Editorial

I cannot resist, in introducing this Trinity 2005 edition of Christ Church Matters, congratulating the O oxford VIII who rowed magnificently to victory on the Thames last weekend. As you will read in 'Cardinal Sins' they were captained by Robin Bourne-Taylor, a member of Christ Church, who also rowed in the men's eight at the Olympics in Athens in 2004. On the subject of rowing, "Three Housmen in A Boat" splendidly describes a canoeing feat of rowing from Folly Bridge to Westminster Pier (some 112 miles) in June 1956.

The Trinity edition of Christ Church Matters each year gratefully lists those who have chosen to make a gift to Christ Church. We are enormously fortunate to have such generous support from old members and friends - it makes a significant difference to the House. Earlier this year, an 18th century drawing by Neapolitan artist Corrado Giaquinto was purchased by the Picture Gallery. This was only possible due to the generous support from a number of generous benefactors. The acquisition is described by the Assistant Curator of the Picture Gallery.

Enclosed with this Christ Church Matters you will discover information about the new publication, 'Christ Church, Oxford: A Portrait of the House'. We are very excited that, at last, Christ Church will have an illustrated hardback book about our unique institution. The book will only be published, however, if many of our old members and friends subscribe and send in interesting reminiscences and memorabilia of the House. I hope you decide to do so.

I would like to thank all contributors who have provided the interesting range and breadth of material for this edition. Read on and enjoy!

SUE CUNNINGHAM, Development Director and Co-Editor

Three Housmen in a Boat

When I presented myself at the porter's lodge at Tom Gate in October 1955, I received directions to my rooms in M edow Building. After wending my unfamiliar way across T om Quad, through the grand entryway to the Hall, around the cloisters, and then down some steps, I discovered the huge and ungainly pile of Ruskinian Gothic known as M edow Building, where I would be spending the next two years. Blindly ignorant of the social geography of the House, I did not realize that I had been relegated to the furthest outpost of the college dome. One step more and I would have been pitching a tent in the M edow garden or the meadows. From the lofty vantage point of the Old Etonians and Old Harrovians who lived in Peckwater and Canterbury I might just as well have been relegated to Siberia. My sitting room lay on the top floor of the last entry in M edow Building. Facing east, the window overlooked part of the M edow garden and M erton. At least the room was large enough to accommodate merry guests attired in sheets for a pseudo-Roman toga party and then a pajama party co-hosted by my Rhodes Scholar friend from M alta, Edward de Bono.

In my second year I moved next door into the room made famous by Evelyn Waugh in Bridhead Resistant. This was the suite occupied by Lord Sebastian Flyte "high in M edow Buildings." However, I never offered

Several friends at L M H allowed us to "borrow" their college's prized canoe called Pocahontas snugly berthed on the Cherwell. plovers eggs and C ontrario to any lunch guests. From the balcony of the sitting room Anthony Blanche, that splendid post-Wildean rogue, had recited through a megaphone Tiresias's lament from The W asteard with all its homoerotic implications as a group of virile rowers strolled below on their way to the boathouse. Despite the social stigma and damp cold that permitted M edow Building, I owe the most memorable event of my time there to that domicile. The inspiration for an extramural adventure on the Thames came from the ever inventive Edward de Bono, who lived in Peckwater. Together with my congenial neighbour from Manchester Grammar School, M ichael Eaton, we hatched a plan to travel by boat by paddling the 112 miles to Westminster. So far as we knew, this would be a first. Several friends at L M H allowed us to "borrow" their college's prized canoe called Pocahontas snugly berthed on the Cherwell. With scientific acumen Edward calculated our speed and the tides on the lower T hames so that we would not have to fight the strong currents after Richmond. M ichael and I laid in a supply of hard-boiled eggs, bread, coffee, and brandy to nourish us during the trip, while Edward tipped off a F leet Street journalist about our expedition. We also arranged a reception party at Westminster Pier complete with several lovely ladies, balloons, and bottles of bubbly.

In order to catch the ebb tide at the end of our trip we left just after daybreak on Sunday, June 3, 1956. Because all the gates were still locked, this early departure forced us to climb over a wall on the M edow side of college with paddles and gear in hand. Unfortunately a groundkeeper spotted our scrambling and reported this trespass to higher authority unbeknownst to us. With mounting excitement...continued over the page.
Boland became both Ireland’s and Britain’s first Olympic champion.

In true Boys’ Own style, Boland came out on top of the doubles by two sets to love, and the tournament ended.

On April 6, over breakfast, a Greek gentleman by the name of Kasdagli, asked whether Boland would like to play in the doubles with him.

Boland, who was known to be quite a good shot, accepted the offer.

On April 11, Boland became the biggest baker in Ireland, who had just graduated from Christ Church, travelled to Athens with his Christ Church partner, Lewis Clive, and assisted Jack Beresford to the second of his five medals.

Boland graduated in 1931, Edwards rowed in the coxless four, and assisting Jack Beresford to the second of his five medals in five Olympics, a feat not matched until Steve Redgrave rowed Britain to victory in 2000. Like Boland, Edwards took two gold metals in the same day.

Christ Church has not produced large numbers of Olympic sportmen, but one probably less known is Hugh Edwards who came up to the Ouse from Westminster in 1925. Just after he graduated in 1931, Edwards rowed in the Los Angeles Olympics in 1932. Although he was chosen to represent Britain in the coxes pairs, with his Christ Church partner, Lewis Clive, he found himself also taking the place of a sick oarsman in the coxes four, and assisting Jack Benneford to the second of his five metals in five Olympics, a feat not matched until Steve Redgrave rowed Britain to victory in 2000. Like Boland, Edwards took two gold metals in the same day.

Edwards continued his association with the Olympics when he coached the British eight for the 1960 Games in Rome. And it is more in administration rather than as a sportsman that another Houseman was connected with the games. Viscount Portal was a paper manufacturer whose company produced banknote paper and developed the security thread which runs through banknotes. He was cousin to another Viscount Portal who would become Air Chief of Staff during the 2nd World War, and whose papers are held in the Library.

The warmth of our reception and the effects of champagne rapidly wiped away any residual fatigue.

Evidently word had spread fast along Fleet Street because the press coverage ranged from the Oxford Mail to the Daily Mail, Daily Herald, and Illustrated London News. Of course this blaze of publicity featured the name of the college, which did not go down at all well with the hierarchy back at the House. Shortly after our triumphal return we received a sobbing summons from the Senior Censor, the formidable English historian, J. Steven Watson. Wearing our gowns, we stood apprehensively outside his rooms at the designated time wondering what heinous crime we had committed. Seated behind his large desk, the censor displayed great concern about the good name of the college and asked us bluntly how much money we had made from selling our story to the press. This question took us completely by surprise but we had no trouble in assuring him that ours had been a non-profit venture. Once he realized that Fleet Street had paid us nothing, his tone lightened. Nevertheless, with all the gravitas of an 18th century magistrate he levied a fine of £15 apiece for having climbed out of college. As we rose to leave, he looked at us with a sly wink of the eye and said with a hearty chuckle: “I could have beaten your time.”

Come to think of it, life in Meadow Building was not so bad after all.

L. Perry Curtis, Jr. (1955)
Among the precious possessions of Christ Church Picture Gallery is a vibrant painting of the Birth of the Virgin (fig 1) by the Neapolitan artist Corrado Giaquinto (1703 – 1765). It is a comparatively small work, related to a monumental version which was executed for the Cathedral of Pisa in 1753 - 52, where it still hangs. Both versions show the moment when the newly-born Mary is washed and cradled by the midwives and praised by the neighbours. This was a major subject in the art of the Counter-Reformation. In the background, in dark brown colours, are the happy parents Joachim and Anne, who, after a long-banan marriage, are celebrating the mystical birth of their daughter. However unassuming these background figures, they play theologically an important part in the beginning of the Salvation as Mary had to be conceived sine macula and 'without concupiscence'.

The widely-debated mystery of the Immaculate Conception, the latest Dogma of the Catholic Church (in 1854), manifests itself in this newborn girl (it is commonly but wrongly assumed that the term relates to the conception of Jesus). A preparatory drawing of this background detail, in red chalk and in pristine condition, has survived and now belongs to Christ Church Picture Gallery (fig 2). Because the Gallery works on a very limited budget, it is quite exceptional for it to make acquisitions of new items for the collection; but this opportunity seemed too good to miss. This first was only made possible through outside support, and we are grateful to The National Art Collections Fund, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Senior Common Room, and not least, Nick Nops (1968) an old member of the House. Last autumn Hugo Chapman, curator of prints and drawings in the British Museum, phoned to alert me to the fact that the drawing was on the market and that the British Museum would step back, if we considered buying it. It was swiftly decided that we would try to pursue the purchase with as little impact (financially) for the House as possible, and so I approached several art funds for help. I found overwhelming support and encouragement from all sides to complete the purchase.

However, while encouragement was plentiful, money remained scarce, so two courses were open. We could abandon the bid and lose the money we had so far raised, or we could ask the House to help through the Development and Alumni Office, even though this was not in the original plan. Crucial at this stage was Mr Nops’ spontaneous reaction after last year’s Christmas Carol service. While I was talking with the Development Director after the service, the silence of my guest in front of the painting in the darkened gallery filled me with anxiety, and I almost felt apologetic for wasting his time – perhaps it was not what he expected at all. When we parted that evening it was with the prospect of getting in touch early in the New Year.

To my great delight, Mr Nops’ cheque arrived after the Christmas break. The final stages of securing match-funding took a little longer, but finally, the drawing now belongs to the House and will be displayed in the gallery very soon. We are absolutely delighted with the acquisition. This allows us the incredibly rare opportunity to unite a preparatory drawing with the finished painting and thus offers a fascinating insight into an artist’s creative process.

Jacqueline Thalmann, Assistant Curator, Christ Church Picture Gallery

* Earlier in 2004 a panel showing the Coronation of the Virgin that formed the upper part of a larger panel of which Christ Church has the lower part, Four Musical Angels, was sold at Sotheby’s. It would have been a wonderful addition to the collection, but absolutely beyond the Gallery’s means. It was bought by the National Gallery in London: the two parts will be reunited in a small exhibition in the National Gallery later this year and we hope to be able to show both panels in Christ Church early in 2006.
Remembering Leslie Youngblood

I am sad to report the death of Leslie Youngblood on August 22, 2004, at his home in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA, after a long struggle with congestive heart failure. He was 84.

After completing his undergraduate degree in Classics at Emory University in 1941, Les became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy where he saw combat in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres, and subsequently in the Korean conflict where he commanded the USS Cushine. He studied Russian for a year at the University of Colorado before being assigned to work for Admiral Schurrimann in Moscow, and subsequently as chief of staff when Admiral Schurrimann was appointed D inector of Nai Intelligence. Les completed his naval career as Naval Aide to President Eisenhower from 1954-1958. He then joined the international division of Mobil Oil Corporation where he held a number of senior executive positions until his retirement in 1984.

In the midst of his naval career, Les received a leave of absence to accept a Rhodes scholarship at Christ Church from 1947-1949. His time and friendships at the House were, in many ways, the defining moment of his life. He cared deeply about Christ Church which was reflected in a very generous bequest in his will, a reminder to all of us who received nourishment from that very special place.

When I think of my friend Les Youngblood, I think of outrageously funny stories. One of the most memorable of these stories was with his friend, and fellow Rhodes Scholar, Reece Smith. They were both boys at the House in the late 70s for the 75th anniversary of the Rhodes Trust, the centerpiece of which was to be a garden party at Rhodes House with HM The Queen in attendance. The night before, the two friends had repaired to The Bar, where they found a small stuffed animal on the bar wearing a white T-shirt with a replica of the furry fellow in red along with the name of the pub. Les quickly wagered his friend (who, the story goes, was president of the American Bar Association at the time) 100 pounds that he would not wear the T-shirt to the garden party the next afternoon. He did, under his white starched shirt, and said to Les, "You, my friend, didn't specify where I had to wear it". After much meaning and groaning and cries of foul, months passed until one day a fat envelope arrived at Reece's law office that contained 100 worthless Lebanese pounds, with an enclosed note that read, "And you, my friend, didn't specify which pounds".

I miss the rascal who brought so much good cheer into my life. I can see him now, fetched up on Fiddler’s Green, the place where old sailors go for drink and merriment when they die.

Don McLucas (1962)

When asked to comment W. Reece Smith Jr (1949) said "I hesitate to respond. Getting in the last word with my friend Les Youngblood would be impossible; he would find a way to reply even now.”

Christ Church in the Inner City

In the 1930s, forward-thinking philanthropic radicals in Oxford and Cambridge with a passion for social reform and education founded a series of vision in inner-city London. One such mission was Christ Church Clubs (now Oval House), which was developed from a soup kitchen operating out of St Mark’s church.

The original aims of visionary Christ Church men, such as John Arkell were to alleviate the effects of poverty and to increase the confidence of young people. This marked a sea change from the former somewhat paternalistic approach to ministering to the poor. Minds and imaginations would now be fed, as well as hungry mouths. This new philosophy enabled those with little or no access to education to develop the tools of their own educational and economic development - ideas, decision-making, leadership and self-esteem.

Debating societies and gymnastics were amongst the activities organized by Christ Church undergraduates, who went on to maintain their commitment as they moved into business, keeping the ‘clubs’ going in the wake of the Second World War.

Today, our programme of drama and participatory arts may seem a world away from that vision. We work with up to 200 young people each year: drama helps them prepare for the workplace and to understand the frustrations which get them excluded from school, while other classes develop their talents, ideas and artistic potential.

In fact, our philosophy demonstrates a clear continuum from those early days. Now, as then, we work with those who have the potential to achieve, but who are faced with the obstacles of social and economic disadvantage.

Then, undergraduates took young people camping and organized poetry recital competitions. Now, leading artists challenge young people to express themselves and explore the potential of our world.

Then, Christ Church men and women raised money for the clubs through amateur dramatics and charity balls. Now, Christ Church members support us through governance (the Dean is our President) and by offering corporate networking, sponsorship and access to their companies’ volunteering and community action teams.

We are proud of the way our work reflects the original vision of our Christ Church founders and we are always looking for new ways to make the relationship to Christ Church relevant and mutually beneficial.

All members of Christ Church are welcome to receive our regular newsletter to find out exactly what we are doing – for your copy, telephone Valerie Boulton on 020 7735 2869 or e-mail: valerie.boulton@ovalhouse.com.
**Fortune Favours the Bold**

In November 2004, I was accepted into the inaugural Executive MBA (EMBA) Programme at the Said Business School. Although delighted with my acceptance, I was surprised to discover that Christ Church was absent from the list of colleges admitting EMBA students.

Not put off, I proceeded to the Christ Church porter's lodge where I was advised that the Secretary to the Tutor for Graduates was the most senior person to speak to. With time running out (the EMBA office needed to know which college I was applying to) and the firm belief that fortune favours the bold, I left the administrative office and walked across the Quad to Staircase B. I presented my case directly to Mrs Davidson - that I believed the House to be the best (and a few other persuasive arguments).

A few days later, I received the response I had hoped for - my application for membership of the House was successful. Christ Church saw the opportunity of being associated with the high profile EMBA course, as part of its growing commitment to pursue management education. After consultation with the tutor in Management Studies, the House policy on EMBA students was reconsidered, and applications were accepted for the course.

We're now 15 months into the 22-month EMBA Programme and Christ Church has fulfilled every expectation I had of this extraordinary institution. Today, there are five members of the House from the EMBA Programme, given the growing global recognition and rankings of the Oxford MBA Programme. I hope that the affiliation between Christ Church and the EMBA Programme will flourish long into the future.

With just five weekly modules remaining, the EMBA experience to date has been quite extraordinary. People often ask me if it has provided me with the answers I was seeking. I always give the same response: I wasn't looking for the answers. Einstein once said that "Any fool can offer you answers. It takes genius to ask the right questions" – and it has been my experience that most of us do not ask the right questions. The right questions, asked at the right time are keys to success. In this regard, the EMBA has had a profound impact.

Associates are forever intrigued by the array of students in my class. Although significantly smaller than the full-time MBA course (just 30 in EMBA class vs. 180 in the full-time class), classmates commute from as far as Tokyo, Moscow, San Francisco and Reykjavik for each 5-day module. The diversity is invigorating: venture capitalists, management consultants, marketing directors, medical physicians and of course, entrepreneurs. They come from companies such as Radisson-Hotels, Sanyo, Philips, Agami Martin, Rio Tinto and Credit Suisse First Boston. We spend our days in the lecture theatres and our evenings brainstorming each other's ideas in a casual forum (usually over a bottle or two of red wine). The in class discussions and debates are challenging and thought provoking and the standard of teaching is truly world class.

My company will soon be expanding operations in the remaining, the EMBA experience to date has been quite extraordinary. People often ask me if it has provided me with the answers I was seeking. I always give the same response: I wasn't looking for the answers. Einstein once said that "Any fool can offer you answers. It takes genius to ask the right questions" – and it has been my experience that most of us do not ask the right questions. The right questions, asked at the right time are keys to success. In this regard, the EMBA has had a profound impact.

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My company will soon be expanding operations throughout Europe. To date, we have been quite fortunate in attracting suitable potential investors; the combined result of the ever increasing world rankings of Said Business School and the distinction of being a member of the House. These factors, coupled with the innovation of our patented product make for a powerful introduction to be financially attractive.

**Mark Carmichael, (2004)**

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**Donor Listing**

When I joined Christ Church in April 2001, in the previous year 26 old members provided, unsolicited, their support for the House. In 2004, 992 old members and friends made a gift to Christ Church. One thing this enormous increase illustrates is what a difference it makes if you ask for contributions. Another clear message is the great warmth and generosity of our old members and friends. Many, many thanks to you all. The gifts are listed by year of matriculation and name of donor. The name in italics indicates a former name, and an asterisk (*) indicates that the donor has sadly passed away. We have tried to ensure that gifts have been recorded accurately. If we have made any mistakes please accept our apologies and do let us know so that they can be corrected.

Sie Cunningham, Development Director
Biographies at Christ Church

ELINDA JACK, Tutor in French and author of George Sand: A Woman's Life

BJ: Jonathan, your biography Gustav Stresemann: Weimar’s Greatest Statesman, has recently appeared as an affordable paperback with OUP. Reviewers describe it as “imaginative and authoritative” and praise its “nuance and nuance.” Thank you for agreeing to talk.

BJ: Throughout your biography you keep a close eye on Stresemann’s possible motives. Why?

JW: Because the central question about Stresemann is whether his views developed from German nationalism to European statesman. They matter in another way. As my writing progressed I became increasingly interested in what made him a politician and why he stuck to it in the end. He had lots of other interests - history, literature, theatre and music. Ambition drives a politician but what made Stresemann ambitious? He did not suffer parental neglect like Churchill or as Robert Blake in his wonderful biography of D’Israeli (the inspiration for my book) suggests was also true for him. I think in Stresemann’s case it was simply his awareness of his own talents and his sense of the injustice of the Wilhelmine empire when all sorts of careers were not open to someone from his lower middle class background. And having made a success of politics, it is awfully hard to give up – he likened it to the waters of Lethe.

BJ: What do you think the strengths of political biography are?

JW: The most important strength is that one sees the unity of history in a particular person. Historians necessarily divide up into political, social, economic and other specialisms. But lives do not divide like this. Our theme which emerged from Stresemann was the integration of foreign and domestic politics which studies of each tend to overlook. One reason he became committed to peace was his belief in parliamentary democracy and his conviction that another war would destroy German democracy.

BJ: Were you drawn to Stresemann because you considered him representative of a particular kind of Weimar politician at a crucial historical moment or, quite the reverse, as exceptional?

JW: Stresemann was both. He was the outstanding figure among those from liberal or conservative backgrounds who came to accept the Republic. At the time there was no scholarly biography of Stresemann and historians often commented on the gap. In my innocence I thought why shouldn’t I do it? I expected it to take about five years. Twenty years later I am wiser though not sadder.

BJ: You see his life as divisible, roughly into number of phases. Is that right?

JW: Yes. His career was progressing nicely pre-war, he was knockdown sideways by identifying too completely with Germany’s aims of expansion during the war; that made him unacceptable to the democratic parties immediately after the war, but he drew the conclusion and worked his way back to the position that in 1923 - with the Ruhr occupied by the French, the currency in free-fall and every sign that Germany might break up - he became the unanimous choice of the democratic parties as Chancellor and from that date until his death in 1929 he remained in every government as Foreign Minister.

BJ: What do you think the strengths of political biography are?

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BJ: You heard recently that your biography is to be published in German. Will there be distinctively German critical reaction to it?

JW: Similarities are greater than difference now between German and Anglo-Saxon historians. Some Germans are still a bit more suspicious of biography but this is changing as a younger generation finds it a good way into the Third Reich.

BJ: You won’t like my final question but I can’t resist. Had Stresemann lived longer, might he have represented a powerful alternative to Hitler?

JW: Sources for the inner life are patchy. There is an autobiographical short story where he describes the loss of identity imposed by a political career - saying his face was too often only a mask turned to a particular audience. There are also a few family letters and some diaries and they are gold dust. But certainly Stresemann was a politician with a ‘hinterland’. And part of what he represented towards the end of the Weimar Republic was precisely the kind of politics which safeguarded a private sphere from politicization.

BJ: Of one of the most perplexing things it seems to me about biography has to do with ideas of cause and effect. It’s all too easy to see apparent connections which may be no more than coincidental pattern. Did you find this?

JW: Yes. One example would be the drift in the international situation after 1923 when Britain and the United States were anxious to bring stability to the continent. Stresemann profited by this change but would any German Foreign Minister at the time have followed the same policy? I believe his previous and his commitment to the Republic and its aims of expansion make a difference. In domestic politics it’s even clearer that he followed his own course and that almost no other conceivable leader of his party would have led it firmly towards the Republic and into coalition with the Social Democrats. After all in conditions of uncertainty politicians are almost bound to interpret the future in terms of their past experience so though there are dangers of teleology the biographer should not be too modest about the genre.

BJ: You won’t like my final question but I can’t resist. Had Stresemann lived longer, might he have represented a powerful alternative to Hitler?

JW: Well of course the bin pear answer is no - one man could not have prevented the catastrophe. Stresemann’s death certainly left a huge gap and there is one particular might have been. Before his death in 1929 (when he was only 51, younger than Adenauer who was still chancellor of the FRG in 1963) he talked of standing for election as President of the Republic in 1932. If he had been successful then there is a good chance that Hitler would not have been appointed. But as Thomas Mann suggested, had Stresemann not been ill and therefore living with peculiar urgency he might not have had such heightened sensitivity to the dangers Germany faced from Hitler. It is a good example of the kind of question a biography can raise, even if it cannot provide the answer.

ELINDA JACK, Tutor in French and author of George Sand: A Woman’s Life
Year Representatives

The Year Reps scheme is gathering momentum. The team is building and we now have Year Reps covering 17 of the 25 years since 1980.

Encouraging contemporaries to attend events, collating news for the Annual report, and even organising small events are the major ways you can help. There are no more than two meetings a year to which it is hoped you will come, one of which includes dinner in Hall.

Year Name E-Mail
1981 Fiona Holdsworth fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com
1983 Simon Felix simon.felix@christch.ox.ac.uk
1983 Andrew Green a_green@btopenworld.com
1984 Pollyanna Drane pdrusso@btopenworld.com
1984 Jessica Puley jessicapuley@yahoo.co.uk
1985 Kimberley Littenberger kimberley.littenberger@chch.ox.ac.uk
1986 Simon Olliff simonolliff@btopenworld.com
1987 Daniel Bloomhead daniel.bloomhead@btopenworld.com
1987 Vicky Cunningham vicky.cunningham@btopenworld.com
1988 Stephen Brien stephen.brien@btopenworld.com
1989 Alan Walker alan.walker@btopenworld.com
1990 Tony Padler tony.padler@btopenworld.com
1995 Kate Howard katharine.howard@btopenworld.com
1996 Sophia Bigdeli Sophia_bigdeli@hotmail.com
1999 Tom Greggs
1999 Dan Rumney danrumney@warpmail.net
1999 Ben Fischman b_fischman@hotmail.com
2000 Sebastian Falk
2000 Yvonne Harrison
2000 Michael Taylor
2001 Stephanie Appleby stephanie.appleby@btopenworld.com
2001 James Blythe
2001 ACRWBS: Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan
2001 Bernadette Khan b_khan@btopenworld.com
2002 Ali Stannard
2003 Charlotte Jepps

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Apoligosis to Michael Cooper (1983)

Michael may have deliberately

We need your help. The book is intended to be a stimulating anthology of articles, vignettes and images capturing the history, habits and harmonies of the House.

You may like to contribute by sending memories, reflections or memorabilia from your own college days.

Another area where we need your help is for the next newsletter, which is due out in the Michaelmas term. It will focus on the 25th anniversary of the entry of women.

If you have something which you think might be of interest, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Fiona Holdsworth, Editor, Fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com

Letter to the Editor

I’m afraid Simon Olliff’s description of last June’s Boat Trip in the last newsletter paints such a grim picture that I fear the Association will carefully avoid any further waterborne activities in future, which would be a pity. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip, seeing sail and sail and sail and Akubra (1984) plus wife, thus representing both older and younger generations. We found the trip a very welcome alternative to the garden parties. More please!

Sincerely,
Robb Sayers (1993)
### Book Review

**INDELIBLE MEMORIES**

***PlayingFields and Battlefields***

by Tony Pawson (1996)

Tony Pawson’s 240th book recalls his cricket and soccer experiences, especially the Oxford ones. Like his father Guy he captained Oxford to an innings win against Cambridge, despite their having four about to be Test cricketers. His uncle Charlie was also in a winning Oxford team. The varsity match record of the three is played seven, won five, and had the best of two draws.

Soccer brought similar success starting with the winning goal in 1940 his viva voce. When taking his entrance exam from Wembley before full 100,000 crowds. Winning the FA Amateur Cup at Oxford and Cambridge team twice in the same year, the world champion. In soccer he became the only Englishman to have played as an amateur in both First Division soccer (for Oxford) and County Cricket. He also won 12 amateur international caps and was a member of the Great Britain squad for the 1952 Olympics.

Included also are fishing memories. In 1996 he won both the European championship in France and the world flyfishing championship in Spain. Four years later his son John also won both in the same year, the world championship in Tasmania.

Tony also wrote on his trio of sports for the Observer for fifty years and includes some of his writing experiences in this book which is a good mix of the serious and humorous. It also maintains the racing pace for which he was noted on the right wing and running between wickets.

**INDELIBLE MEMORIES**

***PlayingFields and Battlefields*** is hardback 240 pages plus around 120 pictures. It is available at all connected with Christ Church at £12 US$ price £20/plus £3.00 p & p if ordered direct from Tony Pawson OBE, Manor House, Chilcomb, Winchester, Hants SO21 1HR

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### Triennial Overview of Events

#### Organised by Christ Church

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**Notices**

**Should you want any further information on any of the events listed below, please contact the Development & Alumni Office.**

Tel: 44 (0)1865 286325. E-mail: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

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**Capturing Oxford’s Australia 1984**

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**Tel:** 44 (0)1865 286325. **E-mail:** development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
This issue we hear from four old members involved in industry as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

Simon Rothon (1966)

Of his time at the House, Simon says: “With every year that passes, I appreciate even more the great privilege of having spent three years in such a stimulating and beautiful place. I still have frequent opportunities to visit as my daughter is doing a D.Phil at New College. My wife and I met in Oxford and I also still cherish the friendships I made there.”

We asked Simon about how life at Christ Church had prepared him for a career in industry. “In one sense, not at all. I found the transition a difficult one. Oxford life was structured in that one had regular meals and all one’s needs provided, including bed-making and dishwashing in those privileged days. The work, however, was relatively unstructured with only two hours of formal tuition per week at tutorials and the rest left up to one’s own rather weak self-discipline. Industry was very much the opposite with every day tightly regulated and programmed at work, but having to fend for oneself for the first time with cooking and housekeeping resulted in quite a few disasters.” What about the intellectual challenge of life in a big company? “Superficially there are even more parallels but, as one develops a career, the benefits of the tuition at Oxford become more apparent. For example, a lot of my work in marketing involves the evaluation of advertising in which Unilever invests Euros 2.5 billion each year. In judging an advertising script I am looking for impact, tone-of-voice, characterisation, memorability, persuasion and a core-message. These are exactly the things that I was taught to draw out of a passage of Racine or Lorca by Dr. Alban Krailsheimer, my French tutor and Dr. Ron Truman, my Spanish tutor.”

We asked Simon whether a language degree was a good preparation for life in business. “Well, obviously the languages have served me well in a multi-national company and I have added Dutch to my other European languages. Most of the international business colleagues with whom I work have studied Business or Marketing and are surprised at the British tradition of coming straight into business with a liberal arts degree. Nonetheless, I firmly believe that the intellectual rigour of the Oxford tutorial system prepares one very well for business. Many business decisions demand a close analysis of the context and the supporting data, a synthesis of key facts and the development of alternative strategies with risks and opportunities. This is precisely the process engendered by the tutorial system and I could draw a parallel with the coursework on the Age of Reason in France which demanded a similar approach.”

Simon Uwins (1978)

I didn’t set out to build a career in retailing. When I first joined Tesco back in the mid-80s most of my friends (and family) thought I had at least one screw loose - it wasn’t at that time a natural home for graduates.

I had left Oxford after dallying with doing a PhD and had gone into Market Research. I conceptually it appealed to me and in many ways it was quite stimulating, but I soon found it quite frustrating: recommending to companies courses of action rather than being responsible for implementing them. It’s a frustration that kept me away from joining the Consultancy world over the years.

So I joined Tesco and soon got bitten by the retailing bug: you work out what to do, do it, and then get almost instant feedback from customers. Not so very different from a tutorial! Indeed, I find almost every day I still am doing my Oxford days helped there too. I had had a fairly sheltered middle-class upbringing. But I then spent a year working on building sites before coming to Christ Church, which proved an education in itself, and then came into contact with the other end of society while at Oxford. The combination certainly left me with an unusually wide-ranging and colourful vocabulary!

The desire to explore and to learn has never really left me. I may not go to lectures, spend time in libraries and the rest, but you always have to keep improving your own abilities to stay ahead and it’s kept me in good heart. Of course, what I learnt about Modern History has been of little use, and I’ve never flashed the badge of Christ Church or Oxford - it gives you no special privileges, nor should it. But as an education and an experience it was fundamental, and if I had my time again, I wouldn’t change it.

Simon Uwins is the UK Marketing Director for Tesco.
Amy Crossley (2001)

I came up to Christ Church to study Geography in 2001, straight after I finished sixth form college. I chose Geography because of my passion for learning about the environment and how it works, which is something I wanted to develop through my degree. Despite not wanting to pursue a career in this area on finishing my degree, I have found my degree has actually equipped me with many skills needed in business.

I first began working in retail while I was attending sixth form, and this is where my desire to begin a career in the retail environment started. I enjoyed the fast paced nature of retail, and the wide variety of people and situations that are encountered daily. I applied to a variety of retailers in my final year, but decided M&S and Spencer Graduate Scheme offered the best package for me in terms of the training and the prospects. I began working at M&S in September and was lucky to get appointed 10 minutes from home.

To date, my career has been quite varied and this is one of the reasons I have enjoyed it. Within 3 weeks of starting in M&S I was given responsibility for running and managing the Christmas shop with 6 members of staff and nearly a £0.5 million turnover. Since January I have moved to the Foods area and now have responsibility for departments turning over more than £6 million annually, with over 30 direct reports. To say I have only been in the business 7 months, I still sometimes can't believe the responsibility I have, and feel my Oxford degree has paid a significant part in enabling me to build on and develop my management skills.

It hasn't always been easy though, and leaving the comfort zone of the House to enter the large and ever changing retail world of M&S has had its difficulties. Aiming to make on the spot decisions without always having the back up of academic facts has been challenging and moving away from an academic world into a large and ever changing retail world of M&S was a bit like stepping out of my comfort zone to enter the world of business.

There are many skills needed in business, and these skills I will build and rely on, not my degree choice their faces usually show their confusion as to how I ended up in retail!

My degree choice has however given me the opportunity to drive my own learning. These skills I am now able to apply to my life in the retail world and in the future it is these skills I will build and rely on, not my actual degree content. Even so, I still believe I made the best choice on my degree course and college, and will always value and remember fondly my time at the House.

Amy Crossley is a Management Trainee at M&S.
Christ Church and the making of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

LAST SEPTEMBER — in time for display at the gaudy — Christ Church Library took delivery of the sixty-volume Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Comprising 50,000 biographies of noteworthy persons connected with the British Isles from the fourth century BC to the end of the year 2000, the dictionary incorporates in rewritten or revised form all the people who appeared in its precursor, the Dictionary of National Biography, which began publication in 1885. It also adds thousands of lives not previously included. In a House of Lords debate marking the new dictionary’s publication, a speaker described it as the biggest contribution to the history of scholarship in the humanities during his lifetime. It has since gained the American Library Association’s Dartmouth Medal and the Longman-George Orwell Award for the promotion of history.

The dictionary records the lives of over a thousand notable people who were educated at Christ Church. Many Christ Church names, past and present, appear in the list of contributors (which in itself occupies a separate volume). The team of thirteen consultant editors includes Christopher Lloyd (Assistant Curator of Pictures 1967-8), Surveyor of The Queen’s Pictures, who oversaw the post-1550 entries on art and architecture. Colin M. Atteh led from the front, contributing many new entries and revisions of existing ones, the former including Gladstone, Ashquith, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, and John Buchan. Christopher H. High writes on, among others, Richard Mardall (or Mardelle), dean of Christ Church from 1535 to 1559; castigated by some sixteenth-century critics as a religious tuftow or ‘chameleon’, Mardall now emerges as more consistent in his religion than most of his contemporaries, William Warburton, a mid-eighteenth-century bishop of Gloucester and religious controversialist, whose historical and literary defences of Christianity were thought by at least one critic to have ‘better served the cause of infidelity than they had Christianity’, is among the entries contributed by Brian Young. William T. Homes’ contributions include Naucler who, the entry concludes, would have taken as a compliment M. Atteh Arnold’s dismissive remark that his writings were ‘pre-eminently fitted to give pleasure to all who are beginning to feel enjoyment in the things of the mind’.

Other subjects tackled range from Sir Augustine (by Henry M. H. Harting) through to David Lewis (by Alan Bowman), J. M. Stewart (by R. F. S. Hamer), George Series (by Derek Bowman), and Mark Curthoys (1978). The chronological range of J. F. A. Mann’s articles encompasses one of William the Conqueror’s vassals — Roger de Montgomery, first earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1094) — after whose surname the Welsh county was named — and fourteen nineteenth-century Dames of Christ Church (Smith, H. A., Liddel and Paget). Another Dame, Thomas G. Arnold, is reprimanded by Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones; Sir Henry Chadwick contributes on the organist of St Paul’s John Dykes Bower. The Elizabethan noblewoman, Penelope Rich, of whom Philip Sidney was enamoured, is among the contributions of Alison Wall, while Judith Stacey and Eric Hatton (by R. W. Trueman), The chronological range of J. F. A. Mann’s articles encompasses one of William the Conqueror’s vassals — Roger de Montgomery, first earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1094) — after whose surname the Welsh county was named — and fourteen nineteenth-century Dames of Christ Church (Smith, H. A., Liddel and Paget). Another Dame, Thomas G. Arnold, is reprimanded by Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones; Sir Henry Chadwick contributes on the organist of St Paul’s John Dykes Bower. The Elizabethan noblewoman, Penelope Rich, of whom Philip Sidney was enamoured, is among the contributions of Alison Wall, while Judith Stacey and Eric Hatton (by R. W. Trueman),

The dictionary’s content. A search for ‘Christ Church, Oxford’ in the online version (which is accessible in the Library) produces a list of nearly 1,400 entries which mention the House. As well as providing fresh appraisals of Christ Church’s founders — Wolsey and Henry VIII — the dictionary records the lives of over a thousand notable people who were educated there. Colin M. Atteh (by Ross McKibbin) is one of these. As Colin’s successor, Brian Harrison, writes, ‘His death was a tragedy for the entire project, but all who have worked on the Dictionary take pride and pleasure in its completion according to the specification and the timetable that he laid down. Further details of the dictionary can be found at www.oxforddnb.com.

Mark Curthoys came to Christ Church as a graduate student working under Colin M. Atteh’s supervision. He went on to edit (jointly with Michael Bidwell): the two-volume The Dictionary of National Biography — which Christ Church plays a major part — and since the project in question has a research editor on the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Colin Matthew (Student 1976-1978; Lecturer in Gladstone Studies 1970-1994) was a key figure in the initial planning of the new dictionary. From inception to publication, the founding editor from 1992 until his untimely death in 1999. On taking office Colin identified the dictionary’s content. A search for ‘Christ Church, Oxford’ in the online version (which is accessible in the Library) produces a list of nearly 1,400 entries which mention the House. As well as providing fresh appraisals of Christ Church’s founders — Wolsey and Henry VIII — the dictionary records the lives of over a thousand notable people who were educated there. Colin M. Atteh (by Ross McKibbin) is one of these. As Colin’s successor, Brian Harrison, writes, ‘His death was a tragedy for the entire project, but all who have worked on the Dictionary take pride and pleasure in its completion according to the specification and the timetable that he laid down. Further details of the dictionary can be found at www.oxforddnb.com.

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Mark Curthoys (1978)
A New Day School

I HAVE NOT BEEN BACK to Christ Church other than for social reasons since I took my degree in 1948. Not, that is, until Saturday 25th March. I had received a letter from one of the popular societies urging me to attend their dinner and to have a look at the college. I have never been there before, except for a short visit in May 1948. The college was then, as now, a large and impressive building, but the inside was not at all what I had expected. The dining hall was vast, with rows of tables and chairs set out for a formal meal. There were also several large rooms, including a lecture hall, which were used for meetings and conferences.

The programme for the day included a tour of the college and cathedral, and a chance to meet some of the students and members of staff. We were given a short talk by a professor of English on the history of the college, and then we were invited to have dinner in the hall.

I had not expected to enjoy myself, but I was pleasantly surprised. The food was excellent, and the company was interesting. I met several people who had known me at Oxford, and we had a good time together. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed, and I was glad to have spent the day at Christ Church.