Hello & Welcome to the new HMC alumni newsletter. In a burst of new-academic-year optimism, we have decided to try to produce a brief termly newsletter, which will report on news in college and – we hope – news of alumni, wherever they are. Obviously, this will involve you sending in your news – so please do: the more the merrier!

October 23rd was Wear It Pink day – raising funds for breast cancer research. As you can see, led by the bursarets, HMC Wore It Pink in a big way!

We raised over £250 with a bake sale and raffle.
http://wearitpink.org/

The photo also shows how the old, cramped “hatch” has made way for a new spacious bursary window – all designed and installed by David Seeney. We can’t really figure out why we didn’t do it years ago!
College is constantly thinking about the range of subjects we take, and the courses we can offer mature students. When we gave an academic home to the new professor of mechanical engineering, Ron Roy, he suggested we start accepting mature engineering students - since the department gets a number of mature applicants every year. We’re now hoping we’ll be able to take around three undergrads every year, for the four-year course, and we’ll be admitting for the first time this December. In addition to Ron, we have a new tutor in engineering, Dr Sina Ober-Blöbaum, who has joined us from Paderborn in Germany. Ron specialises in the application of physical acoustics principles to problems in biomedical acoustics, industrial ultrasonics, acoustical oceanography, and acousto-optics. He is President-Elect of the Acoustical Society of America and the 2010 recipient of its Helmholtz-Rayleigh Interdisciplinary Silver Medal. Sina works on algorithms that optimise the efficiency of processes. This is applied to a wide range of things - sport, cars, space travel, for instance, and can be complex when there is more than one thing to be optimised (speed and fuel efficiency, for example).
A fabulous wedding for a wonderful couple was held at HMC on Wedding September 12th 2015.

Tom Pascoe graduated from HMC in 2013 and returned this year to marry his sweetheart Sumi in the College Chapel. A beautiful service was followed by drinks in the Tate Quad and a fantastic and happy wedding breakfast in the Arlosh Hall. Lots of Tom’s friends from HMC enjoyed this special celebration and it provided us with a warm and heartfelt reminder of the special place College has in our students’ hearts long after they move to new climes.
Annette Loutit, a former PPE student, died much too young. But she left a lasting gift in her will: money to buy original prints which could form the basis of a picture loan library for students. Annette wanted students to be able to have an original on their walls, not just a poster.

We managed to buy about twenty pictures with Annette’s original gift, and every term there’s a stampede, as students come to look at the pictures and claim one for their wall. We have tried to buy a whole variety of things, from a still life to a triptych of Chinese actors, to Tracey Emin’s dog.

There are always more students than pictures, so we’d love to accept any further monetary donations, if alumni wished to give... We were also thrilled this year when Ian Finlay, one of our supernumerary fellows, gave us a framed John Piper textile - a souvenir of the John Piper exhibition that the college hosted for Artweeks this year.
For those of you who haven’t been in Oxford for a while, you may not have seen our newest new building: the Clock Tower, officially known as the Siew Sngiem Tower, alongside the rebuilt Arlosh quad gate. The gate is now formally the Sukum Navapan gate, named after the Navapan family, who have been exceptionally generous donors to college on this and other projects.

The interior of the building, which provides five student rooms, is exceptionally comfortable - and the rooms provide some of the best views in Oxford.