There are two educations; one should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live.
— John Adams.

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The Dean mentions J. H. Newman. His view was that through a University education "a habit of mind is formed which lasts through life, of which the attributes are freedom, equitableness, calmness, moderation, and wisdom..." Diversity was important to him too: "If [a student's] reading is confined simply to one subject, however such division of labour may favour the advancement of a particular pursuit... certainly it has a tendency to contract his mind."

As John Drury points out education is communal; it can make the world a better place for all. Thus Christ Church's reach extends to America with the choir tour, to India with the Chaplain's work in Saakshar, and to Christchurch, New Zealand with assistance after the recent earthquake. It should also be fun, as evidenced by the number of thriving clubs and societies, and in the acquisition of a very special malt whisky for the House.

For as long as I can remember I have heard that higher education is under threat. Of course it is; for particular political or philosophical reasons, because of financial constraints, because of globalisation and competition, and sometimes because of the unintended consequences of our own actions.

Education is too important to be left at the mercy of politicians and to the vagaries of the economy, so institutions such as Christ Church and Oxford must seek self sufficiency and financial independence. Only then can we be sure that future generations, with aspirations to fulfil their potential in all areas, are able to benefit from an education that produces knowledge and understanding, creative thinkers, and a culture which "insists on becoming something rather than having something".

There are many small appeals for help in this issue: for the Harding Glass Collection, the Allestree Library, King Charles’s gate, for New Zealand and Saakshar. All are important and if they appeal to you, your help would be much appreciated. But our greatest task is to ensure the future funding of the Tutorial system, so your support to preserve the Tutorial post in your subject, in perpetuity, would be immeasurably valuable. As George Peabody reminds us, “education is a debt due from present to future generations.”

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Editorial

"There are two educations; one should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live." — John Adams.

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I think the main reason Keith did not emerge with a degree was his love of motor racing... and that he was moonlighting at the Tech. learning welding. At any rate he thoroughly enjoyed his time at the House – the Dean gets some charming letters. Not exactly, however, what we mean by an education with latitude, although you never know what might come in handy.

I find myself being pleased when we win things and when members of Christ Church turn up starring in the Playhouse or making ridiculous speeches in the Union, and yet happy too when we turn in a decent showing on the Norrington Table. And then angry when hearing speeches from university apparatchiks which define the 'student experience' and see degrees in terms of 'delivering the outcome' of employability. After all, the tutorial system, like other aspects of life here, is intended to cultivate imagination tempered by clarity of thought, enabling people to have poise in their chosen discipline and indeed elsewhere as well. The ideal is a nice balance between idealistic commitment on the one hand and healthy scepticism on the other. The mix of educational happenings and adventures which go towards achieving that end is hard to define with precision, but a mix it is.

Among the dangers of the present fee changes is that they will contribute to a gradual shift away from seeing higher education as providing the public benefit of having an educated population. If such education ceases to be seen as primarily for the common good, the alternative is to treat it mainly as a private advantage for the individual. That is a more exact and measurable target, but one which will cause all those who have valued the idea of a university to sharpen their arguments or to turn in their graves. It may be that we at the House had a small pang of jealousy when the Pope came over to beatify an old member of a college the other side of the rising bollards in Oriel Square, but we can all benefit from reading John Henry Newman’s writings about what a university can and should be. It is not a factory.

Colleges are strange places which can become bureaucratically egg-bound, narcissistic, frightened, self-protective. One could go on. Communities which exist for themselves alone are not going to improve their inmates and should die. The best are those which are diverse in their natures with a due sense of balance between their internal life and the obligation to turn (and benefit from turning) outwards to the world around. Well, that for a start at least...
College societies were two a penny in nineteenth-century Christ Church. There were serious academic gatherings such as the Essay Club, or WEG, founded by William Gladstone in 1829 with some old school friends. Gladstone’s intellectual interests earned him little respect from the more hearty members of college who actually broke into his rooms and tried to beat a little more light-heartedness into him. Other clubs balanced debate with dinner, most insisting that discussions should not include topics that were too controversial. Rule three of the Twenty Club, which began as the Eclectic Debating Society in 1886, for example, specifically forbade any subject involving theological matters. Other societies were purely for undisguised pleasure: Loders, or the Christ Church Society, was there for fun and riot, and caused deans Liddell and Paget no end of trouble.

Some clubs, though, had a more defined focus. Plays hadn’t been performed at Christ Church since the seventeenth century but were revived in the nineteenth with the support of the Liddell family. The University was not particularly impressed and tried hard to limit the types of production to Shakespeare and classical plays, but Mrs Liddell in particular would have none of it, and the deanery was often the backdrop for drama of all sorts. Who was going to argue with the Vice-Chancellor’s wife? The Dramatic Society performed farces such as My dress boots or the burlesque La Sonnambula, presumably a spoof version of Bellini’s 1831 opera. In 1898, the Canterbury Theatre produced, for the benefit of the House Mission, a drawing room comedy called Debt. The programme listed the renowned music hall artiste, Marie Lloyd, in one of the female roles, undoubtedly a joke, as she was probably the least likely person to have been allowed into Christ Church or to have performed on behalf of the Mission.

There were other small and often short-lived clubs, like the Choral Society. Instituted in 1827, with its first meeting on 3 February, the programme was anything but heavy. The members gathered in a different private room each week, and the resident of that room was responsible for ensuring that the piano, hired for a full term, was installed in time for the meeting – something which must have been most unpopular with the Meadow men of the day - and that a pianist was engaged. The first ‘director’ was Philip Egerton, later politician and palaeontologist with a particular interest in fossil fish. New pieces of music were...
presented to the society each week, and any kind of vocal music was admissible. Membership of the society was by ballot, and men from other colleges could be admitted as honorary members.

It was a well-to-do society, most of the men being titled, and the choice of music was eclectic. At the first meeting, there were songs by Henry Bishop from Colman’s play *Law of Java* first staged at Covent Garden in 1822, pieces from *Don Giovanni*, songs from Rossini’s *Il Tancredi*, ballads such as the *Red Cross Knight*, and glee by Dr Hayes’s harmonisation of *Gently touch the warbling lyre* for four voices.

It seems that the Choral Society survived for only a very short time, and the survival of its minute book is lucky. Other clubs and societies have vanished altogether, which is a great shame. If members have any memorabilia of organisations that they belonged to, and that they could bear to part with, the Archivist would be delighted to add them to the collection!

Table: Known clubs and societies with archive material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Records from</th>
<th>Photographs from</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Athletic Club</td>
<td>1819 – 1927</td>
<td>1920 – 1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beagles</td>
<td>1875 – 1879</td>
<td>1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Club</td>
<td>1880 – 1890</td>
<td>1878 – 1908</td>
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<td>Football</td>
<td>1890 – 1959</td>
<td>1891 – 1936</td>
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<td>Hockey</td>
<td>1872 – 1936</td>
<td>1892 – 1936</td>
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<td>Lawn Tennis</td>
<td>1883 – 1893</td>
<td>1892 – 1937</td>
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<td>Rugby</td>
<td>1872 – 1935</td>
<td>1892 – 1935</td>
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<td>The Runcibles</td>
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<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Antiquarian Print Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardinal Club</td>
<td>1891 – 1936</td>
<td>1892 – 1936</td>
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<td>Christ Church Society [Loder’s]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dramatic Society</td>
<td>1864 – 1960</td>
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<td>Essay Club</td>
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<td>1938 – 1939</td>
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<td>Graduate Common Room</td>
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<td>Junta</td>
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<td>Law Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mermaid Club</td>
<td>1813 – 1951</td>
<td>1814 – 1952</td>
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<td>&quot;P&quot; Club</td>
<td>1895 – 1951</td>
<td>1896 – 1951</td>
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<td>Twenty Club</td>
<td>1887 – 1951</td>
<td>1888 – 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivors</td>
<td>1840 – 1950</td>
<td>1841 – 1950</td>
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</table>
You may be doomed to enlighten a People by your Wisdom & to adorn an age by your learning. It would be sinful in you to let the powers of your mind lie dormant through idleness or want of perseverance when they may at your maturity aid the cause of Truth and Religion & enable you to become in some ways a Benefactor of the Human Race.’

Nowadays a Dean addressing the freshers in Hall could well put the same ideas in less lugubrious language. That was Ruskin’s father writing to his ten-year old son in 1829. When the boy came up to Christ Church eight years later he had already, with parental encouragement and participation, read extensively from Homer and the Bible to Scott and (surprisingly) Byron, published poetry and prose, started a mineralogical dictionary, learned to draw beautifully, travelled far and wide in Europe and fallen in love. For all that, Christ Church was the right college for him. He lived quite in his own way among the odd set of hunting and sporting men that gentlemen commoners usually are with the encouragement of his tutors: Osborne Gordon in his reading and ethics and Henry Liddell in his artistic interests. He was familiar with the menagerie in Canon Buckland’s lodgings and assisted him with geological illustration.

The hunting and sporting men have receded, but the undergraduates and graduates who range about among the arts and sciences, sports and plays, each ‘in his own way’ remain. Even in such a severely solitary business as drawing from the model, the presence of other people doing the same provides necessary order and support. When it comes to rowing, acting or music-making this is more obvious still. It is daunting being a fresher, a tremulous individual set among such articulate, evenumptiously unequal, equals. But join in and you soon find that their advantages are your enrichments. Being and doing with them, keeping a kindly eye on them, as they on you, is not a marginal benefit. It is fundamental too. Individual education in community ‘can enable you to become in some ways a Benefactor of the Human Race.’
Christ Church is the only college in the University with an Art Room and specialist Art Tutor. It was established by the previous Dean, the Very Reverend John Drury, because he was convinced that many students maintained a positive interest in the visual arts despite pursuing academic studies in other areas.

The Art Room has and does cater for many such people from Christ Church and from the University at large. It is said that a significant number of applicants to the college choose it partly because of its Art Room. Retired academics, academic spouses and college staff also use the room for studio work and discussion, thus making a connection with the Christ Church community.

The Art Tutor, Peter Rhoades, is present in the room for two afternoons and two evenings a week. The most popular group activities, supervised by the Tutor, are life drawing and printmaking. Life drawing class in particular attracts students from all over the University. Although printmaking can only be offered at modest technical levels, it is attractive in its range of media and specialist tuition. Intaglio (etching and collagraph), Relief (lino and wood block) and Screen printing are all undertaken and last summer a lively exhibition of printmaking work was held in the college.

There are occasional studio projects in drawing and three dimensional works involving visiting tutors, an especially popular one being modeling in clay. Other than use for supervised activities, the Art Room is an open access studio space for an approved list of both groups and individuals. A University wide undergraduate art society uses it on every Saturday during term and much individual work takes place.

Should any Member of the House be interested in supporting the Christ Church Art Room and the work of the Art Tutor please contact: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
I went back to Delhi in January to visit the slum school project Saakshar to see how their work was progressing. In four communities Saakshar grapples with the problems of low school attendance which is the result of centuries of social deprivation among the poorest section of society. Since my visit there 20 months earlier, we have set up a registered charity, Saakshar School Appeal, to support Saakshar’s work, and have been delighted by the response from friends and members of the college. On this visit I had the chance to stay with the family of Toby Porter, a former Houseman, and each day I was met by Asha Kumar, the director of Saakshar, in the minibus which was a gift from a member of Christ Church.

Delhi is cold and foggy at the start of January and across the city people huddle around little fires by the side of the roads. I was very happy to see that all the Saakshar children have been given smart red jumpers, generously donated by local community group Bharat Vikas Parishad and hats to wear too, given by a local supporter. I also noticed that in Nasirpur slum, where Saakshar began, building work was going on as a result of Asha’s success in encouraging the people to lobby their Councillor for proper drainage. Now at least the polluted and dirty water in the slum has been removed.

In October 2010, Saakshar opened its fourth school in a small slum sandwiched between a huge and stinking drain and corporate offices. When Saakshar’s coordinator asked parents if they would send their children to Saakshar, twenty tiny children turned up at 8.30 am, eager to begin. I was thrilled to visit the school and the children were very enthusiastic and made me feel extremely welcome. I was aware though of an urgent need for a bigger space for Saakshar to use, as this tiny school room fulfils a vital role.

There were also other positive developments in Saakshar’s work. Regular and careful health checks are a part of Saakshar’s care for the children of these communities. Substantially undernourished, with a poor diet, they are undersized for their age. In response to this, a regular vitamin, mineral and protein supplement is now given to all the Saakshar children.

The high point of my visit was the Sports Day. About 100 children attended, collected from Nasirpur, Matiyala and Mangla Puri in a big yellow bus, while cooks worked to prepare delicious hot puri and aloo sabzi (potato curry) for lunch. In addition to the races, there was a cultural programme of educational plays, songs and dances. One play performed by girls from Saakshar told of the importance of allowing girls to study as hard as their brothers. Asha and her team put in a great deal of work to give the Saakshar children a day they will remember for a long time to come.

It was wonderful to see Saakshar in such good health and a privilege to be involved in their work with some very disadvantaged children. I am very grateful to all who have helped us to support them. If you would like to know more or make a donation, please go to the website http://saakshar.chch.ox.ac.uk

If you would like to purchase images from the website galleries in support of Saakshar, fine art quality giclee prints are available, either mounted or unmounted. For information contact: ralph.williamson@chch.ox.ac.uk
At the time of writing, we have just completed Lent, Holy Week and Easter. This article gives a flavour of cathedral life during this special and busy time of year.

The cathedral is privileged to have a fine choir, and those who came to the service of music and reading for Ash Wednesday began Lent by hearing the hauntingly beautiful sounds of Allegri’s Miserere. The daily offering of choral worship helps many to reflect and pray, and we are grateful to the Cathedral Singers – the cathedral’s excellent voluntary choir – who also played their part during the vacation, including when the Cathedral Choir was touring North America.

As befits a cathedral set within an academic community, learning plays a part in our ministry. This year, the cathedral clergy lead a Lent course studying Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan’s thought-provoking book The Last Week, which focuses on the events leading to Jesus’ crucifixion as recorded in Mark’s Gospel. Throughout Holy Week, Canon Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, gave a fascinating series of addresses exploring the theology behind J S Bach’s St John Passion, which was performed on the Wednesday of Holy Week by the Cathedral Choir and the Southbank Sinfonia.

The Eucharist on Palm Sunday began in dramatic fashion, with a procession from Tom Tower to the cathedral led by a donkey, echoing Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem. Also during Holy Week, the Sub-Organist, Clive Durskill-Smith, and Organ Scholars Ben Sheen and Michael Heighway, performed Charles Tournemire’s meditation on Christ’s seven last words from the cross, Sept Chorals.

The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival took place during Lent, and this year the cathedral was very much involved. Poet and rock journalist Steve Turner was the speaker at a special ‘After Eight’ service focusing on religion and pop culture. Joanne Harris, author of Chocolat, read from the King James Bible at the Festival Evensong, and the preacher at the Festival Matins was Oxford University’s Professor of Poetry, Geoffrey Hill. In addition, the cathedral hosted a talk by John Spurling on Liszt, illustrated brilliantly by pianist Grace Francis; old member Simon Walker gave a challenging talk based on his book The Undefended Life; and Visitor’s Officer Jim Godfrey led two late-evening musical and historical tours of the cathedral.

In short, life in the cathedral is varied and rich. The daily rhythm of prayer and worship is supplemented by a wide range of activities, as the cathedral fulfils its unique role of serving both a college community and the Diocese of Oxford – not to mention the large number of international visitors who pass through each year.
The recent two week Christ Church Cathedral Choir Tour of North America was envisaged as a valuable contribution to the Choir’s international standing as well as a first attempt at expanding our donor base beyond Christ Church Alumni. Our ultimate aim is to generate an endowment for the Choir of $1,000,000.

One of the issues for us in raising funds generally is that our alumni base in America is relatively small compared with the likes of Harvard or Princeton, who raise funds on a consolidated University wide basis. If we can reach beyond our alumni base we have the opportunity to explore new sources of donation. The Choir, being such an important part of Christ Church, and enjoyed by so many, can help access a wider public.

In December ’09 we formed an ad hoc volunteer group consisting of 2 individuals from a Charlotte and a Boston public radio station, Rob Paterson, a Canadian alumnus with expertise in media and communications, Stephen Darlington and myself. During 2010 we also added a volunteer in Washington DC and a PR professional from Charlotte. Prior to and throughout the tour we ran a daily updated blog and Facebook page which each had as many as 1,400 hits per day at the height of the tour.

The initial funding for the tour, which was expected to cost around $100,000, was provided by donations from Robert Ronus, a UK national living in the US, and me, with the addition of $31,500 of performance fees. The choir sang in 2 church locations in Charlotte, North Carolina, The National Cathedral in Washington DC, and three further church locations in New York, Boston and Toronto. Total audience numbers came to over 3,500, with the largest audience being in the National Cathedral, which was filled to capacity with 1,200 attendees. We were also the subject of radio broadcasts in Charlotte, Washington and Boston, and the Charlotte broadcast was syndicated to a further 12 radio stations.
throughout the US. All locations, with the exception of New York, where 4 British choirs were singing that week, were filled to capacity and we received standing ovations and requests for encores everywhere, with the exception of Boston where we performed at Evensong.

We also sold more than 1000 CDs, and held well attended receptions/recitals in Charlotte, hosted by one of the radio station board members, in Washington at the British Embassy, hosted by the Deputy Chief of Mission, in New York, in Boston at the British Consulate, hosted by the consul, and in Toronto. The choir boys proved to be excellent CD salesmen at the receptions!

We are still at a relatively early stage in calculating the finances, however total income from the tour, including a very generous pledge of $160,000 from American Friends' President Peter Paine, appears to be something over $300,000. Total expenses are estimated to be around $120,000, so we have achieved the first steps towards the endowment.

We learnt many lessons along the way concerning things that we need to do better if we choose to do this again, but I think that both the choir and the organising team felt that this had been a good first attempt with a relatively successful outcome. The performance locations would certainly love to have us back!

Christ Church Choir recordings:

Recent recordings by the Cathedral Choir have received great public acclaim. By buying these recordings Members will help to maintain this series of high profile recordings.

TAVERNER Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas Avie AV2123
“The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral’s modern day members, under Stephen Darlington, allow the Mass once again to soar aloft in the same resplendent acoustic Taverner knew 500 years ago.” — Independent on Sunday

MORE DIVINE THAN HUMAN Avie AV2167
Music from the Eton Choirbook
“More Divine than Human! superbly sung in the original dispensations by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, under the inspirational direction of Stephen Darlington, is a disc to set the spirits soaring. Glorious beyond words.” — Richard Osborne, Best of 2009, Gramophone

Nominated for Gramophone Award 2010

HOWARD GOODALL Eternal Light: A Requiem
EMI 50999 2 15047 2 3
“The world premiere recording, delivered with great conviction and no little beauty, underlines the contemplative nature of the score... A simple, unpretentious and ultimately moving work.” — Andrew Stewart, Classic FM Magazine

EGON WELLESZ Choral Music
Nimbus NI5852
“All of the music here is sung to perfection by Darlington’s forces... This disc is a real stunner and will probably take you by surprise as it did me.” — Audiophile audition

USA AND CANADIAN TOUR Nimbus NI1530
A compilation of extracts from previous Nimbus recordings.
“... the singing is superb, beautifully lucid and balanced between the musical voices, with fine diction, accurate intonation and an almost uncanny precision at every entry.” — Which Compact Disc

Please order from the Development Office: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
Dr Nicholas Penny, Director of the National Gallery, London and one of the world’s leading museum directors, gave the inaugural Christ Church Picture Gallery Patrons’ Lecture on Thursday 5 May 2011. He spoke on ‘Sculpture and the Sculptural in Renaissance Painting’ to an audience in the Blue Boar Lecture Theatre, which was filled to capacity.

The talk, in which Dr Penny combined two of his fields of interest and research, gave an exciting insight into how Renaissance painters invented and used sculpture and sculptural forms in their two dimensional medium.

It is a well-known fact that Renaissance painters were inspired by sculpture and incorporated it into their paintings. Furthermore, during this period the contest between the arts, in which sculptors and painters tried to assert their supremacy, was at its height. Sculptors argued that working in the third-dimension was closer to nature and therefore would inevitably outshine painting. Painters countered that their art could rival nature in many more aspects and even create a greater illusion of space; painting must therefore be the leading art form. Leonardo da Vinci, a master of all the art forms, strongly advocated the superiority of painting.

Nicholas Penny’s lecture emphasized the variety of forms and ideas that painters used to depict their rival medium. It addressed the question of how truthfully painters depicted sculpture – when did they document and when did they invent in order to create the illusion of reality without its restrictions? The advantage the painter has over the sculptor is the ability to portray a substance without being bound by the limitations of the material, whether by painting very elegant and slender ankles in a marble figure, which in real life would not be able to withstand the stresses and break, or by rendering a sculpted throne out of oversized goldsmith-work which can only be found in small jewelry, rather than in monumental sculptural forms. The lecture gave a taste of this vast subject and surely inspired further work on it.

After such a triumphant start we look forward to next year’s speaker and lecture, which will be announced at the beginning of 2012.

Jacqueline Thalmann
Curator

Leonardo da Vinci, a master of all the art forms, strongly advocated the superiority of painting.

The Harding Collection: glass from the golden age

In January 2010 Christ Church’s famous glass collection had to be put in storage when asbestos was found in the two display cases which held the collection. The Picture Gallery is now raising funds for a new display case in order to show this important collection of British 17th and 18th century glass to the public. Most of the glasses were made for wine drinking and reflect the varied situations and rituals in which drinking took place; this includes an early 18th century kit Cat Club glass which is one of only two known glasses of this kind in existence, it’s inscription reads:

“Dear Harriot D—, Look at the fairest glass that’s filled the most, And Harriot you will find the fairest Toast, Look at her eyes if you their light can bear, And Love himself you’ll find toastin there”

We are seeking £25,000 for a state of the art display case which would allow us to show the glass again in all its splendour and at the same time guarantee perfect environmental conditions and security. Should any Member of the House be interested in sponsoring this project, please contact: Simon.Offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
John Wyclif features in a curious footnote to the history of Christ Church. In 1365, he was appointed by Simon Islip, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to serve as warden of Canterbury College, Oxford. It had originally been intended that this College should be composed of a mixture of Benedictine monks and secular clergy under a Benedictine warden, but Islip installed Wyclif, a secular, as warden. In 1367, Islip’s successor, Simon Langham, wished to reinstall the monks, and this led to three years of litigation which eventually ended Wyclif’s residence in the College. As his DNB entry has it, “Wyclif later commented that the foundation of Canterbury College had been sinful, but its dissolution (as he described it) worse.”

Christ Church, courtesy of its second founder, was to profit from an altogether more thorough dissolution of Canterbury College in the sixteenth century and acquired its buildings: hence Canterbury Quad (top right).

The task of dismantling myths about so complex an individual as Wyclif, and about the controversies that grew up around his ideas, is meaty and necessarily collaborative work for modern scholars. Of the thirty publications I have produced so far, most have been concerned with the various consequences, for English intellectual and literary life, of the Wycliffite controversies. This year will see the publication of Wycliffite Controversies, a collection of essays to which I have contributed, and which I have co-edited with Professor Patrick Hambly, a former Senior Scholar at Christ Church. These essays investigate the various milieux, both scholarly and extramural, in which Wyclif’s ideas were disseminated; the material remains of Wycliffite literature in both English and Latin; and the impact of the controversies on other reformist theologians in Wyclif’s time and afterwards.

Earlier this month, I co-organised a one-day colloquium at Christ Church on manuscripts of the Wycliffe Bible in Oxford libraries. Although c. 250 manuscripts are extant (far more than remain of the works of Chaucer or Langland), the conditions under which these copies were produced, and the kinds of readership they achieved, are still largely unknown.

The colloquium was held to celebrate the imminent conclusion of a project to investigate and describe manuscripts of this Bible in the Bodleian Library. Dr. Kantik Ghosh (Trinity) and I were fortunate to obtain money from the John Fell Fund (another accidental Christ Church link!) for a pump-priming grant to support the manuscript analysis carried out by our colleague, Dr. Elizabeth Solopova. It is gratifying that Dr. Solopova and Professor Anne Hudson (who pioneered the study of Wycliffite texts) have secured funding from the Leverhulme Trust to investigate many more manuscripts, and thus to enable us to understand in greater detail the complex religious culture of pre-Reformation England. While the wider world celebrates the quatercentenary of the Authorised Version, an older, and still mysterious, English Bible is not being forgotten.
Torpids 2011 saw another highly successful campaign for the Christ Church Boat Club; the Men’s First Boat retained the Headship for a third successive year, holding off determined challenges from Pembroke and concluding racing with a particularly convincing row-over on the Saturday. This signal success was supported by other strong performances across the Club, especially the Women’s 2nd Torpid gaining their blades – and also making history by entering the fixed divisions for the very first time, thirty years on from co-education at the House. The Men’s 2nd Torpid – mostly composed of freshmen - held its fairly exalted place in Division III and the 3rd (Schools) Boat made three bumps.

Coming on top of four successive boat-burnings in both bumps competitions over the last three years, and with the House crews at each level outmatching their opponents, this has been something of a golden time for the ChChBC. The men still hold (and have for three years) the positions of the highest First, Second and Third Eights – while the women’s Seconds hold their senior place as well. One would have to go back some decades into history to find a time when the House last dominated Oxford collegiate rowing quite so thoroughly. In addition, in 2008 the top Four reached the Final of the Visitors’ Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta – an achievement unmatched by other Oxbridge colleges for many years, while other House senior fours have competed bi-annually at the Head of the Charles in Boston, Massachusetts – and placed high in the rankings of the most prestigious event of Championship Fours.

The standard set by the Club is rightly very high, but not always easy to live up to. Success has come only as the result of a great deal of hard work, of top-class professional coaching, of good – but not excessively lavish – equipment, and of a certain esprit de corps that comes from setting and matching the very highest standards. But it is not just the elite we concentrate on. We want to be in position where everybody who wants to learn to row can do so, and receive good coaching even if in the lower boat. It is a matter of great pride to the Boat Club that the successful Torpids crews over the past few years have been almost exclusively “home grown”.

Our young people learn a great deal in their time with the ChChBC – metaphorically as well as literally – as they learn to stretch themselves, to manage their time and to commit to wider concerns than those of their own individual lives. Many of them go on to continue the Club’s proud traditions of dedication and high achievement in later life – and remember their time on the Isis with affection. Only this can explain the numbers of members who continue to support the Club via the Boat Club Society – and this in turn allows the current members access to good coaching, equipment – and to success, permitting the cycle to continue.

Thanks to the support of the Head of the River crew of 1985, and in particular Andy Green, their cox’n, and of Sir William Gladstone, KG, we were able to buy a new men’s 1st VIII shell in 2009, named in honour of our royal co-founder in the 500th year since his accession to the English throne. “King Henry VIII” was purchased in time to provide a suitable shell for the very talented crew of 2010’s successful defence of the Headship. This year we thank the Winklevoss family, Howard and Carol, and their twins Tyler and Cameron, both Blues who rowed in that boat, for the gift of a new lighter Wintech which will give our rowers a choice of boats for the next few years. Such generosity from members of the Society allows the Club to prosper. It needs your continued membership subs and, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of women’s rowing at the House, and approach the bi-centenary of the Club in 2017, it is surely fitting to reflect on the wider issues of what success on the river actually means – and why it really matters. We are planning a number of events and an appeal over the next five years to ensure the future success of the Club. I hope that all of you reading this article, who believe as I do in the importance of rowing, and indeed sport and extra curricula activities in general, in delivering a balanced education to our junior members, will support us.
Editorial

The response to our call for articles on clubs, societies and extra-curricular activities was overwhelming. We’ve had to increase the number of pages for Association News to help accommodate them and even then some other good things have had to be postponed until the next (Michaelmas) edition to make space. My editorial scissors have been working overtime. I am afraid. Apologies to those whose articles did not make it in this time, or (perhaps worse) ended up pruned.

What survives though is a fascinating array of articles covering the extra-curricular waterfront in all its richness and diversity. One of our authors I suspect spoke for many when he said that what he learned at the House outside the lecture theatre was as valuable as anything he gained from going inside it. Some people went on to achieve recognition and distinction in their chosen “spare time” activity. That wasn’t everybody’s experience, but all of our contributors gained immensely from their participation in clubs or sports or wherever their fancy took them: social, practical and other skills; career-enhancing opportunities; or just simple pleasure. What is also undoubtedly true is that, whatever people’s motivation for or gain from taking part, the life of the college as a whole was immeasurably the richer for it.

What we did not cover was the benefit for those not in the clubs. For one was quick to hang up my oars after a brief skirmish on the water; but that made me appreciate the skills of the trained rowers even more. I enjoyed going to Manchester to support the House University Challenge team as well as cheering on those involved in various sporting activities, listening to the musicians in the orchestras and groups, watching the plays put on by the drama societies. That’s before I even get to the exotic performances of the Norderstars in Peck Quad after one of their drinking sessions.

Another call for articles was for our new column, Frank’s Corner. We now have a rich supply of high jinks to draw upon. I’ve rationed you to only one this time, but more will follow in future editions I promise. Please keep sending them in along with views, thoughts and other comments on House related matters.

Fiona Holdsworth (1981), Editor
fiona.holdsworth@btinternet.com

Balance

The summer before I enrolled at Christ Church, I stopped rowing. It was 2005, and the sport which I had picked up at University had been a constant presence in my life throughout the preceding 4 years. I felt I’d had enough of year-round training with the US rowing team.

Yet when I arrived at Christ Church I knew I had not rowed my last stroke. The idea of continuing the balance of curricular and extra-curricular interests was the primary draw of coming to Oxford. Academically, I was interested in working in the field of biomedical engineering. I also knew that I would be training for another elite rowing team and trying to earn the Oxford University Boat Club’s dark blue blazer.

Initially the balance was rather straightforward. I worked on magnetic resonance spectroscopy at the JR each morning, and went to Wallingford each afternoon for training. That year Oxford won in a manner rather reminiscent of this year’s excellent race - a decisive push for open water just after the Hammersmith bridge, followed by victories of many lengths. After that, although I remained a student at Christ Church, my life included a partnership research project in the US. I spent time on each side of the ocean, learning a great deal from both my mentors. In 2007 I won another round of US trials and spent the summer at international competitions. The other more momentous aspect of my “extracurricular” life was proposing to my girlfriend on a sunny afternoon in October.

When it came to the final at the Beijing Olympics, I thought it might be my last race representing my country, so I knew I had to put everything into it. Unfortunately, it was not our day. We rowed high and fast, but without the pounding rhythm that had carried us to first place at the World Cup in Switzerland two months earlier, and we placed fifth.

“If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there.”

Lewis Carroll

The following year one highlight was travelling back to Oxford, and being part of the Christ Church VIII that took Head of the River! Another was that my wife and I learned that we were going to have a baby in September. Unfortunately, she went into labour three months early. I spent time with her in the hospital and found it impossible to write my thesis. Luckily my mentors were very understanding and my daughter did finally come home, happy and healthy, just after my birthday.

Wanting my family to be able to come and share in my Christ Church experience, I set my degree day for May 2011. I approached graduation as I write this and, looking back, I now see that the most important lesson to be drawn from my adventures in research and rowing was the work-life balance I need as a husband and father.

I will always have my bark blue rowing blades hanging in my study to remind me of my experiences in my rowing ‘wonderland’. Lewis Carroll once wrote, ‘Everything’s got a moral, if only you can find it.” The moral I have found is that Christ Church is an excellent place to learn curricular and extracurricular balance - and that one should always forth their best effort in every aspect of their life.

Jamie Schroeder (2005)

CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION NEWS / EVENTS

When my family first came to Oxford in 2001, I was struck by the wealth of activities and variety of events available to students. I have tried to maintain this connection by sharing my experiences in my rowing ‘wonderland’. Lewis Carroll once wrote, “Everything’s got a moral, if only you can find it.” The moral I have found is that Christ Church is an excellent place to learn curricular and extracurricular balance - and that one should always forth their best effort in every aspect of their life.
Attracting an ambassador

I remember telling the Magistrate that “Drunk and Disorderly” was not an entirely accurate charge. I’d been circling Mercury flawlessly, singing on my banjo, before falling in. Eventually, the pace of my backstroke was equally intoxicating to watch. I was told, especially the churning of whitewater around my black tie and silk lapels.

Earlier that night, I’d managed to produce the American Ambassador for a drinks party at the House, which was hosted by then Dean Henry Chadwick. My tutor, Teddy Burn, had suggested the event to me. Being the sort who viewed an undergraduate’s duty as the promotion of the House’s social ideals within and without its walls, he’d said, “You were at Yale. You must know the Ambassador.”

Although I’d come to the House from Yale, we were hardly close friends. What to do? Invite him, of course.

As a Yank at Oxford, I’d grown accustomed to the occasional sneer or supercilious remark from the less gracious of my English hosts. I’d often consigned myself at breakfast in Hall by sitting near the portrait of Lord Grenville, whose Stamp Act helped to ignite the American Revolution, and by eating the Kellogg’s cornflakes Brits delight in. It evidenced the triumph of our Yankee commercial spirit.

Two years ago the House was Head of the River — that means we were best — but last year we fell to second. Our goal is to reassert our rightful place.

Attracting an ambassador

Dancesport

What with lectures from 9am, tutes from 9pm, dinner served sharply at 6:20pm and many an evening Union debate or black-tie gathering, the typical Oxford student engages with an undeniably jam-packed lifestyle. So what brings us to cram even more into this already dizzy agenda? The answer in my mind is simple - it’s an escape. I would spend the majority of my week analysing cellular particles that you can’t even see and really don’t do a lot. So was it any wonder that on a Saturday morning I would drag myself down the High Street to waltz, jive and cha cha cha across the polished floors of Iffley? Being part of the Dancesport team enriched my Oxford experience, allowing me to socialise in entirely new and varied groups and compete in an arena where academic ability was moot. It was just me, and my teammates, learning and growing and laughing together. For those few hours you weren’t in Oxford, you didn’t have finals cruising towards you like the Titanic, you were just taken over by the incredible high of true team spirit, the kind you can only get when there’s a trophy involved.

Rowing

Extracts from letters to my parents in Texas:

11 October 1960

Last Wednesday Tony Louckes dropped in and said he had heard from a friend that I might be interested in rowing for the House. Earlier, at a reception, I had introduced myself to Dean Simpson, who weren’t particularly interested in the fact that I would be studying his field, Theology, but asked, “You now, don’t you?” Tony asked me to go with him to Windsor that night, where the crew was involved in pre-term practice. Soon I was rowing with Windsor Castle in the distance and the Queen’s swans in the foreground (one of which I inadvertently bludgeoned with my oar).

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11 October 1960

We surprised George Harris, the Christ Church boatkeeper, who is serving as our coach (and a superb coach he is). It is encouraging to hear him shout, “Well rowed, House! Jolly good show, House!”

2 June 1962

We have reached the last day of Eights, and are still very decisively Head of the River. Teddy Hall have given us no cause for concern from behind. If we do remain Head, there will be a Bump Supper in the Dining Hall.

[Editorial note: which there was. Further editorial note: while typing these extracts in 2011, I am looking at the blue oar blade emblazoned with the names of the eight oarsmen, the coxswain, and our four coaches, including George Harris, who may well have been my best teacher at Oxford.]

Christopher William (1977)

Sarah Mitchell (2005)

Patrick Henry (1960)
Breeding ground for authors

In 1961 and a group of fellow undergraduates founded a society for aspiring authors. As we could not think of a name we called it the Anonymous Society of Writers. It was University-wide, but we met in Christ Church in the rooms of various members, to read our work aloud – mostly poetry, short stories and fragments of novels – and give each other critical comment. The main founding members were myself, Tim Jeal (1962), Frederick Turner (1962) and James Gordon (1962).

As I recall, most of what we wrote was fairly pretentious juvenilia, but for some of us it was a step on the road to greater achievement. Tim Jeal published his first novel while still an undergraduate and went on to write other novels, a memoir and a series of highly successful non-fiction works including his recent prize-winning biography of the explorer H.M. Stanley which was Sunday Times Biography of the Year for 2007. Frederick Turner emigrated to the United States, became a professor of English literature and has achieved fame as a poet and literary scholar. I myself have produced a series of books on the western esoteric traditions as well as works of fiction and of biography, including my book The Swan King: Ludwig II of Bavaria, soon to be reissued in a revised edition by I.B. Tauris.

The programmes were recorded at the Granada studios in Manchester. John Penycate (1962), George Kiloh (1963) and Jeremy Orme (1963). During our subsequent run, George and Jeremy changed places so that everyone had the chance to appear.

The House in University Challenge

The recent triumph of the Christ Church team in University Challenge brought back memories of the House’s first foray into the competition almost 50 years ago. In 1965 Granada TV invited us to enter what was then going to be the second series of the programme. Selection of the team was a pretty chaotic affair: sample questions were read out to a packed room of aspirants and we were invited to shout out the answers. Despite confidently asserting that the first Olympic Games were held in 1896 (correct answer 776BC!) I found myself invited to join a team captained by David Gillespie (1960) with John Penycate (1962), George Kiloh (1960) and Jeremy Orme (1962). During our subsequent run, George and Jeremy asserted that the first Olympic Games were held in 1896.

The qualifying rules were different then. Teams had to win three matches in a row in order to reach the quarter finals. We comfortably disposed of Peterhouse, Queen Elizabeth, London and York and became the first team to qualify for the knock-out stage in that series. We then had to wait 18 months before there were enough teams to hold the quarter finals. Back in Manchester 1965 we won our first match but then came up against Edinburgh. Here we fell foul of the question setting process. The new producer was a music buff and the number of music-based questions rose sharply. Unfortunately this was not our strong point, while Edinburgh had a real expert. We lost by a narrow margin and Edinburgh went on to defeat by New College in the final.

The JCR received £160 for each programme, half being split between the team members. Still, £80 was a tidy sum for an undergraduate in the 1960s.

One personal footnote. Shortly afterwards, I went through the Civil Service open competition with University Challenge proudly on my CV. The chairman of the Final Selection Board asked “some sort of television programme is it?”. When I explained, he harrumphed “so you are a jack of all trades, master of none?” I’m not sure what I replied but they let me in anyway.

The first Atomic weapon test). In those days, there were no professional question setters; Bamber Gascoigne, the producer of Have I Got News for You? and his team was a pretty chaotic affair: sample questions were read out to a packed room of aspirants and we were invited to shout out the answers. Despite confidently asserting that the first Olympic Games were held in 1896 (correct answer 776BC!) I found myself invited to join a team captained by David Gillespie (1960) with John Penycate (1962), George Kiloh (1960) and Jeremy Orme (1962). During our subsequent run, George and Jeremy changed places so that everyone had the chance to appear.

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Oxonian review

During the final year of my BA in French and Spanish, I began working as an editorial assistant for the Oxonian Review, a publication run by Oxford University postgraduates who wanted some help with their editing workload. I was put in the 'Writers' section, where we edited book reviews on biographies, collections of letters and literary criticism. The work was challenging as submissions were often ambitious and full of clever references and cross-comparisons, at times resembling academic essays. As well as editing individual sentences, we made suggestions for restructuring the content or adding new sections in order to produce reviews that were stimulating, coherent and thought-provoking. We also often had to write our articles, which involved a whole process of identifying books due to be published, requesting review copies from the publisher, finding a student working on the relevant subject area and getting them to agree to deadlines. When time was short the work could be stressful, but the feeling of satisfaction when the review was published was highly beneficial to me. The final year at Oxford can often feel very claustrophobic, with exam preparation taking centre stage and pressure constantly building up. Having an extra-curricular activity that helped me learn useful skills (I now work as a Junior Project Manager in a translation agency) also gave me the satisfaction of working successfully within a team.

The experience of working for the Oxonian Review was highly beneficial to me. The final year at Oxford can often feel very claustrophobic, with exam preparation taking centre stage and pressure constantly building up. Having an extra-curricular activity that helped me learn useful skills (I now work as a Junior Project Manager in a translation agency) also gave me the satisfaction of working successfully within a team was highly rewarding, and one that I would certainly recommend to others.

Drama with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor

1966 – Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor came to the Oxford Playhouse to perform in Marlow’s Faustus. It was an OUDS production. I was the production’s General Manager – and it was also the year of my Finals. The production was a “Thank you” to Neville Coghill (of Chaucer fame) who had tutored the young Burton as well as a fundraiser for the Burton theatre. As laid-back undergraduates, we were determined not to be impressed by the Burton-Taylor phenomenon – they were super celebs that almost had no equal at that time. But this lofty detachment did not survive their arrival – we were rapidly swept away by the air of excitement that surrounded every move they made. They arrived a week early and in addition to rehearsals they mingled and socialised with us all. I remember an extraordinary evening in Magdalen in the Master’s Lodging when clouds of dry ice. One final snapshot: cycling down the Turl during the second week of the production, I was stopped by my tutor and said rather sullenly he thought it was very unlikely in all the circumstances that I would get a degree.

Extra-curricular activity and job hunting

Jobs come from many sources. Some are found through advertisements, some from the ‘milk round’ but over a lifetime a significant proportion come out of personal contacts. So what is an employer looking for in a potential employee? Firstly that he or she either can already do the job, for which they may be prepared to pay a premium, or at least is capable of learning how to do the job within a reasonable period of time. In this increasingly political correct era and to cope with the large quantity of applicants, employers draw up criteria which they require potential employees to meet. If an applicant does not fill the boxes and if tested does not pass they will not make it to interview. Secondly they need the newcomer to fit into the team that they are growing. The interview is as much assessing whether the potential employee will meet these less hard criteria as reassurance on their capabilities. If an employer can identify and empathise with the extra-curricular activities of a potential employee then there is a greater possibility that the potential employee will fit into the team. A large number of jobs are never advertised and in fact may never exist until the right person applies. So how do you find them? Speculative CVs? Sometimes it works, most times it does not. Mainly because it is hard to both find the recruiter and double guess a job specification that does not exist. Another is from amongst the people that you get on with, those with whom you share an extra-curricular activity and let them know that you are seeking a job. Do not overdo it, there is no quicker way to get avoided, but you never know when or where you might strike lucky. It worked for me and, even if it does not work for you, you can have a lot of fun trying!
Print-making at Christ Church

My initial experience with extra curricular activities at Oxford was quite comical. I lost sight of the cycling team within ten minutes of joining them for a 'gentle social ride'

They were way too fast! I then decided to join the Christ Church novice rowing team. This involved bone-chilling 6am training sessions, nearly getting ejected from the boat on three occasions and pulling several muscles during my first and last erg session!

Nevertheless, I did stumble upon an activity that demanded time and patience, but was never tiring: print-making in the Christ Church Art Room from 7.30-9.30pm on Thursday evenings was an activity I looked forward to. During my year there I practiced etching, and lino/block cutting and printing. Once we were introduced to the technique, our tutor, Mr. Peter Rhoades, would let us explore it on our own and would give helpful tips from time to time along with a cup of tea! The entire process, from selecting a design right to the moment when we would lift the paper and get to see our print, was, as one of my fellow print-maker would say, 'cool'!

No classes were held during the long summer that followed, but the Art Room was always accessible to us. Once my Master's dissertation was submitted and my friends bid farewell, I returned to the refuge of the Art Room. I am glad for the time I spent on the prints since I finally gave most of them away as gifts to my dear friends at Christ Church.

There are countless incidents that will always remind me of Oxford, but the image etched forever in my memory is one of climbing the stairs of the Old Library building, opening the door to the Art Room, hearing friendly voices in the inner room and being greeted with a warm smile.

The Meisterswingers band

"The Meisterswingers", resident band at the University Traditional Jazz Club, played term-time Sunday evenings in an upstairs room of the Port Mahon public house in St Clements. A number of House musicians grazed the line-up there in the mid to late 1960s - Charles Richardson (1964) drums, Bill Grigor Taylor (1964) clarinet and sax and my good friend Michael Langstaff (1966) double bass. Sadly all three have now passed away and so too another multi-talented band member with House connections, piano and sousaphone player Humphrey Carpenter (Kebbe), whose father was then the Bishop of Oxford.

Although I myself didn't play, I guess it was through fellow geographer Michael that I got involved in the Oxford trad scene. One at each end, we carried his instrument the length of the High and across Magdalen Bridge from his room in the St Aldates' annex. On the return trip we invariably stopped at the burger van outside Queens – the first to reach the window placing the order whilst the other paid!

The band played private parties and college balls and invited visiting bands to play each term. There were also strictly unauthorised out-of-town gigs, amongst them some evening sessions in Cirencester, whence players and instruments travelled in a none-too-reliable and distinctly unheated Commer van. In the days before mobile 'phones and 24 hour service stations, running out of fuel on the return journey was a disaster, especially when 'young gentlemen' should have long since been back in their colleges!

The least inebriated band member having been sent to find fuel, he somehow succeeded in the task, aided by members of the local constabulary. They kindly drove him back to the van to find an impromptu 'jam session' in full swing – no doubt in order to keep warm – and the van rocking on its springs!

I like to think they were playing "Don't get around much any more."

Did you play bridge at college, or now?

The Oxford University Alumni Bridge Association was formed in 1992 and has held an annual weekend congress in September. We play mainly duplicate pairs, with some teams or Chicago, and include an educational bridge seminar. This year's speaker will be Sandra Landy, England international. All alumni, whatever their standard or experience, are welcome. This year we meet at Worcester College from 9th to 11th September. Details are on the OUABA website www.bridgewebs.com/ouaba

Whether you played at College, or have since started, do come and join us for a pleasant and social weekend of bridge in Oxford.

Phil Meats (1975)
Crime – a challenge

In my day this was a club or society to which I belonged. I don’t know when it ended, or who set it up in the first place or when that was.

I was studying jurisprudence, and was interested in the philosophy of the law, as well as the criminal law, and was young and idealistic, with a practical christian background about “saving souls”.

The society had no links that I remember with any religious societies, however, being more based in sociology and psychology.

In a way, the title says it all: it suggested that “Crime and Criminal behaviour was a “challenge” to the rest of us (largely non-criminal!)” the thought was there that we could understand the behaviour, and help do something about it, to the benefit of the offenders, and society. Serious stuff, for idealistic young men like me.

We had speakers who addressed our meetings, and went on outings to various criminal institutions.

Truth to say I don’t recall any particular speakers, but I do recall visiting Broadmoor Prison Hospital which contains the most dangerous criminals, with mental health issues. The prison officers were helpful and calm and the visit passed off without incident.

This visit seemed to stick in my mind, at some level, and years later I decided I wanted to help offenders, and joined the Probation Service in London - first as an untrained assistant in 1966, and then as a fully trained Probation Officer from 1972. I worked at that for 23 years, and believe that I helped a number of people to turn away from a life of crime.

Since 1999 the Probation service has been systematically transmogrified from a “helping-offenders-so that they won’t offend again” type of role to one of “supervise-them-so-closely-that they won’t have-time-to-offend” type of role. I am clear that this latter approach does not work.

The good thing about the society was that anyone could join it, regardless of their background about “saving souls”.

18

Officers’ Training Corps and the cannabis journey

I was reading for a degree in Biochemistry at Oxford between 1961 and 1965 and, during that time, joined the DU Officers’ Training Corps (Royal Engineers). One of the opportunities that this gave me was to spend a couple of weeks in 1966 at Marchwood, near Southampton, to undergo training as an army shallow water diver. As a result I became aware of the phenomenon of inert gas narcosis (ruptures of the deep) – early signs of general anaesthesia that can be induced by compressed air when it is inhaled by a diver at certain depths that I never reached myself as we did not dive below about 30 feet. I was intrigued by this then little-investigated phenomenon to the extent that once I had obtained my degree I approached the Royal Naval Physiological Laboratory in Portsmouth for advice on how I might begin research into inert gas narcosis. I was directed back to Oxford to Professor W.D.M. Paton of the Department of Pharmacology. He took me on as a D.Phil student to explore the anaesthetic effects of diving gases, and subsequently as an MRC-funded post-doctoral research assistant to work on the pharmacology of cannabis. I have been exploring the pharmacology of cannabinoids ever since, performing research that has, for example, played a major role in the discovery that our own tissues produce cannabinoids, now called “endocannabinoids”, in the pharmacological characterization of several naturally-occurring and synthetic cannabinoids, in the identification of potential medical applications for certain cannabinoids, and, indeed, in the “medicalization of cannabis.” This has been, and still is, a fascinating journey for me that would never have begun had I not joined the OTC whilst an undergraduate at the House.

Roger Pertwee (1996)


Two Men in a Boat


Longest punt ever recorded: 300 miles in 1962. We could boast that Sorrows College punt, buy Shell Guide to the Waterways, head north on Oxford Canal. Guinness agrees we can authenticate trip by pub landlords signing our logbook lunch and evening. Good result. Navigating backwaters of Birmingham, spotted by one young boy “Dad, there’s two lads on t’canal pushing raft with stick”. Multiple renditions of “Just one Cornetto” from bystanders on towpath; give up explaining difference between punt and gondola. Reach Market Drayton (Shropshire) and turn round August 15th. Force 11 gales devastate Fastnet race, two foot waves threaten to swamp two inch freeboard, give ourselves a day off. Reach Oxford after three weeks and 364 miles, skills honed, record smashed, entry in 1981 GBR assured, celebrity media welcome home (slight exaggeration). Not the hardest way to become world champions and still a good dining out story.

Derick Walker (1976)

Picture shows Derick Walker (punting) and John Fenton (1976) seated.
Oxford Canada Club

In Hilary term 1997, I joined two friends at the House, David Mitchell-Innes (1956) and Hugh Sackett (1956), in launching the Oxford Canada Club for the express purpose of flying to and from Montreal cheaply for summer vacation employment. The intent was to earn enough money in Canada to pay for the entire escapade. The next challenge was to enroll our passengers. This we did rather simply by dispatching yellow posters to college notice boards, announcing the fare and the travel dates. Two or three undergraduate women enrolled in the group – not a bad showing considering how few were at Oxford in those times. London airline brokers quoted us £7800 for a Air France Super Constellation charter. At this price, we could offer a seat for £98 on a London-Montreal return flight, assuming we could fill the plane with 80 paying passengers. At the time, this was a very attractive fare, about half the normal tariff, by no means inexpensive.

Few members of the group already had a job awaiting them when we left London in late June. By the time we arrived in Canada the choicest summer jobs had already gone to Canadian students. After a few days in Montreal, I heard that Canadian Pacific Railways were recruiting temporary summer employees as sleeping car porters. At the railway station I found my House near contemporary, Richard Satch (1955), already in his CFR uniform, as well as a Merton man, Adrian Stanford. We were hastily instructed in our duties: to convert seats into beds, prepare overhead bunks for the night, to carry passengers’ baggage and to shine their shoes. We were to take passengers to their seats in the sleeping car (a deluxe version of the continental wagon-lit) and to help them as they stepped up to the train or down to the platform, where we were to tip our caps with a deferential smile, and accept the customary gratuity. Through the launch of the Club, Hugh Sackett and I got to know many more people at Oxford, both from the House and other colleges, by acting as the Club’s reservation clerks and chief cashiers. Then there were questions. The provosts had seen our yellow posters and wanted to know how it was that we had created a university club without the say-so of a Senior Member of the university. We went to Tom Quad to see Canon Simpson (later to become Dean) who by a happy chance was a Canadian citizen. He agreed to chair the Club.

The final was the real highlight, of course. Funded by a £50 grant from the JCR, what seemed like half of college descended on the stadium where Roger Bannister had run the first four-minute mile for another landmark occasion. Armed with leeks to taunt Welsh opponents Jesus and a songsheet (“No-one likes us”), Cardinal Wolsey’s Red and Black Army, led by my roommate Andrew Bond, easily won the battle of the fans. Unfortunately on the pitch, lack of goal line technology prevented captain Henrik Kraft adding to his early opener and Jesus forced extra-time, before taking the lead with a penalty. Cue super sub Dan House’s equaliser and a shootout far more tense than anything England have ever put me through. When Chris Maher stepped up, everyone knew it was this to win it. I tried to stop people tempting fate by gathering on the touchline. I needn’t have worried. “Ooh-aaah!” Maher smashed it home and the pitch invasion began.

Men’s Cuppers Final of 1995

Dean’s Collections had never seen anything like it. To those brave souls who stumbled back from Iffley Road half drunk on beer and euphoria and went in for their termly assessment wearing full facepaint as well as gowns: I salute you. I have been lucky enough to see plenty more football matches and call it work, but the Men’s Cuppers Final of 1995 remains my favourite match of all time and one of the happiest days of my life. That cup run had everything.

You want against the odds victory by the underdog? Try going 2-0 down with 10 minutes to go in a later round, equalizing in the last minute, then winning on penalties.

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Having arrived in Montreal, the group dispersed in search of jobs. David Mitchell-Innes worked at an oil refinery outside Montreal, as did Richard Snow (Magdalen). Rupert Evans (Merton) took a job in a shock factory in Ontario. Several members of our group went off to the Canadian Arctic to work on the construction of the Distant Early Warning or DEW line, a defensive installation to detect incoming Soviet missiles. The four of us who were temporary sleeping car porters remained based in Montreal, travelling westward for our first trip no further than Winnipeg.

None of our group found themselves without gainful summer employment of some kind. Edward Cazalet (1956), now a High Court judge, and Stuart Wheeler (1955), now a celebrity in the financial world, exploited their remarkable skills at Bridge to make money en route as they travelled west.

It did us all good to be thrown back on our own resources in Canada. We eagerly accepted employment wherever it could be found. We all learnt a lesson in Canadian and American values which look to college students, through their summertime earnings, to repay loans and thus pay for most of their own way themselves.

Mark Chemiakovsky (1956)
Dining clubs

All colleges have them. Occasionally one is supposed for a term or two as a punishment for rowdiness and politicians like to sneer at the Bullingdon as “typical Oxford” though in my three years at the House and sixty two as a Fellow of another college I have never come across it. Of course undergraduates will be undergraduates, but the two principal ones I belonged to were sober and enjoyable and I remain very grateful for them.

The Nondescripts were revived in 1966 on the Menu of the Dinner of December 2nd and 1946 which I came across there are the signatures of over fifty. We were a pretty mixed nondescript lot but there were several members of the Governing Body present, Basquet, Dundas, Trevor-Roper, all blessing the resurrection, DKHILL the Steward to maintain it, and Robert Blake newly appointed. The old regime was thus restored. The other Club to which I had the good fortune to belong was The Twenty Club. Of the twenty attending the Annual Dinner on June 8th 1948 four were dons (the Dean John Love, Gilbert Ryie, Denys Page, Hugh Trevor-Roper), a formidable quartet. It was a serious enough affair, though I notice that the President, Roger Pemberton, wrote his signature backwards. There were formal speeches of which I remember nothing but at I think, the next Annual Dinner Trevor-Roper proposed “The Club”, not surprisingly a neat and witty performance. The Twenty Club was in origin a serious debating society. By my time although the matters debated were serious, the speeches were always freed from being well lubricated with mulled Claret. Ah, happy times.

Most of those whose signatures are on these Menus are dead and gone but one can only hope that such Clubs do and will continue. Oscar Wilde said somewhere “A conservative is a man who has never thought. A radical is a man who has never acted.” I say nought of the first proposition, being myself of the spurned kins, but the second has some truth in it. The real use however of such societies apart from providing pleasure is, now it at any rate, to give the nervous and gauche social ease, and I can attest that they indeed succeed in that. Long may they flourish. I

George Cawkwell (1946)

The best & most valuable education I received at Oxford was not through lectures or books but the actual experience of being there, being at the House, the people one met & the friends one made. An unforgettable part of this experience was belonging to a Dining Club such as lodgers. Though what’s not remembered is sometimes better forgotten, some years ago I was unexpectedly reminded of an event long faded from memory. My son Shivraj who was at Brookes in the late nineties rang excitedly one day to proclaim “Data (father) I’ve beaten your record!” What record? I exclaimed? I don’t ever remember having achieved any such distinction. “The quickest time for drinking champagne from the Silver Lady Chalice,” he informed me. I don’t think I even held that dubious distinction but what was clear was that my son had beaten my time which was recorded in the Club book. How he ever managed to get into Lodgers from Brookes still remains a mystery but such is the draw of an exclusive Oxford Dining Club.

Bapji Maharaja of Jodhpur (1967)

Nondescripts

I went up in the last year that the House was an all male under-graduate community. I soon got involved with the sporting aspects of college life - playing rugby, hockey, tennis to varying levels of success. I was on the fringes of the rugger team that won Campions in 1979, and part of the hockey team that got to the semi-finals in 1982. Somewhere in all this, I was invited to join the Nondescripts, a dining society for like-minded sporting folk. We had dinners at the end of each term and a summer Pimms party. I recall one sunny late afternoon, where we assembled in our Blazers and Nondescript ties to drink Pimms, diluted with Prosecco (fizzy white wine) rather than lemonade. The Senior Members were always invited and many came - but tended to be rather sensible. They would come early, drink one or two carefully considered drinks and exit stage left before any boisterous activity got started. In contrast to the reports in the press, none of the events I recall got too out of hand - although we often put people’s shoes in Mercury to see how well they floated... and the Battery was always a last resting post. I don’t know if the Nondescripts still function, but they were fabulous events and a care part of “my Christ Church”.

Mike Wright (1979)

The Grey Club

When we were up my then best friend instigated a new Christ Church society called the “Grey Club”. To be allowed to join, you had to be down to earth sort of chap and be involved in no healthy sporting activities for the House and in no other society. I was the only member exempted from this rule, as a co-founder. I played both squash and the mentally athletic sport of bridge for the college and was treated with some suspicion as ‘not grey enough’.

It was basically an excuse for talking rubbish and drinking, usually in the Bear or the Bulldog (now re-named I believe). I paint for better, 15 for Guinness and 2 for Newc brown and so on until everyone lost count. These Northeners always won. Allegedly.

Of course, none of this interfered with our studies, which were taken very seriously at times. It probably fizzled out once we’d left, but I’d be interested to know if it rumbled on for a while.

Pip Kirby (1966)
Paris event

On a particularly sunny Friday evening, more than 50 old members of the House gathered in a traditional French restaurant located in the heart of the fifth arrondissement of Paris, near La Sorbonne, where the Oxford University European Reunion had taken place earlier in the evening. The setting and menu were of high quality (thank you Simon!) with champagne and duck breast specially prepared by Maitre Albert.

Our table was wonderful indeed, and reminded me of dinners in the House not so long ago, where I met people from all over the world. On this particular night, I was sitting in front of a young British woman living in Paris, and on my left and right were people from Germany and Greece. The mix of matriculation years was also of interest. At the start of the evening, I met a member who matriculated in 1952, currently retired and living in the South of France. After the speeches of both Simon and the Dean, we ventured to local jazz bands in underground cellars. It was a fun night, one to remember and repeat in the future.

Look out for more events in Paris and elsewhere in France to come. I am the country representative for France and would be interested to hear of suggestions for future meetings. My email address is: Benjamin.Hirsch@oba.co.uk

Ben Hirsch (2008)

The Family Programme

The Christ Church Family Programme was launched in 2003 to welcome the families of undergraduates and to enable them to become involved in the House and its community. Once a member, you are warmly invited to attend future Family Programme events whether or not your child is currently at Christ Church or has graduated.

For the family of new undergraduates, there is an afternoon tea at the beginning of Michaelmas term. Other annual events to which all members are welcome include the Christmas Reception after the Cathedral Carol Service, this year on 27 November 2011, and a Family lunch in Hilary term. Members will also receive news of the House and invitations to Christ Church Association events via the biannual magazine Christ Church Matters and, more frequently, e-Matters.

If you would like to find out more about the programme or wish to join please contact the Development Office: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

Eliza Eagling (2005)
Norfolk lunch

One wintry afternoon this year, thanks to Catherine Blaiklock and her husband Gyajen, alumni of the House convened in rural Norfolk for wonderful food and company. From one of the first women to enter the House as a student to one of the most recent to leave, the room was full of old members with great stories. For me, the route from Christ Church to Norfolk had been a simple return to my hometown, but many of those present have stopped off at exciting destinations across the world before ending up in this beautiful county. But all of us were instantly transported back to our times at the House with talk of Mercury, Peckwater, examinations and other, less academic, pursuits at Oxford. Listening to such tales, I found myself staying long past the lunch and heading back in semi-darkness to the bright lights of Norwich. I for one was thrilled to discover just how many old boys and girls were residing so close to me, and hope it is not presumptuous of me to say that I have made some new friends. As the county's newest House alumnus, I hope soon to relinquish this title and welcome new graduates to the endless skies of Norfolk at our next meeting.

Nicole Albutt (2007)

5th year reunion

This was the second year in which Year Reps and the Association combined to encourage those celebrating five years since matriculation to attend a dinner at Westminster School. Last year about thirty people attended from 2004. We thought that we would repeat the idea for the 2005 year group and to make for an even better atmosphere the 2004 year group was included again, with those from 2003 also invited as they had missed out previously. The dinner was held at Westminster School on Saturday 6th November and with numbers again around the thirty mark a good evening was had by all. The menu of smoked trout, rump of lamb and lemon tart was washed down with plenty of decent wine, and the speech by the Senior Censor over coffee and port was short and warming!

The Year Reps intend to continue with the same formula thus in November 2011 all those from 2004, 05, and 06 will be invited. If you belong to those years and are not sure that the Development and Alumni office have your contact details, let them know!

Jo Lee Morrison, Berenika Zakrzewski, Charlotte Jepps, James Wise
Jo Walker, Costa Argyrou, Ben Hirsch and Ned Gould

Thuillier Gallery event

Thanks to William Thuillier (1966) over twenty Members of the House and their guests enjoyed a fascinating evening at William’s Gallery on Old Bond Street with a “Behind the Scenes” viewing. William explained how he fell into becoming an art dealer and some of the skills needed and pitfalls to be avoided in the profession. There were some splendid Old Masters on display and some excellent pictures too! William chose a number of them to describe in some detail and, of course, to try to sell to us! A very jolly evening was had by all, the only disappointment being that many of us were confirmed in the knowledge that our tastes are wildly divorced from our financial wherewithal.

Simon Offen (1986)
Oxford Literary Festival

The Christopher Butler talk

Professor Christopher Butler, who retired three years ago, returned to the delight of some seventy people to give a talk during this year’s Oxford Literary Festival on the subject of ‘Why Does the ‘High Culture’ still matter?’ This year’s festival had more than a sprinkling of old members taking part, with Stephen Clarke (1978), Michael Dobson (1979), and Nigel Lawson (1951) amongst others.

Christopher’s talk displayed both the great breadth and depth of his knowledge but I am not convinced that Emerson is correct when he said that “it is the proof of high culture to say the greatest matters in the simplest way”! However housemen and women spanning five decades were enthralled and entertained by his typically humorous delivery.

A drinks reception and splendid dinner at High Table followed the talk, with those who studied English under Christopher invited to attend. It marked the launch of ‘The Christopher Butler Tutorial Fund for English’, an endowment fund to secure the future of English tuition at the House in perpetuity. If you would like to hear more about the fund please contact: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

Prank’s Corner

In my second year I was involved in an attempt to discover if there was intelligent life in Oriel. To this end, a motley group of 2nd and 3rd years constructed a 2 metre high rocket out of papier maché, bamboo and fireworks, which we placed in the centre of Peck. The purpose of the mission - carried out in 1975/6 - was to launch an unmanned probe from Peckwater into Oriel college, which would make a soft landing, take samples and collect evidence of life - if there was any to find. The launch was advertised in the House and even mentioned on local radio. Quite a crowd assembled to see the great event. Unfortunately, despite an impressive build up, the rocket only climbed a few metres into the night sky before blowing up. NASA cut its funding of space exploration shortly afterwards, so, to this day, we will never know what might have been discovered had the mission been successful. I won’t mention my co-conspirators by name, in case they now wish to remain anonymous - but we all know who they were!

Mark Whitwill (1974)
Review of Simon Winchester’s, The Alice Behind Wonderland.


One of the most famous Victorian photographs is of Alice Liddell as a dishevelled beggar girl, taken in 1858 by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson in Christ Church. Many commentators have found it disconcerting. On the edge of paedophile porn in fact. And it has been used as evidence that there was something entirely dubious about Dodgson’s attitude to little girls. In addition to being sad he was mad. Winchester glances at this problem, but does not go into it as thoroughly as does Karoline Leach in her admirably sceptical and much fuller study In the Shadow of the Dreamchild: A New Understanding of Lewis Carroll (Peter Owen, 1999). Sufficient to say that Carroll was not the perverted monster some would like to believe him, and in the context of Victorian views concerning the innocence of childhood (these were pre-Freudian days, remember) he is not so unusual or exceptional. Leach even suggests that he was having some sort of affair with Alice’s mother, wife of the Dean of Christ Church.

The Winchester study stretches its material. It would have been better as a longish essay, and it often looks like a piece of book-making. It needs much more contextualising: where does the Alice photo stand in relation to the many other similar photographs taken by Dodgson, some of them showing nude children coloured in in the most kitschy manner? These photographs need to be reproduced, or at least referred to in a scholarly way. The Christ Church environment needs more contextualising too. Leach does a much better job; demonstrating the strains between the Students and the Canons. At times Winchester’s shaky grasp of the environment is on display on p. 69 he speaks of Dodgson’s ‘stunning’ view of Broad Walk from the Meadow Building, and immediately a can of worms is opened. Presumably he means one of Dodgson’s splendid photos of 1873, showing the elms and iron bollards. But the Meadow Buildings did not exist in 1873, and the photographs must have been taken from the Fell Building, alas, demolished in the early 1860s to make way for Deane and Woodward’s neo-Gothic monstrosity. From time to time Simon Winchester exhibits the infuriating and insufferable tendency of modulating biography into fiction: ‘She, a naturally fidgety child…That kind of thing. How does he know? ’ The long passage on the taking of the central photograph is an extended fanciful journey into the novelistic (pp. 84-87).

Bernard Richards
[Research Lectures, 1961-1968]

The Undefended Leader and The Undefended Life

Simon Walker launched two of his new books at this year’s Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival, hosted at Christ Church. Simon has been working for the past ten years around the world with leaders of businesses, schools, charities and churches inviting them to explore what an ‘undefended leader’ would look like. ‘The world is an increasingly complex, fragile and in parts, unsafe place. If leaders themselves are ‘defended’ then they can often exacerbate the existing situation, defending the territorial claims of their own ‘tribe’ rather than enabling dialogue, trust and collaboration.” Simon suggests that many of the world’s biggest issues can only be solved collaboratively and that leaders need training to become more ‘undefended’ in order to rise to the immense challenges that face us all. He has been running training courses for blue chip firms such as Accenture, McKinsey & Co and KPMG with some surprising and profound results and is now looking to create a not-for-profit Foundation to develop the research behind this approach. The Leadership Community Foundation will create a Fellowship Programme for leaders involved in transformational work, who would otherwise be unable to access this kind of input and support. More than five hundred globally have already been trained in undefended leadership.

The Foundation is looking for donors and supporters. If you would like to know more about the campaign Simon would be delighted to speak to you: simon.walker@theleadershipcommunity.org or visit www.fcfoundation.org.uk

Simon’s two new books The Undefended Leader (hardback £25.00, rrp £23.00) and The Undefended Life (paperback 230 pp, rrp £11.99) are available from www.theleadershipcommunity.org or on Amazon.

Simon Walker (1990)

Rifts of the Earth

As life expectation lengthens second careers, derived from hobbies or other interests, have become increasingly common, especially when redundancy has forced change upon those unfortunate enough to experience it, or, more happily, when early retirement allows one sufficient leisure to explore a new direction.

After a career in secondary schools, Simon Freebairn-
Smith has taken up writing. Kindle, the new vehicle devised and promoted by Amazon, has provided a simple method of publication, and by this means he has published four novels, of which the latest is "Riffs of the Earth."

Set initially in East Africa, this is a story well rooted in the world in which we now find ourselves: to what degree are first-world nations entitled to plunder scarce minerals found in third-world countries? If the resources of the planet are finite, as presumably they must be, what is likely to happen when essential materials can only be found under the territory of poverty-stricken nations? "Riffs of the Earth" explores possible consequences. Innocent acts of ordinary individuals quickly affect the decisions of powerful governments.

Max Leidentrott, sailing home in his yacht from the Far East, accompanied by his family, is attacked by pirates off the coast of Tanzania. A small occurrence noticed by his son while they are together in captivity leads to the discovery of huge reserves of oil. Modern communications ensure the find does not remain secret for long. Lust for control of such an asset soon leads on to ruthless exploitation on the ground at the behest of seemingly respectable administrations on the other side of the world. Sounds familiar? It's happening all the time.

Although the stuff of fiction, Riffs of the Earth represents both a protest and a plea for justice. But can the powerful be expected to listen? III

Simon Freebairn-Smith (1993)

Animal Rights

Animal Rights, published by Oxford University Press in 2011 as part of their "What Everyone Needs to Know" series, is the culmination of work begun at Christ Church in 1993. Preliminary work on Christian and Buddhist views of animal issues were developed in my doctoral dissertation submitted in 1997 to the Faculty of Theology, and this was later published in 2001 by Oxford University Press as The Specter of Speciesism: Buddhist and Christian Views of Animals. My work at Christ Church spurred me to participate in scholarly debates at the American Academy of Religion (AAR). These conversations led to formation of the "Animals and Religion Consultation," which now meets annually at the AAR and which I co-chaired for its first six years.

I have also had the opportunity to teach at Harvard Law School as the Barker Lecturer in Animal Law. This helped me develop the legal and moral issues described throughout Animal Rights. The book also presents a variety of religious, philosophical and scientific issues, and thus is intensely interdisciplinary. Because my goal was to express issues and arguments in language accessible to a wide range of readers, the book has been well received in many countries and is now used in courses from a variety of disciplines. As the reviewer in ForeWord said in January 2011, "Animal Rights is a superbly written, well-researched work that objectively looks at the subject matter, explores all sides of the issue, and makes good on its promise to provide the information everyone needs to know about animal rights. Waldau’s book will very likely become the animal rights bible and be an indispensable source for any serious discussion of the topic."

Animal Rights will be complemented by another volume to be published by Oxford University Press under the title Animal Studies—An Introduction. Building on the work in religion and law described above, this volume will include chapters describing the study of animal issues in courses focused on art and literature, history, sociology, geography, anthropology, philosophy and ethics, critical studies, cultural studies, public policy, and education. Additional information is available at www.paulwaldau.com

Paul Waldau (1993)

Melvyn Bragg with (from left to right): Dr Mary Ann Lund (University of Leicester), Dr Erin Sullivan (Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham), Professor Julie Sanders (University of Nottingham) at a recent recording of the In Our Time programme on Robert Burton, (1577 – 1640), who was a Member of Christ Church. The photo was taken by Tom Morris (1995), Producer of the programme.
InSpired: Dreaming of a waltz

My parents may once have had aspirations of raising an Olympic athlete or star musician, for the requisite lessons formed major components of my post-school world. Unfortunately for all concerned, there aren’t many swimmers who are 5’2” and even fewer professional musicians who struggled to reach Grade 1. Instead, I have to say, all I had ever wanted to do was dance. Yet as a fresher at Oxford I made a joyous discovery – the University offered not only a world-class education, but more importantly a Latin American and Ballroom Dance team. Better still, ‘Dancesport’ welcomes beginners as well as trained dancers. I’ve been hooked ever since.

It’s certainly difficult to fit what dancing has given me into just one page. The process of learning to create and control movement remains both exhilarating and immensely satisfying. I’ve gained new perspectives (fake tan, scraped back hair and diamante jewellery can, in certain circumstances, be a look you’re after). A trip to Florida with the team to compete, and of course visit Sleeping Beauty’s castle, was a wonderful bonus.

What else? Sports teams allow you to meet those at other colleges but, more than this, they provide the grounds for an intense bonding experience. And over the past six years, my fellow dancers have turned, not simply into friends-in-need, but loyal and generous friends-in-every-situation. Dance partners in particular become very significant. I once heard someone describe partnerships as a marriage without the good bits!

Whether unfair or not, it is true that most dance partners spend more time with each other than anyone else. I am very lucky then, for mine is great fun, gentle-hearted and as willing to look critically at himself as he is able to show me where I am going wrong. He is also my best friend, and we are close in a way made possible through mutual support, through the hours spent in poky squash courts, through rising and falling together both in waltz and results.

Winning is of course uplifting and joyful, but I’ve found not making a round can be devastating. What to make of results? Some have argued with great vigour that the highest achievers are simply those who have put in the most work. Yet dancing has shown me there is more to the ‘gold medal’ than toil and ambition, necessary as they are. Achievement is often tempered by luck-of-the-draw: who your coach is, how much money you can spend and, of course, the talent you are born with. Thus it seems misguided to base self-love, or love of others, simply on results. And those who do often find themselves aboard a heart-and-gut-wrenching roller coaster.

Yet I do not believe in the phrase ‘it’s the taking part that counts’. What counts is stretching, twisting, turning and leaping your way to being a better dancer. What counts is making yourself, your coaches and your partner proud, but in a way which glances over the vagaries of the trophy cabinet and instead looks to those with a capacity for continual self-improvement and an unmoving sense of dedication.

On a lighter note, when Hume or the French post-modernists were getting me down, I never found a better way to escape the rigours of academic life than by tying back my hair and gliding around the floor. I was happy, whether dancing a cha cha to Gaga or accompanied by that Perrault-inspired Tchaikovsky waltz and my very own Prince Charming.

Eliza Eagling (2005)
Alumni Relations Officer
Today’s clubs and societies

Every one of us has a different notion of what it means to live well – for some it involves the single-minded pursuit of one goal, be it knowledge, success, power, money or love. For many others it is achieved through a plurality of values, through a balanced life. Thus for those at university, pursuit of the “good life” is often sought through supplementing academic study with the extra-curricular: We have asked current members of the House to comment on their societies or sports teams and below they describe in their own words the enrichment and pleasures their involvement has afforded them.

“Bad times, hard times – this is what people keep saying: but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times. Such as we are, such are the times.”
— St. Augustine

GCR: Kerrith Davies
My time in Christ Church’s GCR has brought home to me the staggering diversity of graduate life in Oxford. I’ve met students of all ages, hailing from every corner of the Earth and engaged in a bewildering array of different courses. Some are aspiring academics; others hope to use their knowledge more practically. Many choose not to immerse themselves in Common Room life, but for those that do the GCR provides a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural space that fosters an endless exchange of ideas and life experiences, engendering fresh perceptions and perspectives not just on any one individual’s research or preferred activities, but on any aspect of global life. Such discussions encourage graduates to communicate their ideas and passions ever more clearly to those either experienced or even, necessarily, not interested in their field. I strongly believe, then, that my involvement in the GCR has made me both a better scholar and a better teacher. More importantly, by involving me socially as well as professionally with enthusiastic students from both all kinds of backgrounds and across the world, being in the GCR has made me, I hope, a more aware and understanding person.

JCR: Matthew Barrett
About a third of the job of President has been some semblance of what I expected, the rest has been a cacophony of new experiences. Some have been challenging, a few have tested my patience and humility, but overwhelmingly it’s been an immensely rewarding tenure. I am continually astounded by the breadth and diversity of our undergraduate community, something which I’d never before appreciated. People are fascinated by everything, and they don’t take a passive interest. Rovers are up before it’s light to train, people run charities and tutor schoolchildren, they write plays and scrutinise the Hall menus weeks in advance. But despite the colourful differences which make Christ Church a vibrant place to live, the memory that sticks out for me is that we all huddled together on a chilly winter’s evening drinking piping hot mulled wine and eating mince pies to watch Bill Lewis (legendary custodian) switch on the lights of the first JCR Christmas Tree. What a great man he is.

Eliza Eagling (2005)
LACROSSE: Laetitia Campbell and Natalie Newman

When we started the team in our first term here we weren’t sure how many people (if any!) would turn up for the first practice. To our amazement, we had a rather sizeable turnout and weekly practices commenced immediately with the help of ten new sticks bought for us by Christ Church. Considering all but four of the team were complete beginners, it is incredible how quickly everyone took to the game. We have some very talented players on the pitch, something which is clearly demonstrated by our fantastic results in the College League and Cuppers.

We are both extremely proud of our team which, although still in its early days, has not failed to maintain the sporting prowess that Christ Church boasts. Captaining the team has been a great experience and we hope that the team’s success will continue under next year’s new Captains!

WOMEN’S ROWING: Ellie Darlington

Many students take up rowing for the first time when they arrive at Oxford and, for the most part, never look back. This is certainly something I can relate to, having little previous sporting experience and only agreeing to try rowing to appease a fellow fresher who didn’t want to go on her own! If you’d told me that I’d end up as captain, rowing not just at college level but also with the University development squad and for other clubs, I wouldn’t have believed you!

In the past 12 months, the women of ChChBC have participated in various external races, most notably the Boston Rowing Marathon last year in aid of Cancer Research. Our efforts raised over £1000, and we finished in second place in our category, which was almost as satisfying as being able finally to go to the loo after a 4 hour row! This year, the women’s side has been very successful, with the 2nd boat achieving ‘blades’ in Torpids, and two women being selected for the Oxford University Lightweight Squad. Being a member of the Boat Club has introduced us to so many experiences that we would never have dreamt possible without it, and left us with memories that will remain with us forever.

MEN’S ROWING: Ian Maconnachie

I started rowing at Christ Church in Michaelmas of my first year and now, two and a half years later, as Captain, I’m enjoying the experience more than ever. Rowing is a big sport in Oxford even without the Boat Race. A lot of colleges take it very seriously, including ourselves and we are currently Head of the River in both Torpids and Summer Eights. It isn’t all about the top boats though - our boat club has a lot of depth and our lower boats still achieve highly within the
we’re winning, losing, or singing, everything is
done as a team, as a college, regardless of where
we once went to school, what year we are in or
what subjects we read. It has provided me with
the chance to meet some fantastic people and
play some good sport, and for that I am very
thankful; long may it
continue.

THE NONDESCRIPTS:
Matthew Swain
The Nondescripts
Sports Society is one
of the House’s oldest
societies and brings
together sportsmen
who have achieved
the highly sought
after Oxford ‘Blue’,
or those who have
shown significant
commitment to
college sports. The program this
year has been incredibly busy with events ranging
from golf days to trips to the dog races, with an
aim of maintaining a sporting theme throughout.
It is a great way to meet like-minded people from
different sporting arenas and I have greatly
enjoyed my time as president. I hope that the
society continues to prosper as it has done over
the last few years.

CARDINALS: William Wells
The Cardinals have continued to enjoy a
succession of entertaining evenings throughout
the year. Each term revolves primarily around the
cocktail party, hosting over five hundred
members of Christ Church and other colleges for
an evening of improvised jazz and artisan
cocktails. It remains a notable fixture of the
Oxford social calendar, and offers a chance for
friends of Christ Church, as well as members old
and new to come together.

THE ART ROOM: Freyja Cox Jensen
The Christ Church Art Room is always open. No
matter what the time, the day, or the season,
whether after lengthy labours in the library, or
simply on a sunny Sunday afternoon, here is a
space set aside for something very separate from
the usual activities of an Oxford academic.

In the nine years I have been here, I have seen the
Art Room move from Tom Quad to Old Library, and
lose none of its character. I have witnessed the ebb
and flow of various student art movements,
sampled structured classes in drawing, painting and printmaking, and met a wonderfully diverse range of characters from the university world and the wider community. They are drawn to this place in its embrace of artists of all backgrounds and abilities and by the generous welcome extended by the exceptional Art Tutor, Peter Khoades.

But there is more to the Art Room than the production of whatever its users choose to call ‘art’. Exhibitions are sometimes held, but they are incidental when compared with the social function the room fulfils. For the Art Room provides a haven, out of the swing of the sea of work, daily life, and the pressures that accompany an academic career. It is a space that gives its users the time to relax, to explore, to interact, to create, or just to be. Without it, we would be much the poorer.

FLOWERS AND FAIRIES: Astrid Grindlay

Being a member of Flowers and Fairies has made a pronounced difference to my time at Christ Church - from the first invitation to events you become involved with, it has always provided a framework to form great friendships. This year we have enjoyed many successful events, notably a ‘foxhunt’ which got everyone involved in fancy dress and some light exercise! Hopefully next term we will be busy with our bid to win a place in Summer Eights, which will provide some relief from the term of exams ahead.

THE ALICES: Chloe Mills

“The president and secretary of the Alcles would like to invite you to join our society…” Having read the first line of such a sweet invitation, I became ‘curiouser and curiouser’. However I quickly came to realize this was not the Alice in Wonderland fan club I had first imagined, but a facilitator for girly get-togethers with a touch of class. That having been said, the Alice-themed party, with cocktails served from a teapot, has been a highlight of a wonderful but slightly mad year in this society.

COLLEGE CHOIR: Georgia Gibson-Smith

So far in my experience as conductor, the choir has sung a fantastic concert of Handel’s Messiah, and had a successful trip to St George’s Chapel, Windsor, as well as the regular services in the Cathedral. With all the undertakings of the choir, the weekly (sometimes twice weekly!) rehearsals require a lot of dedication. Yet it is so important to hang on to a social life and breadth of experience amidst all the hard work, and for me there is nothing more pleasing than to hear a glorious ‘amen’ soar through the wonderful setting of Christ Church Cathedral on a Monday evening.
The Friends of the Cathedral now have information about most of the 223 Christ Church men who fell in the First World War, and are starting to look for information about those recorded on the Second World War memorials.

Several families with links to Christ Church mourned in both wars:

Lt Nigel Cornwallis Madan, Royal Lancashire Regiment, who came up to Christ Church as a Scholar in 1908, and graduated in 1912, was killed in action near the Bluff, Ypres when he was 27, and is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial. His nephew, Lt Nigel Madan Burney, Gloucestershire Regiment, was born in 1916, the year his namesake died. He graduated in 1937, having been a member of the Officer Training Corps, and was the first Christ Church man to be killed in the 1939-45 War, aged 23. He is buried in Beuvry Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais.

If you have a connection with any of the fallen in either war, and can assist with information or — of great value — a photograph, please email Penny Keens and Katharine Broome will be delighted to hear from you.

Email: Chcwhelmemorials@gmail.com

(Please note the new e-mail address – the old address was usurped and is no longer active)
Just a week after the devastating earthquake that rocked Christchurch on 22 February, a welcome diversion from the grim stories of death and destruction emerged. It lifted Cantabrians’ spirits, and was quickly picked up by the worldwide media contingent in town to cover the disaster.

On 22 February, the bronze statue of Christchurch and Canterbury’s founding father, John Robert Godley, was shaken from its plinth in Cathedral Square, and landed face down on the pavement. Almost a week later, an eagle-eyed crane operator working on stabilising damaged buildings around the Square noticed something sitting atop the plinth. A fellow worker climbed up and found not one, but two time capsules.

This chap, Sean Haggerty, gathered up the capsules and marched them off to the Mayor of Christchurch, Bob Parker, at Emergency Operations HQ. The Mayor (who sits on the Museum Board) asked me to come to his morning press conference so that he could do a live hand-over of the capsules into the Museum’s safe-keeping.

The media interest was phenomenal! The first capsule comprised a broken glass bottle containing a rolled up parchment. At the time of the media briefing, I noted that it smelled not unlike a good French blue cheese. Now that it has been relaxed, unrolled and dried by conservators, we know it to be a record of the shift of the statue from in front of the Cathedral to beside the Cathedral in 1918.

The second capsule, in a handsome copper cylinder, was opened by the Mayor a couple of weeks ago. It marked the move of the statue back to its original position in front of the Cathedral in 1933, and contained a range of Christchurch newspapers from 1918 and 1933.

Once the statue has been re-erected in Cathedral Square, it is likely that the capsules will be re-placed beneath it, hopefully together with a third capsule recording the events of 2011.

Canterbury Museum buildings and collections came through the earthquake in remarkably good condition. The buildings are the only examples of the city’s nineteenth century neo-gothic treasures to have come through relatively unscathed. Less than 1% of the Museum’s 2.1 million collection items have been damaged. It is hoped that the Museum will be able to re-open to the public in July.

News of the Appeal
To date Members of the House and worshippers in the Cathedral have raised the magnificent sum of over £40,000 to help Christchurch, New Zealand. The money has been transferred to Christ Church Cathedral NZ and they are very thankful. Of course, subsequent events have taken over the headlines but our help is still needed. It is not too late if you wish to contribute to the fund: please send cheques made payable to ‘Christ Church, Oxford (NZ Fund)’ to the Development Office, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 2OY.
The House’s catering and hospitality organisation is a substantial one, sustaining term time service to members, vigorous vacation conferences and events programmes and regular old member Gaudies. The actively managed college cellar is an essential support, and has been run for well over 20 years by Peter Keddie, Christ Church’s Bars & Butteries Manager. The advance purchase of Clarets and Ports has long been a feature of prudent cellar management, delivering stocks of mid-range and top end wines, a process calling for patient and watchful planning. Ten years ago, a fortuitous opportunity arose to extend this in a northerly direction, this time combining prudence and foresight with a sense of new adventure. This was the House’s first acquisition of a hogshead of malt whisky.

Scotch whisky distilleries are almost routinely mothballed, and then reopened, to accommodate the ebb and flow of market demand. In 2001, the famous Islay distillery Bruichladdich had reopened in new ownership and was offering distilled spirit with a choice of peat levels and cask maturation. We opted for a well peated spirit, to be matured in a first fill sherry cask, this to lie at Port Charlotte on Loch Indaal, a sea loch. Periodic sampling monitored development, until readiness for bottling was confirmed early in 2011.

Several influences, some planned, some accidental, have contributed to the final outcome. The sherry has yielded a fruity, raisiny tone. High peatiness defines the island origins, and a salty note tells of seaside maturation. A distiller’s vigilance has added a further, somewhat unique characteristic. A damaged barrel stave in the final year necessitated speedy transfer to a new cask and, with sherry casks in ever shorter supply, a Madeira barrel was used. This has contributed a further nuance to the complex finish. Such was the distiller’s enthusiasm (fully shared by the small House tasting panel!) that the first House malt has been bottled as a numbered limited edition of 390 bottles. It has been reduced from higher cask strength, but only to 46% ABV and has not been chill filtered.

Private cask malts in numbered editions can attract collectors, though this (like its Claret and Port cellar companions) is intended for the enjoyment of members and others. Nonetheless, Bottle No 1 clearly has a certain cachet, so offers are invited from House members, past and present. The proceeds will be donated to the Christchurch New Zealand earthquake appeal. The winning bidder will also receive Bottle No 2: one to enjoy, and one to keep - for a while! Please e-mail your bid for the pair of bottles to: peter.keddie@chch.ox.ac.uk by 31st of July.

A bottle of ‘The House’ Malt (full title: 2001 Port Charlotte cask number 896) is available to members calling personally at the Butterly for £79.00. And as for the empty Madeira hogshead, this has now been refilled with newly distilled spirit, to build continuity of supply into the future and another adventure in 2021.
On 29 October 1642, after Oxford had changed hands twice, Charles I entered Oxford and the city became his court, his military headquarters, and Christ Church his home for the next four years.

Once he and his entourage were settled, he began to make arrangements for his wife, Henrietta Maria, to join him with her own household established in Merton College. And so, during the cold winter months at the beginning of 1643, smiths and labourers were given the task of knocking-through two gateways: from the garden by the cathedral, through Corpus Christi, and into Merton, to allow the King easy and private access to his wife’s quarters. No accounts survive at Christ Church or at Corpus Christi to bear witness to the opening of the gates but the Merton archives record Fabro lignario et aliis operariis viam de novo et ostium per Collegium Corporis Christi aperientibus - £1 16s 8d.

On Friday 14 July, Charles and his queen with all their traine, came into Oxford. They rode into Christchurch in a coach, and as soone as they were alighted, the kinge had the queene to her owne lodginge or court appoynted in Merton college through Corpus Christi backside.

The residents of Christ Church - court, college, and cathedral - tried hard to work together, but the strain was great. Those students who remained were pressed into service building fortifications, and the Chapter appealed to the Commissioners for Fortifications for a more lenient assessment of Christ Church’s contribution to the defences of Oxford in view of the cost of providing for the King. The students complained vociferously that their meals had been reduced, which seemed grossly unfair as they were in armes on the King’s behalf.

When the Scots entered the war against the king in February 1644, Oxford was in danger of being encircled. An attack on the city was beaten off in August, and the King set off the following Spring on the new season’s campaign with some hope. It was only a few weeks, though, before the Royalists suffered defeat at Naseby, and the King retreated back to Oxford with nowhere else to go. Houses within three miles of Oxford were burnt down to prevent their use as billets, the meadows were flooded, and Wolvercote - at the vulnerable northern and open end of the Oxford ‘peninsula’ - was garrisoned. After the fall of Woodstock, the King fled, but the siege of the city, masterminded by General Fairfax, continued until 20 June, when the articles were finally signed. Princes Rupert and Maurice were granted safe conduct out of the country, the Bodleian was placed under armed guard to prevent looting, and the purge of Royalists from the University began.

The gate between Corpus Christi and Merton has long been filled in, but the one between Christ Church and Corpus Christi is still there, much repaired and rather dilapidated with age, the only physical reminder of the war and Charles’s residence here.

It is proposed to repair and strengthen the gate to put it into good working order. Repairs will be restricted to piecing in of appropriately selected sections of oak where the boards have rotted away, consolidation of decayed timber, and re-fixing of the horizontal ledges using stainless steel screws. However some making good is needed. Layers of early paint survive on the west face and these will be analysed to see what colour it was originally painted. (It appears never to have been painted on the reverse). The west face is to be redecorated and the east to be consolidated and treated against the weather. All details of the door will be fully recorded by drawings and photographs before and after the repairs. A repair schedule has been drawn up by experts and we are seeking £8,000 to carry out the work to this romantic piece of Christ Church history.

Please contact: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk should you be interested in helping.

Judith Curthoys
Archivist
The Allestree Library contains around 3500 books which were bequeathed by Richard Allestree in 1681 for the use of the Regius Professor of Divinity and his successors. Allestree was a Student of Christ Church, a Royalist soldier during the Civil War, and returned after the Restoration to be made a Canon. It was Allestree, with his great friend, Dean John Fell, and John Dolben, who put Christ Church back onto an even footing after the years of turmoil. He was the first to move into the new north wing of Tom Quad when it was completed in 1665.

Allestree’s books, although given to the University, have always been at Christ Church. In 1946 Christ Church formally took over their administration. There is a bias towards theology, but there are many other subjects, including classics, science, medicine, mathematics, and patristics. In addition, there are 158 books formerly owned by Henry Hammond (1605-1660), and the parochial library of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, deposited here for safekeeping.

But the little room over the south cloister, accessed by a spiral staircase between the Old Library and the Wolsey Tower, is in a sorry state. It is prone to huge fluctuations in temperature and humidity which causes mould and mildew. Some books have suffered from more active destruction by book-worms and silverfish. It is rather grubby, and in need of a professional deep-clean and redecoration. Some of the shelving is unsuitable for the storage of rare books. And the floor, which is made up of a wonderful collection of medieval tiles, cries out for proper recording and preservation.

The Marc Fitch Fund has generously given a grant towards the work on the medieval tiles, but we are looking for another £12,000 to help restore the books and carry out the urgent work on the rooms and book shelves. If you are interested in making a gift towards this fascinating project, and being taken around the library by the Archivist, please contact: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
Film academy at Oval House!

Young refugees at Oval House will have the chance to learn acting and film making with a dedicated summer school. This three week project will offer disadvantaged young people a positive and creative activity in their summer holidays where they will gain an understanding of the film production process, from the conception of an idea through to an edited short film for screen.

The project also offers a really valuable opportunity for vulnerable and marginalised young people to build new social networks, make friends and receive support for their social and pastoral needs. One of last year’s participants, Salma was incredibly shy and lacking in confidence. Her confidence quickly grew and she took on a central acting role in her group film:

“The Film Academy is good, I practiced my English and learnt to produce films, how to act, how to edit and how to direct. We have so much fun and see so many good teachers and actors. If we make it from our hearts, strongly, we can be like Denzel Washington. You know he is famous because he works hard; we can be like him if we work hard too.”

Since completing the academy project Salma has been training with us on a youth leadership project and is looking forward to this year’s summer!

Young people will also develop transferable skills in leadership, IT, communication skills and literacy that will benefit them in the future. Hassan contributed to the Film Academy last year and is now one of our Young Leaders: “Most people become leaders for the name, but if you want to be a good leader then you must practice this to prove you are a good leader. Most of the group were pleased with me and this makes me happy. I thought that it would be a good start for me to improve, and I could do something on filming, I also thought that I would be able to meet and work with professionals, now I feel like maybe one day I could be a camera man, an actor, or producer sometime in the future, who knows? But here you have that chance and this is what I am here for.”

Oval House is a living, thriving arts organisation which is a testament to its foundations as a Christ Church philanthropic mission, founded and run by Christ Church men in the 1930s. Alongside cutting-edge performance we research and develop new methodologies for education and participation.

Times have changed, but the support we receive through our Christ Church connection remains crucial, to meet a need that is every bit as pressing as it was when we were founded.

If you would like to sponsor a place for a young person to attend the Film Academy, or if your company would like to sponsor our work – or just find out more about Oval House, please contact Valerie Boulet on 0207735 2869 or Valerie.boulet@ovalhouse.com.
My reading tends to be rather undisciplined with books chosen at random. Occasionally, I try to be more focused and I read five of last year’s Booker Prize shortlist before the prize was awarded, inevitably disagreeing strongly with the eventual decision! I recently had the opportunity briefly to revisit old haunts in Asia, where I worked for 10 years in my thirties, and tried to tie my reading into the trip.

On the way we stopped for 48 hours in Dubai to visit my nephew Will Lawrie and see his new gallery specialising in modern Middle Eastern Art (www.lawrieshabibi.com). In a vain attempt to get into the mind of literary Arabia, and keep up with our son who has been offered a place at Cambridge to read Arabic, I read Waguih Ghali’s *Beer in the Snooker Club*, which paints a subtle picture of the complex relationship between the West and the Orient at an earlier time of social and political upheaval in Cairo. I also started *Sugar Street*, the final volume in Naguib Mahfouz’ Proustian Cairo Trilogy. Written before the author became disillusioned with Nasser, the trilogy depicts the life of the patriarch el-Sayed Ahmed Abdel Gawad and his family over three generations, from World War I to the 1950s, when King Farouk I was overthrown. With its rich variety of characters and psychological understanding, the trilogy was perhaps the principal reason why Mahfouz was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988.

Our primary destination was Hong Kong to attend the wedding of an old friend. John le Carré’s *The Honourable Schoolboy* published in 1979 has aged a little, but still conveys the intrigue and uncertainty that characterises the relationship between the Fragrant Harbour and its Chinese mother. Smiley’s well laid plans go away at the last or do they? Le Carré keeps one in suspense till the very end. The over-riding importance of money which permeates Hong Kong, now coined by the Chinese rather than the foreign devils, is well conveyed. For an historical perspective, I indulged in another old favourite, *An Insular Possession* by Timothy Mo, shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1986. Its description of the cloistered life at the Hongs in Canton in the 1830s when Jardine Matheson had such a profitable business in opium, with occasional rest and recreation in Macao, evokes an era remembered perhaps more by the Chinese than by the British. The portrait of a thinly disguised George Chinnery, the celebrated artist of the China trade, is a particular delight.

Although superficial, this attempt to link books with destinations did add to the pleasure of the journey and I shall try it again.
2012 Jubilee
A Weekend of Music
22nd – 24th June 2012

We are proud and excited to inform Members that the House will be organising a remarkable spectacle in June 2012. Next year marks the Diamond Jubilee of the Visitor, it will be 51 years since the “1812” promenade concert was held in Tom Quad in aid of Oxfam, 200 years since the Battle of Borodino, 130 years since the debut of Tchaikovsky’s overture, and the year of the Great British Olympics.

This memorable celebration will be an exhilarating and enjoyable weekend of musical entertainment for all Members and everyone associated with the House, displaying once again Christ Church’s tradition of musical excellence. We also hope to raise funds for the Cathedral’s new music trust and Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Programme:

Friday 22nd June 2012 (Ninth Week).
We have provisionally booked Dame Kiri Te Kanawa who will perform with the BBC Concert Orchestra, some of her young protégés, and the Christ Church Choir.

Saturday 23rd June 2012.
The Oxford Philomusica will be re-enacting the famous 1961 concert in Tom Quad with a performance of the following programme:
Walton’s Crown Imperial; Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto; The Grand March from Aida; The New World Symphony; 1812 Overture.

Sunday 24th June 2012.
The Oxfordshire Music Service’s celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee comes to a climax with a “Concert of Contrasts”, featuring performances by the children involved with the Cathedral outreach programme, the County Youth Big Band, and the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra. Many school children from across the County will be involved.

The weekend will, in addition, feature other performances, and offer accommodation and many dining and hospitality opportunities. There will be a range of tickets available to suit all pockets.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
More information will be available on the website in September and Members of the House will be given a priority booking period before tickets go on sale to the general public.

For more information, please contact the Development Office at development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
The Christ Church Association Open Day, Sunday lunch in Hall and AGM will be taking place on Sunday 18 September.

Not only will it give you a good excuse to worship in the cathedral that day, but we have also organised talks on the Hall Portraits and the Cathedral stained glass windows, a port tasting led by Jasper Morris of Berry Brothers, a special exhibition in the Upper Library, an Alice tour for children (and yes, Harry Potter will get a mention), and tea!

Schedule
8.00am Holy Communion in the Cathedral
10.00am Matins and Sermon in the Cathedral
11.00am Association AGM and Committee meeting in the Dodgson Room
11.15am Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral
1.00pm Association Drinks reception
2.45pm Choice of the following talks/events:
   - Talk on the Stained Glass in the Cathedral
   - Talk on the Portraits in Hall
   - Vintage Port Tasting in the Freind Room with Jasper Morris (1976)
   - Exhibition in the Upper Library
   - Alice Tour for children
4.00pm Tea and cake in the McKenna room
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday Lunch Menu
- Smoked Salmon with Lemon and Capers
- Brown Bread and Butter
- St Venus 2006
- Roast Sirloin of Aged Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Horseradish, Chateau Potatoes, Glazed Carrots and French Beans with Almonds
- Vacqueyras 2006
- Apple and Blackberry Crumble with Vanilla Ice Cream and Christ Church Cream

Prices
- The cost of an adult ticket, which includes the Association drinks reception, lunch, wines and coffee plus all events (except the vintage port tasting) is £35.00.
- The cost for children is £19.50.
- There is an additional charge of £15.00 per person for the vintage port tasting, with ports ranging from the Christ Church House Port to Dow’s 1963.

Annual Report 2011
If you would like us to include your news relating to the calendar year 2011 in the next Annual Report please e-mail the Development Office or use the space below and return it to the Development Office.

We are pleased to hear about new jobs and appointments, awards, achievements, marriages, children, travels and any other news you would like to share with members of the House. The deadline for this year’s Annual Report is Friday 10th February 2012. Please limit your entry to 100 words.

Library Donors
All Library Donors and members of the Governing Body will be sent invitations to attend a reception and viewing of the newly restored library at 5pm, when wine and canapes will be served.

1546 Society
All 1546 Society Members will be sent invitations to attend Choral Eucharist and a reception in the Deanery with wine and canapes. They will then be most welcome to join other Association members for lunch at the special price noted on the invitation.

To Book
Please download the booking form on the website, or fill in the form overleaf and return it to Eliza Eagling in the Alumni & Development Office by 2nd September.

Development & Alumni Office, Christ Church, OXFORD OX1 1DP
Tel: +44 (0)1865 286 315, Fax: +44 (0)1865 286 587, Email: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
# Christ Church Association Day Booking Form

**Sunday 18th September 2011**

*Please use a black pen and write in capitals*

## Your details

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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**Guests (please indicate if they are under 12 years of age)**

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<th>Title</th>
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**Dietary requirements (please specify who for):**

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## Attendance

Please indicate which events you and your guests would like to attend. Please note that you do not all need to attend the same events, although children must be accompanied by an adult for the Alice Tour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. attending</th>
<th>Event <em>(please tick)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Association AGM and Committee meeting in the Dodgson Room <em>(11am)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Association Drinks reception <em>(12.15pm)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Traditional Sunday lunch in Hall <em>(1pm)</em></td>
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<td>A choice of one of the following:</td>
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<td>Talk on the Stained Glass in the Cathedral <em>(2.45pm)</em></td>
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<td>Talk on the Portraits in Hall <em>(2.45pm)</em></td>
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<td>Vintage Port Tasting in the Freind Room <em>(2.45pm)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exhibition in the Upper Library <em>(2.45pm)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alice Tour for children <em>(2.45pm)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tea and cake in the McKenna room <em>(4 pm)</em></td>
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## Payment

£35.00 for an adult ticket, which includes the Association drinks reception, lunch and wines and coffee plus all events (except the vintage port tasting). £19.50 for a children’s ticket (up to the age of 12). £15.00 per person for the vintage port tasting, with ports ranging from the Christ Church House Port to Dow’s 1963.

- I would like adult tickets
- I would like vintage port tasting tickets
- I would like children’s tickets

I enclose a cheque for £…………… made payable to ‘Christ Church, Oxford’

Please charge £…………… to my Visa/Access/Mastercard/Switch/Delta (we do not accept American Express)

**Name of Card Holder**

**Card No**

**Three Digit Security Code**

**Start Date**

**Expiry Date**
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Event booking forms are available to download at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/development/events

SEPTEMBER 2011
10 September
1961 REUNION
Christ Church
A reunion dinner for Old Members who will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their matriculation.
16-18 September
2011 OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND
Oxford
Join fellow alumni for three days of talks, lectures, walks, tours and many more activities.
Contact: Oxford University Society alumni@wadham.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 336 596 for event updates at www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk
18 September
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION DAY
Christ Church
All members are invited to the Christ Church Association Family Day. Sunday lunch in Hall and AGM. We have also organised a talk on the stained glass windows in the Cathedral, a talk on the Hall portraits, a port tasting led by Jasper Morris of Berry Bros, a special exhibition in the Upper Library, an Alice tour for children (and yes Harry Potter will get a mention), and tea.
18 September
1961 REUNION DINNER
Christ Church
A reunion dinner for everyone who was educated at both Christ Church and Westminster.
For all events please contact the Development Office online at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS AT THE HOUSE IN 2012
Flans are well advanced for our 2012 residential programmes. The year opens with another spring ‘Special Interest Weekend’, scheduled for 11th to 13th March 2012, and the Crusades as its subject. The programme’s academic director is Dr Christopher Tyerman, who has assembled an array of specialist speakers from Oxford and beyond for a four day, three night event entitled, ‘Wars of Christ: The Crusades and the Emergence of Europe.’

This topic, reflects the strong ongoing interest in historical topics and again aims to give guests the opportunity to examine a subject of interest in some detail. Crusader warfare, castles and the military orders are among the lecture topics, as well as Byzantium, Richard the Lion Heart and thebluesun response to the crusades. The contemporary resonances aroused by this subject will doubtless arise in lectures, questions and discussion.

18-20 March 2012
SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMME
Wars of Christ: The Crusades and the Emergence of Europe

As well as the essential ingredient of sound, accessible scholarship, resident guests will also enjoy the House’s hospitality, comfortble meals and the Buttery utilair. Past experience (and some market research) has given us some cause for cautious optimism that this programme will again enjoy a good response: the recent Blood & Roses event reached full capacity some months ahead. We hope you will consider joining us. The full 2012 ‘Special Interest’ programme is available online at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences. If you would like a copy e-mailed to you, please contact Becky Favel in the Steward’s Office on c.phil6@chch.ox.ac.uk
24 March & 4 April 2012
SUNDAY TIMES OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL
The Easter vacation at Christ Church now also regularly includes the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival. Based at the House, but expanding into neighbouring colleges and large University venues such as the Sheldonian Theatre, the festival attracts many thousands of attendees across its nine day span. Next year the festival will take place between 24th March and 1st April. The programme receives wide advance publicity in the Sunday Times and is also to be found online at www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com

The largest in-house conference next year is our ‘Conflict’ programme, the series now entering its tenth year. The Conflict series began with a memorable collaboration with the Bletchley Park Trust, on the wartime Enigma codes, and has made its way through espionage, the Taliban to, most recently, the US Alliance and the Making of the Modern Middle East. A list of all past programmes can be found on the Christ Church website at: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/conflict

The Conflict series celebrates its 10th anniversary by considering that great and re-emerging giant China. The academic programme is led by Oxford’s Professor Rana Mitter whose speakers will surmise the long century that began with the Opium Wars and the fall of the Manchu dynasty, through the rise of the Nationalists, World War II and the Communist victory, and the Cultural Revolution, with the Middle Kingdom ultimately rejoining the world. Perhaps it is the century that lies before us that will truly belong to China. Among the speakers is Lord Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong.

The Chinese Century will be held at the House between 2nd and 7th September 2012. The full programme will shortly be posted on the Steward’s Office making it, be available on the website at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences and on request via conflict@chch.ox.ac.uk. An old member’s rate is offered for the full programme which, in addition to the customary hospitality includes a choice of outings on the programme’s middle day and a concluding Gala Banquet in Hall, probably not on a Chinese theme! John Harris
Steward of Christ Church, 1986-2011

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Visit from the First Lady

One of the first entries in the Christ Church Visitors’ Book (shortly after Stanley Baldwin) is the signatures of the King and Queen of Afghanistan: 23rd March 1938. The most recent is that of Michelle Obama: 25th May 2011.

The First Lady came with an amazing assortment of security and other supporters. But the core of the event was quite intimate and informal: speaking about aspiration in general, and hopes for higher education in particular, to a group of girls from the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson school in Islington. Why Oxford and why Christ Church? Because Oxford in general and Christ Church in particular (as well as looking impressive) encourage applications from academically able people from every kind of school and background.

The day was a success. Of course it is hard to estimate what the precise effect will be of such ‘celebrity’ visits, but we hope that the conjunction of the images of Michelle Obama, the girls and Christ Church will help.

If you would like more information about the Christ Church outreach and access work, or would like to join the Education Network, please email: admissions@chch.ox.ac.uk