus, and featuring just some of the exceptional College members who have, and continue to break the glass ceiling in terms of academic career and achievements, and extracurricular endeavours, our activities will also celebrate the College community as it is today – one which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion.

In March, the Arts Committee announced the launch of a photography project for the anniversary. Well-known Oxford photographer [Philippa James](#) has been commissioned to create a series of twelve portraits of College alumnae and current members (nominated by students and staff) whose lives, and work, have proved inspirational to our community. The portraits will form a permanent exhibition in the Cheng Yu Tung Building café.

Also in March, the Development Office shared a preview of its anniversary events programme for alumni. The programme includes a panel discussion as part of the University's *Meeting Minds* weekend in September, and an Alumni Ball in October. In November, the Jesus College Shakespeare Project will be performing *Love's Labour's Lost* – Shakespeare's sparkling comedy about love and relationships – relocated to 1970s Oxford.

The College is also joining forces with the University, and the four other Oxford colleges to go co-ed in 1974 (Wadham, Brasenose, Hertford and St Catz) to publicise the anniversary, and events programme and wider Oxford events programme under the banner 'Five at 50'.

**More details of all Jesus' 50th anniversary plans will follow later this year.**



The 50th anniversary will celebrate our community as it is today.



# Celebrating College sporting successes

## Mixed cross country team take gold

Jesus College's cross country team are celebrating after a win in the Colleges' Mixed Relay race at the annual Teddy Hall Relays competition.

Organised by the Oxford University Cross Country Club (OUCCC), this year's competition drew 612 runners, and 153 teams, from across the University and Oxfordshire running clubs to race a 7km route around the city in four-leg relays.

Jesus' team, comprising Mared Owen, Louis Bilboul, Rhiannon Paton, and Jack Forrest, completed the course in a gold-winning time of 1h 43 minutes, with all four 7km legs completed within a minute of each another. They also placed second overall for the mixed team events.



The mixed relay team (l-r) Louis Bilboul, Mared Owen, Rhiannon Paton, and Jack Forrest.

*I was keen to bring out a strong college team, and as the results suggest, Jesus College is currently pretty formidable in the running scene!*

Rhiannon, the OUCCC women's captain

## Jesus/Magdalen MCR Football team take Division I title



The Jesus/Magdalen MCR football team recently won the MCR Division I league championship, following a 3-1 win against a team from Wolfson/St Cross. The team remained unbeaten throughout their league campaign, and Jesus player Robert Jones won the championship 'golden gloves'.

## Squash Club tops Inter-College League

Following promotion to the Premiership division at the end of Michaelmas, Hilary Term saw the Jesus College Squash Club (JCSC) finish top of the division in the Hilary Inter-College League.

Additionally, after making it to the semi-finals in last year's knockout Inter-College Squash Cuppers tournament, this year Jesus made it all the way to the final round, with the team (Isaac Wighton, Schyan Zafar, Rhys Inward, Anvita Ramachandran and Benedict Carroll) narrowly losing to Balliol in a well fought contest. The team thanks Lucy (Bonnie) Askins for a commendable job this year reviving the weekly JCSC sessions, which are open to players of all abilities.



Members and supporters of the College Squash Club at the Cuppers final.

# Peter McDonald

## Short-Term Visiting Arts Fellow exhibits work

A new online exhibition showcases paintings created by artist Peter McDonald during his Short-Term Visiting Fellowship in Art at Jesus last year. During the one-year post Peter immersed himself in College life, with a view to creating new work inspired by our community, and surroundings. The Fellowship was made possible thanks to the generous support of Rosaline Wong and her company HomeArt.

A chance meeting in the SCR with Emeritus Fellow Mike Glazer led to Peter's first creative concept. He says, "*Mike discussed X-ray crystallography with me; its uses and history, and how crystals are so prevalent in all aspects of our lives. This allowed me to envisage an imaginary crystallography teacher with his students in the laboratory.*"

*I began making studies with paint, which led me to create two large scale paintings on canvas, and numerous smaller studies. Each painting usually gives me further ideas, and it was from one of these studies of the crystallography classroom that I started developing another strand of imagery: students huddled around a laptop. I wanted to somehow reference our reliance on this ubiquitous tool in my paintings."* After working on composition and narrative, he then made five larger paintings on canvas on the theme, as well as smaller works.

Peter adds, "*Having the opportunity to meet interesting and knowledgeable academics, as well as students, was one of the key parts of my Fellowship. It allowed me to discover new subject matter for my painting, and this in turn generated more ideas through the painting process.*"

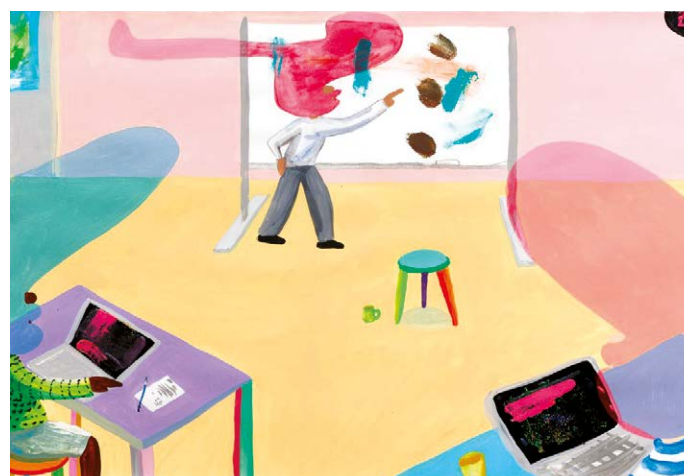
**The exhibition can be viewed in full on the [Kate McGarry Gallery website](#), and a feature by Peter can be read on the [College website](#).**



*Crystallographers* by Peter McDonald.  
Acrylic gouache, glitter paint, gold leaf on canvas, 100 x 140cms



*Googling* by Peter McDonald.  
Acrylic and acrylic gouache on canvas, 150 x 200 cm



*Hub Study* by Peter McDonald.  
Acrylic gouache, glitter paint on paper, 21 x 29.5cms

# Organ Scholar becomes Associate of RCO



Congratulations to Organ Scholar Conrad Spencer, who has become an Associate of the Royal College of Organists (RCO), following success in the latest round of the RCO Diploma examinations. The RCO Diploma is highly prized in organ scholarship, demanding a combination of technical, and interpretative, skill with the stylistic, analytical and historical understanding that marks out a truly accomplished musician.

◀ Conrad playing the Chapel organ.

# Housekeeping goes greener

As part of Jesus' environmental sustainability action plan, the Housekeeping team are introducing some new eco-friendly hygiene products to College facilities. Tissues, toilet paper and hand towels made from recycled materials are being rolled out across the main site, as old stock is used up. The products are high-quality, and cheaper than those currently used.

The team is also trying out a new range of cleaning products that replace traditional chemical-based cleaning agents with low aquatic toxicity, sustainable, bio-renewable and plant-based alternatives. The cleaning liquids come in small concentrated pod form (like a laundry liquid pod), which significantly reduces packaging and transport requirements, and eradicates the need for plastic bottles. The pods dissolve in water, so existing cleaning containers can be reused time and time again.

*The team is always looking for new solutions to make our work as environmentally friendly as possible. We are especially excited to trial the new cleaning liquid pods, as these will transform our cleaning processes, and end the reliance on plastic dispensing bottles.*



Michele Turner,  
Housekeeping Manager

# Celebrate exams sustainably



As exam season begins, Oxford students are being reminded to celebrate their achievements responsibly, by avoiding traditional 'trashing' in favour of just using water. We want everyone to celebrate after exams, but pouring, throwing or spraying substances other than water is not allowed, either in College or the city. Littering in Oxford as a result of 'trashing' is illegal, and students can be liable to a £150 fine, as a breach of the University's Code of Discipline. It is also damaging to the local environment, and community relations, and expensive to the University to clear up.

# Digital Hub announces 'Gaming Season'

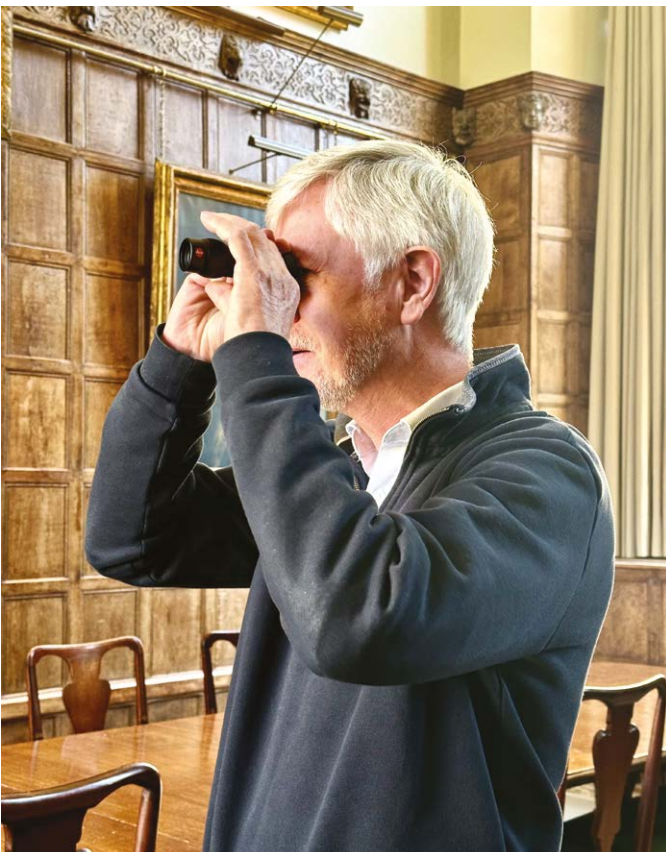
Hot on the heels of the opening of Oxbridge' first esports suite at Jesus College, the Cheng Kar Shun Digital Hub events programme has announced a season of activities themed around gaming.

Trinity Term's 'Gaming Season' features three events that celebrate the world of video gaming through the lenses of history, music and inclusivity, and brings together students, researchers and industry professionals, to explore the innovations in gaming that are fuelling this growing field of academic research. It includes the Inclusive *Gaming Conference* (1st May), *PLAY: Music for Game Controllers with the House of Bedlam* (30th May) and *Hands-On History: Gaming Peripherals Past and Present* (11th June).

**All College members are welcome to attend. To view the Gaming Season programme, check out all upcoming Hub events, and book tickets, scan the QR code.**



## Bon voyage to Property Director



David tests out his new monocular at his leaving event in Hall.

At the end of March, members of College gathered in Hall to bid a fond farewell to our Property Director David Stevenson.

David joined the College in 2014, and oversaw some of our largest estates projects, including the refurbishment of the Hall, and the development of the Cheng Yu Tung Building. As a keen sailor, he's hoping to enjoy his retirement aboard his much-loved boat 'Iris', so it was only fitting to present him with a Leica monocular (a compact retracting telescope) as a leaving gift. Bon voyage David!



David Mason

Our new Property Director is another David – David Mason – who joins us from the Diocese of Oxford, where he was Director of Property for 12 years. He is a Chartered Surveyor with Planning & Development and General Practice experience, and has worked across the public, private and third sectors.

# Events



## **Tuesday 30th April, 18.00-20.00** **2024 Annual Disability Lecture**

Beth Kume Holland (pictured above) talks on 'Changing the disability narrative: From unseen to understood'. Hosted by the University's EDI Hub at the Blavatnik School of Government, and via Zoom.

## **Wednesday 1st May, 08.30 – 18.00** **Inclusive Gaming Conference**

One-day conference to discuss research initiatives, works in progress, and future directions for explorations of inclusive gaming. Use QR code on page 7 for more information and to book tickets.

## **Sunday 12th May, 10.00** **Oxford Town & Gown 10km**

Contact Helen Gee to add your name to the Jesus College team for the annual 10km run around the city centre.

## **Thursday 16th May, 09.30 – 17.00** **Digital Health Horizons Conference**

Explore the interplay, opportunities and challenges of digital health and medical artificial intelligence at this Jesus student-led conference. Use QR code on page 7 for more information and to book tickets.



## **Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th May** **Summer Eights**

The Jesus College Boat Club will be out in force for the annual inter-collegiate bumps regatta. Join the crowds along the banks of the Cherwell to cheer them on.

## **Tuesday 28th May** **College Sustainability Forum**

Save the date. Details to follow by email.

## **Friday 7th June, 17.00-19.00** **Franz Kafka and the Truths of Leadership**

To mark the centenary of the death of Franz Kafka, join Jesus alumna Leah Tomkins and broadcaster Shelagh Fogarty in conversation about Leah's new book, which explores Kafka's expertise in the exercise of power, and how, in a 'post-truth' world, leadership can easily become misleading. To book, scan QR code on page 7.

## **Friday, 14 June 2024, 14.30** **Memorial Service for Mr Peter Clarke, Emeritus Fellow,**

Service in Chapel followed by tea in Hall.

## 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](mailto:jude.eades@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

Deadline for Trinity Week 7 edition: Monday 20 May 2024



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