

Photographic Portraits in Hall: 2025

In order to celebrate the life and achievements of recent generations of Pembroke students, the Governing Body determined in 2017 to hang, each year, a different selection of photographic portraits in our Hall. The six alumni have been chosen from a long list held by the Art Committee in consultation with all Fellows, MCR, JCR and Alumni.

These images offer our current students - we hope - an inspiring picture of the many walks of life in which Pembroke students have successfully found their place in the wider world.

WEST WALL



Kenny Sperry (née Dada) (m.2013, Modern Languages)

Kenny is a Senior Account Director at VCCP, an international integrated advertising agency. She was named on the 2022 IPA (Institute of Practitioners in Advertising) iList as one of 30 outstanding individuals who have made an impact in furthering the inclusivity and diversity of the advertising industry, and she was also recognised as a BRiM (Black Representation in Marketing) Changemaker. A year later, she was awarded a WACL (Women in Advertising Communications Leadership) Talent Award, receiving the annual Patricia Mann Award for championing change and challenging the status quo to support other women and make a positive impact on the marketing and advertising industry.

In her advertising career to date, she has made adverts for Virgin Media O2, Bodyform and Ford, among others, and she has previously worked for AMV BBDO, WPP and HEC Paris. She is Deputy Chair of the Board of Watford Palace Theatre, where her main focus is developing community and youth work, and she is also a Trustee at Holy Trinity Clapham.

As a student, Kenny volunteered with Schools Plus and Teach First, and was also JCR Access Officer and a Student Ambassador for Pembroke. She has now been a member of Pembroke's Alumni Advisory Board for four years, and played a key role in establishing the Pembroke10 initiative for young alumni.

Photograph credit: Keith Barnes



Michael Heseltine (m.1951, PPE)

Lord Heseltine is one of the leading British political figures of the late 20th century. He is founder and Chairman of the Haymarket Group, and served as a Member of Parliament for Britain for nearly four decades. He was a Cabinet Minister in various departments between 1979 and 1986 when he resigned over the Westland Affair. He joined John Major's government in 1990, before being appointed Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State from 1995 – 1997.

While Secretary of State for the Environment in the early 1980s, Lord Heseltine created the Development Corporation that began the redevelopment of East London now associated with Canary Wharf, City Airport, Excel and the O2. At the same time he earned the unofficial title of 'Minister for Merseyside' in recognition of his bold reform in Liverpool, driving the renaissance of the city. His dedication to the regeneration of the area was recognised in his receipt of the Freedom of Liverpool in 2021.

After leaving the Commons in 2001 he became a life peer. He was brought back by David Cameron to work in a number of roles helping the government including as a Commissioner on the National Infrastructure Commission and an advisor to Greg Clark, the Secretary of State for Community and Local Growth. His strong advocacy of a substantial empowerment of fewer local authorities led by elected Mayors in his report 'No Stone Unturned in the pursuit of Growth' began a serious rebalancing of London and the rest of England.

Lord Heseltine has published other reports, a political autobiography and, amongst others, a book about the creation of Thenford Gardens, co-written with Lady Heseltine. He is an enthusiastic gardener and a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Photograph credit: John Cairns

EAST WALL



Kate Surala (m.2016, MSc in Law and Finance)

At the age of 12, Kate went to court to watch her mother represent children as a social worker. Inspired by what she saw, Kate went on to receive an LLB in European Law from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and an MSc in Law and Finance from Pembroke College. Originally from the Czech Republic, Kate enjoys travelling around the world and has lived in five different countries across Europe and Asia, as well as in Canberra, Australia. Today, Kate is working as Head of Investment Compliance Advisory at M&G, UK. Before, she spent three years at a boutique equity research firm in London helping the business to double its revenue and staff by leading the legal and compliance team. As recognition of her achievements, Kate received the Management Today's 35 Women Under 35 award in 2019, was shortlisted for the Women in Finance 2020 Awards, and the Women in Financial Advice Awards 2020. Kate loves salsa dancing, yoga, and baking.

Photograph credit: John Cairns



Hugh Davies OBE KC (m.1986, Law)

Hugh is a barrister who has achieved national recognition in the areas of criminal law, the regulation of the police, organisational safeguarding and modern slavery. He was appointed King's Counsel in 2013. In 2023 he prosecuted Senator Ekweremadu in the first UK case of organ trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Multiple public inquiries include that into the death of Alexander Litvinenko.

He has led multiple independent investigations/reviews into institutional sexual abuse and/or safeguarding and governance failures. These have resulted in changes to the law as to obtaining civil prevention orders to address the risk of sexual harm (an approach since extended to domestic violence; modern slavery; and FGM); creating and mandating 'low level concerns' policies in all schools; and producing national guidance to charities as to corporate governance.

In a voluntary capacity, he advised the UK policing agency the Child Exploitation and Protection Centre (and was awarded an OBE for this role in 2011); was a member of the UK Government's multi-agency domestic safeguarding committee; is a member of the Aid Worker Steering Committee developing an international system of registration for aid workers; advises the international Aid Worker Misconduct Scheme; and is an advisor to INTERPOL in relation to its work in the international aid sector.

Photograph credit: Theo Tennant



Tim Richardson (m.1986, English)

An independent historian and critic of landscape and art, Tim is the author of more than 25 books including *The Arcadian Friends*, *Sissinghurst* and most recently *The English Landscape Garden (2024)*.

He has contributed to numerous newspapers and magazines including the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Financial Times*, *The Literary Review* and the *Washington Post*. He was gardens editor and theatre critic at *Country Life*, landscape editor at *Wallpaper**, and is currently art critic at *The Idler* magazine.

In 2012 he founded The Chelsea Fringe, an 'alternative' festival to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show which aimed to push the boundaries of traditional horticulture. The Fringe evolved and grew in popularity over twelve years, with more than 2,200 events around the world.

Tim's renown and expertise in his field has seen him serve as a member of the National Trust's gardens advisory panel and a trustee of the Gardens Trust (formerly Garden History Society). He designed and wrote Oxford University's course on English landscape garden history, delivered by the Department for Continuing Education.

While at Oxford in the 1980s, Tim wrote and performed comedy in a five-person revue group called The Seven Raymonds with Stewart Lee, Richard Herring and others.

Photograph credit: Keith Barnes



Will Rowlands (m.2011, Economics and Management)

Will is a Rugby Union player who represents Wales at international level. Having learnt to play at Rugby School, he joined the Blues Team while at Pembroke and represented Oxford in the 2012 and 2013 Varsity Matches, both times on the winning side.

He joined Wasps Academy while still a student, before being given a first team contract before the 2014/15 season. He played for Wasps until 2021, winning the Players' Player of the Season in 2019 in recognition of his efforts.

Will's first international call-up was in 2020 when he played for Wales in the Six Nations Championship. He went on to join Welsh Dragons RFC, of which he was Co-Captain in 2022-23. In 2022 he was named Wales Player of the Year by the Welsh Rugby Writers Association, having played in all but one of Wales' matches that season. In 2023 he competed in the Rugby World Cup as the second row forward in the Welsh team, making it to the quarter finals. He now plays as a lock for Racing 92.

Photograph credit: William Fortescue