

Editorial Team: Genevieve Onyiuke - President, Dele Martins - Vice-President, Funke Adeyemi .
Hon. Secretary



THE OXFORD
AND
CAMBRIDGE
CLUB OF NIGERIA



Oxbridge Nigeria

ISSUE 2

Words from the President



As the second edition of our trail blazing Newsletter emerges, I feel compelled to say that it has been quite an extraordinary first year in office as President of the Oxford and Cambridge Club of Nigeria. The teamwork has been superb and I thank God for my industrious Executive Committee members. They have been literally, the wind beneath my wings. So supportive and so success-driven. Take a bow, people!

2007 New Year's Party - Sunday 18th February 2007

You may recall the announcement in our maiden-issue Newsletter, that our Chief Hope Harriman (hereinafter referred to simply as %Uncle H+), started the year rolling by inviting members and their significant partners to a New Year's Party at his residence in Lekki, Lagos on Sunday 18th February 2007. The turn-out was most impressive as was the sumptuous spread that Uncle H and his

amiable spouse, Mrs. Roli Harriman put on for us.

They were at their %hosting best+. Even our children were not left out of the fun. Unfortunately, Sir Richard and Lady Diana Gozney couldn't make it at the last minute due to a previous engagement in Abuja. They sent their apologies and were sorely missed.

Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race - Saturday 7th April 2007

For the very first time in the history of the Club, we watched the world famous Boat Race Live on the big screen at the Lagos Motor Boat Club (LMBC) on Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, courtesy of Virgin Nigeria Airways and its wonderfully supportive MD/CEO, Mr. Conrad Clifford, M.A. Cantab. Drinks and finger food were also provided. Special mention must be made here of Mr. Ike Osakwe, M.A. Oxon, who facilitated the viewing of the Boat Race from his residence in London to us here in Lagos, by purchasing, out of pocket, a special electronic gadget which enabled the hook-up to be beamed successfully to us at the LMBC. I must not forget to mention Messrs Yinka Akinkugbe and Tseyin Williams who selflessly gave their time and IT know-how to ensure the

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day was a success. It was a convivial afternoon with members in either light or dark blue attire depicting their respective University colours. I wore a mixture of both light blue and dark blue outfit, to be seen to be even-handed. But I must confess that on my alma mater, Cambridge University winning the Boat Race with a female cox at the helm of affairs, I unashamedly descended into the arena and joined in the fray . the bragging rights! Do forgive me for being all too human.

2007 Annual Spring Lecture – Friday 27th April 2007

Next came the big event that had kept me on my toes until it was all over. No, I am NOT referring to our General Elections of April 14th and 21st, but to our prestigious Oxbridge Spring Lecture of April 27, 2007. Our distinguished Guest Lecturer, the Rt. Hon. Baroness Valerie Amos, P.C. Leader, House of Lords, U.K. Cabinet Minister and former Minister for Africa, on seeing the quality audience remarked to me, *you pulled it off, didn't you* and turning to our honoured guests informed them that she was in Lagos, Nigeria due to *the insistence and persistence of one woman – your President!* We had badgered her London office and PA with emails, phone calls, letters etc. until we got her to come. In addition, Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Nigeria Airways flew her in and out of Nigeria free of charge. A round of applause, please!

The Lady herself came, she spoke and she blew us away with her cerebral erudition, articulation and elegance. It was an agreeable, intellectually stimulating afternoon, and the Questions and Answers format brought out the best in our engaging Lecturer. The theme of the lecture was *A Better Future in Africa* but the high point of the discourse was when the Baroness used the medium of the Oxbridge Spring Lecture to address the Nigeria government and people on our *lawed* Presidential elections. She noted that Nigeria's overseas friends had hoped that the 2007 General Elections would be a marked improvement on the previous ones, namely the 1999 and 2003 elections. Instead, the 2007 elections left a lot to be desired, in their view, a sad development and a huge disappointment all around. A press release followed shortly afterwards in the dailies in which both the U.K. and the U.S. governments formally made their views known.

One of our Past Presidents, Ambassador Oladapo Fafowora, who was the Chairman of the occasion, wrote a beautiful piece titled *Baroness Valerie Amos in Nigeria* which was published in his Thursday Column of The Nation newspaper on Thursday 3rd May 2007. It is a must read. It certainly captured the essence of the Lecture as well as paying a handsome compliment on yours truly!

HRM Omo NOba Erediauwa M.A. Cantab, CFR, Oba of Benin, our Grand Patron, sent his son, Ambassador Eheneden Erediauwa to represent him with a letter and a souvenir gift item for the Baroness from the Oba himself. Lady Amos was clearly delighted with this and all other gifts she received.

The 2007 MAY BALL – Friday 8th June 2007

And finally, the event that brought our social calendar to a close, the 2007 MAY BALL - a black tie/full national dress code affair. It held at the Metropolitan Club, that quintessential Gentlemen's Club in Victoria Island, Lagos. From all accounts, it was an outstanding success. The tickets at N10,000.00 per person were sold out. The band Simply Shuga lived up to their name. They were Sweet!

It would be self-serving of me under the circumstances, if I went on about it, so I shall respectfully reproduce some of the congratulatory text messages and letters received from guests and members immediately after the MAY BALL.. Here goes:

Congratulations. Well done. You worked very hard and achieved a full house, Best Wishes - Chief Philip Asiodu (Past President)

Congrats on a successful Oxbridge MAY BALL. Loved the band, loved the youthful crowd, the food, the camaraderie, the short speeches. Well-done 1st female President. Cheers - Dr. Angela Giwa-Osagie

Thanks for the IV (invitation!) I thoroughly enjoyed the MAY BALL.. Put me down for a table next year! Chibuzor Ifeanyi, MD, Abbey Court Ltd

And now, for the Mother of all compliments!

My dear Genevieve,
You organized a delightful evening on Friday for the MAY BALL. Excellent company, the music was good. The food just right. And the wine flowed. And Speeches were minimalized,

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thanks to the model you set. For what more could we have asked? Thank you so much for including me on a memorable evening; All good wishes+

- Sir Richard Gozney. KCMG, The British High Commissioner to Nigeria.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I rest my Newsletter.

See you after the summer holidays and do keep the subscription fee of N5,000.00 per annum rolling in. Some of you have been so good, paying in arrears as well. Thank you ALL very much for giving me the opportunity to serve.

So Long.

Genevieve

Alumni News

CAMBRIDGE Alumni Weekend 21 - 23 September 2007

On the last full weekend of each September, alumni and their guests are invited back to Cambridge for a special programme of lectures and tours highlighting the current teaching and research of the University. This is the main weekend for College reunions too, so the city has a very special atmosphere and there are many social events to complement the academic ones. The main lecture programme takes place on **Saturday**, with tours and other events on **Friday** and **Sunday**.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the Alumni Office on 01223 332288 or email alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk.

Booking is now open for the 17th annual Alumni Weekend and the **booking form** and **full programme** are available online at the Cambridge Alumni website indicated above. Please **contact** the Alumni Office to receive a postal copy. Alumni may take advantage of a special rate at **The Møller Centre** within the grounds of Churchill College from 21st-23rd September.

From the Cambridge Alumni website

And don't forget...

Meeting Minds: Oxford Alumni Weekend

From **Friday 14 - Sunday 16 September, 2007**, Alumni and their guests are invited back on this weekend for Oxford's first collegiate university reunion. The programme includes a degree ceremony at which you can collect your MA, College events for old members; academic panels and lectures; concerts, theatre and sporting events; and special visits to libraries, laboratories, museums and gardens. We are expecting that many hundreds of Oxford's alumni will return to their colleges and University, to revisit their favourite Oxford places, and to meet again their favourite Oxford people. But during the weekend they will also have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Oxford of the twenty-first century, and to reconnect themselves with the distinguished international community that is Oxford.

The event website, www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk is now live with full details of the confirmed programme and online bookings. Booking opens online and by post in April and closes 31 July. To order a copy of the weekend brochure now, please send an email to alumniweekend@ousoc.ox.ac.uk.

From Oxford Alumni website

Six Degrees of 'Intergration'

Six degrees of separation is the theory that anyone on the planet can be connected to any other person on the planet through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five or six intermediaries. The theory was first proposed in 1929 by the Hungarian writer Frigyes Karinthy in a short story called "Chains."

There has been copious research done on this theory with some interesting and startling results, the thrust of which is that between person A and person B, there is an average of 6 people separating person A and person B along the spectrum of their respective people networks.

The possibility this theory throws up for enlarging our alumni membership base is immense. Put plainly, for every one of us **alumni** who knows someone, it is likely that that someone knows another person (and so on) who knows another Oxbridge alumni! Hence the slight inversion to the theory as indicated in the heading above.

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We want an integrated membership. We want more coverage across all age groups and walks of life. This is a clarion call. We should all actively seek out other alumni within our social networks . through extended family, work, clubs and extra-curricular activities. For every alumni who knows another alumni who is yet to formally declare themselves to the Club, please be sure to have that alumni forward their details (or in the spirit of neighbourliness, forward them yourself) to the Hon Secretary at 9th Floor, Etiebets Place, Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way, Ikeja, Lagos and to Oxbridge_ng@yahoo.co.uk.

All that is required is your full name, year of attendance at either place, college and full contact details including physical/postal address, telephone numbers and e-mail address. All new members are also required to pay the annual subscription of N5,000.00 per annum by cheque made out to the **Oxford and Cambridge Club of Nigeria** and sent to the Hon Secretary at the address given above.

Thanks very much for your co-operation and best wishes for the rest of the year.

Funke Adeyemi

Personality Profile – Sir Richard H.T Gozney KCMG, The British High Commissioner to Nigeria

Sir Richard Hugh Turton Gozney KCMG, born **21 July 1951**, is a **British** career **diplomat**. The son of Thomas Leonard Gozney and his wife Elizabeth Margaret Lilian Gardiner, Gozney was educated at **Magdalen College School, Oxford**, and **St Edmund Hall, Oxford**. He took a **BA (Hons) degree in Geology** in 1973. In 1970, between school and the University, he briefly taught at a school in **Kenya**. Below are some of the highlights of his career:

- 1973 - 1974: **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** desk officer for **Somalia** and **Ethiopia**
- 1974 - 1978: British Embassy **Jakarta**, Third and later Second Secretary
- 1978 - 1981: British Embassy **Buenos Aires**, Third and later First Secretary
- 1981 - 1984: FCO, Head of Section for **NATO** nuclear arms control
- 1984 - 1988: **Madrid**, Head of Chancery and Political Section
- 1989 - 1990: FCO, Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary

- 1990 - 1993: FCO, Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary
- 1993 - 1996: British **High Commissioner to Swaziland**
- 1996 - 1997: FCO, Head of Security Policy Department
- 1998 - 2000: Cabinet Office, Chief of the Assessments Staff
- 2000 - 2004: British **Ambassador to Indonesia**
- 2004 - 2007: British **High Commissioner to Nigeria**

He distinguished himself even further with the following accolades:

1993: Companion of the **Order of St Michael and St George**

2006: Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George

Sir Richard has been appointed Governor and Commander in Chief of Bermuda, in succession to Sir John Vereker KCB. Sir John Vereker will leave Bermuda in the first half of October, and Sir Richard will take up his appointment later in the year. Sir Richard is married to Lady Diana and has 2 sons.

Sir Richard has been extremely supportive of the Club and its activities over the past year, for which we owe him a debt of gratitude. We wish Sir Richard the very best in his new appointment and trust he will remember us with fond wishes.

CONGRATULATIONS!

It was with great pleasure that the Executive Committee received the news of the appointment of yet another of our alumni as a Minister of the Federal Cabinet . **Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke**, the Honourable Minister of Transport under the new administration.

Prior to her appointment, the Honourable Minister was at Shell Petroleum Development Company, where she made history in 2006 when the oil giant appointed her its first female Executive Director in 70 years of Shell operations in Nigeria. The Honourable Minister is an alumnus of Cambridge University where she obtained her MBA at the Judge Business School.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to our Honourable alumnus and look forward to meeting with her at upcoming Club activities.