“When a blind beetle crawls over the surface of the globe he doesn’t realize that the track he has covered is curved. I was lucky enough to have spotted it.”

Albert Einstein (Ch Ch 1931-33)

Members probably don’t believe they abide “in an Earthly Paradise” given the present world outlook but perhaps some do look back wistfully at their years at the House and think those pre-commitment times were pretty close to it!

The days of closed gates and the need to climb in and out of college are gone; comings and goings, though monitored, are unconstrained and the internet penetrates even the thickest walls. Perhaps Christ Church is less insular now, although that is not always obvious. There were many prejudices apparent in those educated at the House in previous eras, yet great men were educated who ran the Empire well and fairly according to the standards of the time, and Christ Church took in many refugees in the 1930’s, not just Einstein but also Paul Jacobsthal, whose archive the Oxford Institute of Archaeology is working on at present. Furthermore different forms of discrimination can beset today’s generation unless care is taken.

As the Dean suggests there is a wonderful medley of nationalities within the college, and especially the Graduate community, producing a lively, reciprocal learning process. For surely that is one key reason for education: to give alternative views of the world and encourage the exploration of those views. Like the imaginative photograph of Meadow Building on this page should not our world view be orb-like?

This edition of CCM seeks to shed light on Christ Church’s involvement with the world; to illustrate that “nature makes the whole world kin”. Thus the archivist writes of historical connections with foreign climes, the Tutor in Music describes the choir’s international presence, and we hear of a generous gift from Alonzo McDonald. Attempts to strengthen connections with Christchurch, New Zealand are examined in the article on the Wakefield scholarship and in Association News. Members living abroad are our “own correspondents”. Prof Roger Davies encourages us to open our eyes to foreign travel and expand our minds, and graduate students illustrate how overseas trips have given them knowledge and understanding. The article on Scanning History shows that “language is the archive of history” and the topical subject of free speech is explored in the Christ Church/Gorbachev Lecture series, named after the architect of “glasnost”.

Sarah Jones, the new Alumni Relations Officer and I hope that this issue illustrates how Christ Church hearts and minds are open to many outside influences, creating new relationships and opportunities for its Members. Perhaps it is not too strong a wish “to seek a newer world”. There is truth in history, and in geography too; but should a few degrees of latitude or longitude determine what that truth is?

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Dean’s Diary

“You are nowe in an Earthly Paradise, if you have the grace to knowe it.” William Trumbull on sending his son to Magdalen in 1622. Sentiments of that kind rather play into the hands of those who imagine us in ivory palaces where nothing much comes within spitting distance of reality. I love the Union speech by Raymond Asquith (the witty son of the Prime Minister, killed in the battle of the Somme) in which he urges the assembled company to avoid parochialism: “Let us rather emulate the wide-ranging and refugent generosity of that magnificent orb, the sun, which as all good Balliol men know, has for all humanity and from time immemorial risen over Wadham and set over Worcester.”

The only answer to the charge that Oxford is a world unto itself is to agree. Then, however, to add that the real world is an elusive concept. To imagine that one is in it or even the sole proprietor of it, flies in the face of the most elementary insights of the sociology of knowledge. We are conditioned (not determined) by our social context; awareness of how and to what extent we are children of our time and place is step one en route to a wider world view. We think and speak from where we are. That does not imply that we set out to deceive others, only that we may deceive ourselves.

I suppose that step two is then to make deliberate efforts to complement one’s limited horizon with the vantage points of others. In my trade, there is a tendency to take pilgrims to Israel in order to visit holy sites. I have never done that and could not do it unless the trip were to contain careful time reflecting on the West Bank and Gaza. Tourism can narrow the mind.

Here at the House, we have old members spread throughout the world. And if they are said to be rather an elite corps, then a variety of people also ebb and flow through Oxford. And easy communication kind-of helps. While writing this piece, emails slipped in, questioning the University’s investment policy when it comes to companies which produce illegal arms.

One of the happiest aspects of Christ Church is the community which is here already. The image of the Senior Common Room may be of old sweats drinking port and irritating each other. Yet actually the SCR has many young and contains Dutch, Polish, American, Indian, German, Italian, Hungarian, Greek, Belarussian, French and British full-time members. Add to that a Graduate Common Room in which 57% come from outside the United Kingdom (25% EU and 32% from beyond the EU) and a Junior Common Room in which 11% do, we go in for variety.

I am not sure quite how all this mix helps us to ‘get real’, but my experience suggests it does.

Christopher Lewis
Dean

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www.oxfordlight.co.uk
In 1793, the town of Halifax in Nova Scotia approached the Dean and Chapter for advice on stocking their new public library. Dean Jackson responded with a long list of titles that they thought would be useful for the town’s proposed public library. A good library was evidently considered essential for a place on the up, and Halifax was rapidly becoming a vital Royal Navy stronghold. George III’s fourth son, Edward Duke of Kent, resided there for much of the 1790s and was responsible for not only rebuilding its defences but also for developing the town’s social and economic prosperity.

The list of books would have looked very familiar to the young men who studied at Christ Church at the time. Included was a large number of classical texts on all subjects: Homer, Hesiod, Theocritus, Pindar, Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Herodotus, Suetonius, etc. – all works that were read during the four years labour towards a BA. Theological works, concordances, polyglot bibles, sermons, and the one text that no man could escape, Pearson’s *Exposition of the Creed*, were all advised. Scientific texts appeared in small numbers, including works by men as far apart in time and understanding as Hippocrates, Galen, Euclid, and Isaac Newton. And right at the end, subjects which still had to appear on the Oxford curriculum, were listed: geography, law, and modern history.

The Dean and Chapter made a habit of helping scholars and universities all over the world, rarely with as much diligence as they showed Nova Scotia, but usually with donations. In the 1660s, students from Piedmont were given a few pounds each term probably to help them through a very unstable period at the University of Turin when the area was...
plagued by disease, famine, and war. Closer to home, in the same year, a donation was given to the University of Aberdeen when the two colleges in the city were re-establishing themselves after the Restoration.

Charitable giving of all sorts, not just for academic purposes, was enshrined in the early covenants by which Christ Church was run, and the Dean and Chapter took their responsibilities seriously. The beneficiaries often reflected the politics or the fashions of the day. During the Commonwealth period, although few records survive, those that do indicate that not only that paperwork was kept diligently but that the covenant to help the poor was followed stringently. In one year alone, 1659, small donations were made to the wife of a poor minister, for a suit and hat for a Mr Coleman, for the burial of a man who had drowned and was found on the Meadow, to a prisoner in the castle ‘who was like to famish’, and to a blind scholar at Magdalen Hall. James Egerton, a religious exile from Austria, was given the relatively large sum of 13s 6d, and a poor Irish woman who had been robbed by the Turks was granted 2s 6d. It was not uncommon for converts from Judaism or Catholicism to be given donations, almost as rewards it would seem. Before the days of the welfare state, those who were sick and unable to work were entirely dependent on the care of others. Goodman Carpenter was granted 2s when his mad wife broke his arm, and Goody Bew who was very sick received 2s 6d.

What the canons of the Cromwellian Puritan years would have thought of the JCR’s ‘naked’ calendars, one hesitates to think, but it is good to know that Christ Church still works hard to support those who need help in all walks of life.

Beagling Jacket

Dinner jacket worn originally by the President of the Beagles, dating from 1911, made by Forster and Sons of Grafton Street, and kindly donated to the archive by Nicolas Tate (1952). With two hunting horns, used by Mr Tate during the 1953/4 beagling season.

The archivist would be pleased and grateful to accept in to safe keeping any such artifacts from members of the House.

The 2012 Christ Church Naked Calendar is for sale at £7 each or £12 for two (plus P&P). Each month features a different society or sports team, in different areas of the college – ranging from the GCR playing chess to the Alices playing poker to the rugby team performing a haka. All proceeds will be split equally between the Raise and Give (RAG) Oxford Charities: Helen and Douglas House, Pathway Workshop, Emerge Global, and Shelter.

The calendar was organised by the RAG reps Chloe Mills and Andrew McLean, with photographers Shaun Thein and Rupen Hargreaves.

2012 Christ Church Naked Calendar

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Education and music play important roles in the life of the cathedral. Over the past couple of years, the cathedral has been looking at ways to improve facilities for its educational work and for its musicians. The Sub-Dean, Edmund Newell, gives a flavour of what is currently happening, as well as plans for the future and ways in which old members can play a part in supporting an exciting project to develop an education centre and a choir music library.

Cathedral Education Centre and Choir Music Library

Not surprisingly, the cathedral is already heavily involved in education - but there is scope to do more. In terms of adult education, we currently run a series of public summer lectures and a study course during Lent, we host and arrange occasional lectures, and are closely involved with the university’s theology summer school. Every other year, the cathedral also takes the lead in running an educational conference for the clergy of the 80 or so parishes across England connected to Christ Church.

The cathedral is also a popular venue for educational visits from schools. Over the past ten years the average number of school visits per year was 24. In 2010-11, the number increased to 47. This is due partly to the appointment of a part-time Education Assistant, funded by the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, and the establishment of a team of guides and advisors who ensure that visits are tailored to the National Curriculum. The cathedral also recently held a successful Oxfordshire schools day, which culminated with Christ Church being presented with a set of gospels handwritten and illuminated by children from across the county to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. An important initiative is the Sixth Form Seminar, involving the Canon Professors and other cathedral clergy who can offer schools input in their specialist areas of teaching and research.

While a lot is already happening, we are looking to develop our educational activities in two key areas. First, we would like to build on the success of our work with schools by increasing the number of visits and enhancing their quality. Second, we are seeking to become a centre of education for ministry. The latter has been made possible by the appointment of the Reverend Angela Tilby as the Diocesan Canon with special responsibility for clergy training in the Diocese of Oxford. Angela brings with her a wealth of experience as a former vice-principal of a theological college, and also from her distinguished career as a BBC producer and broadcaster.

To enable these developments, the cathedral is in urgent need of dedicated educational space. This may seem surprising, but while Christ Church has...
a lecture theatre and several teaching rooms, they are in constant use during term for university teaching and outside term by conferences. To solve this problem, we are looking to create a cathedral education centre in the building in the Cathedral Garden known as the Bethel.

Currently, the Bethel is used as a general store for cathedral items, including the choir’s music. This is far from ideal, particularly as the cathedral has a significant collection of music which should be stored under library conditions. To free up the Bethel for educational use, we are therefore also looking to provide better storage facilities, including the creation of a music library in which the music can be stored in the best conditions to conserve it for the future.

Christ Church’s Architect, Jane Kennedy, has produced an exciting proposal to convert the Bethel into a flexible space for school groups and adult education and a scheme to convert a derelict building into a choir library. The estimated costs for these projects are £225,000 for the education centre and £125,000 for the choir library.

We would like to begin work on these project as soon as possible, and are about to begin fundraising. Old members who are interested in helping to fund them and who would like to be associated with these important additions to Christ Church are invited to contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk for further information.

The New Guidebook

Members may be interested to know that a splendid new Guidebook has been published. As you can see from this photo of Bishop John it is a great read with an introduction by Jan Morris and superb photographs by The Chaplain Ralph Williamson, K T Bruce and Bi Scott amongst others. It is available from the Cathedral Shop, Tom Porters’ Lodge and the Meadow Gate. Price £5.00.
Fragments of History

Christ Church, like so many colleges in Oxford, is full of secret passages and spaces, nooks and crannies in which wine, books, or even treasure are said to be hidden. A few years ago I found such a place or, rather, I was informed of such a place very near to the cathedral where I had worked for several years. I was photographing the cathedral’s medieval windows and, chatting to one of the meadow men, I heard that there was a coal bunker in the garden containing fragments of glass. In his opinion it wasn’t worth bothering about but – after much arm-twisting – I eventually got there. On first impression the glass looked like piles of slate and anyone would be forgiven for not giving them a second glance. I removed one of the fragments and took it out into the cloister where I could hold it up to the light and what I saw astounded me! I was holding an image of a man’s face. I knew immediately its importance as the style was very similar to the image of Jonah depicted in a window in the cathedral. I immediately called the then Dean’s Verger, Edward Evans, and he confirmed what it was - glass that dated back to the 1630s. Over the next few weeks I carefully extracted the fragments and moved them to a room near the cathedral. It seemed like a giant jigsaw puzzle, but this was a jigsaw puzzle without the lid and, as I soon discovered, without all the pieces!

Various experts were summoned to inspect the glass and we then began the task of researching the story behind the windows and how the fragments came to end up in the coal bunker.

What we have discovered is that the majority of the glass fragments come from windows painted in the early seventeenth century by the celebrated artists Sarah Mortimer and Matthew Power.
Dutch artist Abraham Van Linge. The windows were part of a large restoration commissioned by Dean Duppa in the 1630s, the period just before the Civil War. Duppa changed the appearance of our cathedral completely, with this new scheme of stained glass and also a new altar and new flooring. Although we don’t know much about the windows themselves, there is a poem which praises the beauty of the glass and tells us what the windows depicted. Apparently there were nineteen windows, so this would have been the grandest scheme in England after King’s College Cambridge. Duppa must have had a lot of support for such an expensive project, but he also won himself enemies among the Puritans, for they feared this was a dangerous step towards Catholicism. According to the diarist John Evelyn, the windows were famous throughout the land – many people admired them, but to others they were Popish, and even Anti-Christian.

Glass like this did not fare well after the civil war, when the Puritans took over Oxford. A chapter minute dated 21st June 1651 orders ‘all images of God, Good or bad angels & saints to be removed from our church windows’. Perhaps this was to save the glass from vandalism, but if so it was in vain. Indeed, Henry Wilkinson, a newish and very Puritan Canon, was so incensed by this kind of Popery that when he saw the glass lying on the floor he tried to destroy it, ‘furiously stamping up and down on it’ according to his contemporary, Anthony Wood. Although most of the windows were lost, some survived, but only to fall later into disrepair. We now have just two complete examples of windows from the 1630s: Jonah in the north aisle and Robert King in the Chapel of Remembrance – both of which show how impressive the original scheme would have been.

What might the future hold for our long forgotten fragments? A similar haul was found in 1919, and placed high up in the north transept windows. There you can see fragments depicting Christ disputing with the Doctors, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and Christ’s entry into Jerusalem. This time, though, we want to use the glass differently, and give people a chance to see such beautifully detailed painting properly. And we hope also to use the fragments to help tell the story of the Cathedral – especially in some of the most exciting decades in its history. The Friends of the Cathedral have agreed to pay for a few pieces of the glass to be cleaned and mounted in a clear pane, and if we can create several such panes we will display them in the picture gallery and then the Cathedral. We hope this will be a lasting monument to the skills of Van Linge, the energy of Dean Duppa – and the role of the glass in the civil war.
The Choir at Large

Stephen Darlington (1971)

The entire repertoire of the Cathedral Choir’s latest CD, Treasures of Christ Church (see opposite), is by English composers, and there is no doubt that this has massive world-wide appeal to devotees of choral music. In fact, every few months I receive a list of the countries in which our CDs have been bought or downloaded. As you may imagine, this includes not only most of Europe but also Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and many South American countries. Our international profile is stronger than it has ever been, and this, coupled with our appearances on tour, has meant that in cultural circles, the Choir of Christ Church is known throughout the world.

Some of the tour highlights have included concerts in Sydney Opera House, the Triphony Hall in Tokyo, the Teatro Carlo in Sao Paulo, Washington National Cathedral. In 1990 BBC TV filmed us in concert in St. Jacob’s Church in Prague in the presence of the new President Havel: an extraordinarily powerful moment of history in a country which had just thrown off the shackles of communism. An extract from this concert was included in the recent 50th anniversary broadcast of BBC ‘Songs of Praise’. In recent years, we have become more and more involved in collaborative projects in other countries as well as the UK. The most elaborate of these was in Porto in 2006 when we recruited local singers to form a choir which, in combination with our own, gave a series of concerts in the famous Casa da Música. Kingston, Jamaica was the scene of another similar project, as was Bermuda, where the choir gave a number of concerts in the Bermuda Festival including local choirs.

An exciting aspect of the choir’s international activity is that we are often engaged to sing music which is non-English. Invitations to an English choir to sing (in German) J.S. Bach’s music in the Leipzig Bach Festival or Haydn’s Die Schöpfung in Duisburg, or Janáek in Prague (in Czech!), or Fauré in Paris, are incredibly rare and indicate the level of the choir’s artistic reputation.

And what of the future? Soon, we hope to be in a position to enable all those with access to a computer to listen to choral music from Christ Church through webcasts, wherever they are in the world. We are even developing a plan to establish a virtual choir school on the web for choirs in Toronto and Charlotte. As for tours, the choir has received an invitation to go to China in 2012, and are planning a return to the US in 2013. Look out for information on the choir website about this and other events: www.chchoir.org

All of this costs money of course, and the need for funding for international performances is a continuing one. Our ultimate intention is to establish sufficient endowment for the choir to do a major international tour every other year, and to do at least one new recording in the alternate years. This fund will need to be in the order of $1 million and has been launched with a generous donation from the President of the American Friends of Christ Church, Peter S. Paine Jr. All donations, of whatever size, are welcome.

It is easy to make the claim that music has the power to transcend international boundaries and there is plenty of evidence to support that view. I can vouch for this from my own experience, witnessing with my own eyes the astonishing reaction to music-making in communities for whom it is a new experience. I am determined that we should continue and develop this aspect of the life of Christ Church. Music is an area in which we can make a real impact world-wide!
IN SUPPORT OF

The Christ Church Cathedral
Music Trust

We are seeking a Sponsor for the Cathedral Choir’s Christmas Concert at St. John’s, Smith Square in 2012 and beyond

For five years this wonderful Christmas concert, kindly introduced each year by Howard Goodall (1976), has delighted hundreds of Members of the House and others with a magical programme of music. However its continuation will depend on finding sponsorship to help underwrite the costs. If you or your company may be interested and you require more information please contact: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

Christ Church, Oxford. OX1 1DP
01865 286325

Treasures of Christ Church

The Cathedral Choir’s newly recorded CD features a special collection spanning 500 years of English choral music, performed from original manuscripts. Treasures is unique in that all the pieces have an association with Christ Church, revealing the history of music at the college from John Taverner to Tallis, Handel, Purcell, and Byrd, and including premiere recordings of works by John Rutter and Howard Goodall.

The Choir maintains a special and distinctive place within the great English choral tradition, and Treasures captures the Choir’s vibrant sound and artistic versatility. Additionally, the packaging of this recording features striking visuals of the original manuscripts on pristinely preserved parchment and leather-bound, gold-embossed scores.

Treasures was the highest new entry in the classical charts on Monday 26 September and will be Radio 3’s Essential Classics featured CD in the week of 12 December.

To order a copy of this special collection, contact Sarah Jones in the Dev. & Alumni Office: sarah.jones@chch.ox.ac.uk or see the choir’s website: www.chchchoir.org

Another Treasure

In September 1971 a young organ scholar walked through the gates of Tom. Stephen Darlington has thus been associated with Christ Church for 40 years.

Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood (1985), Principal, RAM, says of Stephen:

“I admire his remarkable pride in the distinctive musical ethos of Christ Church and his open-mindedness in recognising how individuals can thrive within it. Key, I believe, is Stephen’s respect for musical craft and academic accomplishment without inhibiting his relish for excellence in performance. The reason why so many of his students feel liberated to follow their ‘muse’ (literally it would seem, judging by the variety of musical lives now pursued) comes down to his generous and un-prescriptive nature.”
In 2008 the Hon. Alonzo McDonald, former CEO (Worldwide) of McKinsey & Co. and Staff Director in President Carter’s White House, made a benefaction of £250,000 to fund the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life for a five-year period. In the first two and a half years of its life, the Centre held four academic conferences—on human rights, political forgiveness, theology in public discourse about the ethics of genetic engineering, and the ethics of Peter Singer.

In addition, the Centre has sought to contribute to the shaping of public life by collaborating with the Oxford Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism in mounting a series of seminars on “Journalism and Public Responsibility”; and with the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House) in London in running colloquia for senior civil servants on “Getting our Way: The Ethics of National Interest” and “The Ethics of Intelligence-Gathering”.

By May 2010 Mr. McDonald was sufficiently impressed by the vitality of the McDonald Centre to decide to endow it in perpetuity. In February 2011 he signed an agreement with the University to endow the McDonald Post Doctoral Fellowship in Christian Ethics, together with annual project funding, in the sum of £1,412,055; and on 1 April he agreed a benefaction to Christ Church of £650,000 to endow a McDonald Graduate Scholarship in Ethics, which will alternate between the Faculties of Theology and of Philosophy.

The McDonald Centre’s 2011-12 programme includes a further colloquium with Chatham House on “The Ethics of Humanitarian Intervention after Libya”, a May conference on “Christianity and the Flourishing of Universities”, and collaboration with the Mackinder Programme at the London School of Economics in staging a major event on “The Persistence of the Nation-State”.

The Hon. Alonzo McDonald (second row) and Peter Singer (front row, right).

Wells for India is a UK registered charity founded by Christ Church Old Member Nicholas Grey (1955), and Mary Grey. In the run-up to its 25th anniversary, the charity is making a special appeal to help sustain and extend its vital work.

The organisation supports development and emergency relief in the poorest village communities in rural Rajasthan, the most drought-prone state in India. Sustainable water and sanitation bring wide-ranging follow-on benefits for health, education, livelihoods, community organisation, resilience in the face of climate change, and conditions for women and girls, all improve.

The work has grown to the point where a million people’s lives have already changed for the better, and 70,000 people are involved in projects each year. The charity has established a solid reputation in India, notably for its expertise in community-managed rainwater harvesting. With the impacts of climate change becoming harsher, and India’s rapid economic development threatening to leave the poorest people more vulnerable than ever, Wells for India believes this is a crucial opportunity to expand its successful work within Rajasthan and beyond.

To find out more, or to make a donation, please contact Julia Seal at the office on +44 (0)1962 835692, or visit www.wellsforindia.org

All images © Dieter Telemans
The Christ Church/Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholarship

Simon Offen (1986)

The Edward Gibbon Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholarship was set up in 2011 at the instigation of Haydn Rawstron (1968), the Wakefield Trust and Christ Church.

Christ Church launched a concerted effort to raise funds for graduate scholarships in 2010 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the GCR’s founding. When reflecting on how best to secure the evident successes of graduates at the House it was decided that the foundation of more scholarships was the way forward; to maintain incentive and innovation in research, to secure the basis of post-graduate interaction in the life of the college, to inspire the academics and teachers of tomorrow, and to contribute to Christ Church’s and Oxford’s high standing in the international field.

Over the past eighteen months Members and Friends have contributed to new graduate scholarships in Law, Medicine, History, Engineering/Green technology, and Ethics. All this of course in addition to the wonderful work the American Friends under Peter Paine’s guidance continue to do annually in raising money for American Graduates to come to Christ Church. There is also a general scholarship fund for unrestricted gifts.

Following the awful earthquakes in Christchurch New Zealand, Members of the House, Friends, and worshippers in the Cathedral raised the splendid sum of £53,500 for Christchurch Cathedral, and Oxford University also took in over forty Canterbury students to help. However, the aftermath of the earthquake continues to present Christchurch and Canterbury University with immense challenges, thus the House has thought how best to help further its sister institution and strengthen and perpetuate its historical bonds with Christchurch.

Those bonds go back to 1847 when John Robert Godley, a member of Christ Church, Oxford, and a brilliant young colonial reformer, teamed up with Edward Gibbon Wakefield, the doyen of 19th century colonial reform, to set up a colonising society, the Canterbury Association. It arranged for 3,500 settlers (“Canterbury Pilgrims”) to sail to New Zealand to found a model colonial settlement to be called Canterbury after the Archbishopric, and whose capital was to be called Christchurch after Christ Church, Oxford. At the heart of the new settlement was the cathedral, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who did much work in Christ Church and Oxford, Canterbury College, now the University, and Christ’s College, a public school. A real home from home! Half the management committee of the Canterbury Association were Christ Church graduates — and 48 of the original 50 members of the Association were Oxbridge educated.

The Edward Gibbon Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholarship is Christ Church’s answer to perpetuating the link. With a generous gift of $150,000 from the Wakefield Trust to launch the scholarship endowment fund in this country, Christ Church will welcome Wakefield scholars in the Humanities from Canterbury University. The college will tie in with a fund already set up by the Trust in New Zealand and aim to increase the number of graduates who can come to study in Oxford to at least one per year, thus ensuring that both the link and the Wakefield name are preserved in perpetuity.

Dame Kiri te Kanawa’s concert at the Jubilee Music weekend in June 2012 (see pages 34-35) will be used to highlight the scholarship and help with fundraising, but we also hope that the idea will strike a chord with Members of the House who might like to contribute, either in this country or in New Zealand. Graduates studying at Christ Church need your support.

For further information please contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

The stunning 2007 Limited Edition publication - Godley Gifts - from which these pictures are taken, is a fascinating three-volume set, in a beautifully crafted presentation box, containing the story “Seadrift”, a selection of Watercolours, and a collection of essays by David McPhail, all relating to the founding of Christchurch, New Zealand.

www.godleygifts.co.nz

The Christ Church/Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholarship

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www.godleygifts.co.nz
Taken out of context the results of last Trinity Term for the ChChBC look rather poor; after all, it was the first time that there had been a downward trend within the Club for some years, and having no boat to burn after racing for the first time in six bumps competitions came, inevitably as something of a disappointment.

However, we had known all along that Trinity was going to be a hard term for the Club. With Oriel back up to strength with three Blues and an Isis man (two of whom had been rowing over Head for the House one year before) and with our own crew thus much depleted, the prospects from the outset were somewhat bleak. The 1st VIII did its best – but was predictably unable to hold off Oriel’s hirelings and went down to them on the Wednesday, succumbing also to a stronger Pembroke crew on the following day, but holding its place thereafter and remaining Third on the River. The 2nd VIII was also dangerously exposed rowing off 10th in Division II – but did astonishingly well, considering its relative lack of experience, to lose only two places to the first eights it had bumped in 2010 and to remain in the Second Division – and still the highest 2nd crew by some distance. The gallant 3rd VIII also held its place and remains likewise the highest boat in its class, well ahead of any other 3rd crew. The women’s side saw a similar pattern, with the 1st VIII rowing off 10th in Division II – but then losing a place each successive night to finish ninth; the problem was not so much a lack of skill as of size, compared with their opponents. The women’s 2nd VIII, however, did rather redeem matters and retained their title as highest in their class for yet another year, losing only one place and rowing over three times.

Overall, then, something below the usual standard of results set over the last few years and retained successfully into Torpids with the third successive Headship. This view, however, is to ignore the underlying strength of the ChChBC, which at once set about recovering from the setback, with the men (in alliance with Lincoln) narrowly failing to qualify for the Temple Challenge at Henley and with a very active programme of rowing over the summer for both men and women that saw a total of four regatta wins in various combinations.

The start of Michaelmas Term has already seen a real resurgence; two men’s eights arrived back over a week early to begin training under our new Head Coach, New Zealander James Armitage, and Assistant Coach Helen Popescu, who had kept up an active summer for those resident in Oxford. There are also five trialists with OUBC, which augurs well for Eights 2012, while the girls also look forward to avenging last year’s defeats. We are already setting about the business of restoring the Club’s position to the place we have become used to – and wish it to be.

It is mainly through the generosity of members of the Society that the Club is able to prosper. Thus we are seeking both your continued membership subscriptions and capital support. The launch of the appeal to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Christ Church Boat Club in 2017 begins with the publication of the appeal document and a gathering in London in April, followed by the Boat Club Dinner in Oxford on Friday, June 15th 2012. This year 2011/12 is the 30th Anniversary of the first Women’s racing eight competing on the Isis, and we hope for an excellent turn out from the Ladies to mark the occasion. Over the next five years we intend to ensure the ongoing long-term success of the Club. Our aims are simple – and targeted at what we know from experience to work best.

Firstly, we aim to support the college in endowing the costs of the Boat House and the Boatman. This basic infrastructure must be secured in perpetuity. Secondly, we wish to ensure that we have a minimum, ring-fenced sum available each year for professional, high-quality coaching. Thirdly, we want to encourage the best oarsmen and women attending Oxford to choose the House – and by having bursary support available to attract such quality we can help achieve that aim too. It is our firm belief that the successful raising of an endowment fund of £1.25 million and the securing of these three pillars of the Boat Club will provide the secure base for continuing victories on the river for many years ahead.

I hope that you will join us over the next six months at events in Oxford, Henley and London to celebrate all that the Boat Club has achieved in the past two hundred years and support us in creating a fund to secure its continued success for the next two hundred.
The Boat Club and Society hold a number of events each year and it is always gratifying how many members turn up. Since the Trinity issue of Christ Church Matters we have gathered at Eights week; where the Association holds a drinks party on the Saturday, we had a splendid Boat Club Dinner in Hall and we enjoyed a sunny Henley with the traditional Pimms party in the car park on the Saturday evening. All members of the Society are welcome to these events as well as to Torpids and the Varsity Boat Race gathering.

Jon Carley (1980)
Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics, and Dr. Lees Reader in Physics at Christ Church, often acts as a trip scholar accompanying tours and giving lectures for the Oxford Alumni Travel Programme.

He has already led two successful Polar Nights and Mystical Northern Lights tours for Oxford alumni and the next tour will take place in February 2012. He will also be leading two unique tours in 2012 to observe solar eclipses: one to the Grand Canyon (18-25 May 2012), and one to Australia (5-16 November 2012). Aside from experiencing different types of eclipses, these tours will also offer magnificent views of the night sky, and the opportunity for sightseeing and exploring the local areas with expert guides.

The Oxford Alumni Travel Programme offers approximately 25 exclusive academic tours per year to every corner of the globe. Each tour is accompanied by a trip scholar and groups are usually small. All Oxford alumni are welcome to join the tours, along with friends and family.

For further information about the Oxford Alumni Travel Programme, visit www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel, email: travel@alumni.ox.ac.uk, or phone +44 (0)1865 611617.

For an itinerary of the eclipse tours, visit www.solareclipseexpeditions.com, email: taunya@betchartexpeditions.com, or phone 001 408 2524910.
Editorial

Since the last edition of Association News I’ve had my Gaudy (1977-1981). It really is an experience Alice could have related to, stepping through the Meadow gate and tumbling back in time, the old familiar history of the college now intertwined with the (relatively) recent record of one’s youth. Everyone was looking just a touch older and wiser but we soon picked up our friendships again and didn’t mention any grey hairs. It must be something about the revisiting of old possibilities in intimate and resonant surroundings that has made the gaudy an irresistible setting for dark deeds, from Dorothy L. Sayers to Inspector Morse. But I am glad nothing untoward happened on this occasion. Nothing was found floating in Mercury, not even the remains of the rowing club get-together. Instead we had great food, a brilliant speech given by Marcus Scriven (History, 1981) and a packed buttery, always a good sign.

In addition to the gaudies, there have been a varied selection of events for old members. They have danced the night away (or most of it anyway) at the Commem Ball and dined at Howth Castle in Ireland, in the shadow of Finnegans Wake. There has been a sixties reunion and a fusion of the nineties and d cosmos, songs, a story with musical accompaniment, piano pieces, and latterly, chamber music in 19th Century Romantic vein. We are currently planning, with trepidation, a piece for chamber orchestra.

Robert Hannon (1959)
I was born in London and ran a company there for many years. I sold the business to pursue other interests. “Other interests” turned out, shortly afterwards, to be a most charming lady from Washington D.C. I met my wife in a ploughed field, in the pouring rain, on an organised walk in Italy. So after a romantic chase, which involved creating an album of what were really love songs (with expert help from a former pop guitarist), I moved to Washington to be with her. We now spend four or five months of the year in London to see our family, but otherwise live in Georgetown.

Faced with retirement, we decided, with no prior music education or training as instrumentalists, to learn to write music together. We treated it as a job, taking courses in music theory and composition. Since we started we have written three musicals, songs, a story with musical accompaniment, piano pieces, and latterly, chamber music in 19th Century Romantic vein. We are currently planning, with trepidation, a piece for chamber orchestra.

Stephen Nicholas Walker (1979)
I arrived at Christ Church in the autumn of 1979. Aged 19, I had limited exposure to the world outside Yorkshire. Most family holidays had been in Scotland, I might have visited London twice (Joan Baez concert and the movie Easy Rider), a week in St Ives and the previous summer my only trip abroad, six weeks in Montpelier. I had done nothing but study for the four years up to Oxbridge exams motivating myself with promises of the worldly delights to be consumed if I succeeded.

The House did not disappoint. I traded Bulls Blood of Iger for Chateau Lynch Bages, Sekt for Pommery et Gren. I met so many fascinating people from all types of backgrounds, a good number of whom I am close to today and many whom I miss. We talked, investigated, debated, learned, experienced. There was a lot going on outside the walls in the early ‘70s—there always is when you are young. I made frequent trips to the Cambridge Union with Miss Bhutto in...
support of her campaign to win the presidency of the Oxford Union. Life at Christ Church had a dreamy quality. This is my most abiding memory of life at Oxford.

My quest for worldly delights was partially constrained by the scout system. Charlie, the Chinese Cuban scout on Blue Boar, was far too diligent for my taste, unlocking and entering my room every 8am, peering into my wardrobe and under my bed in search of evidence of rule breaking.

Since graduating I have spent two years in the City, twenty on Wall Street, five in Normandy and the past six in Rio de Janeiro. I specialise in a type of investing known as "global merger arbitrage". My partners and I are entering our sixteenth year as an independent fund management company.

Stephen Joseph
(1974)

As a sixth-former in 1972, I recall feeling keen anticipation, almost exhaltation, when the Heath government signed the UK's accession treaty with the Common Market, as it then was. So I could be counted a Euro-enthusiast from day one.

After I came up to Christ Church, to read Modern Languages under the unforgettable double act of A.J. Krailsheimer and F.D. Luke, I became more active in European affairs. I campaigned vigorously for a yes vote in the 1975 referendum on that seemingly perennial question: "Do you think the UK should stay in the European Community?" In student politics, I rose to the giddy heights of secretary of an interest group called the Young European Federalists. Headquarters were in the National Liberal Club and I attended many a conference "on the continent", thereby combining an early exposure to European issues with a goodly amount of tourism.

In retrospect, reading Modern Languages was a wise choice for a career in the European Commission. Selection, by competitive examination, takes place exclusively in candidates' second language amongst the three working languages (English, French and German). Bubbling Eurocrats won't advance very far if they fail to communicate clearly and precisely, both orally and in writing, in English and in French. And a third EU official language is mandatory for promotion: So French and German were a good combination to ease my career path. It is no coincidence that my two closest British colleagues also read modern languages at university.

On graduating, I had the choice of going into banking or taking a masters in business administration. A scholarship saw me through two years in the international stream of a French business school. On the strength of an internship with the German chambers of commerce in Bonn and a dissertation in non-tariff trade barriers in the European internal market, I was recruited to Brussels in 1981. I started on April Fools Day, and was promptly tear gassed when caught up in a riot by revolting French farmers. That was my rude introduction to the hurly-burly of European Realpolitik.

I spent the first part of my career as an administrator on scientific research programmes. I was an "English pen", called upon to draft (or redraft) policy documents, position papers and committee minutes. This is where my weekly essay crisis stood me in good stead. Being able to identify the critical facts in complex issues, structure a convincing argument, and deliver within tight deadlines, were some of the "portable" skills I was able to bring to my job.

In the 1990s I moved into human resources management within the European Commission. In 2002, I transferred to the EU's newly created Personnel Selection Office, aonestop shop for EU employment opportunities. I have acted there as a "change agent", instrumental in designing and implementing a root-and-branch reform of the HR selection process, including the introduction of computer-based testing, a general competency framework and system of assessment centres. EPISO is now being cited as a model of administrative reform within the international public sector.

After 30 years in Brussels, I have just been granted early retirement, also following a merit-based competitive process! I will now be devoting more time to research and writing in my field of expertise, the history of photography. I leave the EU in the knowledge that I have "made a difference" and proud of the achievements that I have lived through: consolidation of the internal market, stabilisation and democratisation of Central and Eastern Europe and yes, even the creation of the Euro, despite its current high-wire act. Ah, EU Realpolitik... plus ça change.

David Joyner
(1978)

When I was at Oxford, if you had asked me whether I might ultimately end up living in Northern California I would have given you a funny look and thought you were trying to make a joke. Yet, here I am 30 years later living in Tiburon, a small community on San Francisco Bay many miles from Oxford and Christ Church. I have never lost my love of England, of Christ Church, of green hills and hedgerows, of old country pubs, of history, tradition, of culture, old friends and family, but California has brought much to me also. Living on the edge of the Pacific has brought me a wonderful climate, the outdoors on my doorstep, career opportunities, openness to change, optimism about the future and new friends and my own new family.

Right after Christ Church I joined Bain and Company, the management consulting firm, in their London office. While I found my degree in Chemistry from Oxford had taught me to think and analyze complex problems, I needed to get an education in business, so I moved to Philadelphia to study for my MBA at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. During my time at Wharton I had the chance to visit Northern California and found a place that was very different from my expectations. I expected smog, crime, awful traffic, palm trees, beaches and fast food. What I found was
spectacular natural beauty, open spaces, redwoods, great food and wine, and lots of sunshine. After graduating from Wharton I moved to San Francisco and stayed with Bain for another five years. Since Bain I have worked in healthcare, most recently for Blue Shield of California where I run a $2BN revenue business unit supplying health insurance to large employers. I have not yet become an American citizen, but will likely do so at some point in the future. My wife is American and my two children are American born, but with British as well as US Passports.

I recommend to anyone the experience of living (and working if you have to) in another culture, it opens your eyes in different ways. I see California through a different perspective, and the same is true when I come home to England. As my children grow up my hope is that they might experience the wonder and privilege of an Oxford Education and perhaps one day experience the wonder and privilege of an England. As my children grow up my same is true when I come home to Oxford, at my first job interview at a US university, the first words uttered by my interviewer were, “So, you were at Christ Church, how wonderful!” But, more extraordinarily, Christ Church offered a unique life experience: it nourished intellectual curiosity and encouraged academic freedom; it offered a unique life experience: it

Sebastian Berger (1991) “Good point, well made. It’s a useful phrase in discussion, a way to acknowledge the superiority of someone’s argument without entirely abandoning your own – and one that is always nice to hear. Admittedly it’s not a line I could claim to recall having had addressed to me in my philosophy tutorials, but for me the most enduring legacy of my time at Christ Church is the way one learns and develops critical reasoning, how to think, not what to think, the ability to instantly assess what you are hearing or reading and dissect it for both significance and flaws. Being surrounded by people of like mind and temperament, coupled with sometimes radically different points of view, means, of course, that it is not just cultivated academically but honed over coffees in rooms, dinners in hall, and drinks in the Undercroft.

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Looking back, it is truly astonishing that some of the finest brains in the world are not just cultivated academically but honed over coffees in rooms, dinners in hall, and drinks in the Undercroft. The ability to talk to anyone, from prime ministers and CEOs to disaster recovery officials and guerrilla commanders, about anything, and immediately evaluate and respond to what they are saying, has probably been more useful than anything else. Even if the fine points of Wittgenstein hardly ever come up.
Christ Church Association Year Rep’s.

All Association Year Reps were invited to a dinner and meeting at the House in November. It provided a great chance to meet each other, catch up with old friends, discuss the past, present and future of the college, and of course enjoy a splendid McKenna Room dinner and some fine wine.

The evening started with a meeting to discuss issues such as how to improve on various past events, how well the Bursary appeal and Tutorial Funding is going, our careers help for students, and event plans for the coming year. Later, after dinner, we ended with a lively and wide-ranging debate over port about social media and the various options for the Association in that area.

The ‘Representative’ Scheme was set up by the college and the Association in 2003 to improve the channels of communication between Old Members, the Association and the House. This started initially with Year Reps and has now grown to include Regional and Sports Reps. All are designed to be “Friend Raisers” rather than “Fund Raisers”, with their primary role simply to nurture links with the College, their year group and wider college connections. The workload for a Rep is variable and entirely at each person’s discretion - with the Development Office doing nearly all of the “donkey work.” It is not the Rep’s job to ask for money for the House.

There are currently 95 Year Rep’s covering 1998 to 2009, plus Sports Reps, and Regional Reps from as far afield as Hong Kong and the USA. However, the Association is looking for more Reps to fill in the various gaps and to build up the number for each year. If you are interested in representing a Year, Sport or Region, please contact Simon Galbraith or Paul Calbraith at the email addresses above.

Please see the website for the full list of Year Rep’s. www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Caroline Rowe

Having spent the better part of the decade since Oxford outside the UK, I suppose it’s fairly safe to say that I am a pretty permanent world citizen. Moving straight to Shanghai, China, I rapidly moved away from what I thought was one of the Oxford careers of choice, M&A Consultancy, to work for a luxury lifestyle destination, Three on the Bund, doing expansion strategy for them, and eventually falling into the role of Communications & Marketing Director. Career wise, that’s pretty much the area I’ve stayed in since. After Three on the Bund, I opened a Japanese restaurant, Pure, and dessert parlor cum bar, cum club, Sugar. We were in Time Magazine the week we opened and swept the award ceremonies that year. Rather than a sushi conveyor belt we had a dessert ski lift on the ceiling, and sofas which looked like Chanel handbags. We had huge amount of fun, and the “extra-curricular” activity of being Ball President at Christ Church certainly helped me to pull everything together. Next I set up my own company, Rowe Publicity, and set about battling the red tape of China and spending most of my time with lawyers and accountants. At the same time, I became President of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Shanghai. I was also one of the founders of SmartShanghai, the number one English language website in China and somehow found time to become the official proofreader for the English teaching books now available in all Chinese secondary schools, and to ghost-write a book on bread!

After almost six years in China, I decided that this was not going to be the country in which I would spend the rest of my life and headed to California for what was essentially to be a year of R&R. There I consulted on restaurants in San Francisco and Napa Valley, but less than a year on realized that Asia was calling again.

I have found my true home in India and am opening the India office for QUO, an innovative global travel, tourism and hospitality consultancy. I also write for a number of national newspapers and magazines on all food topics. I adore my life in India, and revel in lavish and colourful holidays such as Diwali and Holi, and regularly take off to Rajasthan or the foothills of the Himalayas for long weekends. Oxford taught me, I suppose, to try to study and understand, rather than rely on pre-formulated opinions. That has been the single most useful tenant to bear in mind while living within and working besides other cultures and peoples. One can never say “gosh, it’s strange and wrong that these people do this” one has to learn to say, “well, this may be odd to me, but let me find out the reason that people do this, what it means to them, how it is represented as a part of their history and what it could mean as a part of their future.” This flexible attitude has allowed me to fit into my chosen homes around the world, and to actively be enlightened every single day, which is the greatest joy one could wish for.
A Christ Church weekend in Ireland

When asked why the Christ Church Association should have a weekend of events in Ireland I was tempted to reply that it was because only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat. However, the real reason is that we have some 90 Members living in the Emerald Isle and we wanted to continue our programme of taking the House to our supporters and not just expecting everyone to come to Oxford or London.

Add to that the fact that a number of Members were being extremely generous in giving us access to some wonderful venues and it was an obvious choice. Julian Gaisford St. Lawrence (1976) and his wife Christine set the pace for the weekend with dinner in Howth Castle library preceded by a splendid tour. The castle dates back to the 13th century but was much altered in the mid 18th century and in 1910 by Lutyens. Julian is a direct heir of Dean Gaisford and we saw some splendid artefacts with a Christ Church connection including books, letters and pictures, signed by John Ruskin. We knew it was summer as the rain was warm, but we still managed a quick group photo on the front terrace.

I regret to inform you that Christine died on the 1st November. We all send our love to Julian, Thomas and Alix.

The Hon. Desmond Guinness (1951) kindly arranged for us to visit the remarkable Castletown; saved from ruin by the Irish Georgian Society which he founded. After taking in the splendour of this Palladian masterpiece we were treated to lunch at Desmond’s Home, Lenuis Castle, which originated in the 13th century. Penny cooked a wonderful lunch and the wine flowed. It was not the only time during the weekend that we realised the truth of the saying that Ireland is great for the spirit but bad for the body!

The final event of the trip was a superb concert and supper at Birr Castle organised by the Earl of Rosse, Sir Brendan Parsons (1957). Following a drinks reception in the hall we enjoyed a concert of Chamber Music entitled Beethoven’s ‘Archduke Trio’, and some foot tappingly infectious traditional Irish music in the stunning gothic drawing room. Supper in the impressive red dining room was masterminded by Lady Rosse with plenty more liquid refreshment.

Those of us lucky enough to have been able to attend the weekend owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who opened their homes to us. Thank you also to the many other Members in Dublin who helped organise the weekend, for your support for the event, for driving people around, for getting us lost(!) and for your irrepressible sense of humour.

Simon Offen (1986)

29 September:
Gaudy 1977-1981

Images may be seen at:
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/development/events/gaudy
The Commem Ball 2011

Returning to Christ Church for this year’s ball was an awe inspiring experience: Tom Quad was transformed by circus acts, men on stilts and a wonderful champagne reception – it would be hard to imagine a more beautiful setting. In all the times I crossed Tom Quad as a student I would never have imagined that one day I would be seeing fireworks erupting from the Canonry roof tops in time to Holst’s “Jupiter”. If you missed it see the website under “Past events” where there are some photos as well as a You Tube link to the full spectacle.

Perhaps the most notable part of the evening was the impressive musical line up – I was particularly taken by ‘The Cutaway’, who are all Oxford students, and with the a capella group ‘Out of the Blue’, together with such thoughtful details from the ball committee as blankets artistically placed in hampers available to those of us listening. It would be hard to write about the musical line up without mentioning the headline act of the evening, Tinchy Stryder!

When I was up at Oxford, Christ Church traditionally held a much smaller ball but this year’s Commem Ball rivaled any of the balls I enjoyed during my time there; the meadows were transformed into a fun fair with a Gypsy caravan complete with fortune teller, an enormous ferris wheel and a merry-go-round, while the cathedral gardens had a casino, caricaturist and yet another impressive music venue! From the vodka luge sculpted in the form of Christ Church to the marvellous fireworks it was a night to remember.

A very many thanks to the entire ball committee and everyone else involved for all their hard work.

Freya Howard (1998)
interior had been beautifully restored. We all marvelled at the detailed cataloging and cross referencing work that was being carried forward. This now covers bindings and annotations as well as the contents of the books – a labour that will take many years to complete!

Then all of us assembled in the Deanery for some convivial pre Dinner drinks, followed by Hall which looked wonderful with the low evening sunlight adding to the twinkling of the table lamps. We were treated to a splendid meal, up to what I am sure are the finest restaurant standards, and enhanced by an excellent selection of wines. I simply don’t recall that college food was like this fifty years ago!

After the Dean had informed and amused us with news and anecdotes from more recent college history we decamped to the Buttery, where many of us re-met colleagues from long ago, and probably misremembered deeds and disasters from the 1960’s. And so (late) to bed.

On Sunday morning we were treated to an illuminating guided tour of the kitchens and the gardens. I am sure that most of us visited parts of the college, both inside and out, that we had never been to before. I couldn’t help thinking that a performance of “Alice in Wonderland” on a summer’s evening in the garden to the north of the Cathedral would be magical. Especially if we had Lewis Carroll overseeing it from the rear windows of the Library, and maybe with the odd Cheshire cat in the trees at the back of the garden!

Finally we wound up in the Buttery again, for more meetings and greetings. I am sure we all enjoy Gaudies, but they cover a range of years and, inevitably, many of one’s fellow diners are folk who one knew little whilst at the House. To have just one’s own year group served to intensify the experience, I think. There simply wasn’t time to talk with everyone. But if the sign of a successful event is that it leaves one wishing it could have gone on for a lot longer, then the 50th Anniversary of the “Class of ’61” certainly was a success. Roll on our 100th!

Bob Pynegar (1961)

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The Nineties and Noughties alumni drinks were held on Friday 11th November at Zebrano, a chic bar located in London’s Soho area. There was fantastic attendance across over 20 years of alumni and the private bar area was soon packed with revellers enjoying the drinks and food platters. Meeting fellow alumni I was struck by the many varied paths that everyone had taken, from coordinating and flying display planes to working for NGOs, founding charities, sports management, forensic science as well as a journalist and a couple of entrepreneurs to name but a few. All in all the evening was full of reminiscing and a few business cards exchanging hands. What better way to spend a Friday night in the city? I concluded that the night was a huge success when someone asked, “When is the next one?”

Time to get planning, watch this space…

Camilla West (1998)
Christ Church Association Day 2011

Rarely has so much been packed into one day by so many. 130 members and family enjoyed good company, a splendid lunch and numerous events on a sunny September Sunday.

The Cathedral services were joined by a good number but some did penance of another form and suffered the Association AGM and Committee meeting. Members of the 1546 Society were then invited to drinks and canapés in the glorious surroundings of the Deanery whilst those of us who have not yet indicated a bequest to the House drank bubbles in the Buttery and the Ante Hall. Lunch was traditional fare and none the worse for it: Smoked salmon, Roast beef, Apple crumble, all washed down with some decent St. Veran and Vacqueyras. Then, following a state of the House speech from the Dean, which drew incredulous gasps from the assembled Members that we were second in the Norrington table and only third on the River, the afternoon events began.

The Curator of the Picture Gallery, Ms Jacqueline Thalmann, drew her group around her and spoke on the Hall Portraits, and the previous Dean’s verger, Mr Edward Evans, gave an illuminating tour of the Cathedral’s stained glass windows. Jim Godfrey, the Education Officer for the Cathedral, with a helping hand from the Archivist Ms Judith Curthoys and Reader Services librarian Rachel Pilgrim, took some 50 eager Alice fans on a trip through the looking glass. They ended up in the Upper Library where Mrs Janet McMullin, the Senior Assistant Librarian, had already presented an exhibition of library treasures to another group. Finally twenty lucky people poured into the Lee Building for a Vintage Port tasting led by Jasper Morris (1976) of Berry Bros. The 1966 Taylor’s was voted the best, beating the 1963 Dow’s by a nose.

Tea and cake in the McKenna room gave everyone the chance to meet up again before braving the outside world and the journey home.

At 5pm there followed a Library Donors’ reception in the Dean’s Garden and the ground floor of the Library, which gave Christ Church the chance to thank all those who had made the restoration of the Library possible. It really is looking spectacular at the moment so please, if you were not able to make the reception, be in touch and we will endeavour to organise a visit.

Finally a big thank you to all the staff, in so many departments, who made the day such a pleasure and success. III

Simon Offen (1986)

Board of Benefactors’ Reception

All Board of Benefactor members (those whose gifts to the House amount to £20k or more) were invited to a drinks and canapés reception at the impressive Savile Club in Mayfair on 9th November so Christ Church could express its gratitude for their ongoing support.

One hundred benefactors and guests enjoyed a talk by one of the Oxford/BBC Economics’ mafia, Hugh Pym (1978) Pointing out that unlike Stephanie Flanders, Evan Davis and Robert Peston he went to a proper college, Hugh showed real professionalism in handling the rather temperamental microphone, and gave some amusing yet chilling reflections on the state of the world economy today Peter Oppenheimer would have been proud.

The Savile Club looked splendid following its recent renovation work and looked after us magnificently. We are very grateful to Philip Wright (1972), the Club treasurer, who made the introduction.

The Dean welcomed everyone and introduced Hugh. Most importantly though, whilst thanking those present for their munificence, he stressed the point that the House depends not just on the significant larger gifts which are received, but on the very many smaller donations too.

Participation is an important mark of the health of an institution’s fundraising and he wished to encourage everyone “to give, even if only the cost of a pint of beer a month” in support of Christ Church.

III

Simon Offen (1986)
18th century Peckwater buildings, I had the spires. Suddenly, as I looked down on the dawn rising over the city’s dreaming untouched, and I was enjoying the beauty of Edmunds and Cambridge. So far Oxford was Bath, Norwich, York, Canterbury, Bury St Edmunds. German planes overhead. In ‘the Baedeker raids’ the Germans had bombed Exeter, the roof of the House Library. As usual, no firewatchers were available, no successor musicals, Song of Norway (pseudo Grieg) and Lilac Time (pseudo Schubert). A Harkness Fellowship brought a rewarding year in New York, then back to London with Bernstein’s Candide, a cult success, but a short run. The Sixties were my happy years at Sadler’s Wells, mostly on Iolanthe. Frank Hauser’s delightful production of Iolanthe. In 1972 the telephone rang. It was my old friend TV producer John Hawkesworth. Would I like to compose theme music for an Edwardian type series? 72 episodes later Upstairs, Downstairs theme. Unexpectedly, listeners began to send in their own instrumental versions of the music, of a hilariously wide variety. A CD made of their efforts was sold for charity, making £85,000 for Children in Need III

A Diamond in the Sky

Margaret Pelling’s second novel, A Diamond in the Sky, £9.99, was recently published by Honno Press, a small Welsh press with a growing reputation. If the title makes you think of the nursery rhyme, you won’t be far wrong, but the astronomically-inclined might also find something of interest. The novel is something of a psychological thriller, as was her first, Work For Four Hands. Details may be found at www.margaretpelling.co.uk or www.honno.co.uk III

A rich and imaginative work with a powerful story’ Jane Jakeman
Margaret Pelling is the wife of Professor Christopher Pelling (1970)

Book reviews

Da Capo Al Fine
A Life in Music

When a life has seemed like a series of chapters it is tempting to write a book about it. Hence Da Capo. From the Beginning. Birth in Caledon, Co. Tyrone, seat of the Earl of Caledon, father of the young Harold Alexander (later Field Marshal Alexander of Tunis) whose early steps I was to emulate, twenty-three years later as a lieutenant in the Irish Guards, commanding a tank from Normandy to the Baltic. After the sad early death of my father I moved to Belfast and went to school at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (‘Inst’). In 1940 I was the one called for discipline before the Junior Censor, the Rev. Robert Mortimer. I remember him now with affection and respect for his humanity and humour in letting me off with a reprimand. I had feared being sent down. Hence Da Capo, From the Beginning

Pranks Corner
Gowns in Peck

It is July 1941. Trinity term. I am doing my weekly two-hour stint of firewatching on the roof of the House Library. As usual, no German planes overhead. In the Baedeker raids’ the Germans had bombed Exeter, Bath, Norwich, York, Canterbury, Buoy St Edmunds and Cambridge. So far Oxford was untouched, and I was enjoying the beauty of the dawn rising over the city’s dreaming spires. Suddenly, as I looked down on the 18th century Peckwater buildings, I had the tempting vision of a string of gowns stretching end-to-end across the quad. Gowns across Peck! Next day a group of us conspired to put a plan into action. On the last morning of term the House awoke to a drastic shortage of gowns, only the few that we hadn’t pinched being available for undergraduates attending the ritual of Collections in Hall. I was the one called for discipline before the Junior Censor, the Rev. Robert Mortimer. I remember him now with affection and respect for his humanity and humour in letting me off with a reprimand. I had feared being sent down. III

Alexander Faris (1940)
Oxford graduates who fill in the right forms are entitled to write MA (Oxon) after their names. Some wear college ties, or display blades on their walls.

Those who read English at Christ Church in any of the last 38 years don’t bother, on the whole. We recognise each other by our adverbial ambitions, our effortful epigrams, our imitation Tasmanian draws and sly archings of the eyebrow - the legacy of hours spent in Peter Conrad’s cluttered study in Tom Quad.

What else did we learn there? Perhaps the best picture can be formed by reading a new book compiled by 28 former pupils, now all “professional spinners of words and meeters of deadlines” (as the preface states), and published privately in honour of Mr Conrad, who retired in the summer of 2011.

Where We Fell To Earth: Writing for Peter Conrad is an exuberant picnic of lightly worn learning, an apt tribute to a don who shunned High Table and openly despised the warmed-over leavings of the faculty lecture halls.

Giraffes, Simon Cowell, Shakespeare’s Pericles and Ellen Terry’s beetle-wing dress all feature, as does the nipple-count in Bournemouth’s municipal art collection, the difficulty of conducting Bach’s Mass in B Minor and the folly of ripping the genitals from a bear in Montana without first scanning the small print on your hunting permit. There are poems, short stories, a scene from a play, the opening chapter of a comic novel set in the Ardennes in 1944 and some engagingly wobbly dog doodles. Best of all, there are (almost) no footnotes. Mr Conrad, a writer of incandescent erudition who came to Christ Church via the All Souls prize fellowship at the age of 25, does not hold with footnotes or indeed with any of the conventional scaffolding of dry-as-dust scholarship. His friend and former colleague, Christopher Butler, quotes him as writing: “Ideas are the least of what a teacher gives to students; the more valuable gift is a conviction that the desiccated texts are still sappy with life.”

The book, a year in the making, was sprung on its unwitting inspiration one night in late October in London by editors James Woodall and Michael Dobson, who coaxed the work into being with energy, tact and vigilance. With the help of Simon Offen of the Christ Church Association, they somehow persuaded Mr Conrad not to bolt for the door on realising what they had done in his name. He may have winced as, to an assembly of about 40 ex-pupils (covering House matricules from 1973 to 2007), Mr Dobson made a brief speech about non-sexual reproduction, and might even have bowed his head and groaned when all present were described as “Peter’s children”; but he recovered in time to weave Coriolanus, Joan Collins, a blonde MP and at least three slanders into a sadly unprintable thank you.

Sappy with life, indeed.

The book is available, in limited numbers, from the Christ Church Development Office for £25 plus p&p. sarah.jones@chch.ox.ac.uk
The Development approach at Christ Church has been, and remains, to address the needs of the House as a whole, rather than identifying individual stand-alone projects. The In perpetuity document, published in 2008 broke down an overall endowment target of £44 million into bite-sized parts that reflect the different areas of interest to which Members can dedicate their support.

Recent external developments, both at national and university level, have meant that this holistic approach is no longer quite so straightforward, and it may now be tactically advantageous to direct gifts to specific parts, most notably tutorial posts. The issue has arisen as a result of a massive retraction in research funding, in particular to humanities, but also to social sciences and even, to a lesser extent, the more protected STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine). In the first instance, this has had a direct impact on the faculties rather than the colleges; but there is a serious knock-on effect for the future of the joint-funded tutorial posts.

These are the tutors most of us will remember, who have both a tutorial function within a college and a research/lecturing role at the faculty. Tutorials are delivered not just on a one/two to one basis, but also by an academic who is at the cutting edge of research and development in their particular field; that is the gold standard.

Different levels are offered below the gold standard and all colleges employ these to some extent and to great effect, but the balance is heavily weighted towards the joint-funded posts, which also offer the continuity and total involvement in college life and administration.

The retraction has meant that the faculties are cutting back on posts as and when they come up for retirement, it leaves the colleges with a stark choice. They must either replace the tutorial side with a peripatetic stipendiary lecturer (or equivalent) or face the reality that the only way to secure the gold standard is to fund the faculty side in addition to their own.

This means that the first funding priority may no longer be to endow what we are already doing, but to endow what the faculty is doing just to keep the quality of the post. So it has now become a priority to raise money into specific tutorial pots, and well ahead of any pending retirements.

To ameliorate the damage, however, the central university has recently diverted £60 million towards supporting the faculty side of joint-funded posts (The Oxford Teaching Fund). Because the sum can only endow seventy-five (£800,000 each), three have been allocated to each college.

Additionally however, an incentive has been built into the scheme such that the funds will only be released when a college has raised £3.2 million from its own members to endow their side of the post. If this target is achieved, then the college can be assured that, when that post becomes vacant, the faculty will have ring-fenced funding to secure its continuation in perpetuity.

The aim is to raise our side of the commitment quickly, and ahead of others competing for the post. Due to the generosity of a small number of Members, our initial quota of three has already been achieved in Classics, Music and Politics. It is clear, however, that there will be more money available for this scheme and that we need to accumulate funds into tutorial pots ahead of the game. We already have projects running for History, PPE, Law, English, Classics, Music, Geography and will shortly be producing a brochure for Modern Languages.

Two non-specific funds have also been created to assist tutorial posts; one for sciences in general and another as a fighting fund to assist any subject which may need pushing over the line, either to pay the faculty contribution (£800,000) or to qualify for Oxford Teaching Fund money (£1.2 million).
Most members of the House seem to retain striking memories of their first arrival at Tom Gate and first entry into that magnificent quadrangle. Of course for the majority this experience takes place in one’s late teens whereas my own debut was some 25 years later. But the common entry memory that links many House members is, no doubt, that first interview. Courteous formality and a quiet tension were in the air in the Dodgson Room, with its long green beize-covered table, the steadily ticking antique clock, benignly observant portraits, and the faces of the large committee, in those days all gowned, as was then de rigueur in the Dean’s presence. A High Table dinner completed the process.

One measure of the years that have elapsed since then is the effect of technology on the way in which we communicate with each other. It was a late eighties postal strike which encouraged the new Steward to purchase the institution’s first fax machine — an innovation quickly adopted by the wider community. Then an innovative ‘University telephone network’ replaced individual GPO phones. Though quite soon telephone calls (and, sadly) conversations began to be replaced by the bombardment of e-mails.

Probably the job of Steward is not the only one where the content bears only passing resemblance to the job description. The Steward’s principal role is to provide a responsive domestic environment in which the academic community can carry out its purposes safely, effectively and comfortably. The Steward also plays a part in raising the income, to ensure that this primary task is not a drain on the endowment, rather that it makes a respectable contribution to the House’s finances.

The Steward is also in the position of representing two communities to each other. There is, on the one hand, that lightly structured academic community: the sole-trader mindset with a loose corporate edge. And the staff who serve it: necessarily functioning in a more hierarchical management-based structure, with unambiguous lines of responsibility and often seeing themselves as the true guardians of tradition.

It is in its relationship with college staff that Christ Church has accomplished much beneficial change. A grace-and-favour approach to employment and its rewards has been replaced by respectable pensionable salaries, professional training and a participative culture. My work with the Steward’s management team of ten fine professional people (all still in post), and the many staff who report to them, has undoubtedly been one of the most rewarding elements of my years as Steward.

Another is the professional scope and freedom that comes with the post, freedom to innovate and to be creative, always the best part of any good job. Christ Church is necessarily a public place, with hundreds of worshippers visiting the cathedral daily. To this, in recent years, are added the thousands of tourists wanting to marvel at the fine architecture and history of this unique joint foundation of college and cathedral. And to pay a respectable fee for the privilege. So the commercial development of that business has proceeded (with the assistance of Harry Potter) and with proper regard to the need to mitigate a potentially disruptive touristic/academic clash. To this we can add, with some pride, the careful, discreet but effective extension of accessibility for people with disabilities, until quite recently unable to reach key areas such as the Hall.

Tourism does not, however, fully meet interest in deeper access into Christ Church and its mysteries, nor fully exploit the...
Our new Steward

The new Steward, Ms Pauline Lintires-Hartley was the first female Manciple at All Souls, the first female Domestic Bursar at Wadham and is now the first female Steward of The House. "Many years ago" she did a B.A. in French in Montreal and her name in part comes from having a French father who was in the Free French Air Force and married an English woman in the war. Hartley comes from her husband: David Hartley, who recently retired as Professor of Education at Birmingham University. Pauline has one daughter, Charlotte, who is studying for her second Masters at Warwick.

John Harris: The Steward

Twenty years ago, when there was no Alumni or Development Office and the Association was taking its first baby steps, John was the man who actually made things happen. Aided by his excellent staff, it was he, rather than the Association Committee that made all the arrangements for our first garden party with 600 turning up. We had no funds and little expertise but John made it all not only possible but a tremendous success. As the first Secretary of the Association it was I who was thanked and congratulated, but it should have been John.

It was a considerable number of years and many more events before the Alumni and Development Office came into being and gained any resources and throughout that time it was John to whom we turned time and time again to make our vague ideas real.

Through those years and since I have never seen John rattled or put out but always calm and in control. Staging events of any type always has its last minute hitches, some of them major, but John sawed it all up and sorted it all out whilst never displaying any cause for anxiety to those around him.

It was always a great pleasure to work with him and he will be sorely missed. He leaves large shoes for the new Steward to fill.

On behalf of the Association, and of all its members, I would like properly to thank John for everything that he did to get us up and running and to make so many occasions the pleasure and success that they were.

Scope for further opening the community on the basis of fruitfully enlightened self-interest. This has emerged from the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival, now held annually, and from our own spring and summer conference programmes. These are designed for and open to, members and non-members of the House alike.

It was a conference entitled Spies, Lies and Intelligence which yielded an experience which one might not immediately associate with the Steward’s traditional role. The presence of presenters with links to the CIA and the British security services was not especially difficult to arrange. The recruitment of a Soviet specialist was more problematic – but ultimately achieved with the electrifying testimony of an ex-KGB defector. Afterwards this extraordinarily impressive speaker declined the offer of dinner, pleading a prior domestic engagement with an Agatha Christie movie, but asked the Steward to provide an escort, on foot, to the railway station via a pub serving good British beer. This was the pre-polonium world, providing in retrospect an additional frisson to an unexpected duty.

Although I have now handed over the duties of Steward to my admirable successor, Christ Church has generously provided one further year of conference responsibility in 2012, with a spring and an autumn programme. It is pleasing to report that the Spring Special Interest event, The Crusades and the Emergence of Europe is now fully subscribed and with a waiting list.

In September next year the House is offering a further conference in its established Conflict Series. Ten years after the inaugural Enigma and the Intelligence War we turn our attention eastwards. The programme, entitled The Chinese Century, will trace the extraordinarily stormy and consolulive events that have marked that vast country’s progress since the fall of China’s last Emperor, Pu Yi, as well as pondering the unfolding of the years immediately before us. Speakers, from Britain, China and the USA, include Lord Patten, who will speak on his role as the last Governor of Hong Kong. Details are on the Christ Church website at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/chch-events. A hardcopy programme will gladly be mailed in response to an e-mail to conflict@chch.ox.ac.uk.

So here is yet a further benefit of working for, and being a member of, our fine institution. Membership is for life. It does not end when going down, nor when retiring. It has always been a privilege, and almost invariably also a pleasure, to serve the House over many years. And it is very pleasing that even old Stewards are given something useful to do afterwards!
Andy, Nicholas Howarth and Dominique Henri travelled to Chernobyl this May, with the aid of the Pereira fund of Christ Church.

The reactor explosion, on April 26th, 1986 at Chernobyl reactor 4 in northern Ukraine, shook both Soviet and Western realities. The accident, caused by an experiment intended to improve existing safety mechanisms, went catastrophically wrong, and the resulting fallout caused a huge human and economic loss. The main toll was borne by the liquidators, nearly a million men involved in the cleanup and hasty construction of the Sarcophagus that now surrounds reactor 4. The total financial cost crippled the Soviet Union. Even today, 25 years later, costs associated with the disaster still amount to about 6% of Ukraine and Belarus’s government income, and will continue to do so for years to come.

Today, it is possible to visit the area around the reactor, as I and two fellow Christ Church students did this last spring. We visited the abandoned city of Pripyat, which contains little left to show of the daily lives of the 50,000 who lived in the city before the disaster. We were also lucky enough that our guides knew some of those still living near to the reactor. Permanent residents are not officially allowed inside the 30km exclusion zone surrounding Chernobyl, yet some remain. The Samosely, an official label which translates as “Self-settlers” or even “Squatters”, number a few hundred scattered across villages within the zone. We met the Semenijuk family, who have lived in the southern area of the zone since the explosion, which did not see as much fallout as areas near reactor 4. They live in a small yet prosperous farm and Ivan, the father, tells us that he used to work as a security guard before the explosion. He has since retired, and spends his time tending to his farm with his wife Maria. The village, which once had 111 residents, now has a population of 8, all having remained there after the explosion. The couple, and their neighbour Eliana, all agreed that they are happier staying in the zone than those that moved out after the accident. They prefer life in the tranquility of their village. Access to basic provisions, however, is poor. A mobile shop with a few necessities comes by every two weeks, but long trips out of the zone by Ivan or into the zone by his son are needed for many necessities. With the final shutdown of Chernobyl reactor 3 in 2000, many basic facilities, such as the local pharmacy, have closed. This particularly affects the Samosely; all are old, and many are in need of regular medical assistance, and find it hard to live without the infrastructure that once existed in the zone.

Globally, even after Fukushima, Chernobyl remains iconic of the pitfalls of nuclear power, and is the banner around which the anti-nuclear movement rallies. The accident was a tragedy, but the effects on health are often overstated. The 2005 Chernobyl Forum, consisting largely of UN agencies, concludes around 4,000 deaths are attributable to Chernobyl, largely among those who were involved in the cleanup. What is clear, however, is that hundreds of thousands of lives were and are affected by the disaster, and the Samosely are certainly not the only example of those whose lives are now worse off. The legacy of Chernobyl will likely affect Ukraine and Belarus for the entire 21st century, and must continue to serve as a reminder of the importance of safety in nuclear power.
Two Great Ascents in Greenland by Oxford Alumni

Andrey Pogudin (Christ Church, 2007) and Maxim Bouev (St.Antony’s, 1999) took part in a joint British-Russian expedition to the Watkins Mountains in Greenland in May 2011. They have completed two remarkable first ascents.

First, the Oxford Alumni became the first Russians to reach the summit of the highest mountain within the Arctic circle - Mt Gunnbjorn (3694m). The start of the expedition was marred by inclement weather, so the participants had to postpone the first in the season climb of Mt Gunnbjorn for a few days. On the 24th of May, however, making the best of a spell of good weather they finally reached the summit. One of the purposes of the expedition was to raise funds for a Russian charity (“Gift of Life”). The banner of the charity was raised at the top of the mountain.

Second, another mountain of 3150m has also been scaled by the expedition - that was previously unclimbed peak in the vicinity of Mt Gunnbjorn at a tributary of the upper Woolley glacier. The mountain had previously been photographed and attempted by an expedition led by Paul Rose a few years back. He, however, had to abandon the summit attempt, due to unstable snow conditions. The decision was reached to name the peak after Augustine Courtauld, a hero of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition in 1930-1931, and a member of the party of British geologists who were the first to climb Mt Gunnbjorn back in 1935.

A fruitful joint-effort of the expedition highlights and underlines the necessity of international cooperation in the Arctic for the success in exploration of the region.
Features absorb light at different wavelengths on the spectrum; for example, iron-gall ink is revealed only under ultraviolet light. By scanning documents with the full spectrum of light, the scanner finds all ‘lost’ features. ‘The technical leaps the team has made mean many documents that were previously unreadable can now be scanned and read,’ says Dr Obbink.

This multispectral imaging analysis was originally performed by a high resolution camera. However, the camera was expensive, cumbersome, and confined to a dark room. The evolved, portable and compact scanner developed by Dr Kovalchuk is a superior device that is a breakthrough in papyrology among other disciplines in the humanities, art history, and archaeology.

And it has other applications too. The scanner can be used to analyse counterfeit documents such as bank notes and passports and a variety of types of forensic evidence.

Dr Obbink and others involved in the scanning project have founded Oxford Multi Spectral Limited (OMS), a spin-out company of Isis Innovation within the Faculty of Classics Oxford University’s technology transfer arm, which helps researchers in the University transfer their findings to the commercial sector. The company has received a £250 000 grant from Changsha Yaodong Investment Consulting Co and UK-based partner RTC Innovations and a £47 600 grant from University Challenge Seed Fund; with these grants, OMS will put the scanner into commercial production by the end of the year. The scanner will surely continue to uncover secrets of the ancient world while the impacts of this technology will be felt beyond the realms of Classics and the humanities.

Dr Dirk Obbink has been revealing secrets of the past. As head of a Faculty of Classics research group, he has spearheaded a project that allows classicists to read ancient manuscripts once thought illegible and lost.

Dr Obbink is a University Lecturer in Papyrology and Greek Literature and has taught as a Fellow and Tutor in Greek at Christ Church since he came to Oxford from the USA in 1995. He is also the director of the Oxyrhynchus Papyrus Project and, together with Dr Alexander Kovalchuk, a physicist and mathematician, has developed a scanning device that reads faded or erased documents and other surfaces. It was first designed by Dr Kovalchuk in 1999 to read papyrus manuscripts found in Herculaneum, a village subsumed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. It has successfully decoded the Oxyrhynchus Papyri found in an ancient rubbish dump in Egypt, an epic poem by Archilochus written in the 7th century BC, and part of a 5th century BC tragedy by Sophocles, as well as countless other ‘lost’ documents.

The scanning device is similar in appearance to a desktop scanner. However, it scans documents at various wavelengths of light, from infrared to ultraviolet, and captures a series of images at each frequency. The images are then combined using computer software to reveal faded or erased features of the documents. Dr Obbink explains, ‘We can set the equipment to interrogate a feature we are interested in: the surface structure, fibres, stains, watermarks, fingerprints, or alterations. We can detect an artist or writer’s signature under multiple layers of paint or the pencil sketch under a watercolour.’
A series of Lectures on Press Freedom was held in Christ Church during Trinity and Michaelmas Terms of 2011. The lectures were in honour of Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, the last President of the Soviet Union and architect of ‘Glasnost’, a concept which had the media at its very heart. The lectures were supported by the Lebedev Foundation and were organised by Dr. Galina Miazhevich, currently the Gorbachev Media Research Fellow at Christ Church, University of Oxford. They were well attended by members of the House, the University and the general public.

The seven lectures on the importance of press freedom were given by distinguished media figures and constitute a timely and necessary contribution to the current discourse. The speakers addressed the issue of press freedom from a number of perspectives and attempted to predict its future developments in light of the recent media transformations such as the growth of new media technologies, the ongoing economic crisis, the phone hacking scandal, etc. The speakers mostly represented various newspaper and broadcast media, as well as differing viewpoints within the public and private broadcasting media spectrum, which ensured plurality, continuity of dialogue and rigour of debate. Gorbachev’s embodiment of the movement for democracy and change were mentioned by a number of speakers (John Lloyd, Sir Christopher Meyer and Adam Boulton), who had a chance to work in the Soviet Union during the fall of the communism.

The first three lectures were held in Trinity Term 2011. The series commenced with a brilliant talk by Evgeny Lebedev, who contextualised Gorbachev’s legacy for freedom of speech in the post-communist bloc and beyond. The talk outlined major dilemmas for freedom of speech and provided an all encompassing framework for the debates. John Lloyd (the contributing editor at the FT and the Director of Journalism at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism) outlined a complex relationship between journalism, the general public and those who are in power. He examined the shifting private-public boundary in the current globalised networked society and what impact it has on the media. Luke Harding (the Guardian) explicated the promise of renewal and change in the media and society using the case of Russia whilst referring to his remarkable journalistic experience there.

The second set of lectures recently held in Michaelmas Term 2011 commenced with a lecture by Mark Thompson, the Director-General of the BBC. Thompson focused on the role and the challenges of investigative journalism. He raised questions regarding the regulation of the media and warned about possible limitations imposed on its democratic function. Sir Christopher Meyer, the former head of the Press Complaints Commission (PPC), highlighted the issues faced by the PPC, its strength and limitations. Max Mosley’s talk provided a counter-argument to the stance of the PPC, and drew our attention to problems with the remit of ‘public interest’ and the right for privacy. Lastly, Adam Boulton, the political editor of Sky News, framed his talk within reference to John Milton’s 1644 speech “Areopagitica” on the right of press freedom. His final lecture provided a comprehensive summary of the series by cross-referencing previous speakers.

The lectures were followed by question and answer sessions, which provided an excellent opportunity for the public to assimilate and interrogate the speakers’ views. Overall, this highly successful lecture series has stimulated a critical reflection on the interaction between media, politics and culture in the UK and worldwide. The Christ Church website has the texts of the majority of the talks, www.chch.ox.ac.uk/general-information, and some podcasts are available on the University of Oxford website.
King Æthelstan’s name resonates in few places in contemporary Britain and finds little recognition beyond these shores. Yet during his own reign (AD 924-929), Æthelstan’s contemporaries regarded him – in the words of a Breton abbot – as ‘one of the most excellent and illustrious among the earthly kings of our own day’. Æthelstan was the first Anglo-Saxon king to have united all the English peoples under one rule, which he did by conquering Northumbria in 927. Thereafter all the other native kings in the British Isles submitted to his rule. He enjoyed a deservedly high reputation at home and abroad, recognised as a successful warrior, a powerful administrator, innovative law-maker, and devout supporter of the Church. A later English chronicler deemed Æthelstan the most powerful ruler in Britain since the Romans, in whose days ‘the fields of Britain were consolidated into one’.

Æthelstan also played a central role in the royal politics of tenth-century Europe, becoming, through the marriage alliances he arranged for some of his many sisters, a pivotal figure around whom the dynastic strategies of other royal and noble houses revolved. On his death in 939 scribes across Europe honoured his memory in generous obituary notices; an annalist in Ulster called him ‘the pillar of the dignity of the western world’.

Since Æthelstan clearly possessed many of the attributes most prized among early medieval kings, he would seem a good subject for a biography. Yet not only does no medieval life of him survive, until now, no modern scholar has tried to write one. The most serious problem I faced as his biographer, related to the nature of the sources, it proved necessary to piece together a narrative from a range of disparate types of evidence: a few chronicle entries, two letters, six law-codes, about 75 documents granting land and privileges, manuscripts once owned by the king, and references in non-English sources as well as reports of post-Conquest chroniclers.

A conventional biographical form, tracing the life-story of the man from birth to death, could not be attempted. Instead I chose to explore the king in the context of the different spheres in which he operated, seeing him through the various lenses of the several environments in which he lived and worked. That design took the enquiry outwards in a series of ever-widening circles, beginning with the most intimate, familial contexts in which, and progressing ultimately onto the widest national and international stages. A biographical portrait of the king creates a series of interconnected images of a complex man who grew out of a difficult (perhaps rather unhappy) childhood to become one of the most powerful rulers in the Europe of his day. It does not pretend to show what the man was ‘really’ like. But it does demonstrate that one cannot reduce Æthelstan to any single stereotypical epithet. Through my study Æthelstan stands revealed in more than one dimension, a king worth remembering, whose life we can celebrate.

Sarah Foot is Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History and a Canon of Christ Church. Her Æthelstan: the First King of England, is published by Yale University Press.
Books with no ending...

Reading for pleasure

Hugh Williamson, Regius Professor of Hebrew and Librarian

Common Room friends know that, along with scholarship, I enjoy gossip. This is frequently misunderstood as necessarily malicious, but it need not be so. I prefer to define it as an interest in the human element of any endeavour. It can inspire or warn, amuse or elevate; it all depends on the subject.

It fits, I suppose, that my favourite form of off-work reading is biography, and it is a poor Christmas or birthday that does not bring one or two recent examples as presents. From the lengthening shelves in my downstairs study (serious work is done upstairs!) I have just pulled off a selection of the last couple of years’ worth and been interested to see that, quite without planning, they fall into three clear categories.

First (and the majority) there are life stories more or less related to some of the heroes in my field of study, which embraces not just ancient Hebrew language but also the history and literature which is recorded in it and which stretches also to archaeology and all we have come to learn in recent decades about the life of ancient Israel’s surrounding neighbours. Top of the pile by some distance has to be Janet Soskice’s Sisters of Sinai, which tells the remarkable tale of the two wealthy Scottish Presbyterian sisters who unearthed many manuscript treasures in the Near East and who showed me that some of the more orthodox leaders of the field in late Victorian times were not as pleasant as their learned articles had led me to suppose. Others, in no special order, include John Allegro’s daughter’s account of her father, an early editor of Dead Sea Scrolls but who went on to gain notoriety through writing about sacred mushrooms and other oddities, the life of the American Edward Robinson, who, by way of some dangerous travels in the earlier part of the nineteenth century, first came to identify modern places with sites from Old Testament times, and the career of Dame Kathleen Kenyon, leading Palestinian archaeologist of remarkable character who also became principal of St Hugh’s (good name, that). And I should not forget to mention a recent biography of one of my all time greats, William Robertson Smith, a Scottish Old Testament Professor who was tried for heresy, became successively editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica, University Librarian in Cambridge, Professor of Arabic there, pioneered anthropological study of ancient religion and died aged 48. I can’t match that.

Then there is politics, from which you may detect my perverse leanings: Shirley Williams, Ming Campbell, and William Gladstone (from which I learned more about the essence of the reform of Christ Church than from any formal history). Finally religion, from which you can guess nothing: Rowan Williams on the one hand (known since student days) and J. N. Darby on the other—less well known until I say that the Exclusive Brethren trace their roots back to a twist in his otherwise sometimes insightful ecclesiological insights.

At present, however, I am reading about some one completely different, Bobby Fischer. His single-minded dedication to the pursuit of excellence in his chosen field of chess inspires imitation in one’s own, but I hope very much that I behave better in the Common Room than he did in his equivalent.
JUBILEE CONCERTS 2012
CELEBRATE IN TOM QUAD,
CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

We have reason to celebrate 2012 and we hope you will join us. It is the Queen’s diamond jubilee year and Her Majesty is the Visitor of Christ Church in a personal capacity (our founder was her predecessor Henry VIII). 1812-2012 makes it the bicentenary of the Battle of Borodino, the inspiration for Tchaikovsky’s 1812 overture. Those of a certain age may remember the thrilling 1961 concert, in Tom Quad, when the 1812 was also the centrepiece. Add the Olympics, our close links with New Zealand (Christ Church led to Christchurch) and our position in the wonderful county of Oxfordshire and the programme is hardly a matter of choice.

The Very Revd Christopher Lewis, Dean of Christ Church.

THE PROGRAMME:

Friday 22nd June:
Dame Kiri te Kanawa and the BBC Concert Orchestra,
Conductor: Julian Reynolds.
With a programme to include:
Mozart, Handel, Strauss, De Falla, Canteloube, and Puccini.
In aid of the Christ Church/Edward Gibbon Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholarship Fund.

Saturday 23rd June 2012.
Oxford Philomusica re-enact the great concert of 1961.
Conductor: Marios Papadopoulos
Dvorák: Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, From the New World
Walton: Coronation March: Crown Imperial
Verdi: The Grand March from Aida
Tchaikovsky: Overture 1812
In aid of the Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust.

Sunday 24th June 2012.
The Oxfordshire County Music Service
Present a Gala Concert of British Music, featuring young people from all over the county performing choral and instrumental music from the British Isles with a rousing finale of ‘Land of Hope and Glory’

Featuring the ‘Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble’, ‘Oxfordshire Youth Big Band’
The Christ Church Cathedral choirs with Children’s choirs from 6 Oxon Primary schools, The Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra.
Conductor: Dr John Traill.
**NORMAL tickets:**

Tickets for the normal alfresco seats in Tom Quad may be purchased through Tickets Oxford at the Oxford Playhouse: www.oxfordplayhouse.com/
Ticket Office: 01865 305305

**OPENING TIMES:**
Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 6.00 pm
The Ticket Office is not normally open on Sundays or Bank Holidays

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**CONCERT Early Normal Prices**

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**SPECIAL Packages:**

Christ Church is offering some special hospitality packages for the Jubilee weekend to Members of the House in advance of them going on sale to the public. For full details and to book go online at: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/jubilee-concerts-2012

**Ticket Type** | **Includes**
--- | ---
**Diamond Package** | Champagne Reception in the Deanery Garden Programme and Guidebook Banquet in Hall Covered Grandstand Seat Interval Champagne Reception in the Cathedral/Cloisters
**Gold Package** | Pre-concert Butler Service – Champagne and Smoked Salmon Sandwiches Programme and Guidebook per person Covered Seating (for up to 8) in Private Marquee Box Interval Champagne Reception in Hall
**Silver Package** | Champagne Reception in the Upper Library Programme and Guidebook Covered Grandstand Seat Interval Champagne Reception in Hall
**Bronze Package** | Champagne Reception in the Upper Library Programme and Guidebook Top Tier Alfresco Seat in Tom Quad Interval Champagne Reception in Hall

**To whet your appetite this is the chosen menu for the Friday evening:**

Gazpacho with Oak Smoked Roast Salmon and Bloody Marie Sorbet
Macon Villages Cave de Lugny

Fillet Steak with Herb and Pepper Crust, Girolles, Truffle Sauce, Dauphinoise Potatoes, Asparagus and Baby Carrots Chateau Meaume 2006

Summer Pudding with Vanilla Crème Brûlée and Strawberry Sorbet
The Christ Church Jubilee Ball

a celebration of the House

THE HURLINGHAM CLUB, LONDON | SEP 21\textsuperscript{st} 2012, 8PM TO 2AM

**Includes:** DRINKS, DINNER AND PROMISES AUCTION

**Followed by:** DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT

**Tickets:** £150 (Tickets limited)

**Inquiries:** sandra.harrison@chch.ox.ac.uk + 01865 286325

SAVE THE DATE, RESERVE A TABLE AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Following the Jubilee Concerts celebrations from the 22\textsuperscript{nd} – 24\textsuperscript{st} June 2012, when the House commemorates the 60\textsuperscript{th} year of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, Visitor of Christ Church, the Jubilee Ball brings our celebrations to London, offering a splendid occasion, for a landmark year, in the beautiful surroundings of the Hurlingham Club in Chelsea.

This evening’s festivities will include dancing and a range of entertainment supported by a promises auction on behalf of the House.

Funds raised from the auction will be split between graduate and undergraduate support, the tradition of music (including the Cathedral Choir) and enhancement of the tutorial tradition at the House.

Above all, this is an occasion to be enjoyed by House men and women from across the generations, a one-off for this decade, not to be missed.

*(Please see enclosed card for further information)*
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

 Unless otherwise stated, please contact The Development Office for bookings and queries: Development Office +44 (0)1865 286580 development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

 JANUARY 2012

 MARCH 2012
 10 March FAMILY PROGRAMME LUNCHEON Christ Church An opportunity for family members of current students to meet tutors and other parents over lunch in Hall.
 19 March ANDREW CHAMBLIN MEMORIAL CONCERT Christ Church The sixth annual Andrew Chamblin Memorial Concert will be given by Susan Lansdale HonFRCO who will perform an hour long programme of Baroque organ work in the Cathedral. Contact: The Cathedral Office +44 (0)1865 276155 cathedral@chch.ox.ac.uk
 18-21 March SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKEND: CRUSADES. Fully Booked Christ Church
 24 March – 1 April OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL Christ Church The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival reflects the great literary traditions of The University of Oxford, and its Colleges, as well as contemporary scholarship and research of its Departments and Institutions.

 APRIL 2012
 7 April XCHANGING OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE Putney Bridge, London Boat Club members will be informed of arrangements nearer the time.
 13/14/15 April US REUNION IN NEW YORK New York, USA Members of the House living in North America will be contacted nearer the time.

 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

 MAY 2012
 29-30 May EIGHTS WEEK Christ Church Christ Church Association Drinks on the Saturday at the Boat House

 JUNE 2012
 11 June BOAT CLUB SOCIETY DINNER Christ Church A reunion dinner for all those who will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their matriculation.

 JULY 2012
 2-7 September AUTUMN CONFLICT SERIES: THE CHINESE CENTURY Christ Church The 8th Autumn Conflict Conference Series is directed by Professor Rana Mitter from St Cross College, and will discuss the last two years of Chinese history, with a view to the next two years. Contact: The Steward’s Office +44 (0)1865 286580 conflict@chch.ox.ac.uk

 AUGUST 2012
 31 August 1962 REUNION Christ Church A reunion dinner for all those who will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their matriculation.

 SEPTEMBER 2012
 2-7 September AUTUMN CONFLICT SERIES: THE CHINESE CENTURY Christ Church See below.
 14-16 September 2012 OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND Oxford Join fellow alumni for three days of talks, lectures, walks, tours and many more activities. Contact: Oxford University Society alumniweekend@alumni.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)7334 741773 or sign up for email updates at www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk/
 16 September CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION DAY Christ Church All members are invited to the Christ Church Association Family Day including talks and tours of the House, Sunday Lunch in Hall, and AGM.

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

 See back cover for details.

 3-7 September AUTUMN CONFLICT SERIES: THE CHINESE CENTURY Christ Church

 See below.

 APRIL 2012
 7 April XCHANGING OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE Putney Bridge, London Boat Club members will be informed of arrangements nearer the time.
 13/14/15 April US REUNION IN NEW YORK New York, USA Members of the House living in North America will be contacted nearer the time.
Join the Christ Church Association in being welcomed by Lord Bath (1953) for a day at Longleat House and Safari Park including a special behind-the-scenes tour and lunch at his stunning stately home.

The event includes a day pass to all Longleat attractions, two-course lunch with wine, a special tour of Longleat House, and tea.

Tickets are £47.50 for adults and £37.50 for children (age 3-14)

Please contact The Development Office for bookings and queries
+44 (0)1865 286325 · development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk