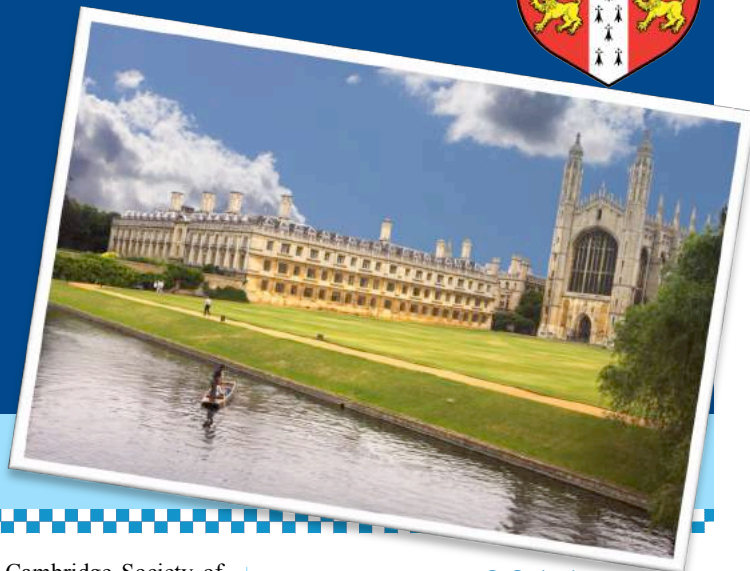




Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya



First issue celebrating the
Society's 90th birthday:
27th March 1926-2016



Message from the Master

It is my pleasure to introduce the inaugural publication of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya's newsletter as we mark the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Society.

In the early evening of Saturday 27th March 1926, 19 men gathered at the Nairobi club to form the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya. They established a formal framework to channel the social and charitable activities of the Society and later that year, under the guidance of Edward Brandis Denham, the idea of an endowment fund (at a minimum level of £1,000) for a Scholarship Scheme was conceived.

The Society has come a long way since, while the Scholarship Scheme remains our primary objective, its purpose has transitioned from providing partial undergraduate assistance to two fully funded post-graduate scholarships, one at either university. Without this financial assistance, a graduate Oxbridge education would be unattainable for most of our Scholars and in the newsletters to come you should be hearing directly from them about their extraordinary experiences.

Our annual flagship event, the May Ball has become a key ingredient on the Nairobi social calendar and remains the Society's principal fundraising platform for the Scheme. In addition, the Society and Scholarship Scheme have been fortunate to receive substantial support to keep it going. A special mention to the trustees and committee members who have served over the years, as well as the Llewellyn Scholarship, Hector Pilling Bursary and the Sosian Edwards Scholarship for their contributions.

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as your Master and to further develop the functions of the Society beyond the Scholarship Scheme. The committee is energized to engage you to participate more actively with the wider Oxbridge community both socially and intellectually. There is an exciting upcoming calendar of events and I trust that with your attendance and support these will be a success.

I look forward to connecting with you during my term.

Nadeem Anjarwalla

OCSK Master

Events 2016

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| | 90 th Birthday Lunch and |
| March 27 | Boat Race Day Out:
@Lord Errol, Runda |
| April | Demystifying Oxbridge
Application Process |
| May | Curry Lunch |
| June | May Ball |
| July | Quiz Night |
| August | AGM |

Details to Follow

Did you know? OCSK fun fact:

Women membership of the society was first discussed by the committee in 1940 but the motion was crushingly rejected with 20 votes to 5. It was not until 1944, and then too with some opposition, that lady members were admitted to the society. Oxford started conferring degrees on women in 1920. Pembroke College did not allow women members until 1985.

Your New Committee 2016

Here are your new committee members you elected at the last AGM

Master



Nadeem Anjarwalla

I am an alumni of St. Hugh's College, Oxford where I read Philosophy Politics and Economics. I also have a Law degree from BPP Law School and a Masters from Stanford University. Prior to my election as Master, I served as Treasurer since 2012.

Secretary



Rebecca King

I studied a Masters of Evidence-Based Social Intervention at Oxford. I am now working as a Manager of Research and Innovation for a non-profit that aims to deliver interventions aimed at reducing poverty across East Africa. I also really enjoy kickboxing.

Scholarship Secretary



Nadeem Ahmed

I've been a Scholarship Secretary and a committee member since 2011. I graduated from the LSE, and completed my Masters in 1998 from Keble College, Oxford. I have been back in Kenya since 2003 working as a Property Developer in Nairobi.

I grew up in Nairobi and attended Lady Margaret Hall, reading Economics and Management. I became an A' Level Economics teacher at the Westminster School in London and in 2012 moved back to Kenya. I run a consulting business and am the CEO of Rosewood Furniture Manufacturers Ltd.

Social Sec



Kavan Shah

Member



Kunal Bid

I completed a BSc in Genetics at the University of York, and then in 2005/06 completed a MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise at University of Cambridge, based at Wolfson College. I returned to Kenya in 2007 and joined the society, where I served as Master,

I studied PPP at St Anne's College Oxford. After living in the Himalayas for 6 years, I returned to London to consult and research on cross-cultural collaboration. I've been in Kenya for 21 years and I'm passionate about implementing ecosystem sustainability and regeneration.

Member



Sue Canney Davison

Member



Berenika Stefanska

I read SPS at Pembroke College, Cambridge, then did my Msc International Relations at SOAS. Moved to East Africa in 2011 as an adventurer and journalist, covering among others South Sudan and Somalia. Now specializing in conservation reporting. Keen squash player and a pilot.

I hold an MBA from Oxford (Templeton 2005), which I attended as a Chevening Scholar. Prior to this I spent 16 years working for P&G and in various leadership roles across Africa, Europe and North America. I am currently working with UNEP in Nairobi.

Member



Adema Sangale

And a special thank you to a long-standing but sadly outgoing Social Secretary:
Ekta Bid

I hold a degree Tourism Management from the University of Herfordshire. I joined the OCSK in 2011 as the Social Secretary, to help out my husband and then president of OSCK, Kunal Bid. Left the Social Secretary post in December 2015 to Kavan Shah but here to help when I can.



And now for the committee members who didn't give us their picture...

• Imran Manji, Treasurer

• Anthony Ngatia

• Georgia Hill

• Meenal Pore

March 2016



The MAY BALL 2015

By far the most important, and fun, event of the OCSK calendar. Last year was no exception.

The May Ball has been one of the main events at MCC for over 80 years, as well the prime revenue earner for the Scholarship fund. The ball has traditionally been held on the second weekend of June, as to avoid the clash with the Rhino Charge.

Over the years, the event has attracted a lot of guests from Nairobi and neighbouring countries – many who fly in just for the Ball! Guests are usually 50% OCSK and 50% MCC. It is a well turned out event, with figures reaching as many as 280 guests.

The OCSK Social Secretary organises the flowers, and the raffle tickets, which are donated by our generous donors. The MCC staff arranges the flowers, draw up a 5-course menu with the Social Secretary and help organise the music. Breakfast – who doesn't remember the delicious goulash soup last year – is served at 2am.

Last year was no exception: there were 115 guests and we raised over KSh250,000 in entry and raffle tickets.

We are very excited to see you in June!

The Harvard Debate 2015

In November, the Society organized a star-studded panel discussion in collaboration with the Harvard Club of Kenya at Nairobi's innovation centre, iHub. Media celebrity **Angela Angwenyi** moderated a discussion on the topic of the "role of public policy in entrepreneurship growth" and the panelists included **Bitange Ndemo**, the former Permanent Secretary and architect of e-government, and **Ory Okolloh** pioneer in the technology space. The event was preceded by a private networking event open to members of both clubs. With over 200 tickets sold, this was a highly successful affair and hopefully the first of many such events.



Have you got any photos from any of our 2015 events? We would love you to share them with us.

If you'd like to get involved in the organization of any events or have any ideas how to make them better please get in touch with Kavan, on kavan@pearlkenya.com



Members' Profiles: Mike Norton Griffith

A long-standing member of the society and its former Master, Mike Norton Griffith, does not need many introductions. A scientist (PhD in Ethology, Keble, 1960) and a pioneer of wildlife aerial surveys in Kenya, he is influential and controversial in equal measure. He's been talking to us about his life and the winds of change.

OSCK: *Mike, what brought you to Kenya?*

Mike Norton-Griffith (MNG): As a matter of fact it was Oxford. I came to work at the Serengeti Research Institute – all their ties were to Oxford. There was a Cambridge group in Tsavo and they were great rivals. There was a bunch in Uganda that was also rather pro-Cambridge. I couldn't have gone to work in Tsavo: I came from the wrong university! And to be honest, I didn't even know where Africa was when I came out – my research interest was in Cumberland oystercatchers! But after a few years we thought: why go back? So we moved to Kenya in 1973 and been here for the past 40 years.

OSCK: *And what has it been like working and living here?*

MNG: Kenya has been very good to us. When we came here it was really very easy. I can see the problems my son faces nowadays, all the bureaucracy and the regulations, they just didn't exist 30 years ago and it was much easier to set up a business. Nobody had heard of VAT back then. VAT what is that? We were in Kenya in really good times, the country was growing and everyone was very positive. It was a great time. Today people find it much harder. But I think we've contributed in a small way, and I certainly would never think of moving out. Of course, as a scientist I worry about the environmental changes. Kenya's situation is disastrous: we've been losing wildlife at an annual rate of 3.5 percent since 1977, and today we only have about 20 percent of the wildlife we had before the hunting ban.

OSCK: *Has the Society been changing with the country?*

MNG: Most certainly it has. All these years ago there weren't all those opportunities in Nairobi, the restaurants, the hotels and all the wonderful places you go to now. Believe it or not, but our annual curry lunch at Banda school was an essential events in everybody's calendar. And that's why we used to have 200 people in dinner jackets at Muthaiga and now if you get 20 people you are lucky. The

traffic too of course is the problem and everyone is so busy. It's no big deal – one should not look back and think things were better. Things were different; the whole world was different.

OSCK: *Where does that leave OCSK? What role should it play?*

MNG: I think what is really important is the scholarship programme. It's really terrific. We used to just give pocket money to students at Oxford or Cambridge. It must have been very nice to get £1000 to go out to the pub but it didn't really change a thing. Now we support half of the cost of a one-year MSc or MPhil. It was all started by Raj Kotecha in 2009 and so it happened that I took over after he'd done all the hard work and I was able to take all the accolades. It makes a huge difference and it is way more important than having nice annual dinners.

OSCK: *What about 'your' Oxford? What was it like when you were there?*

MNG: I was there through the whole of the 60s which was magic. It's always a good time to be in Oxford but that was particularly good: we didn't have to work too hard and those days everybody got a job after graduating. I took nine years to get two degrees; one was not in a hurry. I can't remember being particularly mischievous, never ended up in prison. I was a frightfully normal sort of guy: I didn't even row. But it was fun and it taught me how to do proper research, which was invaluable. And there is a certain street cred one gets for having been to Oxford, even these days and I would certainly recommend it to anyone thinking of applying.



**One should not look back
and think things were better.
Things were different, the
whole world was different.**

Members' News

Mr Mark-Ellis Jones of Greyfriars, Oxford (1997) and Ms Jasmine Fraatz of Germany are happy to announce their engagement and forthcoming nuptials.

Mr Kevan Shah of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford (date?) and Ms Sehar Neki of Kenya are happy to announce their engagement and forthcoming nuptials.

Mr Dick Trenchard, of Fitzwilliam College Cambridge (1988) has been appointed as the new UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Representative for Somalia.

With sadness we received the news of the passing, in November, of Mike Shaw, a former Master of the Society and a Rhodes Scholar at Brasenose (1950)

*Have you got the news for us?
New job, getting married, working on
a cool project?*

Keep the members posted!

Trustees' Report

In the past week, the Trustees of the OCSK Fund have authorised disbursements totalling £30,000 on behalf of the Society towards the cost of the courses of **Peninah Mutonga** at Wolfson College Cambridge (MPhil Architecture and Urban Studies 2015/16) and **Victoria Mwirichia** at St Antony's College Oxford (Masters in Public Policy 2015/16).

This follows a similar payment made a year ago, and the Society is committed to a further payment in a year's time. £90,000 over three years is an ambitious programme, but all the indications are that this is money well spent – those who have benefited from the Society's investment in postgraduate courses, first at Wolfson, now also at St Antony's, have performed well and shown a determination to put what they have learnt to good use back in Kenya – none of which they would have been able to achieve without the Society's support.

The Scholarship Fund, ably managed by Smith & Williamson, has performed well in the last two years and its returns have covered the scholarships awarded. But investment is a volatile business, and the Trustees hope that, as in the past, members will continue to support the events of the Society that contribute to the scholarship programme.

Tony Davies

With many thanks to the Trustees:

- David Gray
- Tony Davis
- Simon Fisher

College News

- PEMBROKE COLLEGE has a new master. Lord Chris Smith took over from Sir Richard Dearlove this year as the 170th head of the third oldest Cambridge College. In further news, Pembroke received an astonishing donation, £35 million, from the Dolby Foundation – the largest single gift ever made to an Oxbridge College. Ray Dolby was a PhD student in Pembroke in 1957, from where he proceeded to the US and the development of the transformative sound system we all enjoy.



- ORIEL COLLEGE, Oxford comes under fire for its refusal to remove the statue of Sir Cecil Rhodes from Rhodes House as demanded by protesting students. The students see Rhodes as a figure of colonial oppression, while the college authorities argue that as an historical figure Rhodes has a right to stay, as long as "a clear historical context" is provided. In a further development it has also refused to rename one of its rooms, accusing the protesters of attempts to 'erase history'.



HELP US RUN YOUR SOCIETY BETTER:

We would like to hear from you on any matters related to the running of the society, and in particular:

- Which side of town should we host events?
- What is the main function of the society for you?
- Should we have a Facebook page? Or a Whatsapp group?

Please send us your thoughts to any of the addresses below or jot them down and share with us at the next event.

Looking forward to seeing you at
the Birthday Lunch!

Got comments about the newsletter?

Email Berenika at berenikas@gmail.com