DEAN’S DIARY

Education forms us. It shapes our lives. Education is about character, conduct and citizenship. A real education shapes us in virtue and wisdom. It is not merely cramming and ramming home facts. Real education draws something out of us.

One of the sadder aspects about our age is that we undervalue our teachers. When you think of how much time young people spend in education – strangers forming them into citizens, and teaching them what they need to know, and how to think and act, and how to discuss – our casual disregard for teaching is tragic.

A few years ago I spoke at a school in Singapore on behalf of the University of Oxford. After the talk, we retired, and went back to the staff room, where I remarked on the large number of gift-wrapped presents on the main table. I asked if there had been a birthday or some other celebration. But no, I was told. I had just missed National Teachers’ Day – a day set aside by the government to affirm and celebrate teaching. Parents and pupils bring presents and tokens to the school, to express their appreciation of what the teachers do. So the staff room was crammed with chocolates, bottles, gifts and tokens. I cannot imagine this in England. I wish I could.

As I reflect upon the value of education today, I see it as a matter of the heart as much as the head. It is about preparing students to be good citizens, not merely useful ‘units’ in the economic system. This is important, because as one writer says,

‘...students who have been well served by good teachers may walk away angry – angry that their prejudices have been challenged and their sense of self shaken. That sort of dissatisfaction may be a sign that real education has happened. It can take many years for a student to feel grateful to a teacher who introduces a dissatisfying truth. A market model of (education), however apt its ethic of accountability,
serves the cause poorly when it assumes that the customer is always right’. (Parker J. Palmer, The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher’s Life, 1998, p. 94)

Education, in other words, also has to risk offence and difficult probing. Just as you can’t raise children without some sense of right and wrong, so it is with education. The writer I quoted a moment ago, Parker Palmer, has this to say:

‘Passion for the subject propels that subject, not the teacher, into the centre of the learning circle…The passion with which [my mentor] lectured was not only for his subject but also for us to know his subject. He wanted us to meet and learn from the constant companions of his intellect and imagination, and he made those introductions in a way that was deeply integral to his own nature. Through this teacher and his lectures, some of us joined a powerful form of community marked by the ability to talk with the dead.’ (Parker J. Palmer, The Courage to Teach, 1998, pp. 120, 137).

Great education is expensive. Yet at its best, it is also expansive. The best educations are life-changing and world-transforming. Christ Church has produced thirteen British Prime Ministers, which is equal to the number produced by all the other Oxford colleges put together and more than any Cambridge college (and two short of the total number for the University of Cambridge of fifteen).

Yet I sometimes prefer to talk about the founding of Oxfam, which was started in Oxford, with key founders coming from Christ Church. Oxfam now works in 86 countries. I think of the young student I met on my first day as Dean, working on a cure for Ebola. Or that through our charitable work, we support a range of activities in the arts, public life, and social welfare, including Ovalhouse (youth drama in Brixton), IntoUniversity (a project helping hundreds of very young children from deprived backgrounds in Blackbird Leys towards the opportunity of higher education) and the Tower Poetry Prize (encouraging young people to write publishable poetry).

Education, said Einstein (who spent some years at Christ Church), is what is left when we have forgotten everything else. It is a telling phrase. A vast amount goes on in our University and in the House. But far the most important is the daily matter of teaching, learning and research: educating our future leaders; forming citizens of character and virtue; shaping lives that will re-shape this world of ours.

These may seem like simple things. Yet the moral question for education in our age is not ‘how much can we know?’, but rather, ‘what can we do with what we know?’. Let’s do some good.

The Very Revd Professor
Martyn Percy, Dean

Christ Church Old Members were key figures in the early days of Oxfam.

The first permanent OXFAM shop began trading here in December 1947
As I write, the England-Australia Test matches are well underway. The Women’s matches have just finished – in a draw, and the Men’s just beginning. Many fans are having their nights disturbed with the pings of notifications on their mobile phones when wickets start to fall in the early hours of the morning. While the way we watch or listen to cricket has changed, Oxford and Christ Church have been hooked on the game for over 150 years.

In the eighteenth century, cricket was a gentleman’s pursuit, played only at the leading public schools and introduced to the University by Etonians and Wykehamists. Private clubs held matches at Cowley Marsh to which men rode out to be treated, not just to the sound of leather on willow, but lavish dinners too. The Varsity match, established in 1827 as a three-day first-class fixture by a Christ Church man, Charles Wordsworth (who was also responsible for the Boat Race!), became a big part of the summer social season from the mid-1840s. Once the press reports had been perfunctory single sentences but soon the column inches grew along with the numbers attending the matches. Usually held at Lords, the gate rocketed year-on-year from 2,000 at the 1856 match to a total attendance of 46,000 in 1883. And that was just those who paid for their seats; numbers would have been swollen by members of the MCC who were entitled to bring four guests each. Many avid cricket fans complained that too many seats were taken up by the socialites, and that reporting concentrated more on the ladies’ dresses than on the play. It was not until the Universities threatened to move the event from Lords to the Oval that the MCC gave in and allocated areas of seating to the students watching their teams. The match was far too lucrative for the MCC to risk its loss!

At Oxford, slowly, cricket became less exclusive. In 1881 a new pitch was laid out in the Parks, and soon the colleges began to adopt the game. Christ Church was slow, even though men from Christ Church had played in the Varsity match almost every year since its beginning, but, once it had started, there was no looking back. The first two college grounds – one on the opposite bank of the river from the Meadow and the next near the railway station – were short-lived. It was on the second that Walter Fellows, who played for the University in the 1850s and later for that other MCC, the Melbourne Cricket Club, made the biggest hit ever recorded in a first-class match, listed in Wisden for many years. But early in the 1860s, Christ Church cricket moved to the present sports ground and the first pavilion was built from which members watched Oxford defeat the Australians in 1884. Records of Christ Church cricket begin in around 1860. Club rules sounded the final death knell of the exclusivity of earlier years: any member of the House could be admitted to the Club on payment of a 2 guinea subscription. Fixture lists for the 1st XI, which survive from the first half of the twentieth century, include matches against other colleges, of course, but also against school XIs and local city and county clubs.
But there were men who played cricket less seriously. Members of the Warrigals (named after an Australian dingo) played college and school second XIs, and village teams. One old member recalls that for the Warrigals scratch weekend XI it was not necessary to have held a bat before! Every member of the team had to bowl at least one over, underarm if you were a novice. One village team fielded their blacksmith as bowler; he had the unerring knack of bouncing the ball on a particular tuft of grass with every delivery dispatching most of the Warrigals batsmen with ease.

Christ Church has produced some notable county and national cricketers: men like St Vincent Cotton who played for the MCC in the 1830s, and Robert Grimston, president of the MCC and one of the founder members of I Zingari, the team later ‘Governed’ by another Christ Church man, Alec Douglas-Home. Then there was Peter Cranmer who simultaneously captained the England rugby team and Warwickshire Cricket Club in the 1930s and 1940s, and George Harris who assembled the English team which beat Australia at the Oval in 1880, recognised now as the first test match played on English soil. On Australian turf now, England are 196 for 4...

"Private clubs held matches at Cowley Marsh to which men rode out to be treated, not just to the sound of leather on willow, but lavish dinners too."
Academic and research news

Recognition of Distinction 2017: Christ Church Fellows become Professors

Congratulations to Christ Church Official Students (Fellows) Jennifer Yee and Kevin McGerty, who both had the title of full professor conferred upon them in this year’s University of Oxford Recognition of Distinction Awards. Jennifer Yee becomes Professor of Literature in French, and Kevin McGerty becomes Professor of Mathematics.

Prizes and Awards

Professor Guy Wilkinson, Professor of Physics and Alfred Moritz Student and Tutor in Physics, has been awarded the 2017 James Chadwick Medal and Prize for his outstanding contributions to the experimental study of heavy quarks and CP violation, most especially for his leadership of, and his decisive contributions to, the LHCb experiment at CERN, one of seven particle physics detector experiments collecting data at the Large Hadron Collider accelerator.

Professor Jonathan Cross, Official Student and Tutor in Music at Christ Church and Professor of Musicology at the University of Oxford, was the Series Consultant on the award-winning Stravinsky Project that won a prestigious South Bank Sky Arts Award in July. The winner of the Classical Music category was the Philharmonia Orchestra, for its 2016 series ‘Stravinsky: Myths and Rituals’, under the artistic direction of conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Professor Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics and Student of Christ Church, was elected as President of the EAS for a 4-year term at the European Astronomical Society Week of Astronomy and Space Science held in Prague, Czech Republic, in June.

Dr Sam Giles, Junior Research Fellow in Biological Sciences at Christ Church, has been awarded a prestigious Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship by the Royal Society for the period October 2017-September 2022, for her research project entitled ‘Of ears and ecology: assembling the roots of the largest living vertebrate group.’

Professor Gunnar Martinsson, Tutor in Mathematics at Christ Church, has been awarded the 2017 Germund Dahlquist Prize by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). The prize, established in 1995, is awarded for original contributions to fields associated with Germund Dahlquist, especially the numerical solution of differential equations and numerical methods for scientific computing.

Professor Martin McLaughlin, Official Student and Tutor in Italian at Christ Church from 1990-2001, was awarded the Serena Medal for Italian Literature by the British Academy on 27 September 2017. The award recognises his ‘leading contribution to Italian studies, particularly Italian Renaissance humanism and literature’.

Welcome to our first Computer Science undergraduates!

October 2017 saw the arrival of the first ever cohort of undergraduate students studying Computer Science at Christ Church (below). Two students are reading Computer Science, and two are reading Mathematics & Computer Science. The students will be taught by Professor Yarin Gal, Associate Professor of Machine Learning in the Department of Computer Science, and we are delighted that they will also receive valuable input from Christ Church Research Student (Research Fellow) Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web.

Christ Church becomes one of only 17 colleges teaching Computer Science and 18 teaching Mathematics & Computer Science, roughly half of all of the 34 colleges accepting undergraduate students. There will also shortly be several graduate students in Computer Science at Christ Church, as well as a position for a Junior Research Fellow.
Christ Church photo competition 2017 winners

All members of the JCR and GCR were invited to take part in the first Christ Church Photo Competition. The theme was ‘friendship’, and the photos submissions reflected various aspects of life at Christ Church – from rowing and punting to relaxing in the college gardens, playing sport and celebrating the end of exams. The competition was judged by Jacqueline Thalmann (Curator of the Picture Gallery), Peter Rhoades (Christ Church Art Tutor) and Eleanor Sanger (College Communication Officer).

Annika Schlemm (2016) achieved first place with her photo from a punting trip with friends. Second place went to Joshua Cathcart (2015), and third to Jonah Munday (2016). Visiting student Viridiana Courty was ‘Highly Commended’ for her photo from Matriculation.

Georgina Lloyd-Owen performs with the Oxford Alternatives on BBC One’s Pitch Battle

Georgina Lloyd-Owen (Music, 2016) performed live on BBC One’s prime time show Pitch Battle on Saturday 15 July with Oxford a capella group The Oxford Alternatives (pictured above).

Georgina sings soprano in the Alternatives alongside being a cellist and studying Music at Christ Church. The Alternatives are Oxford’s oldest a capella group, founded in 1993, and often perform at university events such as balls, as well as further afield. The group is made up of both male and female students from the University of Oxford, and performs a wide range of music, from genres including RnB, disco, pop and soul.
Harriet Austin rows across the Mediterranean to raise awareness of HPV

Over the summer, Christ Church graduate student Harriet Austin completed a 200-mile rowing race across the Mediterranean, organised by the NOMAN campaign to raise awareness of HPV (Human Papillomavirus). The event began on 26 July, with Harriet racing from Ibiza to Barcelona as part of a crew of four amateur rowers, including her sister Kate, against three other teams. The participants alternated shifts within their teams, with pairs of rowers taking on gruelling two-hour blocks. The race marked the culmination of months of fundraising and arduous training, and Harriet’s crew managed to cross the finish line after only 50 hours.

Peter Tellouche wins national undergraduate essay prize

Congratulations to Peter Tellouche (French, 2013), who has won the Society for French Studies R Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize 2017. The prize is awarded by the Society for an essay on any subject within the broader scope of French studies, and is given for outstanding academic merit at undergraduate level. The award includes a cash prize, expenses-paid travel to the next annual conference of the Society for French Studies, and a mention in the French Studies Bulletin and on the Society’s website.

Christ Church alumnus Riz Ahmed wins Emmy

Christ Church alumnus Riz Ahmed (PPE, 2001) was awarded the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series at the Emmy Awards ceremony held on Sunday 17 September.

Then and now

Mr Mark Coote joined the Development and Alumni Office as Development Director from 1 October 2017. He succeeds Mr Marek Kwiatkowski who has taken up an appointment at the University of Adelaide.

Mark served as CEO of the Wells Cathedral School Foundation in Somerset from 2010 and, before that, spent more than five years as a national fundraising director for Cancer Research UK, Britain’s largest charity, where he led the Community Fundraising operation.

One of Mark’s earliest visits to Christ Church was as a school boy in 1967 (50 years exactly!), when he posed for a photograph in Tom Quad (see below left).
On Saturday 2 December in the Upper Library in Peckwater Quad, the School celebrated the launch of The History of Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford. Given that the school is, effectively, the same age as the College, with Wolsey having made provision in the statutes for 16 choristers and an Instructor Musicae et Grammaticae, it is remarkable that this is the first such history.

There is scant history of the School recorded between the Foundation and the late 19th century – a surprising fact given how much history there is about the College and the Cathedral. In fact, following the setting up of the Choir under arguably its most famous director, John Taverner, in 1525, there is very little that can be said about the School or the boys of the School until 1892 when Dean Liddell, in one of the very last acts of his immensely long tenure, began constructing a new building to house the School in Brewer Street. This building, opposite the College and next to Pembroke, is used by the School to this day. It was at this time that the wife of the first married Headmaster gave birth to a child in the school, a daughter who was to become the famous novelist and linguist Dorothy L Sayers.

From this time onwards we have a vivid history of a small school in a tight site often finding it difficult to survive. At the same time the place seems to have attracted a collection of very colourful characters to teach there and the history details many of the antics which occurred.

The School too has produced its fair share of impressive pupils including James, now Jan Morris, the well-known writer whose best-known work is probably the book she wrote about the City where she went to school, Oxford. The composer, William Walton, was also a pupil after whom our assembly Hall is named. His connection with Christ Church began when he came down from Oldham to audition for the Choir. However, because his father had one night drunk the money that his mother had saved for the journey, he arrived after the auditions had occurred. His mother, a forceful woman, managed to convince the organist to hear him – a fortunate move as he was quickly noticed by Dean Strong and encouraged to enter the College at 16. Another more recent old boy of repute is Toby Jones, the actor, though we do not seem to have any note of what he did while at the School – perhaps one day he will tell us!

The book was co-authored by Michael Lee, a Professor of Politics at Bristol University who taught at the School early on in his career, and by Richard Lane, Head Boy and Head Chorister at the School, who went on to enjoy a career at Sotheby’s. It is an engaging and colourful account of the School which relies upon archival material and many oral accounts collected by the authors. The text is accompanied by a large number of beautiful illustrations. I hope that many alumni might consider purchasing a copy and thereby learning something more about our unique Foundation’s varied and colourful history.

To purchase a copy of the book, please email: schooloffice@cccs.org.uk.
The awe of school children as they enter the Cathedral, many for the first time, still thrills and delights me. Being able to share and explain the many centuries of wonder and worship in this unique and sacred space is one of the great privileges of my role at Christ Church, where I am Cathedral Education Officer. With experience in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education, I enjoy working with children of all ages and all faiths, or none. Last year, over 2,500 children engaged with our Education programme.

Our school visits encourage all pupils to be more aspirational and to consider coming here, or to another university, to study in the future. We tailor the content of each visit to match the teachers’ curriculum and learning objectives, but we also include the lighting of a candle and a short period of reflection because we want pupils to appreciate that a Cathedral is a sacred space, where visitors and worshippers may encounter – and develop a relationship with – God. Even if the focus is on History or Art, we encourage children to be curious about Christ Church, and ask questions, such as: ‘Why do people pray? What goes on in a Cathedral? What do bishops and priests do and why?’

With my team of around twenty dedicated volunteers, we use role play and craft activities, to bring the learning to life. Primary pupils can dress up as medieval pilgrims to learn about Saint Frideswide, the Saxon princess and healer, who is the patron saint of Oxford University and the city. The children find the costumes help them imagine what life was like in the past: ‘I liked the dressing up because it made me feel part of the story.’ ‘My favourite part was acting out and pretending we were real pilgrims.’ ‘I loved when we dressed up as monks.’ ‘I liked being Henry VIII for a day’.

Secondary pupils also respond very positively to their visits. Each year, one particular school brings over 100 12-year olds, who take turns to ‘Grill’ a Canon; visit the Upper Library; tour the Cathedral with a self-guided trail; and view a presentation about the history of Christ Church. Last year’s pupils wrote afterwards:

‘The Cathedral is interesting, historical and awesome!’ ‘Thank you for an amazing visit to Christ Church. I loved it! I went home with so many things in my brain.’ ‘The tour was exciting and interesting because the guides made it fun.’ ‘This was one of the best school trips I’ve had!’

The feedback from the children is what makes my role so rewarding:

‘The Cathedral is... special and rare. Interesting on the inside... Old on the outside. I liked Christ Church Cathedral because it’s got lots of fascinating facts hidden inside it.’ ‘We got to touch lots of things and it was really colourful. It is historical. I liked it because on the Powerpoint we got to see how it had changed through the years.’

For more information or to support the Cathedral Education programme, contact: jacqueline.holderness@chch.ox.ac.uk

Please take a look at our website where you will find our brochures and a short film about the Education programme: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral/education
Professor Jennifer Yee, Tutor for Admissions, provides an update on Access Initiatives at Christ Church.

The last issue of Christ Church Matters (Trinity 2017, no.39) included an interview with Lynton Lees, who read History with us as an undergraduate before taking on the role of Access and Outreach Officer for one year and then heading off to do a PhD in Columbia. Lynton mentioned her pride in being part of putting forward Christ Church’s new range of access initiatives, and the interview ended with a teaser.

We are delighted to be able to say that these new Access initiatives are mostly up and running, with more exciting developments due to begin in the summer of 2018.

We now have a Schools Liaison Officer, Ana Hastoy, working alongside our new Access and Outreach Officer, Stephanie Hale. This means we are able to work in a more sustained way with schools, beginning with our regional link areas in Barnet, Norfolk and Suffolk.

We have set up a Christ Church Access Hub, which sets aside funds to allow us to work with charitable initiatives on access and widening participation goals. Among our first partners are Oxford FirstGen, set up by Lynton Lees last year to support first generation university students during their time in Oxford, and the University of Oxford’s central initiative, Pathways, which does very effective work with a wide range of schools.

As mentioned in the last CCM we have new financial support measures for students. This range of initiatives aims to support students from families with lower household incomes, and to attract applicants from the widest possible social range. We now offer subsidised rates on board and lodging charges to students whose household income is below £16,000 (50% reduction) and between £16,000 and £42,875 (25% reduction).

We’ve also awarded our first four Christ Church Prize Scholarships. These are awarded on the basis of household income (and ‘widening participation’ flags) but also for outstanding academic potential, as identified by tutors across all subjects admitting to the college. Christ Church’s scheme follows closely the model of the Moritz-Heyman Scholarships and complements the support offered by the University’s Oxford Bursary scheme. We are delighted to be able to support these students, who show outstanding potential in their different fields.

Beginning in 2018 we’ll also be introducing Summer Bursaries to help students explore career-development opportunities, typically through unpaid or low-paid work placements. These will be available for students with household incomes below £42,875. We are very keen to support those students who most need it throughout their studies and into graduate-level employment.

Issues relating to student financial hardship are dealt with in a very sensitive way by the Academic Registrar. When battling bills for termly costs are issued early in the term, to be paid in 4th week, she routinely has visits from students in need of financial assistance. The accommodation costs alone use up most of their loan instalment, and if they do not have additional money from parents or other sources they are left in overdraft and with no money for the rest of the term. Many Junior Members have commented that the new maintenance bursaries have made a very considerable difference to their wellbeing.
In July 2017, a team of one recent alumna and five members of her family made the journey to France to climb Mont Blanc. For first-time mountaineers, this was understandably a slightly bizarre challenge to set for ourselves, not least because we would be without phone signal for a week. Unfortunately, with one death on the mountain on the day we arrived and heavy storms in Chamonix, our guides advised us that it would be too dangerous to make the ascent. Although we understood that the decision was made for our safety, this was thoroughly disappointing in light of our months of physical training and fundraising in preparation for the trip.

However, that was not the end of our adventures for the week. We picked up our equipment, finally realising what crampons actually look like and which way round to hold a pick axe, and travelled to Italy. Here we climbed to the top of Gran Paradiso, standing at 4,061 metres high. Back in Chamonix, we climbed the Arête à Laurence on the Aiguille du Midi at 3,800 metres. We then travelled back to Italy, climbing to a hut located on a rock (3,647 metres), only accessible by helicopter or climbing its vertical edges. We had a short 5-hour window to make our ascent of the Vincent Pyramid (4,215 metres) and return before heavy storms set in.

Though physically exhausting, it was the mental strain of facing our fears that proved to be the most challenging. We had to dig deep on many occasions, but ultimately we learnt a lot about ourselves and grew closer as a family.

We managed to raise a total of £3,000 in support of various charities close to us. One of the charities we supported was IntoUniversity, a charity that provides local learning centres for young people from deprived areas in Britain to boost their motivation about learning. Oxford South East’s centre was opened in partnership with Christ Church in 2014, and students have many opportunities to get involved with their learning schemes. The Christ Church 2017 Ball Committee visited the centre earlier this year to find out more about the charity and spent time with 7-10 year olds to see the effects first-hand. IntoUniversity is continuing to grow, helping young people all over the UK to access opportunities that they deserve. We want to thank everyone that supported us so that we could support such a fantastic cause.
Saaqib has been attending Academic Support at IntoUniversity Oxford South East since November 2014, when he was in Year 6. He also has an older cousin and two younger siblings who take part in the Academic Support programme. When he first started attending, Saaqib struggled with working independently. Whenever he found something particularly difficult, his first response was to ask an adult for help rather than to attempt to solve the problem himself. Saaqib also found active listening a challenge, and would often try to ‘skip through’ explanations to his questions before understanding what was being said. This habit meant that he struggled to retain learned information from week to week, but it also meant that at times he found it difficult to interact and communicate meaningfully with his peers. IntoUniversity’s Secondary Student Council has proved an excellent forum for Saaqib to develop in this regard. During his term as a councillor, Saaqib worked hard to engage with the opinions of others, and was subsequently chosen to give a presentation on the Student Council’s activities during our Summer Fun Day.

Because of his attendance and commitment to the centre, Saaqib was rewarded with a mentor. Over two academic years, he met with Jacob, a student mentor from Christ Church, Oxford, who has now graduated. Staff have been delighted with the positive impact of this partnership. Saaqib now recognises and values the need to focus on the individual in front of him, and always warmly greets his mentor and asks about his day. He seems much happier and comfortable talking to those around him, and has been eager to pass on what he has learned to his younger siblings. In addition, the pair have also explored Saaqib’s ambition to become a policeman, investigating different routes into this profession and helping Saaqib to plan his future.

Reflecting on his best experiences with IntoUniversity, Saaqib responded that he liked “to take part in things, and to help others”. Now in Year 9, Saaqib still attends secondary Academic Support once a week. His academic development has proceeded alongside his improvement in soft-skills. He says that “in my report my grades are in the middle but before they used to be low”. His attitude towards problem solving has also changed: “If I find something difficult and I need help then I can challenge myself, and if I still find it difficult then I can ask for help.”
Originating from the promise of a £1,000 benefaction from the Christ Church physician and chemist Dr John Freind, and the subsequent donation of £2,300 by Dr Matthew Lee, Regius Professor of Medicine, the elegant Georgian Lee Building, designed by Henry Keene, opened its doors in 1767. It would become renowned as the Anatomy School, and as a chemical laboratory and a museum, confirming Christ Church’s status as an established centre of excellence in medicine and chemistry.

For details of the fabric, however, I refer readers to Dr Judith Curthoys’s splendid scholarly book The Stones of Christ Church (2017).

But where had Christ Church’s already acknowledged excellence in the bio-medical sciences come from before 1767? And was there not an irony in the dissection of human cadavers within a thirty-second walk of the Cathedral? Just imagine: hands are washed, gowns put on, and as Great Tom strikes 6 p.m., the anatomists go to their stalls for Evensong. But once the immortal soul had left the body, what was wrong with studying, as the Psalmist put it (Ps. 139:14), how ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’ the body was?

Our medical tradition goes right back to 1546, when King Henry VIII established his Regius Chair of Medicine in Christ Church, and it was further amplified when Richard Tomlins endowed his

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Above: The interior of the Anatomy Museum, c. 1860. After the building’s conversion into an SCR, a floor was inserted at gallery level to create the Kidd and Freind Rooms.

Left: Dr Chapman demonstrates a mariner’s astrolabe at a lecture on Richard Hakluyt in the Upper Library in 2017.
Anatomy Readership in 1624. Then things really took off in the 1650s, when Thomas Willis, former ‘batteler’ to Canon Thomas Isles and informal pupil of his wife Martha (styled by John Aubrey ‘a knowing woman in physique and surgery’ who ran a medical service for the poor), needed to earn a living. The devout young Willis had planned upon a clerical career, but Parliament’s abolition of the Church of England in 1645 obliged him to seek a new profession.

Then, Thomas Willis, in his ‘Peckewater Inn chamber’, rapidly became one of the great instinctive clinicians of history. Between the late 1640s and 1670, Willis pioneered organic chemistry in his fermentation researches, coined the term ‘neurologie’ (1664) on the strength of his ground-breaking dissections of human and animal brains and nervous systems, and developed cardiology beyond the work of William Harvey. Willis was also a great teacher, and inspired Robert Hooke, Richard Lower, the clergyman and amateur doctor John Ward, and John Locke, who was renowned as a physician before that reputation was eclipsed by his fame as a philosopher.

In 1657, Willis married Mary Fell, daughter of the late Dean, Samuel, making him brother-in-law to Dean, then Bishop, John Fell.

In 1704, Dr John Freind delivered a series of chemistry lectures. At that time, however, chemistry was in a confused state. It was now acknowledged that Aristotle’s four-element explanation of chemical change was inadequate, especially in the wake of the vacuum pump experiments of Robert Boyle, Robert Hooke, John Mayow, and their Oxford friends. ‘Air’, it appeared, was not a simple absolute. Likewise, fire, combustion, and respiration were related to complex chemical processes involving aspects of air.

Chemistry, in short, appeared to lie at the heart of all organic functions, enabling us to breathe and fire to burn, and, in that pre-bacterial age, causing heat to be generated during fevers. From the 1770s, however, Antoine Lavoisier in Paris began to develop a new model for matter, based upon specific, chemically-interactive ‘elements’, such as sulphur, iron, and ‘oxygene’. And while Regius Professor John Parsons, in his chemistry lectures in the early years of the Lee Building, appears to have followed the traditional line, discussing, for example, the increasingly discredited ‘phlogiston’ theory of combustion, things changed significantly with Dr John Kidd.

Kidd was an old Westminster Scholar, who after studying at Christ Church had trained in medicine at Guy’s Hospital before ‘coming home’ as Aldrichian Professor of Chemistry (1803), then Regius of Medicine (1822). Now the Lee Building became the heart of the new post-Lavoisier, post-Dalton chemistry of atoms, elements, and electricity. A gifted teacher, Kidd attracted students from across the University, not only to his lectures on chemistry and medicine, but also to those he gave on mineralogy and fossil geology.

The House’s first geologist had been Robert Hooke in the 1660s, who in his ‘Earthquake Discourses’ before the Royal Society had drawn parallels between extinct and living species, and emphasised the great antiquity of the rock strata.

Yet, one might ask, how did this square with the idea of a 4004 BC Creation? From the seventeenth century onwards, however, many geologists and theologians had come to accept that vast aeons of time had elapsed between the original Creation ex nihilo and the Garden of Eden in 4004 BC. During this time, continents, oceans, and living species had come and gone, under the guiding hand of God, preparing the planet for mankind.

One of Kidd’s many pupils was William Buckland of Corpus Christi, who became Regius Reader in Geology and in 1825 a Canon of Christ Church. The colourful and captivating Buckland taught geology in the Lee Building, in the Museum in Broad Street, in quarries, before learned societies, and at fashionable West End...
gatherings, and his impact upon the nation’s geological awareness was profound. Central to Buckland’s geological thinking was his concern with aquatic and other earth-forming processes, and with reconstructing ancient animals’ lifestyles and diets from fossilised teeth, joints, and other body parts. He argued, in this pre-Darwinian age, that Divine Providence had guided the development of life-forms from the most primitive to the highest pre-Eden kinds across a vast time-scale through a series of global geological ‘catastrophes’.

Buckland was also a great advocate for new, life-improving technologies, such as sewers, clean water, and gas lighting. In 1818 he became Chairman of the new Oxford Gas Works, inaugurating another Lee Building tradition, namely gas and combustion chemistry, which would be carried into the twentieth century by H. B. Baker and others. Upon his appointment to the Deanery of Westminster in 1845, he turned his formidable energies to restoring the Abbey fabric (the stones of which greatly interested him), and reforming the Chapter and the School. Buckland was buried in Islip churchyard in 1856.

In the wake of the reforming Devonshire Commission in 1852, Oxford acquired a new degree school of Natural Sciences. The anatomical and geological functions of the Lee Building would be largely transferred to the laboratories of the new University Museum in Parks Road, though Chemistry was re-established in Christ Church by 1862 by the newly-created Lee Readers in Chemistry. From the ex-Balliol Augustus Vernon Harcourt onwards, the Lee Readers were not medical men, but academic chemists by training and inclination. Trained in the quantitative and analytical chemistry of Justus von Liebig, Augustus von Hofmann and others, the new Lee Readers were the founders of modern Oxford chemistry as an academic discipline in its own right.

Vernon Harcourt and his pupils established a distinguished modern tradition of Christ Church chemistry focussed upon the Lee Building. They included Herbert Brereton Baker, who succeeded Vernon Harcourt as Reader in 1902. It is interesting to note a common research interest shared by all of these chemists, from Kidd to Baker, and including Buckland: gas purity, flame, and explosion chemistry.

The last scientist to work in the Lee Building was Alexander Russell, who succeeded Baker in 1920. Russell researched the ‘borderline’ between the new atomic physics and chemistry, and among other things coined the term ‘isotope’, relating to the neutrons present in an element. When he retired in 1955, however, the Lee Building was found to be radioactive, as a result of the radium, uranium and other substances with which Russell had been working. Paul Kent, Richard Wayne, and the subsequent Lee Readers would be based in new laboratories in the science area.

After being thoroughly ‘cleansed’, the Lee Building became part of the SCR. But do not fear: taking tea there will not make you glow in the dark, and the bones have long since been laid to rest.
Were you aware that 95% of the outer space is still unknown? The universe is mostly composed of dark matter and energy whose physical laws are still a mystery to astrophysics. The Francesco Palla Memorial Prize in Astrophysics would like to represent a motivation for undergraduate students reading Physics at Christ Church to continue searching for missing answers regarding our universe.

Francesco Palla was an Astronomer, former Director of the Observatory of Arcetri (Florence, Italy), and a Professor of Physics of Interstellar Matter at the University of Florence. His lifelong studies concerned the processes of star formation, especially in the Orion nebula, about which he co-authored the seminal book The Formation of Stars. His second major focus throughout his career concerned the popularisation of Astrophysical science to broader and non-academic audiences. He was convinced that these fascinating topics regarding our universe should have a wider position within public knowledge as well as in secondary school education. His unique communicative and generous personality made him a very appreciated teacher and colleague, highly recognised in his work by scientific institutions all over the world. He was about to be appointed President of the European Astronomical Society when he prematurely died in 2016. The position is now held by Professor Roger Davies, the Philip Wetton Chair in Astrophysics at Christ Church. It is here that lies the first the link between Francesco Palla and Christ Church. The other reason that led to the creation of this prize is the fact that his goddaughter, Adele Bardazzi, for whom Francesco has always represented a source of inspiration both personally and academically, is completing her D.Phil. in Modern Languages at Christ Church. Professor Davies and Adele Bardazzi designed the prize in close consultation with various members of the House, the Department of Physics, as well as Francesco Palla's family.

They decided to establish an undergraduate prize in memory of Francesco Palla in order to continue his work in supporting and intellectually stimulating young students. The Francesco Palla Memorial Prize in Astrophysics has been conceived both as a reward for undergraduate students for their work and as a motivation to continue their studies in the field of Astrophysics, whose numerous mysteries still have to be pierced. A crowdfunding campaign has been launched via the online platform Hubbub.org, which has a partnership with numerous academic institutions, including the University of Oxford, and specialises in hosting fundraising campaigns for academic, scientific and cultural projects. The main fundraising events, so far, were the Oxford Half Marathon on 8th October 2017 and the NAJS Cultural Association in Florence on 14th October 2017.

The Prize, whose value will be £300, will be assigned every academic year to an undergraduate student of Christ Church by Professor Roger Davies and other members of the House. The objective is to reach an endowment of £10,000 which will allow the prize to exist in perpetuity. It is still possible to make donations through this link: https://hubbub.org/p/francescopallamemorialprize. All donations will be received by Christ Church on 1st February 2018.
Animals with backbones (vertebrates) are an amazingly successful and diverse group. Almost all living vertebrates—some 60,000 species—are bony fishes. These are evenly split into two groups: the ray-fins, which include animals familiar from the fishmongers and aquarium, like cod and goldfish; and the lobe-fins, which include fish like coelacanths and lungfish but also all land-dwelling vertebrates, including ourselves. Bony fishes evolved nearly half a billion years ago, and the vast tranche of time that has passed makes studying their evolutionary success impossible without the use of fossils, and incredibly difficult even with them. Uncertainties relating to the early history of the group are a major obstacle to the diversity of research using ray-fins, which rely on accurate timescales of the group’s evolution.

As a Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church, and now a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow, I use fossil data to understand the origin of modern groups of bony fishes. Many of the major factors driving vertebrate success are internal, and are typically associated with the braincase, a kind of bony box that sits inside the skull and houses the brain and associated sensory structures. Historically, the only way to access the internal features of a fossil was to gradually grind away the surrounding rock and bone, recording the anatomy through a series of drawings. These days, museum curators aren’t so keen on their precious specimens being ground into dust, so I employ an innovative three-dimensional imaging technique called CT scanning. This uses x-rays to ‘virtually’ cut through a specimen and image its internal features—much the same as if you were to get an x-ray in a hospital to check on a broken bone. This produces 3D datasets of the external and internal anatomy, including the skeleton and path of major nerve and blood vessels, which can be studied, manipulated and even 3D printed, all without damage to the original specimen. These detailed anatomical data allow me to form an in-depth understanding of the internal anatomy of these animals, which in turn can be used to understand how different lineages are related to each other, and what factors were driving vertebrate success.

Some of my work focusses on major evolutionary transitions, for example at the split of the bony fishes into ray-fins and lobe-fins, which happened over 400 million years ago. CT scanning of fossils from this time period can provide fresh insights into how bony fishes separated into these two distinct lineages. Strangely, it seems like the earliest ray-fins resembled lobe-fins in terms of

Sam Giles (2015) examines the early evolution of backboned animals using innovative 3D X-ray imaging
their external anatomy, but their internal anatomy, particularly the braincase, was much more specialised. My work has also shed new light onto when the groups of ray-fins that are still alive today evolved. Bichirs, or ropefish, a group of ray-fins found in tropical Africa and along the Nile, have fascinated biologists since their discovery in the early 1800s, and were heralded as a ‘transitional’ animal between ray-fins and lobe-fins. While work over the intervening century and a half cemented their ray-fin identity, uncertainty remained around their highly unusual anatomy, which in many ways resembles early lobe-finned fishes. Despite a fossil record extending back only 100 million years, ropefish are thought to have an ancient evolutionary history. My work identified fossil bichir relatives from 250 million years ago, while also showing that that origin of the group is at least 30 million years more recently than previously thought. This also suggests that many of the most primitive features of their anatomy—those aspects that resemble lobe-fins—have actually evolved independently.

As well as giving insight into the skeletons of ancient fossil fishes, CT scanning allows me to reconstruct the anatomy of the brain—in animals that are hundreds of millions of years old. My work on early ray-fins has shown which regions of the brain evolved early in the group’s history, and which were developed later. The optic lobes, the area of the brain responsible for eyes and vision, are very large in most living ray-fins, but were proportionally much smaller in the early members of the group.

My work is also supported by L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science and International Rising Talent Fellowships. These are part of an initiative set up by the Fondation L’Oréal and UNESCO to increase the number of women working in scientific research. Each provides a year of flexible research funding, which can be used for anything from lab work to specialised equipment and conference travel to childcare.

In my future research, in my position as a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow, I will continue to build on the foundation established in my past work, exploiting novel investigative strategies to provide further insights into the explosive success of ray-fins and vertebrates more generally.
From his prison cell, on 21st March 1556, Thomas Cranmer, erstwhile Archbishop of Canterbury, heard a hammering outside. He knew what it was. The stake, to which he would soon be chained, was being fixed in place a few yards away outside Balliol College. His gaol for the past two years had been a room in an archway spanning Oxford’s north gate. It was known as the Bocardo – a donnish joke: a ‘bocardo’ being a statement in philosophical logic that trapped unwary students.

Every visitor to Oxford with an eye to its past knows that Cranmer was the most famous of the protestant martyrs who were burned at the stake under the Roman Catholic Queen Mary. But what’s less well-known is the part that Christ Church and its Dean played in bringing him to his terrifying fate.

Cranmer had been one of Henry VIII’s key advisors during the break with Rome. Then during the brief reign of Henry’s son, Edward VI, the Archbishop came out as an evangelical protestant. And so, when Mary came to the throne in 1553, it was inevitable he’d be one of her main targets. He must recant, and in public. But Cranmer proved a hard nut to crack.

He was brought to Oxford, and in beggar’s rags was subjected to several confrontational trials before the papal commissioner in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. Cranmer refused to renounce his heretical views. So, the commissioners switched to a bad-cop-good-cop routine. And who was to be good cop? The Dean of Christ Church.

Cranmer was taken from his narrow cell to a very different world, that of Doctor Richard Marshall. Marshall was a strong Roman Catholic traditionalist, who – it was said – had survived Edward VI’s protestant reign by concealing his true faith. He’d been University Vice-Chancellor before moving to the House, and he now welcomed Cranmer as an honoured guest at the Dean’s lodgings. Here, there were not only physical comforts, but also civilised academic debate, rather than the bullying tactics of the papal commissioner. Marshall and Cranmer politely argued the merits of papal supremacy and the role of purgatory. And in this atmosphere of comfort, kindness and intellectual respect, a deal was put on the table. Cranmer would be spared execution at the stake and could go back to being Archbishop of Canterbury, if he’d just recant. And what’s more he’d even win Queen Mary’s favour.

**WHEN THE DEAN PLAYED ‘GOOD COP’**

*Derek Taylor (1965) tells of the role the House played in the martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer*
At first, the blandishments didn’t work. Cranmer signed statements which were so half-hearted and hedged around with qualifications that they’d be no good as public I’ve-seen-the-light confessions. But then, when he was taken back to his cell at the Bocardo, he suddenly put his name to something very different. He accepted Catholic theology including papal supremacy and transubstantiation.

Whether the Dean of Christ Church had had the authority to promise that a redeemed Cranmer would be restored as Archbishop with the blessing of Queen Mary, we don’t know. But that was not what now happened. The Queen still saw him as too much of a risk, and she ordered the execution to go ahead.

But now came a shock. It was to be the biggest PR disaster of Mary’s reign.

On the morning of his execution, Cranmer was brought again to the University Church, so he could recant in public. He begged the congregation to pray for him, then fell to his knees and wept. He struggled to his feet, and announced that he had something to say which would glorify God. He’d only signed those documents in support of the pope, he said, ‘for fear of death, and to save my life.’ The pope, announced Cranmer, ‘is Christ’s enemy, and Antichrist.’ There was uproar. The presiding priest intervened. ‘Lead the heretic away!’ he screamed. And the guards jumped onto the stage and grabbed him. Within the hour, Cranmer was chained to the stake, and the kindling was lit. His final act was to push the hand that had signed his recantation into the rising flames, then – it was reported – he lifted his eyes to heaven, and repeated ‘This unworthy right hand!’ before the end came.

And what happened to the Dean, Richard Marshall? When Elizabeth I came to the throne, he was imprisoned briefly until he signed a document disavowing his Roman Catholicism. But on his release, he moved to the north of England and practised his beliefs among recusant Catholics there. Then when that became too risky, he fled across the Channel. Around the year 1575, he died, an exile, in France. If history can be said to have winners and losers, Marshall, unlike Cranmer, was on the wrong side.

When England, more than the rest of the UK, voted to leave the EU, polls showed national identity was a big concern. In Who do the English think they are? historian and journalist, Derek J. Taylor travels the length and breadth of the country to find out what that means. He discovers the first English came from Germany, and then in the later Middle Ages almost became French. He tracks down the origins of English respect for the rule of law, democracy and political stability. And, when he reaches Victorian times, he investigates the arrogance and snobbishness that have sometimes blighted English behaviour. Finally, he looks ahead, and asks – Faced with uncharted waters post-Brexit, what is it is in their national character that will help guide the English people now?

During his time at the House, Derek read history and also became editor of Cherwell. He then joined ITN, and as an on-screen correspondent, reported from Northern Ireland, Rome, South Africa, the Middle East and the United States. He covered five wars, and spent seven months in Iran during the Islamic revolution. He went on to work for the BBC, and then became Chief Executive of the American-owned Associated Press Television News. In retirement he’s written three books which, he says, ‘look at history through a journalist’s eye.’

Derek Taylor’s book, Who do the English think they are? is available with 25% off the RRP when you quote ML2 before 31 March 2018. To order, call 01256 302699.
One of this winter’s dominant films has been ‘Darkest Hour’, a dramatisation of Winston Churchill’s suspenseful ride between defiance and appeasement in the summer of 1940. The message that history has generally passed down is that, as the threat of invasion by the Germans intensified, Churchill managed to resist the desires of his Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, and others to come to an accommodation with Hitler. But was this really what happened?

Some historians (most notably John Lukacs) have expressed puzzlement at the nature of the back-channel that the British Government appeared to open, via the Swedes, to the Nazis. Why was Churchill not more aggrieved by this flagrant act of disobedience? It was almost as if he wanted it to happen. Was Churchill party to the appeasement movement?

My recently published book, Misdefending the Realm, sheds dramatic fresh light on this episode. Recently released documents at the National Archives support my hypothesis that Churchill probably approved the gesture to Hitler, in order to buy time, and suggest to the Nazi dictator that he should abandon his plans for invasion, as a vigorous Peace Party was in place that would be sympathetic to his aims.

But if it was a bluff, a danger also existed. For if Stalin heard of Britain’s wavering determination, the Soviet Union – at that time committed to a non-aggression pact with Germany – might bind itself closer to its ideological foe out of a desire to demolish the British Empire once and for all. How could Churchill, who knew that the Soviet Union would eventually need to be on the side of the Allies in order for Nazism to be defeated, convince Stalin that Britain was still committed to the fight?

Halifax was in on the ruse, and knew the right man to send to Moscow to tell the Comintern directly what was happening. His name was Guy Burgess. And thus Burgess set out for Moscow, accompanied by his friend Isaiah Berlin as interpreter, to fulfill this vital mission. The pair never reached Moscow: they were able to deliver the message to the Soviet ambassador in Washington, Konstantin Oumansky, and returned home.

However, while in Washington, the Soviet spy Burgess was also able to visit Michael Straight, one of the extended group of Cambridge Spies, and let him know that a dangerous defector, had recently been interrogated by officers from MI5 and SIS, and had given them damaging hints about the Soviets’ infiltration of British

‘MISDEFENDING THE REALM’

Antony Percy (1965) reveals how MI5’s incompetence enabled communist subversion of Britain’s institutions during the Nazi-Soviet Pact
institutions. The report had fallen into the hands of another spy, Jenifer Hart, who was a very close friend of Isaiah Berlin’s. Burgess said all was under control, but no doubt helped Straight track Krivitsky down. Krivitsky was murdered six months later.

When Burgess escaped to the Soviet Union with Donald Maclean in 1951, nobody appeared to recall this episode. Should someone not have wondered why Burgess had such good contacts with the Comintern? The reply prepared for the House of Commons blandly reported that Burgess had joined the Foreign Office in 1948, having worked for the BBC before then. It was surely a matter of extreme embarrassment to the government that it had entrusted one of Stalin’s Englishmen with such a critical assignment.

Yet the betrayal of Krivitsky was not the only malign deed that Burgess committed. In order to deflect attention away from the search for communist spies in Britain’s institutions, he fanned the attention on an assumed set of Nazi ‘Fifth Columnists’, probably abetted by his crony Joseph Ball of the Security Executive. Next he ensured that his communist pals were installed in positions of influence: Lord Rothschild and Anthony Blunt in MI5, Kim Philby in SIS, Leo Long in military intelligence, Peter Smollett in the Ministry of Information, as well as others, to complement those like Donald Maclean, Jenifer Hart, and John Cairncross already in place.

What this meant was that, when Churchill sent Stalin a message of support after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, the Prime Minister no longer had control of negotiations. Stalin was privy to all the continual debates that went on about military strategy, about the possibility of a second front, over Russia’s claims over the Baltic States, and over Poland’s postwar boundaries and form of government. And he had deeper knowledge of secrets such as the Enigma decryptions and the progress of atomic weaponry than the Joint Intelligence Committee, or even the War Cabinet, possessed. Moreover, his agents were powerfully influencing public opinion in Britain.

By 1943, Stalin was beating back the Germans: he needed the help of the western allies less. Might meant right, and his armies moved steadily into Central Europe, where he made his plans to install communist governments that would be friendly, and act as ‘buffer states’ to give him the security he believed he needed – and deserved. By then, some western diplomats even agreed with him. Appeasement of Hitler had been replaced by appeasement of Stalin.

The Cold War would have happened anyway, but maybe not at such a cost of loss of liberty, nor for so long, had MI5 acted more decisively when they received the warnings from Krivitsky. As I show in my book, this pattern of passivity in the face of clear threats continued throughout the war, with Klaus Fuchs, the atom spy, probably the major character who slipped through the net. The incompetence of MI5 meant that a comprehensive cover-up was then initiated. Only a very careful inspection of the files released to the National Archives, complemented by a deep study of contemporary diaries, memoirs, and biography, has enabled the true story to be revealed.

Misdefending the Realm is published by the University of Buckingham Press.
Founded (by Christ Church graduates) as a Boy’s Club, Ovalhouse is well known for our young people’s programme of pioneering theatre and arts projects. What may come as a surprise is our partnership with Stockwell Good Neighbours, a community-based social and arts project for elders which meets in the Ovalhouse café every Monday. Alongside the fellowship of a meal, and against the background ‘Slam’ of cut-throat domino tournaments and the weekly Tai Chi session, members take part in ambitious arts projects.

For Ovalhouse this is a fantastic opportunity, and gives us a closer relationship with the whole of our community, and we wouldn’t be Ovalhouse if we didn’t extend the same access to innovative and participatory arts to the Neighbours as we do to young people.

There are over 60 active members and a waiting list. Members include people such as Mr Levi Hamilton, whose 100th Birthday celebration at Ovalhouse was attended by the Jamaican High Commissioner. As an ex-serviceman, later appointed to work in security at the Houses of Parliament, Mr Hamilton was chosen to guard the body of Winston Churchill during his lying in state. Mr Hamilton founded a West Indian ex-Serviceman’s club in Brixton and has spent many years volunteering as a prison visitor.

The Neighbours have taken part in many cross-generational projects with young people. In The Reader Project they read and shared discussion about poems and short stories, culminating in a literary ‘Come Dine With Me, sharing literature for every course in a joyful, lively literary lunch on the theme of Love and Spice.

In BREAD, young and old took over the café kitchen at Ovalhouse with a top baker and chef Mike Knowlden to learn to make bread. With professional writer and storyteller Surya Turner as part of the creative team they shared and exchanged stories as they worked. “The art of baking bread together is saturated with reciprocal gestures” explains project director Sue Mayo. “We learned so much, picked up so many stories, it’s about sharing values” said a young participant, and “I laughed ‘til my cheeks hurt” said another.

Stockwell Good Neighbours have devised and performed their own pantomime in the Ovalhouse theatre, and led by our Director of Development for the Capital Campaign they formed a choir to take part in the national Big Sing project.

Recently, in partnership with Ovalhouse, SGN took part in workshops at Tate Modern, connected to Soul of a Nation – the exhibition of art from the time of the American Black Power.
movement. Neighbours Pearlene Walters and Rose Colleymore told me that they had never visited a gallery before and were passionate and enthusiastic about what they saw, and the workshop they attended.

“We spent our lives working and looking after our children and running our homes, we never had the chance to do these things when we were younger” Pearlene told me. Her friend Rose agreed: “This is our time”.

To support the development of a new building for Ovalhouse in Brixton, a new fully accessible building in which all members of the community can say “This is our time” you can make donations in the following ways:

By BACS:
Account Name: Ovalhouse Capital Campaign Account 80371793
Sort Code 20 80 57

By CHEQUE:
Cheques made payable to Ovalhouse Capital Campaign
c/o Katie Milton, Development Director – Capital Campaign,
Ovalhouse
52-54 Kennington Oval
London SE11 5SW
BOOKS WITHOUT ENDING

Chihab El Khachab  Junior Research Fellow in Anthropology, Christ Church

‘No matter what you do, you should never stop reading. You must always read, read, and read...’ The words of an influential mentor still ring true years later. I have been afforded the opportunity to live up to his counsel as a Junior Research Fellow in Christ Church. With no administrative nor teaching duties, I spend most of my waking hours living as close as I can to a life of reading, reading, and reading, with the occasional writing – a privilege which even senior colleagues in Oxford envy, seeing as they remain mired in all-too-mundane faculty meetings, essay marks, and grant deadlines.

The distance between work and leisure slowly wanes under these circumstances, as I tend to read out of pleasure and academic interest all the time. Some books are still more enjoyable than others. Personally, I am fond of reading classical ethnographies, a genre with which I have long been acquainted as a social anthropologist. Students of anthropology are not interested in the tradition of ethnographic writing as much as they are in reading about the contemporary world and its peoples. There is no reason to believe that it was ever otherwise. ‘Ethnography’ is, after all, a form of ‘writing about people’ in an etymological sense, and it is the thrill of reading about the world’s customs and cultures that attracts readers, not the classics per se. Yet there are rich lessons to be learned from reading classical ethnographies, not to mention their peculiar entertainment value.

A personal favourite is Ruth Benedict’s The Chrysanthemum and the Sword (1946). This is an extremely controversial book, seeing as Benedict makes broad-brushed claims about the Japanese ‘cultural personality’ without ever having been to Japan. The book is based on materials she collected on imperial Japan while working in the United States Office of War Information during the Second World War. Benedict’s book was long received as an authentic account of Japanese culture in academic circles. Nowadays, it is known as an ideological document generalising the views of specific Japanese groups at a specific historical juncture to the entire nation. Benedict’s purpose seems to have been more about presenting recommendations to the post-war US government about ways of pacifying the defeated empire than about creating an empirically accurate picture of Japanese society.

Why read this flawed classic? Benedict’s book is a reminder that all accounts of the world’s peoples and their cultures, no matter how well-written, are still partial and prone to the ideological vicissitudes of their author. This is how I read other classics like E. E. Evans-Pritchard’s inescapable The Nuer (1940) or Godfrey Lienhardt’s Divinity and Experience (1961), which would be entertaining reads were it not for their authors’ commitment to erase their involvement in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan’s colonial politics and the way in which their accounts overlooked – if not implicitly justified – British imperial policy. The entanglement of politics and scholarship comes again to the fore, but we can become sensitised to this ideological imbrication by trying to read, read, and read some more.

Chihab El Khachab is a Junior Research Fellow in Anthropology in Christ Church. His current research is about bureaucratic governance in the emerging IT sector in Egypt. He has published widely on Egyptian cinema, television, and online culture. His forthcoming monograph is the first systematic study of the commercial film industry in Egypt, the largest industry of its kind in the Arab world.

For more information about his work, see: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/staff/dr-chihab-el-khachab
association with the legal profession – counting Lord Chancellors, many judges, and countless QCs, barristers, and solicitors amongst its members – and it seemed only fitting in the year of the retirement of one of our members as President of the Supreme Court (Lord Neuberger) to devote this edition to our lawyers.

With nearly a thousand living members who work or have worked in the law, it would be impossible to give a comprehensive portrayal of the varied career paths pursued by House lawyers. That said, the reflections of Liz Le Vay (1993) and Lord Neuberger (1966) provide an enlightening perspective on their respective careers and how they have been shaped – in different ways – by their time at Christ Church.

Elsewhere, the books reviewed in this edition cover Africans in Tudor England, dissident artists, film investments, Jane Austen, and vampires. So, as with alumni events, let it never be said that Christ Church Matters does not have something for everyone.

Events

Summer Gaudy
22 June 2017
We welcomed back matriculands from 2003-2005

Thanks to the tireless work of the Development Office we, as old members, are spoilt for choice when it comes to events. Whether it’s the Varsity Match, concerts at St John’s Smith Square, receptions around the world, formal dinners, or any of the other events listed at the back of this volume, there is something for everyone. But of all the events on offer it is the Gaudy that most members will endeavour not to miss.

My own year group had its first Gaudy in September and my experience of it was much the same as my childhood experience of Christmas Day: Great joy at the arrival of a much longed-for event, tinged with growing melancholy as the hours swiftly ebbed away leaving less and less of it to be enjoyed. Fortunately, the Gaudy involved a far greater quantity of Claret than my childhood Christmases, which softened the feeling of sadness on the day and considerably increased it the day after. Despite the aftermath it was a wonderful occasion, and I would strongly encourage anyone who has not yet returned for one to make the most of the opportunity when it next arises.

Our regular Association News feature on the careers pursued by old members this time has a focus on the law. The House has a long
Christ Church Association

Garden Party
17 September 2017 – Members and their families enjoyed a relaxed afternoon in the Masters’ Garden with tea, cakes, croquet, and live music.

Board of Benefactors Gaudy, 9 September 2017 – Members of the Board of Benefactors attended tours, talks, and a special musical performance in the Upper Library followed by the Gaudy dinner in Hall.

Modern Languages Dinner
16 September 2017 – Former Modern Languages students reconnected with peers and tutors, enjoyed a lecture, discussion, and dinner in Hall.

Christ Church Association

Garden Party
17 September 2017 – Members and their families enjoyed a relaxed afternoon in the Masters’ Garden with tea, cakes, croquet, and live music.
Autumn Gaudy
28 September 2017
Matriculands from 2006-2008 returned for their Gaudy in Hall.

1546 Society Lunch, 17 September 2017 – Members of the 1546 Society were invited for their annual lunch, the main event of the society’s year.

Family Programme Tea, 1 October 2017 – Relatives of new students were welcomed to Christ Church with a tea in Hall.
The Life and Science of Dr PAUL KENT 1923-2017
50 years and more of biochemistry at Christ Church

A symposium to honour the memory of Paul Kent to be held on Saturday 1 September 2018

Members of The House were saddened to hear of the death of Paul Kent who passed away on 7 March just a few days before his 94th birthday. The funeral and Service of Thanksgiving took place on 10 April 2017 at his local Parish Church of St Michael’s Cumnor. Paul was a greatly respected chemistry and biochemistry tutor at Christ Church. He joined The House in 1955 and, apart from a period away as the second Master of Van Mildert College Durham, Paul was a much valued Senior Member and colleague at Christ Church for more than 50 years. A full obituary will appear in the Christ Church Annual Report for 2017, but the event that we preview here will be an appreciation of Paul Kent’s contributions and achievements in a long and fruitful life dedicated to scholarship, academe, his students and the wider community in Oxford and elsewhere.

As well as a devoted and inspiring tutor, Paul Kent was a lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, and from 1956 Dr Lee’s Reader in Chemistry at Christ Church. When Paul first came to Oxford in 1951 as a University Demonstrator in biochemistry, the Final Honours School of Biochemistry had only recently been instituted. On moving to Christ Church in 1955, he became a pioneer in both the teaching and research of biochemistry at Oxford. Indeed the massive transformation of and developments in the subject of biochemistry could scarcely have been anticipated: the discovery of the double helix of DNA only occurred in 1953.

This Symposium is intended to be a general overview of Paul’s achievements in many areas embracing science, the history of science and wider contributions to the community, both academic and non-academic. The Symposium is promoted by the Christ Church tutors in biochemistry and chemistry as well as by the Development Office. Initial planning has been provided by the Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group, an alumni group formed to support science and science-related activities associated with The House. The family of Dr Kent will participate in the Symposium.

The Symposium will consist of an afternoon of lectures on subjects related to Paul’s interests, with an interval for tea and discussion, followed by a wine reception and dinner in Hall. The topics of the lectures will be at a level of general interest, and will cover biochemistry, drug therapies and the history of science. An invitation to attend the symposium is extended to all members of the University and College together with members of scientific societies, local schools and interested members of the public. A full programme will appear early in 2018, and registration will be available through the Christ Church Development Office (development.office@ch.ch.ox.ac.uk) or online through the Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group (www.chchchem.org.uk). A preliminary list of speakers is given below.

It is proposed to produce a Memorial Publication of the Symposium, carrying abstracts or summaries of the lectures together with a brief record of the scientific publications of Dr Paul Kent. We are also inviting contributions to this publication from Paul Kent’s former friends, colleagues or students who may wish to record their reminiscences or describe some particular aspect of Paul’s life. Any possible contributor should contact the Development Office, or in the first instance David Dunmur (ddunmur@tiscali.co.uk) as the symposium coordinator from the Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group.
MORE ABOUT THE PLAY:
Outside influences are beginning to corrupt Arcadia and its well-behaved inhabitants. Colax, who grew up in Arcadia but left it behind, has returned with cruel intentions and his new accomplice, Techne the dressmaker. They set about disrupting the love stories of shepherds and nymphs, snaring their victims through a combination of jealousy, suspicion, and tragic fashion sense. Meanwhile, the upsurge in fighting is helping Lincus the lawyer, and Doctor Alcon has set about inspiring a new and profitable addiction: smoking. Where will it all end?

THE TRADITION OF READ NOT DEAD AT SHAKESPEARE’S GLOBE:
September’s reading of The Queen’s Arcadia is a special performance celebrating the history of theatre at Christ Church. The College was a leading centre for drama in the seventeenth century and Samuel Daniel is an intriguing figure who bridged the worlds of academe and court life. Through their project Read Not Dead, the Globe are bringing to life the forgotten gems of Shakespearean England to give audiences insights into the wide range of works produced in Renaissance theatres. Each performance combines the expertise of the Globe and university academics working together, creating a unique experience for audiences who are watching live research in action.

TIMES AND PRICES:
12-1.00pm lecture given by Dr Elizabeth Sandis (The Shakespeare Institute), introducing the play and its historical context. Tickets £5.00, available from early January by visiting the Globe website at: www.shakespearesglobe.com
2.00pm Shakespeare’s Globe perform The Queen’s Arcadia in the Hall. TICKETS £25.00
7.30pm Christ Church Annual Association Dinner in the Hall. TICKETS £30.00
Booking details to follow in 2018

Patrick Spottiswoode (Director, Globe Education, Shakespeare’s Globe) says: “Read Not Dead was initiated by Globe Education in 1995 with the aim of staging performances with scripts of all the plays performed between 1567-1642 that have survived in print. To date over 250 plays have been staged by professional casts at Shakespeare’s Globe, Gray’s Inn, at the Wilderness Festival and at Penshurst among other venues. Traditionally, the actors gather together on a Sunday morning and present the play as a script-in-hand performance before the public in the afternoon. This autumn we are looking forward to staging Daniel’s comedy for Queen Anne in the play’s original venue at Christ Church.”

We are grateful to The Leverhulme Trust for their support of this project, which is part-funded by a postdoctoral research grant awarded to Dr Elizabeth Sandis (The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham).
CAREER FOCUS:
LAW

Two Old Members reflect on how their time at Christ Church shaped their subsequent legal careers.

LORD NEUBERGER (1966)

My legal career has been in something of a lockstep with the UK’s relationship with the EU. In the year I opened my first law books, 1972, the UK decided to join the EU, and in the year I stepped down as a Judge, 2017, the UK served notice to withdraw from the EU. But the legal landscape has changed in many other ways since I started my legal career, and particularly since I embarked on my judicial career.

By the end of that period, the judiciary had come to play a much larger part in our national life than at the start. The number of cases which involved judges considering challenges to government decisions increased in that period by literally 100-fold. Even more remarkably, since 1996, Parliament enacted legislation which required judges to rule on fundamental public interest questions, including human rights (a very wide topic, including right of privacy, right to a home and to family life, freedom of expression), devolution (which raises fundamental constitutional points), and national security, freedom of information and data protection (all of which raise serious policy issues). And judges (or recently retired judges) have been asked by the government to decide important issues such as the conduct of the press, racism in the police, the sale of arms to Iraq, and (most recently) the cause of a fatal fire in a block of council flats. All these developments have served to take the judges out of the shadows in which they were lurking in 1974, and brought them closer to the front line, as I discovered in my last year in the Supreme Court in the Miller case.

A career in the law was not even a glimmer of a possibility in mind during my four years reading chemistry at Christ Church between 1966 and 1970. Nonetheless, looking back on my 21 years as a barrister, specialising in property cases, and my 21 years as a judge, I believe that the experience of those four years substantially contributed to such success as I have had. Studying science has not only given me a life-long interest in science, but it also ensured a degree of rigour in my thinking which I otherwise would not have had, and was essential for a successful lawyer. It also gave me a facility with numbers which was of great use in property valuation cases, and was a particular advantage in a profession not noted for its numeracy. And, after I had become a judge, the discovery that I had a science degree resulted in my being asked to try patent cases, which was both very interesting and of real assistance to my judicial promotion. As for my time at Christ Church, its influence on my career, and on my life generally, was more intangible but just as significant. Discussions (often long into the night), sometimes wide-rangingly intellectual, sometimes not so intellectual, with undergraduates and dons, even with porters, gave me an intellectual and social confidence (not, I hope, over-confidence), a healthy scepticism (not, I hope, cynicism) coupled with a degree of fluency (not, I hope, glibness). My time at Christ Church also helped me develop an appreciation of fundamental values (not, I hope, sententiousness) leavened by a strong sense of humour (not, I hope, frivolity). All these qualities are very useful to a barrister and to a judge.

LIZ LE VAY (1993)

Eschewing the lure of jurisprudence and the 24 hour law library, I studied English as an undergraduate, unaware that this would determine my career path; in law. It was Christopher Butler, who nonchalantly asked, as an antidote to slaying Austen’s satire, whether any of his class had considered being a lawyer. It was my English tutor who plucked me from my utopian dream of being the next Brontë, by introducing me to an old House member, who was a managing partner at a law firm in the City.

The early days of my career were punctuated with antiquated struggles; the sickening sound of the fax machine greedily eating the last page of a document; the panicked search for the purple pencil; the tears of frustration when the paginator packed up at 1am, with half a bundle to go. The House stood me in no stead for those daily battles. It was only when I moved firms, on qualification, that I appreciated my years of training.
“Could you drink a bottle of wine and still speak to a client?” asked the head of department, in my first interview.

“No”, I responded, “I could drink two.”

My House credentials shone, and the second interview was cancelled.

I owe the House more than that first introduction, or my undisputed tolerance to red wine. It’s thanks to the wrath of Peter Conrad, who could smell a plagiarised sentence before it had even been stuttered, that I’m adept at using precedents thoughtfully, and that I’m (relatively) calm under pressure; it’s thanks to the calibre of people that I studied with, and learnt from, that I strive to get the best for my clients, and from my colleagues.

I’ve moved on from the heady days of drinking wine in the guise of client development, and now work at a US law firm in London. Having worked at both English and US firms, I feel lucky to have experienced the smorgasbord that the City has to offer. Contrary to myth, working at a US firm is not a dance with the devil. Anyone willing to be accountable for their own development, and happy to embrace autonomy, might just enjoy it; almost as much as an English tutorial with Peter Conrad.
Dean, Canons, Students, Fellow Modern Linguists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me thank Gary O’Donoghue (see pages 34-35) for his inspirational speech – Gary is one of those people whom one considers oneself fortunate to have met, and it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to thank him not only for his insights into current life in the US, and for delivering the Loyal Toast, but also for all that he does in bringing US politics into our sitting-rooms here in the UK. It is a great pleasure to be able to thank him, and a daunting task to follow him.

So it really is “à la recherche du temps perdu”.... what a wonderful day we have all enjoyed at the House.... Listening to a lecture on translating Proust and to a sublime Evensong, re-visiting our old undergraduate haunts and now dining again in the splendours of Hall. It is a joy to be here, and a very great honour for me to have been invited to speak to you this evening.

I am sure you will all agree that today has brought back very many memories and we will all have had our own madeleine moments. One thing today has done for me at least has been to bring back – so vividly they could almost be here dining with us now – Alban Krailsheimer and David Luke. I knew at the time how lucky, how tremendously privileged, I was to be taught by these two giants of modern languages, each of whom had published seminal translations of the classics: Dr Krailsheimer of Pascal’s Pensées and Dr Luke of Goethe’s Faust (Stephen Spender claimed that David Luke’s translation of Faust was more poetic than the German original). But those, of course, are their best-known works: Alban Krailsheimer also translated Victor Hugo’s Notre-Dame de Paris, and David Luke Der Tod in Venedig, Kleist, Grimm and many others for established publishers... Perhaps – like so much in life – it is their loss that makes us value so poignantly all that they bestowed on us lucky (and, maybe only in retrospect, fully appreciative) undergraduates.

My tutorials with David Luke were particularly memorable. Some of you may recall his dogs; in fact those of you taught by him in the mid-1980s could not fail to remember his Pekingese dogs – bounding around the tutorial room in these rather strange towelling garments, which can only be described as canine “onesies” – and giving his rooms a peculiarly pungent scent. He was – even at the time – a revered figure at the House, not least because of his well-known friendship with W.H. Auden, which conferred on him (at least as far as I was concerned) almost god-like status. But he was a hard taskmaster and, if you had failed to read or properly interpret the prescribed text, he would (like Alban Krailsheimer) find you out in a nano-second.

As Robert Vilain said in a wonderful obituary, “Many will remember David Luke for his eccentricities, which were legion, for his extreme devotion to his pets, first cats, later dogs, or for his obsessive behaviour. He could be abrupt, thoughtless and very rude when frustrated by an individual’s or the world’s failure to live up to his expectations. But many will recall how kind and generous he could be, especially towards keen students, male and female, with genuine intellectual curiosity. Asked why he had tolerated Luke’s awkwardness for so long, Alban Krailsheimer replied: “We’d have divorced long ago if it hadn’t been for the children” – his large and grateful intellectual family”. And here we are.

Now Alban Krailsheimer – well, quite simply, he was my mentor and sponsor, the person who bequeathed me, and so many others, not only a rich cultural heritage but also (along with his colleagues Dr Truman and Christopher Robinson) gave me the opportunity to study here at this magnificent college. He taught me – one (or two) on one in the confines of a tutorial – the importance of being prepared, of doing one’s homework, of sound interpretative analysis – but, above all, he introduced me to the wonders of writers perhaps not easily discoverable on one’s own: Margueritte de Navarre, Rabelais, Montaigne... quite apart from the more conventional canon of Ronsard, Corneille, Molière and Racine.

And while the study of Rabelais’ Gargantua might not seem to have been crucial to my subsequent career (I have since spent 30 years studying economics), modern languages have, in fact, been integral, the gateway, to my entire life. From my first job after graduating where I had responsibility for French and Belgian clients, speaking French every day and travelling to France or Belgium every other week; to my second role at an American firm where I had responsibility for...
Austrian clients, amongst others, speaking German daily and travelling to Vienna (and doing a Spanish language course too) – and then to a European development organisation where I spent 16 years and spoke both languages every day.

It was in 2003, 16 years after graduating – when working for the European supranational – that I decided to obtain another languages qualification and became a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists; I then joined the board of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, which gave me a direct insight into some of the challenges facing the teaching of languages in schools and universities, as well as the competing (and sometimes conflicting) priorities of business and education needs in the teaching of languages.

And now, some years later, I am lucky enough to be on the board of the Wallace Collection, a treasure of a museum, almost a small corner of Paris in the heart of London – where my love of Watteau, the French painter for which the gallery is partly renowned (at least in France), springs directly from Christopher Robinson’s teaching of the poetry of Verlaine here at Christ Church: Verlaine’s Fêtes Galantes collection was inspired by the paintings of Watteau.

So studying modern languages here has not just been a degree, it has been that secret gate – la porte étroite – to my whole life. And I believe – still passionately believe, even in the face of the depressing decline in the number of students pursuing languages at school and university – that modern languages is an enormously important subject. This is not just because of the rich intellectual hinterland gained by studying literature or the honing of a more scientific approach to the world gleaned by studying linguistics – although I happen to believe that my own life would have been much the poorer without both of these. It is also because the study of modern languages, as taught at Oxford and certainly to me here at Christ Church, carries with it much more than the study of a grammar and some key texts:

– It is a study of history – not just the history of those countries whose languages you are reading, such as 16th century French history with the wars of religion, but also a fragment of English history in Maria Stuart or that great tapestry of Italian history which is Dante’s Inferno.

– It is a study of the classics: how much information about ancient Greek civilisation is contained in the words of Bérenice, Andromaque and Phèdre?

– It is a study of philosophy: directly as in the works of Voltaire, Rousseau, Nietzsche and indirectly in exploring the influence of Immanuel Kant on a dramatist like Schiller.

– It is a study of psychology as anybody who has read Madame Bovary, Proust or, indeed, the poetry of Baudelaire will attest.

– It is a study of theology with Pascal’s Pensées and countless other examples.

– It is a study of politics – not just obviously in the work of Machiavelli, but in Brecht, Michel Houellebecq: across writers, across ages.

– And it opens the door to an appreciation of all the arts, not just the written variety: Beaumarchais’ play about an Andalusian barber set to music in operas by both Rossini and Mozart, Büchner’s Woyzeck and Alban Berg’s eponymous musical version. And there are countless cross-overs in the visual arts: Paul Eluard and Man Ray, Stéphane Mallarmé and Gauguin are just some of the Symbolist examples.

But above all – and this is why I fervently hope that, despite the ubiquity of English on the internet and across the globe, we see a reversal of the decline in modern languages take-up at school and university – above all, the study of a language other than one’s own opens our eyes to a new and different culture. As François de la Rochefoucauld said:

“L’accent du pays où l’on est né demeure dans l’esprit et dans le cœur, comme dans le langage.” It gives us a new medium for self-expression (for in speaking another language we almost become another person) and – with this – we are able to empathise with nationalities other than one’s own: to look outwards, to recognise, very directly, that there are things of great value and instruction beyond our shores, and to be able to respect and work with people from all cultures in a harmonious and unprejudiced way.

And that is why I feel able to ask you to support this critically important Tutorial Fund at Christ Church at this pivotal juncture in the history of our nation and, indeed, the world. For the understanding of other cultures is a way of ensuring economic prosperity and of keeping the peace between nations.

And, with that, Dean, Canons, Students, Fellow Graduates, I would like to propose a toast to the House – and to Modern Languages at the House.

Jessica Pulay
September 2017
As I sit down to write this, I have just returned from the deep south; Alabama to be precise, where we were covering what Americans call a special election, for a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate.

Normally Republican candidates in Alabama need little more than a local post code and a pulse to get elected, but this election turned out to be different.

The ins and outs of the election itself have been covered pretty thoroughly, so I must just tell you about two aspects of my trip which stick in my mind.

The first relates directly to the election itself.

I have seen some political stunts in my time. Remember Ed Miliband’s ill-judged eight foot tall stone block at the 2015 General Election? Or his photo opportunity with that poor bacon sandwich? Or that excruciating time in 2005 when Tony Blair and Gordon Brown – barely on speaking terms at the time – attended a poster launch trying to look all casual and pally with ice cream?

But I must say I have never before seen a politician travel to the polling station to cast their vote on a horse.

To be fair to Roy Moore, the Republican candidate, he had done it before, but not, I fancy, surrounded by dozens of photographers and TV crews from around the world.

Predictably enough, the horse got a bit spooked, and it looked like Mr. Moore might be about to create one of the most humiliating political photographs imaginable. But he just about managed to hold on, muttering the odd threat to journalists about running them down.

The second aspect of my trip I will never forget.

Gary O’Donoghue (1987) is Washington Correspondent for the BBC

Gary O’Donoghue is the only blind broadcast journalist in the country. He came up to Christ Church to read Philosophy and Modern Languages in 1987, by which time he was already blind, having lost his sight by the time he was eight. He owes much to the specialist boarding school for blind children in Worcester which he attended, and recently spoke at a Modern Languages dinner about his debt to the House and to his Oxford education.

However, as you can see from this article, much of Gary’s success must be put down to his own incredible determination to lead as normal a life as possible, will to succeed, and acute insight.
Spending a day or two in the north of the State, largely rural, largely white, very conservative; the place is peppered with churches.

I spent a pleasant afternoon at one, the wonderfully named Cowboy Church of Limestone County. They had what’s called a barrel racing show – not, as it might sound at first, pushing barrels down a hill, but a type of rodeo, where children as young as four cling to their horse as they ride slalom around three barrels set out in a dirt ring. But that wasn’t what really captivated me.

Later the same day we found a phenomenon that could really only happen in America.

How about this? A drive-through nativity play.

I’m really not making this up. The Emmanuel Church in Athens, Alabama, has an annual drive-through nativity play.

Now I know you’re thinking: How kitsch! How awful! How American! But I must tell you it was amazing.

They had set it up in the car park of the church. There were a dozen or so little scenes taking us right from King David through to Christ’s birth in the stable. At each scene, peopled by several members of the congregation, you stopped your car and an audio commentary played on a device they handed you on the way in. Incredibly well produced, with music and bible readings, the idea was to listen to the audio and, well, just stare at the tableau outside your car window. You could do the whole thing in about fifteen minutes. I was completely charmed by it, perhaps because I remember sitting through some rather lengthy and chilly nativities – as participant and then as parent – over the years.

I know the drive-through culture is often cited as a failing in the American way of doing things; but in a country where the car is king, it’s hardly surprising and probably inevitable.

That’s not to say I don’t have my gripes about the US. Let me deal with a few trivial examples that continue to irritate after three years living here.

First, I am suspicious of American sliced bread. It does not go off as bread should. A week or more in a plastic bag on a kitchen counter, and bread should be showing its age; there should be that little curl at edges; and a small whiff of decay. But not here; its longevity in these parts is disturbing. Whatever compound produces this effect, I cannot help thinking it’s not a good thing.

Second, milk. There is a constant battle to be had in restaurants and cafes to persuade your server that you really would prefer “real” milk in your coffee – and that the heinous invention known as “half and half”, which is some kind of heat treated hybrid whose ubiquity here I find baffling, just won’t do.

Third the protocols and conventions around tipping. I knew I hadn’t grasped the principles at all when a colleague told me that I should still tip the waiter who had, accidentally, poured a glass of beer in my lap.

And finally of course the daily guilt of throwing away half your lunch because delis seem unable to make you a sandwich that is less than the size of your head.

Dietary gripes aside, it has been a fascinating time to be based in Washington DC.

I was at Hillary Clinton’s "victory party" on the night of the Presidential election. You could feel the air being sucked out of the room as the night went on, and the realisation that Donald Trump was winning sank in.

The months since Trump’s inauguration have been an absolute rollercoaster.

The day starts with his tweets responding to the breakfast shows, and ends with his thoughts tweeted, apparently, from the Presidential bedroom. Sometimes it can be traditionally Presidential, praising World War 2 veterans or mentioning children’s groups which have visited the White House. But mixed in, there are also the off the cuff policy announcements and the attacks on the media and political opponents – often senior members of the President’s own party.

It’s a story that never sleeps – and it often has America’s allies around the world looking on askance.

But let me end by blowing America’s trumpet a little.

While not a pure meritocracy, this place has a far better shot at being one than many other parts of the world. And despite reports to the contrary, the American dream is not dead. The great melting pot continues to produce innovation and – whatever others may think about its current political direction – the country’s institutions are strong.

POSTCARD FROM WASHINGTON
Venture investing is alive and well in the Valley.

The Oxford Entrepreneurs of the Bay (OEB) group brings together Oxford alumni founders, mentors and investors in the greater San Francisco Bay Area monthly to share ideas, provide feedback on each others’ pitches and, of course, enjoy a drink.

After one such congenial meeting the group of Oxford alumni looked at each other and asked the obvious question: “Why not start a fund ourselves?” And thus, the Oxford Angel Fund was born.

With a focus on developing the California outpost of the Oxford business community, the fund has made six seed stage investments to date with many more in the pipeline. The fund draws on a population of over four thousand Oxford business people in the area. Below are four Oxford founders who we are delighted to have in the Oxford Angel Fund I portfolio.

As we look to 2018, discussions have started around Fund II, and we’re meeting regularly with investors and founders outside of California.

For more information on the Oxford Entrepreneurs of the Bay (OEB) group or the Oxford Angel Fund, (as founder, investor, or curious bystander) please contact cameron.turner@oxfordangelfund.com.

We hope to see you at the ChCh dinner on the 7th of April in San Francisco, which will be a part of the Oxford Alumni North America Weekend.

Melissa Pancoast
TheBeans.io

The Beans automates financial planning and support for America’s middle class. With joy, smart design, psychology, and machine intelligence, The Beans is transforming how we feel about our money.

Ishveen Anand
OpenSponsorship.com

OpenSponsorship is the largest marketplace for sports sponsorship, connecting brands directly to athletes, teams and events for marketing partnerships. OpenSponsorship is bringing transparency, data-driven insights and software innovation to the traditionally archaic and inefficient $60B sponsorship industry.

Dennis Chornenky
Telelytics.io

Telelytics is focused on developing data-driven solutions to support the growth of telemedicine and easier access to care. The company is working with the UC Berkeley Health System and has partnered with Athenahealth to mine electronic health records for insights into optimising telemedicine implementation.

Sim Gulati
DropelFabrics.com

Dropel creates high-performance natural fabrics that serve as the foundation for novel customer experiences. Dropel’s first technology creates water, stain & oil repellent fabrics that maintain softness and breathability—allowing customers to stay clean, dry, and comfortable in luxurious natural fabrics like cotton, cashmere, wool and silk.
Nebuchadnezzar’s Marmalade Pot & Other Reflections

**Adrian Leak** (1957) has served as a parish priest for many years, many of them as a country parson. This collection of seventy-nine brief essays is the fruit of those years. They range over topics related to the Christian faith, including Advent, Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, weddings, funerals, prayer, parenthood, belief, and hope.

Adrian Leak’s brilliantly observed reflections make a fascinating read. They will appeal not only to Anglicans, including lapsed ones, but also to the large number of people who, while they have not been blessed with the gift of faith, care deeply for the Church of England. Adrian draws his inspiration initially from apparently superficial incidents and details, but as he gets drawn in he plumbs the depths and writes most movingly about the spiritual life and the problems of pursuing it in a largely indifferent and often hostile world. He claims his reflections are merely random meditations, but in fact they display the workings of a profound and mature intelligence.

Roger Lockyer, Reader Emeritus in History in the University of London.

Price: £13.99 (Hardback)

The Hero of Negropont and Martoni’s Pilgrimage 1394

**John Mole**

A travel book, a comedy, a history, a fiction, the story of two Housemen. Escaping scandal, rakish Lord Exford is exiled in 1788 to Constantinople with prudish Winstanley, a clergyman angling for a curacy in his gift. They are shipwrecked on the Greek island of Negropont, now Evia, ruled by a Turkish pasha. Befuddled by love, hashish and his classical education, Winstanley defies the Sultan’s might and wily Exford must deliver them all from an unspeakable fate. This is the central plot of a framework novel around other tales of passion and delusion set in England, the Aegean and Constantinople over four centuries of Ottoman Greece.

One of these tales is based on the journal of Nicola Martoni, an Italian small-town lawyer who travelled to the Holy Land across Greece and Egypt in 1394, a great travel story and a rare insight into a medieval mind in an age of marvels and miracles. I have tried to make amends for fictionalising his life by translating his journal from Latin.

**John Mole**’s (1964) other books include the bestselling *It’s All Greek To Me!* about life on a more recent Evia. See [www.johnmole.com](http://www.johnmole.com) for more.
The Real Persuasion
Portrait of a Real-Life Jane Austen Heroine

Peter James Bowman

Her father is a vain, foolish baronet, obsessed with his lineage but so careless with money that he is obliged to quit his ancestral seat. Her sister is a fretful invalid with a good-natured husband and two disobedient sons. She herself falls in love with a handsome naval officer, and he with her, but her proud family consider his status and prospects inadequate.

Heartbroken, the lovers part: he goes to sea while she leads a forlorn life at home. Years later he returns with a fortune in prize money, and after further misunderstandings he claims her as his bride.

This is the story of Anne Elliot in Jane Austen’s Persuasion. It is also the story – true this time – of Katherine Bisshopp, the clever, beautiful daughter of an old Sussex family. Drawing on Katherine’s letters and journals and other family papers, this book relates the joys and anxieties of her youth, her harrowing eleven-year courtship with George Pechell, and their happy and prosperous union. Splinter chapters draw parallels with Jane Austen’s portrait of society and reveal the extraordinary coincidences of character and circumstance between Katherine Bisshopp and Anne Elliot. The reality of history and the deeper truth of literature together yield a detailed picture of the age.

Peter James Bowman (1990) is an independent scholar and translator living in Ely. He read Modern Languages at Christ Church and completed a PhD in German at Cambridge. He has published many periodical articles on literary subjects, and among the writers he has translated are Theodor Fontane, Stefan Zweig and Johanna Spyri.

Investing in Movies
Strategies for Investors and Producers

Joseph Cohen

This volume is a useful guide for those looking for an analytical framework to assess the opportunities and pitfalls of film investments. The book traces macroeconomic trends and the globalisation of the business, as well as the impact these have on potential returns. It offers broad guidelines on how to source interesting projects and advice on what kinds of projects to avoid, as well as numerous ways to maximise risk-adjusted returns.

While focusing primarily on investments in independent films, industry veteran and author Joseph Cohen also provides valuable insights into the studio and independent slate deals that have been marketed to the institutional investment community. This book gives students and aspiring professionals an insider perspective and a detailed explanation of the risk and rewards inherent in the film business as well as how to evaluate projects.

Much to his surprise, Joseph Cohen (1961) left academia, having completed a BPhil in Philosophy with the intention of becoming a Don, for a career in merchant banking first in London then on Wall Street. He became involved in film financing in the early 1980s and has been involved in several Oscar-winning films such as 12 Years a Slave and The Hurt Locker.

Black Tudors

Miranda Kaufmann

Black Tudors tells the stories of ten Africans. Miranda Kaufmann (2001) traces their tumultuous paths in the Tudor and Stuart eras, uncovering a rich array of detail about their daily lives and how they were treated. She reveals how John Blanke came to be the royal trumpeter to Henry VII and Henry VIII; the trouble Jacques Francis got himself into while working as a salvage diver on the wreck of the Mary Rose; what prompted Diego to sail the world with Drake, and she pieces together the stories of a porter, a prince, a sailor, a prostitute and a silk weaver.
They came to England from Africa, from Europe and from the Spanish Caribbean. They came with privateers, pirates, merchants, aristocrats, even kings and queens, and were accepted into Tudor society. They were baptised, married and buried by the Church of England and paid wages like other Tudors.

Yet their experience was extraordinary because, unlike the majority of Africans across the rest of the Atlantic world, in England they were free. They lived in a country where skin colour was less important than religion, class or talent: before the English became heavily involved in the slave trade, and before they founded their first surviving colony in the Americas. Their stories challenge the traditional narrative that racial slavery was inevitable and that it was imported to colonial Virginia from Tudor England. They force us to re-examine the 17th century to find out what had caused perceptions to change so radically.

Introducing Black Tudors means a reassessment of our national story and what it means to be British today. They are just one piece in the diverse jigsaw of migrations that make up our island’s multicultural heritage. The knowledge that Africans lived free in one of the most formative periods of our national history can move us beyond the invidious legacies of the slavery and racism that blighted later periods in our history. Black Tudors challenges the accepted narrative that racial slavery was all but inevitable and forces us to re-evaluate our shared history.

Death of the Artist
Art World Dissidents and their alternative identities

Nicola McCartney

There exists a series of contemporary artists who continually defy the traditional role of the artist/author, including Art & Language, Guerrilla Girls, Bob and Roberta Smith, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd and Lucky PDF. In Death of the Artist, Nicola McCartney explores their work and uses previously unpublished interviews to provoke a vital and nuanced discussion about contemporary artistic authorship. How do emerging artists navigate intellectual property or work collectively and share the recognition? How might a pseudonym aid ‘artivism’?

Most strikingly, she demonstrates how an alternative identity can challenge the art market and is symptomatic of greater cultural and political rebellion. This book exposes the art world’s financially incentivised infrastructures, but also examines how they might be re-shaped from within. In an age of cuts to arts funding this offers an important analysis of the pressing need for the artistic community to construct new ways to reinvent itself and incite fresh responses to its work.

Nicola McCartney (2007) is a lecturer in Cultural Studies at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, and an Associate Research Fellow in History of Art at Birkbeck, University of London. She has previously taught fine art and critical theory at London Metropolitan University. She is also a practising artist and has exhibited throughout London and the UK, received public commissions and undertaken residencies abroad and at home.

Blood Renegades

Rosemary A Johns

My name is Light. In 14 nights I’ll go up in flames. In 14 nights I’ll die for my family. In 14 nights I’ll save the world...


Dive into the perfect escape: a supernatural world where vampires are both predator and prey. Blood Renegades explores a hidden paranormal world, where Light is hunted by both humans and vampire alike. It’s a story of redemption and what it means to be human in a divided modern-day Britain.

Rosemary A Johns commented, ‘I love the idea of a British vampire anti-hero. A series where the vampires are the slaves, rather than the humans. A modern British reinvention of the myth.’

Winner of Silver Award in the National Wishing Shelf Book Awards.

Watch the Official Rebel Vampires Trailer here: https://youtu.be/jPIlcoeTGT4

Rosemary A Johns (1999) is a music fanatic and a paranormal anti-hero addict who creates spellbinding worlds, thrilling action, gripping suspense and passionate romances, all uniquely told with a rebel anti-hero at their heart. Rosemary has studied history at Oxford University, run a theatre company, and worked with disability charities.
HEADLINE FIGURES 2016/17

GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Figure 1: Pledged and received gifts

Pledges and cash gifts over the last year amounted to £4.1 million. Figure 1 illustrates the balance between gifts to the endowment and gifts to expendable projects – which are roughly even – and makes a comparison with funds raised over the preceding two years.

We were delighted to receive Alex Beard’s (1985) matched gift of £800,000 to the Boat Club Endowment Fund which completes that element of the Boat Club project.

Gifts towards expendable funds have included £524,000 for the renovation of Peckwater Quad and a gift of £117,000 to the Bursary Support Fund from André Brenninkmeijer, a member of the House’s Family programme.

CUMULATIVE TARGETS AND OUTCOMES

Figure 2: Cumulative funds raised versus straight line target to £34.3 million in 2023

The cumulative totals figure shows that we have raised £8.9 million towards our target of £34.3 million by 2023 and are therefore proceeding well against our annual targets.

This is our annual supplement to Christ Church Matters, providing a topline commentary on the state of Development for the House over the last financial year (August 2016 to July 2017). In this edition we are including it as an integral part of CCM, demonstrating that Development is very much part of what Christ Church does but saving print costs at the same time!

The emphasis on fundraising for the House is focused on our enduring core values: namely the world-class tutorial system, an open and competitive admissions process, maintenance of the historic fabric, research, sporting and cultural activities. Donations have been in support of the endowment and a number of expendable projects and to those benefactors who have supported our efforts over the last year – and who are mentioned in this Development Matters supplement – we owe considerable and indeed heartfelt thanks.
In perpetuity 2 set out a target of raising £7.5 million towards our endowment funds by the end of this year. However, in reality we have achieved just over £5 million to endowment funds. The remaining funds raised have been allocated to expendable areas such as bursary support for current students.

BOARD OF BENEFACTORS

This year we received 22 gifts of £25,000 or more and welcomed 12 new members to the Board of Benefactors, the society which recognises all donors who have given at this level or above. Our new members include four alumni who matriculated in the year 2000 or later and we are most grateful for all of their support.

SMALLER GIFTS: DONORS UNDER £25K

This last year we have seen a significant increase in gifts under £25k, with 734 gifts compared to 453 in the previous year. We are hugely encouraged by the uplift in this area. Many of the gifts were made towards the fundraising dinner at the Savoy in April 2017, hosted by Sir Michael Moritz and Sir Alex Ferguson, which raised £250,000 towards Student Support and Access at the House. We have also welcomed 64 new members to the Moritz-Heyman Project which was established to recognise all those who make a regular gift to the House within five years of graduating and whose gifts are matched by the Moritz-Heyman fund.

TUTORIAL POSTS AND BURSARIES

We continue in our mission to underwrite all tutorial posts to at least 60% of their full cost to ensure we can maintain the gold-standard tutorial system. We are particularly grateful to Marcus Granziol, a member of the Family Programme, for his generous support of the Management Tutorial fund this last year. In the areas of Modern Languages, English and Chemistry we are still working hard to raise critical funds and invite our Members to consider helping us with these disciplines.

BURSARIES AND HARDSHIP

A total of £342,120 was gifted to the bursary endowment this year compared to £71,000 in the previous year. This was greatly boosted by the Moritz-Ferguson fundraising dinner whose donations and auction funds were directed towards the endowment. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed towards this key area and find ourselves less than £200,000 towards our endowment target of £2.8 million.
PROJECTS

RENOVATION OF THE PECKWATER QUAD

Anyone who has seen the upgrade to the East side of Peck will be pleased with the result (see above). The building had not been refurbished for over 40 years and Governing Body insisted that the project should be accomplished sensitively and carefully, to combine conservation with modernisation. This has been achieved as the old fashioned interiors, the unacceptable electrics, plumbing, and roofing (with resultant excessive running costs and huge carbon footprint) have all been transformed successfully with style and quality.

The entire project will cost between £9m and £10m, and the Development Office is seeking to raise at least £3m in expendable gifts to help cover one third of the total. The Oppenheimer family generously pledged a lead gift with matching opportunities, and we are grateful to them and to those other members who have responded. To date we are just shy of £2m towards the project, and with the second stage underway, at least one more major gift is probably required to reach the target, but all gifts to this iconic Grade 1 listed building are both welcome and needed. Room naming opportunities are possible with pledges and gifts at Board of Benefactor level (£25k).

SUPPORTING TUTORIAL POSTS

The aim to fund all tutorial pots to at least 60% of their full cost remains a key task of the Development Office. The House does not always have much time to prepare for tutors leaving and faculties changing funding commitments, so the constant fundraising towards academic pots must continue.

A few more gifts to the Paul Kent Chemistry Studentship are required to be able to announce its successful completion, and it would be tremendous to cross the line before the Memorial service for Paul in early 2018. A Modern Languages dinner was held in September 2017 to promote gifts to that most endangered of subject areas, and other subjects which require a boost to their funding "pots" are Law and English. At present it is the Humanities and Social Sciences which are most in need, but nobody should be surprised if within five years even the STEM subjects require more of our support.

THE 1546 SOCIETY

Christ Church formed the 1546 Society to recognise the generosity of members who have indicated their intention to leave a legacy to the House, and to thank them. In recognition of such bequests we hold an annual lunch and we welcomed back a number of Members last September for this annual occasion.

In 2016/17 we received notification of another 7 legacy pledges bringing the membership of the 1546 Society to 202.

We owe William (Bill) Rathbone (1956) and Christopher Rocker (1967) our continued thanks in leading our efforts with this important programme.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

In 2016/17 gifts via the American Friends totalled c. $600,000, including a major gift towards the new Computer Science project and a gift from Christopher Forman (1983) towards a Library acquisition. The American Friends, under the Chairmanship of Peter S. Paine Jr. (1957), continues to support scholarships, the library, tutorial posts, and the Boat Club (especially the annual Head of the Charles trip), amongst many other areas.

There is now an American Friends website: www.americanfriendschch.org which includes much useful news and information and via which you may donate, including using PayPal.

We are, as ever, hugely grateful to all our American Members and Friends, but especially to those who have helped financially, or by organising events, or by giving of their time over the year.
THE BOAT CLUB

This was a great year for the Boat Club. The Boat Club endowment project came to fruition thanks to the generosity of Alex Beard (1985) and Emma Vernetti. M1 went Head of the River for a record 33rd time, and the bicentenary was celebrated with a marquee dinner in the Master’s Garden and a Row Past at Henley (see below). We thank all those who helped with gifts and support in other ways over the year, especially the Boat Club Society committee.

The endowment will in future be able to cover the majority of the Club’s expenses as regards the Boat House, the Boatman and coaching. However, alumni members’ continued membership of the Boat Club Society is much needed in order to produce annual gifts towards equipment, bursary support, training camps, and travel costs.

The longstanding sponsorship agreement with Oliver Wyman regrettably came to an end, but we are pleased to announce the new sponsors of the Boat Club will be Savills (see back cover).

OVAlHOUSE

Christ Church has committed to help Ovalhouse raise £250k towards its fundraising target of £2.5m for the new premises in Brixton.

The House’s connection with the institution stretches back to 1882 with the founding of the “Christ Church (Oxford) Mission”, and has been a close one through the re-founding of the organisation and its move to the Oval as the “Christ Church (Oxford) United Clubs” in 1931, and the creation of Ovalhouse with a concentration on music, dance and drama in the 1960’s. The Dean and many other alumni serve on the governing board, and Christ Church seeks to retain its intimate relationship with a ground breaking theatre that has transformed so many young people’s lives.

MORITZ-HEYMAN SOCIETY

The Moritz-Heyman Society was set up in 2014 by Michael Moritz (1973, Modern History) and his wife Harriet to encourage benefaction from younger alumni. Membership of the Society is conditional on gifts of at least £60 per annum made by alumni within five years of graduation; and all gifts made in any one year are matched by Michael and Harriet, up to a total of £25,000. Members are invited to an event each year; past venues have included Rothschild’s, Merchant Taylors Hall and the House of Lords.

Now in its third year, the Moritz-Heyman Society continues to flourish, with 95 Members drawn from all eligible years. In 2016/17, gifts to the Society have supported all areas of College life. Over £17,000 has been given to Student Support, to help our current students fulfil their potential without the distraction of financial concerns. £1,425 has helped to protect the tutorial system, most particularly in History and Law. £4,500 has enhanced the fabric of the buildings our students and visitors enjoy every day. Finally, nearly £6,500 was given to support extracurricular activities at the House, including sport and culture.

Through the generosity of matched funding from Michael and Harriet, the Society offers a unique opportunity for Members to make a significant gift to support and enhance the lives of current and future students. We want to thank all our Members for their generosity over the last year, and we look forward to welcoming new Members of the Society this year.

www.ovalhouse.com
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

DONORS TO THE HOUSE August 2016 – July 2017

We are particularly grateful to all donors to the House over the last year, for their gifts and for helping make a difference. Although great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list, please accept our apologies if any error has occurred. Please notify the Development Office so that we can amend our records.

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CCM 40 | 47
A sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the House during 2016-17. In addition to those listed above, who supported financially, we also thank those who have given in many other ways.

Quite rightly, we believe, we have highlighted those who have given at Board of Benefactor level, but we have also chosen to draw attention to those supporters who have been giving over a period of at least ten years. Such consistent attention to those supporters who have given over a period of at least ten years is vitally important to the House's future plans.

In the course of the next year I hope to meet as many of you as possible; to listen to your ideas, and to discuss how, together, we can take Christ Church forward to the 500th anniversary of its first incarnation in 2025.

Ms Trudy Watt
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