

## The dominance of Oxbridge voices

and potential.

There is certainly some truth in the narratives of decline, although the dominance of Oxbridge voices in the tragic chorus troubles me. Are we elderly elite folk out of touch? Or anxious about our own status in a country where deference is defunct and higher education one of the political faultlines? After all, the country is also more prosperous, more cheerfully kaleidoscopic and thriving in its culture, still with a highly developed sense of humour, inventive, entrepreneurial. The pandemic brought out the best in us, for the most part, and the political system has proven able to part ways peaceably with each successive inadequate prime minister.

who is just a little younger than I am.

This coincidence seems meaningful, although of course despair about the condition of modern Britain is more widely shared. But one of these books quotes AJP Taylor (Oxford), commenting that declinism, “means only that university professors used to have domestic servants and now do their own washing up.”

Date: 2026-05-02  
 Words: 10  
 Time to read: 1 min

[Newer](#)

[Older](#)

3 May 2026

Just for the smell of it

31 Mar 2026

Paddy

Russell © 2022-2025

Tags [Archive](#) [RSS feed](#)

Made with [Montaigne](#) and by [anton](#) 