

## **Lives Remembered**

### **More Lord Jenkins of Hillhead deceased**

Roy Jenkins and I were both undergraduates at Balliol[, though he was two years older]. I remember him as a slim young man with no signs of greatness but bursting with Welsh charm.

[Out of many later memories I pick just one.] As Chancellor of Oxford University Roy became anxious when in 1992 the city's polytechnic showed signs of rather grandly renaming itself as Oxford Brookes University. I said this would inevitably cause worldwide confusion with the senior university. Roy nodded sagely, and admitted he was worried.

I told Roy that approval of the new name was a matter for the Privy Council, though it should not be left entirely to the officials of that Office. The new name ought to be 'Brookes University at Oxford', which would follow the precedent of the body which some years previously was officially named 'The University of Kent at Canterbury'.

[I added that the Clerk of the Privy Council who had just retired, Sir Geoffrey de Deney (since deceased), was a pupil of mine at St Edmund Hall and I knew how things got done in that office.]

Roy grinned broadly, and did nothing. In due time Oxford Brookes University came into being. I'm not aware there has since been any difficulty over its name.<sup>1</sup>

© F A R Bennion

[www.francisbennion.com](http://www.francisbennion.com)

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Times* Register (Lives Remembered), 9 January 2003. Passages in square brackets omitted from published letter.