JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Dear Fellow Alumni,

We can’t believe how quickly we have reached the start of 2017 and are excited to share with you the updates for the O&C Society UAE.

It has been an unbelievable 6 months since the last newsletter. There has been a tremendous effort from alumni volunteers who have tirelessly supported the Society across a range of initiatives, from events and membership activities to schools outreach and defining the legal structure going forward. A huge thank you to each and every one of you who has contributed behind the scenes and also to all alumni who have supported by attending events and providing input to Committee Members. It is hugely appreciated and the Society we see today is a testament to your efforts.

We thought we’d start the newsletter with some statistics :) 
- Over 650 active members across the UAE
- Around 200 mock interviews held by alumni as part of schools outreach activity
- Over 500 emails sent from the O&C UAE mailbox in the last quarter
- 90 new members have joined the Society since September 2016
- 460 Linked in members to date

We’ve got the best ever quarter’s worth of events coming up in Q1 2017, but first, here’s a quick re-cap of last year’s events…
With best wishes for 2017,
Mark Beer

Events Roundup

We have held a number of varied events across both Abu Dhabi and Dubai since the new year, involving both alumni from Oxford & Cambridge and also other organisations. A huge thank you goes out to all those who organised, set up and turned up at the events. They would not have happened without you!

1. Antarctic Presentation by Dr. Malek Al Chalabi

A fascinating insight into Dr. Malek Al Chalabi expedition to the Antarctic. The evening provided much entertainment and interest from over 50 members who came to listen to an extremely important topic and one that we don’t hear about too often.

Thanks also to the Capital Club for hosting the event.

oxfordandcambridgesocietyuae@gmail.com
2. An evening in conversation with Lord Hope

The Society held an evening in conversation with Lord Hope in Abu Dhabi on 27 September. Lord Hope talked about his judicial career prior to being appointed as Chief Justice of the ADGM Courts, covering his time in the House of Lords, on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and his central role establishing the UK Supreme Court. Lord Hope shared fascinating anecdotes as diverse as a Hong Kong fraud trial, a Caribbean death penalty appeal, ‘right to life’ claims by families of British soldiers killed in Iraq and Naomi Campbell’s ‘right to privacy’ case against the Daily Mirror for photographing her leaving a rehab clinic.

There followed a lively Q&A session, including questions posed by two of Lord Hope’s fellow ADGM judges, William Stone SBS QC and Sir Peter Blanchard KNZM, who attended in the audience together with a good number of members of the UAE Oxford & Cambridge Society and some non-members too. The Society is grateful to the ADGM for kindly hosting and sponsoring the event, and particularly to Linda Fitz-Alan and Shamma Al Mheiri, and to Chris Macbeth and Ghislaine Lloyd for helping to organise it.

3. Meet and greet with Amanda Pullinger

On a balmy October evening, Amanda Pullinger came to visit Dubai and spent the evening with alumni at the Ritz Carlton in DIFC. Amanda sits on Oxford’s Alumni Board, as well as being CEO of 100 Women in Hedge Funds and Chairperson of the HALO Trust. It was a pleasant evening of discussion, towards the end of which Amanda spoke to the Society about the work of the Alumni Board, her work in New York and the importance of having active alumni associations (such as ours).

4. Christie’s private tour

Once again, Christie’s kindly provided a private, guided tour of the exhibition of our upcoming sales of Modern & Contemporary Middle Eastern Art and Important Watches. Over 35 alumni attended the event, which was well received by all. We had great feedback from alumni on both the knowledge and passion shown about their Modern and Contemporary Turkish, Iranian and Arabic Art. Thank you to the team at Christie’s and to all alumni who supported the event.
5. Abu Dhabi social event

Our Abu Dhabi contingent got together at the newly-opened Four Seasons Hotel in Abu Dhabi Global Market Square to bid a fond farewell to the society's deputy chairman, Joe Booth, who has relocated back to the UK. Joe has been instrumental in galvanising interest and support among the group's alumni based in the capital, and has organized many of our events. Our best wishes go with Joe and his family, and we look forward to welcoming him back during one of his (hopefully many) UAE visits.

6. Cranleigh Joint event

The UAE O&C Society was invited to partner once again with Cranleigh Abu Dhabi for one of their 'Open Minds' events. The society's Tim Carlton Jones moderated a talk by former British Ambassador to Lebanon and Honorary Fellow of Oxford, Tom Fletcher who was promoting his book *Naked Diplomacy: Power and Statecraft in the Digital Age*. Tom fielded some tough questions from some of Cranleigh's brightest students - next year will mark the school's first intake of sixth form students, many of whom will no doubt be applying for Oxbridge in the future.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of events, or have an idea for a new event, please contact Sarah Lawrence (sairlawrence@hotmail.com) or Tim Carlton-Jones (t.carltonjones@cantab.net).
2017 Events Calendar

We have an amazing array of events coming up for you - ranging from visiting speakers to the old

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th January</td>
<td>Oxford Venture Company talk, drinks and Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Ritz Carlton, DIFC, Dubai</td>
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<td>2nd February</td>
<td>Informal drinks and catch up</td>
<td>Lounge bar 'Sun &amp;'. Palm Jumeirah, Dubai</td>
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<tr>
<td>February TBC</td>
<td>Informal drinks and catch up</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>First ever Dubai Creek Boat Race</td>
<td>The Creek, Dubai</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>O&amp;C Annual Ball</td>
<td>Burj Al Arab, Dubai</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>O&amp;C Boat race dinner</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late April</td>
<td>Visiting Professor Anthony Watts “Think Science”</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi and Dubai</td>
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Please watch out for further communications about the above events and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during this first quarter!

A message from the Ball Committee...

We are excited to announce that the venue for this year’s Ball is the spectacular new Terrace of the 7 Star Burj Al Arab hotel.

This spectacular evening will be a fully inclusive affair, with unlimited food and wide selection or premier drinks (and a fun selection of fabulous cocktails) for the entire evening (cash bar from 12am onwards). DJ and dancing under the stars until late into the night!

On an exceptional basis, the Burj Al Arab has agree to allow us to continue the competitive theme of the first ever UAE O&C boat race so a fun surprise awaits everyone on the night!

In keeping with the nautical style of The Terrace, a Dress Code of nautical-style flowing white and blue is suggested.

It is expected that the trophies from the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race on the Dubai Creek, which is being held earlier in the day, will be presented during the Ball.

This will be a spectacular event and we would really appreciate your show of support by attending and helping us celebrate one of the finest events in the O&C social calendar.

To register for the event please sign up via: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may-ball-of-the-oxford-and-cambridge-society-tickets-28680856213](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may-ball-of-the-oxford-and-cambridge-society-tickets-28680856213)
Schools Outreach (Gill Shepherd)

A big thank you to all our Schools volunteer alumni. 2016 has been our biggest and busiest admissions cycle yet helping 113 applicants from 15 schools across the UAE (including 7 new schools we’ve not helped before) by mentoring, reviewing personal statements and conducting over 200 general and specialist mock interviews. Following their actual interviews in the UK in early December, the candidates are eagerly awaiting the outcome of their applications, due to be released in January, so watch this space...!

In the meantime, our alumni volunteers will continue working with schools to inspire students to go above and beyond the curriculum and, of course, to apply to Oxford or Cambridge in the future.

If you would like to know how you can help with our schools programme, please contact Gill Shepherd on gills.habits@gmail.com

Communications (Melissa Whitfield)

The Communications team has been working closely with Oxford and Cambridge Alumni teams to refresh the O&C UAE alumni websites. These can be viewed at: https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/oxford-cambridge-society-uae and https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/get-involved/find-a-group/oxford-and-cambridge-society-uae. These have listings of the upcoming events and summaries of recent events, as well as all the contact information needed for joining the Society. Please share the links with anyone who you think might want to join or with alumni who are visiting the UAE.

We continue to use our LinkedIn group to provide updates on the latest events and other Society information, which can be found at: https://www.linkedin.com/

If you would like to get involved in helping to communicate with members across a range of channels, please do get in touch with melissadiosi@gmail.com.

Membership (Ali Draycott)

Our membership continues to evolve as alumni arrive into and leave the UAE. Uptake of our online membership process has been extremely positive with over 650 members across the UAE having signed up and active. We had 90 new members since September alone!

Here are a few reminders about how to help us communicate with you better:

1. **Keep your details up to date:** If you want to receive communications from the society about events and news, please complete the online membership form [Membership Form](#).

2. **Share the online membership form with others:** If you know fellow alumni who want to join the society – please share the link [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oandcuae](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oandcuae).

3. **Let us know if you have left the UAE:** Please send us an email oxfordandcambridgesocietyuae@gmail.com and we will delete your details from all lists.

Committee Updates:

- **Volunteers needed!**
  
If you would like to become involved with Communications and Membership, please email us on oxfordandcambridgesocietyuae@gmail.com
Oxbridge/Ivy Book Club (Dhooleka Raj)

Are you a bibliophile? Do you want to have a discussion around books, but not be confined to finishing one book? Have you read something recently and want to discuss it? Do you want to discover good reads rapidly? This is the book club for you. Please register your expression of interest for attending one session during the year, and to be included on The Oxbridge Ivy Book club email announcements.

Our first meeting is about JOURNEYS, please bring a book to share on the topic. It can be fiction, non-fiction, biography, author-biography, poetry - any book that you would like to share and discuss on the evening’s theme topic. Future topics are determined by your responses on the registration form.

DATE: Our first meeting will be in February (date & time TBD via bookgroup poll).

Address: The LIBRARY (Khazzan Park, Jumeriah)

Google Map Link: https://goo.gl/maps/D5cD8Q3cDe62
Look for watertower ACROSS from City Walk.

Photographers needed!
If you do take any good photographs at our events, please do send them through to oxfordandcambridgesocietyuae@gmail.com and we will try to include them in the newsletter.