

**The University of Oxford**  
**Classics Outreach Programme**

*From the Outreach Officer, Cressida Ryan*



# Newsletter October 2009

## Welcome from the new Outreach Officer

I started work here in mid-August, just in time to watch the A-Level results come out. Many people will already have come across me, as a school-teacher (2002-5) or a graduate student. I'm in the process of finishing a PhD on the eighteenth-century reception of the *Oedipus at Colonus* at the University of Nottingham, having first done my BA and MPhil at the University of Cambridge. So I am keen to continue the work that Lizzie Sandis was doing with drama in particular.

There was a gap of four months between Lizzie leaving and my starting. Please bear with me while we get organised. I'm open to suggestions for ways to expand, develop, improve and generally publicise the work we do. I have already contacted many people by email, but if you haven't heard from me, I would be glad to know what different schools and individuals are up to, and how we can work with you. My contact details are at the bottom of each page.

Please visit the website for updates and news: [www.classics.ox.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/outreach). It is under development, so let me know of any news, updates or problems.

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# **'War and Memory: Ancient and Modern Worlds compared'**

**A free conference for Schools and Colleges**

**Saturday 7 November 2009**



**Suitable for students in Years 11-13  
studying any of the following subjects:**

**Modern History, Ancient History,  
Archaeology, English Literature,  
Classical Civilisation, Latin, Greek.**

**The conference will take place at The  
Ioannou Centre for Classical and  
Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles',  
Oxford, with distinguished speakers  
from the Commonwealth War Graves  
Commission and the Universities of  
Oxford, Liverpool, Manchester, and  
Warwick, alongside independent  
speakers.**

To book, please contact Cressida Ryan asap. Booking forms are available on the website.

Create your own study day! Specific GCSE and A-Level revision days will be offered in the Spring. If you would like a study day for your school, for any age group, contact Cressida Ryan. We can provide lectures, theatre workshops, pot or coins sessions (with the Ashmolean Museum), tours of Oxford, and a range of other activities, including visits to schools. Let us know what you would like, and we'll do our best to arrange it.

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# KS4 Latin INSET day for non-specialist / new teachers

Wednesday 18th November 2009

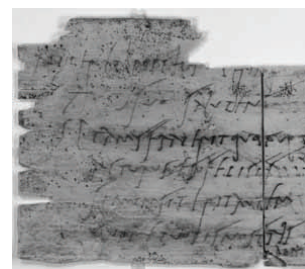
At the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles', Oxford

The speakers are Will Griffiths (CSCP), Alan Clague (WJEC), Rowlie Darby (Patcham High) and Cressida Ryan (Oxford Outreach)

The Hellenic Bookservice will also be running a stall

The event is free, but lunch at Christ Church is offered at £5 per person.

Come and meet other teachers in similar situations, hear about course developments, share best practice, and explore ways of teaching each bit of the syllabus: language, literature and controlled assessment.



For more information, or to book, contact Cressida Ryan.

If you have ideas for INSET that you would like to see happen, please contact Cressida Ryan and let her know. Future plans include collaborating with JACT, and INSET sessions on Ancient History GCSE .

## CLASSICS ONLINE GATEWAY

Search for Outreach Services

WHAT IS THE CLASSICS ONLINE GATEWAY (COG)?

- ~ A search facility which enables members of the public to pinpoint the Outreach services available in their area and make contact with providers.
- ~ An essential point of reference for Classics Outreach practitioners and co-ordinators.
- ~ An important tool for the analysis of Outreach coverage across the U.K., which will be used to inform the proceedings of the JACT 'Classics for All' fundraising drive and the HEA Classics Subject Centre's 'Mapping Project'. (Click on 'About this website' at the bottom of the page for more details). In cases where searches return NO results (or indicate a multitude of overlapping projects within the same geographical area) the JACT Classics for All fundraising drive will be investigating possible solutions in order to streamline Classics Outreach provision more efficiently and fund the development of new projects (or the extension of existing projects) to address major gaps in outreach provision.

The Classics Online Gateway (COG) has been created by Elizabeth Sandis (University of Oxford) and Stephen Flett (University of Liverpool) on behalf of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers (JACT).

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Throughout the year The Onassis Programme's early years show, Pick 'n' Myths, for ages 6 and under is touring to theatres throughout the UK. It's a music and storytelling show, perfect for Nursery, Reception and Year One children, with singing, puppets, silly hats and friendly monsters... Meet the boy who learned to fly, the monster trapped in a maze, and the man who can turn anything to gold.... Some of the best stories ever told ... you can find out more (and see photos and reviews) at [www.picknmyths.co.uk](http://www.picknmyths.co.uk). It is possible for primary and prep schools to book a private performance of Pick 'n' Myths - there is more information on the website.

## CREATE YOUR OWN EVENT!

We are keen to develop workshops and other events for primary and prep school students. An hour or a day, at school or in Oxford. There are endless possibilities.

These could be language based, or more practical sessions (theatre, cookery, debating, art, coins...).

Contact Cressida Ryan for more information, or to discuss planning a day for your school.

## Minimus updates...

The Primary Latin Project has recently celebrated the sale of the 100,000th copy of *Minimus*. As Barbara Bell writes in their latest newsletter 'As far as the Mouse is concerned, 2009 has certainly been an *annus mirabilis*'. A number of training days are running, which may be of interest. These are:

Saturday 7 November 2009	London—James Allen's Girls' School, Dulwich
Saturday 30 January 2010	Bristol—Clifton High School
Saturday 6 March 2010	Manchester—Withington Girls' School
Saturday 12 June 2010	London—James Allen's Girls' School, Dulwich

For more information, see their website: [www.minimus.com](http://www.minimus.com)

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# The Ashmolean

## ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM TO REOPEN ON 7 NOVEMBER 2009 FOLLOWING £61 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT

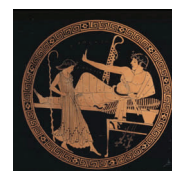
One of the world's leading museums, the Ashmolean in Oxford, will reopen on **Saturday 7 November 2009** following a major £61 million redevelopment. The project has been funded with a £15 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Additional major support has been received from the Linbury Trust, along with numerous trusts, foundations and individuals.

The new building, designed by award-winning Rick Mather Architects, will provide the Ashmolean with 100% more display space. Located to the north of Charles Cockerell's original Museum built in 1845, it comprises 39 new galleries, including four temporary exhibition galleries, a new education centre, state-of-the-art conservation studios, and Oxford's first rooftop restaurant.

Weekend Opening: 7 November 10am–10pm, 8 November 10am–5pm

Admission to the Museum is free.

THE  
BRITISH  
MUSEUM  
AS/A2 Study Days



### **Mycenaean Greece: Friday 26 February 2010: 10.45–16.00**

A lecture-based study day covering four key aspects of the archaeology of the Mycenaean world. Also of interest to students reading Homer.

**Cost:** students £5; teachers accompanying groups free (Classical Civilisation: maximum of 25 students per school for immediate booking, with additional places on reserve list)

**Booking:** contact the Ticket Desk on 020 7323 8181  
or [tickets@britishmuseum.org](mailto:tickets@britishmuseum.org)

A full programme can be found on the website: [www.britishmuseum.org/schools](http://www.britishmuseum.org/schools)

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## Greek theatre in Scotland!

THEATRE ODYSSEY is a community-run arts organisation dedicated to promoting the world of Greece and Rome through all the arts. We mainly produce Greek and Roman plays, but also work on developing new writing, music, visual arts, storytelling, and any other form of visual or performance art our members want to get involved in! Everything we do, though, has some Classical element, grounded in the Greek and Roman worlds.

Theatre Odyssey was founded in 2000, when John J. Taylor's adaptation of Homer's 'Odyssey' was first produced. Since then, productions of *Lysistrata*, *Medea*, *Agamemnon*, *Antigone*, *The Frogs*, various storytelling events in schools and public places, musical concerts and visual arts exhibitions have taken up our time!

If you would like to be involved in Theatre Odyssey, email us at [join@theatreodyssey.com](mailto:join@theatreodyssey.com).



More information is available at: [www.theatreodyssey.com](http://www.theatreodyssey.com)

## The Onassis Programme

Coming up from the Onassis Programme this year, we have theatre with a classical bent for all ages. The Onassis Programme commissions, nurtures and produces modern theatre inspired by Classical Drama throughout the UK so do check their website [www.onassis.ox.ac.uk](http://www.onassis.ox.ac.uk) regularly and join their mailing list by emailing [onassis@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:onassis@classics.ox.ac.uk).

In Spring 2010 they will be working with award winning Northern Broadsides on a brand new translation of *Medea* by poet Tom Paulin. After premiering at the Oxford Playhouse, it will be touring to twelve cities throughout the UK, so check the Onassis website for more details.

Looking forward to Autumn 2011 The Onassis Programme will be producing the premiere of *Blind Eye Crying*, Glyn Maxwell's new play based on Euripides *Trojan Women* and *Hecabe*; again this will tour throughout the UK so keep in touch for more information.

There are also regular readings, concerts, lecture recitals and events in Oxford so do keep in touch for more information.

With any questions you can email the Programme's producer: [onassis@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:onassis@classics.ox.ac.uk). We hope to see you and your students at one of the Programme's events.



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## From Caroline Lawrence:

Are you a budding young writer? Could you create the next Flavia Gemina or Falco?

Think you can do just as well as Lindsey Davis, Steven Saylor or me?

The competition was inspired by one of my visits to Jeremy's previous school a few years ago. I shared my writing tips and told the story of how a little girl in Year 3 thought my sponge-stick (Roman toilet paper) was 'an award for my books'. I joked that a golden sponge-stick

would be a good award for the best Roman mystery... and this inspired Jeremy to start a competition. The prize? A prestigious golden sponge-stick! Euge!

### THE STORY ITSELF

1 Your story should be a Roman story and based in Roman times. It can be set in any part of the Roman world. It can be either a Roman short story or a Roman mystery/ detective story/thriller.

2 Your story should be an individual entry and written entirely by you. Please would a parent or guardian/carer sign your entry at the end or on the back to verify this.

3 Your story should not exceed 1500 words in length. Handwritten and typed entries are both welcome but please ensure that a handwritten entry is legible. Your entry should include your full name, school or college and date of birth.

4 Knowledge of Latin is certainly not essential but you should display some historical research and/or knowledge of Roman daily life in your story. If you do study Latin then it would be excellent to use some in your story or story dialogue.

5 Your story should have a clear, logical plot, a set of characters, possibly including a hero/heroine and ideally a series of twists and a striking ending!

For the Competition Rules and Details, see Caroline Lawrence's blog:

<http://flavias.blogspot.com/2009/08/golden-sponge-stick-comp-09.html>

*The Closing Date is Friday 11th December*

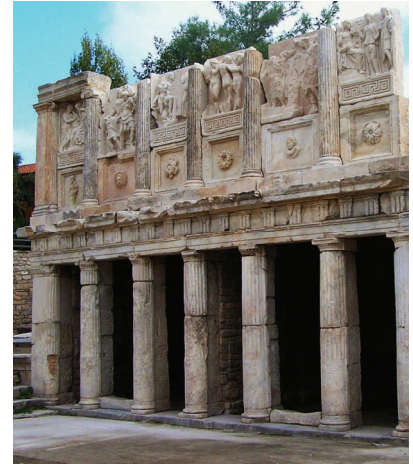
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# Research in the faculty



The Sebasteion or Temple of the Emperors at Aphrodisias. Restored part of South Building.



The three-storey facade frames lifesize reliefs featuring scenes of Greek heroic mythology and Roman imperial conquest. The building is currently the object of a major anastylosis project -- anastylosis means precise reconstruction with every piece in its original ancient position -- and the reliefs were recently displayed in a new wing of the Aphrodisias Museum, under the direction of R.R.R. Smith, Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art in the Classics Faculty.



3. Claudius conquering Britannia, from the Sebasteion at Aphrodisias.

The grandiose Sebasteion complex was dedicated to Aphrodite, the local goddess, and to the Julio-Claudian emperors, and its construction stretched over two generations, from c. AD 20 to 60, from the reign of Tiberius to that of Nero. It was paid for by two aristocratic families of Aphrodisian benefactors, and consisted of a Corinthian temple, a paved processional avenue (90 x 14 m) flanked by two portico-like buildings, each three-storeyed (12 m high). The reconstructed facade is of part of one the long flanking buildings. The reliefs are framed by engaged columns and formed long picture walls in marble. More than seventy near-complete relief panels survive (they are being studied for publication by Prof. Smith).

The complex is a remarkable example of the lengths eastern provincial cities went to venerate and celebrate the power of the Roman emperors in the west. For Aphrodisias, Claudius was not the bumbling fool we read about in Roman authors but a towering superman, a conquering hero like Achilles, whose proper job it was to beat up wild and woolly places like Britannia on the furthest edges of empire.