Editorial

"Middle age with its glasses and dentures
(There's an opera about it by Strauss)
Puts an end to romantic adventures,
But not to my love of the House."  (W.H. Auden, 1960)

Wystan Hugh Auden's love of the House is a sentiment that we can all share. Our celebration of Auden is an important part of Christ Church’s activities this year as we mark the centenary of his birth in February 1907. In this edition of Christ Church Matters, Peter McDonald – Christopher Tower Student – commemorates the impact which Auden made on Christ Church over the course of his lifetime, and we warmly invite all old members to join us at the House for the W.H. Auden Centenary Celebration from 23rd to 24th June.

Yet the rich cultural activities of Christ Church extend even beyond the finesse of this much-loved wordsmith. This edition of Christ Church Matters bears tidings of the exquisite portraits in Hall, celebrates the Cathedral Choir’s wonderful new recording of John Taverner’s greatest work, and unveils the completion of an remarkable artistic feat: a gravure etching of Christ Church’s grounds and buildings. I am pleased to announce that the Choir’s new recording, and prints of the gravure etching, are available to old members so that our artistic achievements can be celebrated around the world, however near or far you are from Oxford.

Oxford University itself is preparing for an exciting new event in the autumn: the University has invited all of its alumni to the inaugural Oxford Alumni Weekend: Meeting Minds, from 14th to 16th September. A stunning programme has been devised to showcase the significance of the University in its research and beyond and can be viewed at www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk. Christ Church is pleased to invite old members of the House to stay here during the course of the weekend, and to attend a special drinks reception with the Dean, and dinner in Hall, on Saturday 15th September. More information is available on our website, www.chch.ox.ac.uk, and as always, do contact the Development and Alumni Office with any queries about this or anything else. As Peter McDonald writes on page 14, it is the people that make the place, and we are always delighted to hear from you!

We warmly invite all old members to join us at the House for the W.H. Auden Centenary Celebration on 23rd to 24th June.

Sarah Thomas
Alumni Relations Officer
As the largest college in Oxford, Christ Church has often been host to some of the University’s grand events.

One of the biggest was the installation of the Duke of Portland in 1793 when celebrations took place over a full week. On Monday 1st July, in the evening, the streets of Oxford were crowded with ladies and gentlemen waiting to see the Duke and Duchess arrive. The Times noted that numbers of the light-fingered gentry are arrived there [Oxford], in hopes of plunder, but every precaution has been taken to prevent their depredations. Over the next three days, the Duke was installed as Chancellor, and conducted all sorts of business including the conferment of honorary degrees, and attendance at the Radcliffe sermon, given by the Bishop of Dromore, Thomas Percy, who had once been a Careswell exhibitioner at Christ Church. In the afternoons and evenings, there were concerts and balls.

Wednesday was Encaenia. The Duke processed, with the doctors and noblemen, from Wadham College to the Sheldonian Theatre, unaware that just around the corner, chaos had ensued: the doors of the Theatre had been opened too soon, and ‘strangers’ poured in to fill the galleries. So many, in fact, that Broad Street was strewed with shoes, buckles, gowns, hats, caps &c. Never did such a multitude enter that building. The undergraduates, whose places were taken by the crowd, had to be squashed in with the MAs, and the crowd was so great that the new Chancellor decided to close proceedings early. He still found time, though, to confer the honorary degrees, including one on his son, the Marquis of Titchfield.

It was in the afternoon of Thursday 4th July that Christ Church took centre stage. Soon after 2pm, a huge banquet was held in Hall. Preparations had been going on for weeks, and we can almost hear the Treasurer wincing as the bills began to pile up on his desk. £15 for 16 pineapples and six melons, £11 11s for 72 plates of fruit, £16 for six dozen bottles of claret, and £25 10s for one turtle to make Christ Church’s popular soup.... Ephraim Ward’s Flying Stage Wagons charged 11 shillings to bring two more cases of wine in from London, his bill written on the back of an advertising flyer. Extra provisions were hired including green baize cloth for the tables, extra glassware, crockery, and flatware, and additional mahogany tables and chairs.

Two tables were laid for the senior guests, one right across the dais from side to side, and the other down the centre of Hall below the steps. The remaining room was taken by the Chancellor’s guests, and members of the House. A second sideboard was provided in the Oriel window to make serving easier, and constables were employed to ensure that the aisles stayed clear. Once the lesser guests were in place, the Chancellor and the senior guests processed from the Deanery to the Hall. The Dean and Sub-Dean took their places at either end of the High Table, with the Chancellor and the High Steward of the University to the left and right of the Dean.

The range of dishes served at the banquet was huge. Mr Cluff, the Christ Church chef, assisted by his own second and third cooks, and a visiting chef, Lizeron, prepared a meal beginning with the turtle, dressed with brandy. The Chancellor and his guests were then treated to turbot and lobster, salmon, trout, pigeon, crayfish, chickens with sauce, ducks with sauce, geese with sauce, guinea fowl, turkey, lamb, veal, pork, sweetbreads, cucumber salad, beans, potatoes, root vegetables, peas, beef, venison, hare, pineapples and melons. Cluff’s bill for his services came to more than £50 - about £1700 in today’s money.

At the end of the meal, the Chancellor made himself popular with the assembled company by drinking to the prosperity of Christ Church. His gesture was greeted with loud and enthusiastic applause.
During the Christmas and the Easter periods, when no food is served in Christ Church Hall, it is usually surrendered into the hands of tourists. This year, however, the Hall was closed to visitors during the two weeks either side of Easter to allow time for a major and much-needed lighting and conservation project. All 65 portraits in Hall were taken from the walls, cleaned, their conservation needs assessed, re-fitted with new picture lights and finally re-hung. The result is splendid, but as with all successful and good displays and background work it is not always obvious. This is therefore the only opportunity to draw attention to this achievement before it becomes part of the general fabric.

The previous lights were long overdue for replacement. Their small candlelight glow had a very limited lighting radius concentrating mainly on the upper part of the frame and denying the portraits any illumination. Furthermore, the short life-span of the bulbs kept the House electrician constantly occupied. The new lights need very little, or almost no, maintenance, have been individually manufactured to fit the size of each of the portraits and are significantly more energy-efficient. On a bright day the lights seem much darker due to the even light distribution. The light now washes over the paintings rather than focussing on one particular spot, but, as assured by the Hall Manager, in the evening or on a rainy day even the overall light levels have improved.

Dirt and dust of several years had accumulated on and behind the paintings, hiding mummified bread-rolls and other less easily identifiable culinary products. Other paintings had stains that looked suspiciously as if hit by food bullets, but all has been removed and the damage has not been dramatic. The outside of the glass has been cleaned and with the new lights it adds to the splendour. The portraits can now be appreciated as the works of art they are and the faces of the sitters are infinitely more visible. Someone remarked flippantly that some of the sitters' bald patches have become much more prominent, which iconographically does have some significance in highlighting the sitters' experience and virile power.

To be able to move the large paintings in the upper row of the Hall, scaffolding had to be erected. This gave us the rare opportunity to study those portraits up close. We were able to read the letter that the figure of Dudley Carlton (Viscount of Dorchester) holds in his hand rather than just knowing that it is legible, and to see the famously emphasised scar on the bridge of the nose in Henry Benett's portrait (1st Earl of Arlington). We could marvel at the detailed execution and splendour of the dress in the portrait of Elizabeth I and could examine the background in the portrait of Cardinal Wolsey. These were only the more obvious treats of this undertaking and I do not want to bore you with the excitement that the backs of paintings can arouse in a curator. A graffiti ‘tag’ left on the 17th December 79 (1979 one would assume) above the portrait of Dean John Fell reminds us that someone called Ian Elvin was there. Unfortunately we could not trace Ian Elvin who was able to carve his name about ten metres above the floor. Help in tracking him down would be very welcome!

Overall, time was very short – the paintings are in very good condition: some of them will need more thorough conservation, and some of them should be backed to protect them from dust and dirt. The appearance would be immensely brightened if we could carefully restore and clean the gilded frames, but this will have to wait for another time.

I want to take this opportunity to put in print my thanks to the technicians involved for their immense care and their compassion for this project. Handling and moving works of art increases the risk of damage, and from low-risk items they jump into the category of high-risk items. When at the same time scaffolding poles and shelves are swung in close vicinity every curator’s heart sinks and worst-case scenarios surface, but not even the slightest incident occurred.

We hope you will enjoy the new lights which are at their best in the evening, without the reflection from daylight We hope you will enjoy the new lights which are at their best in the evening, without the reflection from daylight.
The Cathedral Choir has joined forces with the top record label Avie Records, producer Jonathan Freeman-Attwood (Music, 1985) and editor Tim Symons (Music, 1990) to produce a wonderful new recording of music with a special Christ Church association.

When Cardinal Wolsey founded the College in the 1520s he set out to match the opulence and grandeur of the buildings with the finest virtuoso choir in the land. Its first musical director, John Taverner, was recruited by Wolsey’s agents and proved to be the most outstanding English composer of the period before Tallis and Byrd. This is reflected in the series of stunning liturgical works he composed to be sung here.

Now, for the first time, the Choir has recorded John Taverner’s Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas – generally regarded as his finest work – which shows complete mastery of structure and polyphony in six parts. It is the first of the 11 mass settings in the Forrest-Heather part-books, almost certainly collected together for use in Wolsey’s chapel. Since the College was dedicated to the Holy Trinity it is likely that the mass was written for a sumptuous celebration of Trinity Sunday in the mid-1520s.

Proceeds from the sale of this recording will go towards the funding of future recordings so old members are encouraged to buy it to support the work of the Choir. This recording is the first to use the original forces of men and boys as envisaged by the composer.

Copies of the CD are available for purchase from Christ Church at a price of £12 plus p&p (UK £1.50, Europe £2.50, Worldwide £3.50). Please send a cheque payable to ‘The Dean and Canons of Christ Church’, together with your name and address, to the Development and Alumni Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP. Please direct any enquiries to 01865 286325.

Stephen Darlington
Organist and Official Student in Music

Celebrating Taverner
George Bell was one of the outstanding Anglican clergymen of the 20th century. He read Greats at Christ Church from 1901 to 1904 and returned as a clerical student in 1910. In 1914 left to become chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and later Bishop of Chichester from 1929 until his retirement in 1957.

He is best known for his work in the ecumenical movement which brought him into contact with the German church during the Third Reich and for his brave stand in the House of Lords during the Second World War against the area bombing of German cities. In the 1930s he had become the friend and confidant of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, an association which continued into the war when Bonhoeffer asked for his help in persuading the British government of the bona fides of the German opposition to Hitler. This selection of his letters covers Bell’s whole career but much the longest section is devoted to the German church conflict from 1933 to 1939. What emerges very clearly is the care Bell took to be well informed and to offer effective help to the ’Confessing Church’ in its dealings with the pro-Nazi ’German Christian’ leaders. It is not easy to know how from the outside to help a minority in a dictatorship. Bell was aware of the dangers both of saying nothing and of saying too much. These letters are a testimony to his skill as well as his understanding.

Copies of the book can be purchased from the Methodist Publishing House. Please contact sales@mph.org.uk for more information.

Friends of Christ Church Cathedral

The Friends of Christ Church Cathedral are a group of people who are concerned to foster and promote links between the Cathedral and individuals within the Diocese, from other parts of the country and from abroad.

We are also involved, with the Dean and Chapter, in providing the Cathedral with financial help for decoration and enrichment which cannot be supplied from normal revenue. In 2007 the Friends made substantial contributions to the installation of the glass doors (see more on page 7) and the changes to flooring and seating in the Crossing.

Over the years the Friends have sponsored social events which include a summer party in the Hall and Gardens of Christ Church and a Christmas party in the Hall. In addition, there are outings of Friends to other Cathedrals and places of interest.

How can you join?
The standard annual subscription for individuals is, currently, £10. Wherever possible we hope that members will feel able to give more generously.

Life Membership is £200. We encourage the completion of a Gift Aid declaration to enable the Friends, as a charity, to recover income tax.

Application can be made through the Christ Church website or directly to: Elizabeth Harrison, Honorary Secretary Friends of Christ Church Cathedral Priory Room Office Christ Church Oxford OX1 1DP Telephone: 01865 791716 Email: cathedralfriends@btconnect.com
A considerable change has taken place at the west entrance to Christ Church Cathedral. The Victorian wooden doors have been moved inwards by about 3 inches, and a pair of handsome glass doors has taken their place. Previously, for most of the year, the wooden doors had to be shut, so that visitors entered the Cathedral only through a small wooden inset door. The wooden doors made the Cathedral appear closed for much of the time, and people crossing Tom Quad got little impression of what lay inside. Now, the wooden doors are able to stand open all day, and those approaching the Cathedral have a clear view up the Nave towards the High altar. The stewards and welcomers waiting to receive visitors are able to see who is coming, and are themselves able to minister in a better-lit situation with views out to Tom Quad.

Most of the 240,000 visitors to Christ Church each year come into the Cathedral, and the welcomers offer them printed guides in some 17 different languages. The doors also make it much easier to receive those coming for services and concerts, particularly when there are large congregations. The view outwards enhances worship in the Cathedral, with light coming into the ante-chapel which was previously a rather dark space.

The doors were designed by Jane McDonald of Dorchester-on-Thames who has delicately engraved them with overlaid lettering, reading ‘Aedes Christi – House of Christ’. They are embellished with long bronze handles by Julian Coode of Whitstable, Kent. The architect was Robert Montgomery of Oxford.

Generous gifts, making the doors possible, came from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd), the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, the Allchurches Trust (the charitable arm of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group), the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, and the Christ Church Annual Fund, as well as from a number of private individuals and trusts.

The doors were dedicated by the Dean at the start of the Cathedral’s annual Epiphany Carol Service, on 21st January 2007.

Nicholas Coulton
Sub-Dean

The doors were designed by Jane McDonald of Dorchester-on-Thames who has delicately engraved them with overlaid lettering, reading ‘Aedes Christi – House of Christ’.
Beginning in November last year, the artist Andrew Ingamells spent four months making a detailed image of the House that now measures 15 by 22 inches on a copper plate. Sarah Thomas explains why the etchings from this plate are so special.

The prospect of a new etching of the House from an aerial perspective is an exciting one. Though E.H. New made a detailed drawing of the college in 1916 (which was later published in a variety of editions using photo-lithography), it can truly be said that not since David Loggan’s celebrated engraving of 1675 has an aerial perspective view of the college been attempted in the medium of etching or engraving.

Aerial perspectives are by their nature difficult to draw, and not many artists (some might say fewer and fewer emerging from today’s art schools) can do it. An even smaller number of artists have access to, or indeed any proficiency in, the extremely demanding and meticulous process of etching onto a copper plate. Andrew Ingamells is rare, then, in combining these vital attributes. He is best known for etchings of classical architectural subjects such as the Tate Gallery, the Royal Academy, the Paris Opera and the Duomo, Florence, and is represented in collections as diverse as English Heritage, the Museum of London, the Guildhall Library and the Paul Mellon Collection of British Art. Just before he made the etching of Christ Church, he made an edition of etchings for the Bank of England.

The Christ Church etching combines the 16th century technology of etching with gravure, a form of photo-etching dating from the 1860s which is now practiced in only a handful of etching studios in the world. Ingamells first made a line drawing of the college. He then made a positive film of the line drawing, and transferred the film onto an etching plate by coating the plate with a light-sensitive solution, exposing it to light, and then immersing it into an acid bath until all those areas of copper left exposed (the lines of the drawing) were etched by the acid. By these means the basis for the drawing was laid down on the copper plate. The rest of the detailed image was made by the traditional etching technique of putting a waxy coat (or ‘ground’) on the plate, cutting through it with an etching needle, and then etching the plate once again in acid. Once the image was complete, the plate was inked up and placed on the bed of an intaglio etching press. Each print was made by passing a sheet of etching paper over the plate under the vast weight and pressure of a roller.

As you might expect, Ingamells is an etching enthusiast: “Etching can give you a quality of line that you just can’t get with modern printing techniques, which make up images with dots.” There are no dots on an etching. The hand-made quality of the process also extends to allowing traditional, long lasting inks to be used on robust etching paper. The only drawback, which is not necessarily a drawback for the art collector, is that only around 200 etchings can be made from an etching plate before the lines on the plate begin to close in, and become unable to carry ink. Thus this edition is self-limiting at 195 prints. This limited edition of 195 etchings, each signed and numbered by the artist, is also the first comprehensive view of the House to include St Aldate’s and Blue Boar Quads. We are delighted to be able to offer these prints to old members, with a special offer to the first 50!  ■
50 etchings have been reserved for sale on a first-come, first-served basis to members of Christ Church at a price of £195. Thereafter, and until further notice, the price will be £225. £50 from the sale of each etching will be donated to Christ Church.

To purchase your etching, please call 020 7704 6808, email christchurch@capitalprints.com or write to Capital Prints, PO Box 2DR, London W1A 2DR with your name, delivery address and a daytime telephone number.
With luck, new readers come to the celebrated figure and become enthusiasts in their turn. But for Christ Church, too, Auden’s 100th is something to celebrate. The writer was something more than just a famous old member, but someone who was associated with the place regularly throughout his life and who, towards the end, was indeed a resident here. Auden is someone about whom, in other words, we all have every reason to feel proud.

Needless to say (it is Oxford, after all) things were not always quite like this. Auden’s life as an undergraduate was a curious one, marked by switches of subject and, at the end of his three years, a poor degree. About those days, legends abound: did the young man really provoke Dundas (the famous ‘D’) to such a pitch of infatuation that the tutor had to be packed off to Europe to cool his heels? Was it John Betjeman, or someone else (with or without teddy bear) discovered in Auden’s rooms one morning, who started the story of the going rate for a Scout’s discretion? Behind blinds drawn against the sunlight in Peck, did a green eye-shaded Auden really keep a loaded revolver in his desk? The 1920s are largely dissolved in anecdote now, and the legends have long had lives of their own, but the fact is that when Auden left Oxford in 1928, shocked and unhappy about his Third in English, he had every reason to think that he was leaving for good.

When the famous W.H. Auden returned to Oxford in 1956 as Professor of Poetry, there were those in Christ Church who would have preferred him to have left for good 28 years before. The War was still recent, and memories in the Senior Common Room were long: Auden had spent the Second World War in America and, whether or not this was for the good of his poetry (as he claimed), poetic success was (to some at least) in such circumstances not a self-evident good. When, later still in 1972, an even older Auden came back into residence at Christ Church, he was largely disappointed by the changes that had taken place, and missed the conviviality (as he remembered it) of the late 1950s. Dishevelled, shambling in and out of the Cathedral at service times, downing lonely martinis before dinner, and too many lonely brandies after it, this Auden is remembered by some as a sad, repetitious, rather aimless figure. He was, of course, dead within the year, at the age of 66, and looking easily a decade older than that.

But there are other, altogether more positive, aspects of Auden’s relationship to Christ Church. Simply in terms of biographical record, the poet himself was clearly fond of his college, and often said so. The period when he held the Chair of Poetry was certainly the time of Auden’s greatest enjoyment and success as a member of Christ Church, and saw him make real and lasting friendships; and even the return in the early 1970s, however blighted by what was in fact his increasing ill-health, was for Auden in part a return to one of the places in which he felt at home. If there was a measure of hard-nosed philistinism and political grudge among even some senior members of
the House, there was from others a more than compensating supply of generosity and affection – as Auden knew, and knew to value.

It is, of course, those who know least about poetry (and their number has always included some academics) who most expect poets to sing for their supper. As far as Christ Church was concerned, Auden did so on three occasions, all of them now secured for posterity in the pages of his Collected Poems: A Son et Lumiere presentation of 1968 is one such text; two others, both of them beauxxe performances, are ‘A Toast’ (for a Gaudy in 1960) and the verses for the 80th birthday of Canon Claude Jenkins, in 1957. To these one should add the text for Walton’s ‘The Twelve’, the idea for which emerged at dessert after one Christ Church dinner.

Auden (whose dress sense was the only shoddy thing about him) wrote such occasional pieces with complete conviction and attention to detail; he was, after all, one of the century’s most meticulous poetic craftsmen.

On his 100th birthday, on February 21st, the Senior Common Room gathered to celebrate Auden. In a gesture that would have pleased him, members of the MCR joined the company that evening, with the result that getting on for a hundred people came together in his honour. In a year full of Auden celebrations, from New York and London to Austria, this one felt special: it was, as everyone present agreed, a family occasion, and one at which a good number of those present had personal memories to share. Reading some of his poems aloud, I was daunted both by the scale of the event and the responsibility of giving a decent account of such powerful, wise, and brilliantly pitched writing. More terrifyingly, I had already committed the hubris of promising to compose and recite a poem of my own to mark the centenary, and I half-expected this act of sheer impudence to attract some dreadful consequence in the course of the evening. But the goodwill and warm-heartedness generated by Auden that night somehow served to protect me, and, surviving, I had found yet another reason to be in the great man’s debt.

From 23rd to 24th June, Christ Church will host a more public celebration of Auden, which will feature a dazzling array of talents, and doubtless attract much attention. For those of us lucky enough to have been at the 100th birthday gathering, it will complete in public a process begun in the intimacy of our own small society, confirming that this great poet, who belongs (as all such figures do) to the whole world, is also, and in a way that counts, peculiarly ours.■
One meeting, ten years of support!

Deborah Bestwick
Director, Oval House

When Christ Church graduates founded Oval House, it was supported solely through donations and great Christ Church events such as the Red Hat Ball. Times have changed, but the support we receive through our Christ Church connection remains crucial and one small initiative can affect our whole future.

When Robin Gilkes (1965) was on the Christ Church Association Committee, he invited a few members of Oval House to a reception in the City. We met Christopher Egerton-Warburton (1989) who works for Goldman Sachs, and he was inspired to create a programme where young people from the inner-city could work with Goldman Sachs staff for a day and experience what life in the city could offer.

This led to a strong relationship with their Charitable Giving department. Thanks to an extremely generous grant we were able to employ a full time worker and establish a high quality programme focussing on the creativity of young people. We devised projects which themselves have attracted hundreds of thousands of pounds in the last eight years! Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs donated a proportion of their corporate hospitality tickets for a wonderful show at the National Theatre to young people who would not otherwise have been able to go. They have also participated in community action days – decorating, garden landscaping and providing trips to help young refugees enjoy and understand the city they have arrived in.

We are constantly looking for new relationships, or small seeds, which will (sometimes) bear surprising fruit! One small introduction to a corporate organisation can help the long-term development of services which challenge and inspire excluded young people in the inner-city.
Pathways to heaven
SCR research

Christopher Haigh arrived at Christ Church in 1979 as a History Tutor, having studied at Cambridge and Manchester Universities, and lectured in Modern History at the University of Manchester. He has been Junior and Senior Censor, and is now Chairman of the History Faculty Board. Christopher talks here about his new publication.

It was good to be asked to give the 2005 Wiles Lectures at Queen’s University, Belfast – it’s quite a big occasion, with historians flown in from around the world to listen and discuss. But the invitation brought a real headache. I had been working for more than ten years on a big project on post-Reformation popular religion in England: Pathways to heaven: Kinds of Christianity in Post-Reformation England, 1570-1640. How could I organise the four Wiles lectures and the bigger book that was to follow? The answer came from Arthur Dent, an Essex preacher in the reign of Elizabeth I. In 1601 he published The Plain Man’s Pathway to Heaven – a fictional debate between four stereotypical characters about how to live a Christian life. Four characters, four lectures – perfect, I hoped. The characters are Theologus ‘a divine’, Philagathus ‘an honest man’, Asunetus ‘an ignorant man’, and Antilegon ‘a caviller’, and I gave a lecture on each. I looked at how each of these stereotypes was used in religious polemic and social discourse, and how real people like them got along together in villages and towns. I drew on church court records from 15 record offices and archives, and tried to reconstruct the religious attitudes that influenced social interaction at the parish level. There were four lectures and four characters – all of them Protestants of a sort. For the book, I cheated and added a fifth character, ‘a papist’, so I could look at Protestant-Catholics relations at the local level. What I found was not very surprising, perhaps – that people generally got along together whatever their religion, unless some local disruption or national crisis raised tensions. The Plain Man’s Pathways to Heaven: Kinds of Christianity in Post-Reformation England, 1570-1640 will be published by Oxford University Press in September.
People studying at Christ Church are inevitably a pretty diverse bunch: in one way or another this has always been the case, but nowadays “diversity” can seem to imply some pre-arranged mixture – whether of educational classes, or social groups.

For us, however, there is nothing pre-arranged about it, and our diversity is the real thing: young people chosen on academic merit and potential alone, who will make the most (in many different ways) out of being members of the college. Just as they are going everywhere when they leave us, they can come to us from anywhere, and the only advantages in gaining admission are those of talent, commitment to subjects, and eagerness to learn. By comparison with these criteria, all schools, expensive and free, and all families, Oxford-connected and not, are at a precisely equal disadvantage. It’s the people who matter, and who make the place.

ANTHONY DOOLITTLE
(History, 2004)

“I’m afraid I’m not the best advertisement for diversity: white, male, public-school too”, says Anthony, who came from Winchester College to study History at the House. Anthony’s father (Ian Doolittle, 1977) also studied History and Anthony was determined not to apply to his father’s old college.

Why did you change your mind and apply to Christ Church?
“I came to meet William Thomas (Emeritus History Student) to ask about other, smaller colleges I could apply to. He talked to me about the benefits of a big college, and having been in a small boarding house the idea of living somewhere with space started to appeal to me. Really though it was the architecture which persuaded me – you walk into Tom Quad and there’s just nowhere else like it!”

Did you have any expectations before you arrived?
“No, not really – I was confident that I was coming to the right place. I’ve loved this place and never had a moment’s doubt about it.”

What are the best and worst things about Christ Church?
“Tom Quad! Or maybe Hall. I should probably say something about the people or something like that but… Tom Quad’s just incredible! I can’t think of a worst thing. Occasionally people get a bit lonely but that’s true anywhere.”

How have you spent your time here?
“I won a scholarship in my first year so I’ve always tried to work reasonably hard. I’ve spent a lot of time in a rowing boat – I’ve rowed in the 1st VIII, two Summer VIIIs, three Torpids, and I was President of the Boat Club in my second year. I’ve done a bit of cross country, but less seriously – I ran against Cambridge in Snails and came in last! And I was a Choral Scholar at Exeter College for two years, and I sing a bit in Christ Church College Choir.”

What are you going to do when you leave this summer?
“I’ve got a training contract with Slaughter and May so I’ll start studying at law school in September, and then start as a trainee solicitor with Slaughters in September 2009.”

A diverse community...

Peter McDonald
Tutor for Admissions

Sarah Thomas
Alumni Relations Officer, meets four junior members of the House

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CHRIS WROE
(Physics, 2005)

Chris studied in a grammar school between school years 7 and 11, and then moved to a state sixth form college to do his A-Levels. He wanted to come to Oxford since attending an open day when he was 16, but not to Christ Church…

Have you always wanted to come to Christ Church?
“No! I didn’t apply to Christ Church – I applied to St John’s, and was sent to Christ Church for an interview while I was staying at St John’s. I was overawed by Christ Church, but actually still preferred St John’s! But when I got an offer from Christ Church I was very excited.”

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(Physics, 2005)

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How have you spent your time here?
“I spend my weekends doing sport – mostly orienteering at a University level. I’ve been on the Varsity team for the last two years and I’m hoping for a half blue next year. I’m also very involved with the inter-collegiate Christian Union which I really enjoy. And I help with the University Access scheme because it’s important to encourage people from all backgrounds to apply to Oxford.”

What are the best and worst things about Christ Church?
“You live in really nice rooms and the food is good. Living with your friends for three years is great. The worst thing is that the bar and the JCR aren’t used much so not everyone knows everyone.”

If you could change one thing about Christ Church, what would it be?
“I’d knock Blue Boar down!”

What’s the atmosphere like as a student?
“It’s been quite a relaxed and supportive environment to live in. There’s no such thing as a typical Christ Church student – other than ability. Everyone gets along very well.”

What are the best and worst things about Christ Church?
“The best thing is the balance of work and other activities here. One of the worst things is that maybe there’s too much distinction between tutors and students – I’ve never seen a student dining on High Table… maybe that could happen sometimes!”

If you could change one thing about Christ Church, what would it be?
“I’m tempted to say get rid of Blue Boar but you’ve got to stick the first years somewhere!”

What are your plans for next year?
“I’m going to Paris for two years to work for IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students). My involvement in running the Christian Union here has shown me the need for Christian work amongst students. Also, my mum is French and I’ve wanted to live in France for a while.”

What are the best and worst things about Christ Church?
“The best thing is the sheer amount of resources available – I have all my music lessons paid for in Oxford and at home. And I have a gorgeous room with a piano! The worst is that it’s hard to get to know everyone because it’s a big college.”

What do you want to do in the future?
“I want to enter the music industry. I set up a myspace music page this year (www.myspace.com/ionabain) and one of my songs was chosen to be played on BBC Radio Oxford which is real validation of my work. I write songs about experience, but I don’t pay much attention to genres. I take it very seriously and have a professional manner. I know it’s hard to make it in the music industry but I will try my best.”

Iona Bain (Music, 2006)
Iona is in her first year studying Music at Christ Church. She was born and brought up in Edinburgh where she attended Broughton High – a state school with a large catchment area in the middle of Edinburgh.

What does Christ Church mean to you?
“I think coming to Christ Church represents freedom to me: freedom to pursue everything with great zeal. I never envisaged that I’d be fulfilling as many musical ambitions as I am now. School feels a million miles away.”

What are the best and worst things about Christ Church?
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Photos: KT Bruce

Simon Hopkins (History, 2004)
Simon is the third generation of men in his family to study History at Christ Church. His father, Mark Hopkins, matriculated in 1975, and his grandfather, David Hopkins in 1947.

Why did you apply to Christ Church?
“Obviously my family background was important – I’d visited Christ Church in the past and the architecture and layout made me think I’d enjoy it. I lived in Nigeria from the age of 4 to 16 and coming to Christ Church was something I’d thought about for a long time. My family never put any pressure on me to come here but obviously they’re proud of me and happy I’m here.”
On tour with the House

Christ Church’s dramatic activity in German university towns during the 1950s remembered...

Taking undergraduate actors round Germany by train and bus posed logistical problems. An account of the 1955 tour in The Times noted that all baggage had to be covered by export licences. The German press was appreciative: “Shakespeare war bei diesen Studenten in besten Händen” was the verdict on the 1957 As You Like It (one member of the cast thinks it was even more fun for performers than audience). In 1955 the Rhein-Neckar Zeitung thought “the whole cast [of Murder in the Cathedral] gave of their best”, while the audience “applauded long and loud.”

Taking undergraduate actors round Germany by train and bus posed logistical problems. An account of the 1955 tour in The Times noted that all baggage had to be covered by export licences: the two days during which scenery and cast became separated on leaving Tübingen therefore had the business manager wondering what penalties he might face on return to England. Luckily for him it turned up at Freiburg.

Social aspects of the tours were at least as important as artistic or financial success. Tourists wrote home about being “ royally ” entertained, although one complained that the food was “ only moderate, all bloody sausage and potato”, while “the beds in the dormitory . . . are quite ghastly. Hardly any mattresses. But then the Germans never sleep.” The hosts laid on varied entertainment, including dances and parties involving university and civic dignitaries, the first tour manager (the late Robert Worsley-White) thoughtfully assuring the cast that “ evening dress would be quite unnecessary”.

Marburg offered duelling with sabres – as a spectator sport. Elsewhere there were historic sites to visit, such as Heidelberg’s castle, which one ‘actress’ also remembers as the place where she got, as it were, monumentally schlossed. Jill Cook (St Anne’s, 1958) starred as Miranda in 1959’s Tempest, however, recalls moments on the ramparts under a “ very romantic moon ” with “ a man from Peckwater quad ”. Let’s hope he remembers it too.
Editorial

The spirit of W.H. Auden is abroad in this edition of Association News. Several features in this issue are inspired by the centenary of the poet’s birth. A more recent House poet – Olivia Cole – is one of three alumni featured here who appear regularly in print, talking about their writing careers and inspiration. And though Auden himself could be scathing about dons, what links Olivia with Jonathan Atkens and Andrew Billen is the part played by one or more tutors as the muse for subsequent literary endeavours.

Many Housemen and women are, of course, published authors. We thought it worthwhile to bring together a single record of all this literary endeavour. So there is now a new webpage on the Christ Church website to publicise books written by old members. The selection of books posted on the website will change regularly as we have so many to display, so do keep checking back to see the next installment! If you would like your name and opus to appear on the website, please contact the Development and Alumni Office or let me know.

Talking of books, Christ Church Oxford: A Portrait of the House continues to prosper. It was featured in the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival in March, an event hosted at Christ Church. The Development and Alumni Office still have a few copies remaining. Hurry while stocks last!

With Summer looming, our minds are turning to the social side of Christ Church Association life. There are some exciting events lined up over the next few months. All is revealed in the Forthcoming Events section. The Association AGM and Dinner will be on the Saturday of the Oxford Alumni Weekend which takes place from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September. And looking well ahead, the Association 2008 Summer Event (21st to 22nd June) will have an artistic theme. It will be open to all old members, their families and friends. It will be a lot of fun so keep the date free!

We hope to see you there.

As always, if you have any news or views that you would like to be included in Association News, please e-mail me or write c/o the Development and Alumni Office.

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

Celebrating Geography at the House

Meeting and eating with old members

Over 95 Christ Church geographers and guests attended a sparkling, four-course, black-tie dinner in Christ Church on 17th March 2007. It was the first such event for geographers in 50 years. The oldest geographer attending, Robert Frost, matriculated in 1965 and read the grace. Robert Gladstone, Mark Young, Howard Blackett and Hugh Stokes were special guests as they represented a full turnout from 1979. I was the oldest female undergraduate in attendance.

Dr Paul Coomes, who did both his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the House, and is now a lecturer at Hertford College, gave a fascinating pre-dinner speech on the subject of ‘Halford Mackinder’. Dr Mackinder is considered the founder of modern day geography and was the first tutor in geography at the House. The current-day Christ Church Geography Society is named after him. Sam Bickersteth (1980) gave an amusing after-dinner speech, and Dr Judy Pallot spoke about her 26 years at Christ Church and her surprise appointment as the first woman tutor. She shared many amusing experiences with wayward undergraduates including David Jones (1980) who did his dissertation studying the drinking habits of Oxford tramps in the High Street.

A special thank you goes to all who worked hard to make this event such a success.

“An excellent event and a good chance to catch up on 30 years of Geography”
John Davidson 1971

“As always the food, atmosphere and company were excellent”
Chris Green 1978
Old members in print

In recognition of the W.H. Auden Centenary, in this issue we hear from three old members of the House in modern day print as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

JONATHAN AITKEN (1966)

No one ever forgets a good teacher. During my years at the House I was inspired by four or five remarkable senior members who in their different ways set me on the path to authorship.

My law tutor, E.H. Burn, was a broadminded encourager of youthful ambition. He soon saw that my heart was not set on fire by the ancient institutes of Roman Law. However he made me do just enough Gaius and Justinian not only to scrape through Mods but to see wisdom in the old dictum that no one can write a good English sentence until able to construct a Latin one.

English sentences tripped rather too easily from my tongue and pen in the heady arena of 1960s Oxford politics and journalism. Teddy Burn gave me the academic latitude to throw myself into the Oxford Union, OUCAs, and a torrent of extra-curricular activity that ranged from editing Oxford Circus and Oxford Tory magazines to being President of the Invade and Conquer France Society. Life as a student debater produced one literary surprise. At the age of 22 I co-authored with Michael Beloff A Short Walk on the Campus (1964). This account of our travels across the USA as the two man Oxford debating team was reviewed by Time magazine with the comment: "We would have liked Mr Aitken and Mr Beloff rather more if they had liked themselves rather less". A fair cop but at least the book put my foot on the ladder of authorship.

Three more offerings in hard covers later had the pleasure to commission both. My other tutors were Peter Conrad and Craig Raine, who officially taught English Literature. Both knew a bit and that was because I had three great individual dons of the House have been catalysts, stimulators and inspirers of my modest work as a writer.

ANDREW BILLEN (1977)

I came to Christ Church in 1977 with the intention of becoming a journalist. I left having, in many ways, become one. I still had a lot to learn and more rigorously I kept cuttings books which included corrections for errors I made on my early papers. But I knew a bit and that was because I had three great journalism tutors at Oxford.

One was Isis, which at that time came out four times a term and which I edited in Michaelmas 1978 with Sarah Boseley, now The Guardian's award-winning health correspondent. I later found, as acting editor of The Observer Magazine, that the fundamentals of getting a magazine out do not vary so very much.

My other tutors were Peter Conrad and Craig Raine, who officially taught English Literature. Both are wonderful writers and critics and both had healthy sidelines writing journalism. At The Observer I later had the pleasure to commission both.
Interestingly, although Peter was now submitting his essays to me, I discovered our relationship had not changed: I remained the nervous supplicant. From both I learnt concision, wit and a certain fearlessness when it comes to criticism. (Some might call the latter the snotty, superior Oxford voice: let them.)

After Christ Church, my first job was on the Sheffield Star where – and those were the days – I first had three months’ training in law, politics and shorthand. No more than my home counties schooling could, Oxford failed to prepare me for life in the urban north. The nearest comparison to my plight might be Sam Tyler’s expulsion to 1973 in Life on Mars. Yet, thanks to friends and mentors, I survived and learnt to adopt and then vary the required tabloid voice.

I arrived in London in 1984 freelancing and was lucky the next year (through a friend of an Oxford friend) to get a job on The Times diary. From there I went to The Observer where I began writing weekly interviews. These I have done for 15 years, later for The Evening Standard and finally back on The Times. I currently vary feature writing with television reviewing. As I write I often hear in my head the voices of Craig and Peter. Sometimes I even manage to suppress them. This fascinating, varied, not very serious, reasonably glamorous career has taken me all over the world. I regard Christ Church as its start.

OLIVIA COLE (2000)

English tutors are wise, we were always told, to theatrical students twisting every moment of their degree to let them read nothing but plays. No one noticed (or if they did, they didn’t mind as much) as I studied only poets. This patience had limits. I remember by the end of one term, there was almost a ban on me mentioning Ted Hughes in yet another essay.

I was also extremely lucky to have a tutor who, in fact, a poet. The Tower Poetry workshops, started in 2000 by Peter McDonald, dragged some of my earliest poems into the light. At school we had a “Living Poets Society” but my teenage shyness had stopped me from doing anything but reading others. Once I overcame this, the workshops created a “poem deadline” to add to my weekly essays. The moment I was sitting at my desk to write my essay, I would work on a poem as well.

Counter-productive or very productive? Either way, it sounds ridiculous and it’s not as though every week, in poetry or prose, I’d produce anything worth keeping but I know I wrote a lot like that. Late at night or very early in the morning are still the times I find it easiest to write anything.

Despite the Hughes fixation, I don’t believe in the stars. However, in the spring of my final year, there was, if not a twist of fate, then perhaps a pleasantly little cosmic shove. In the space of a month I found out that I had won (for a poet, at least!) two quite prestigious awards. As I finished being a student, if I needed some encouragement to spend some time (maybe even during the day) on poetry, this was it.

The poems were a collection I called Restricted View – lots of them used images of theatres and stage sets and the title was supposed to suggest incomplete glimpses of lives, my own or other peoples’. Looking from the edges, might, though, have had almost as much to do with the way I had learnt to write – literally very often – in the middle of something else entirely.

Spending hours in the middle of the night delaying writing an essay, I must have longed for a time when I didn’t have anything else to write. However, almost as soon as the essays no longer needed writing, I gravitated to another world of impossible deadlines and scrambled research. So am I saying that being a poet is like being the big kid tiresome student who can’t quite bring herself to sit at her desk and really get on with it; or the journalist who can’t write a word without a clock ticking?

As I look back, I know my time at Christ Church was almost ridiculously happy. There couldn’t have been a better way to learn to fill in the centre of the page with as much living as possible, however much, when I can, I like to snatch some time too, to doodle in the margins.

...being a poet is like being the big kid tiresome student who can’t quite bring herself to sit at her desk and really get on with it...
All in a good cause...

Christopher Rocker on the creation of a new charity – MAGE – established in January 2005 to assist in post-tsunami reconstruction in Galle, Sri Lanka

When I left Christ Church in the dim and distant past (1970 to be precise) I started a career in banking in the City of London. During a stimulating 30 year career I ended up working in the UK, Canada and the USA, eventually settling down with my wife and two daughters in the New York area. The demands of the job seemed to become ever more exacting and there was really very little time available beyond work and the needs of family and friends. My wife would ask me occasionally about the possibility of my volunteering or assisting with a local charitable cause, but the response was always the same – no time!

During the last six years of my career, I ended up back in London again, working for a UK client whom I had got to know as a banker. My family continued to live in the States and my wife and I shuttled backwards and forwards between New York and London. The airlines loved us, but it was a tough life and I decided to retire in 2005 while we were all still sane. It was at that time that I began to think about trying to give something back to a world in which I had been very fortunate, but where the vast majority of mankind was not so lucky.

It was after the tsunami hit in December 2004 that I had a call from Michael Mars who had been introduced to me by a mutual friend. Michael works at Great Ormond Street Hospital and has been involved for the past 20 years with pro bono work in Sri Lanka, practising cleft lip and palate reconstructive surgery at the hospital in the southern city of Galle. Following the devastating tsunami much of the hospital in Galle had been terribly damaged and whole sections had been swept away. Michael invited me to join a group of four clinicians from Great Ormond Street and one other City type in an effort to raise funds to help put the hospital back on its feet.

And so MAGE was formed – Medical Aid to Galle and Environs. Working through a team of Sri Lankan advisors and using local resources to the maximum extent possible, MAGE aims to improve health, welfare and education in Galle and the surrounding area. Our first task was to raise money to purchase and equip a field hospital, bought in the US and installed and fully operational as a maternity and neo-natal unit by the end of March 2005. We raised money from our employers, from World Jewish Relief and the Wolfson Foundation as well as from numerous individuals. We have also provided scholarships for bereaved students, have helped fund the construction and operation of a new local kindergarten and have helped pay for the operation and infrastructure improvement of a centre for children with disabilities.

Our latest project is the building of a new student hostel for the medical school in Galle. The original was terribly damaged by the events of December 2004, and although it is still used by a few students, it is squalid and unsanitary. We intend to fund the building of a 200 student five-floor unit which will accommodate a significant percentage of the medical students and enable them to recommence their studies and to ultimately become the new young doctors that are so desperately needed in this very deprived area of southern Sri Lanka. We have raised just under half of the $650,000 needed to fund this project and are hopeful of raising the remainder during the coming year.

I have derived a great deal of personal satisfaction from my involvement with MAGE. I have met some fascinating people and have been able to see a part of life of which most people are unaware. I also believe that our efforts are helping to improve the quality of life for the people who live in this part of Sri Lanka, which is by far the most important thing.

For more information on MAGE contact Chris Rocker:
Tel: 07747 717978, Email: cdrocker@aol.com
Web: www.mageuk.org
Last boat for Africa
I wrote this book for three reasons. First, out of gratitude for the wonderful four years I enjoyed as a District Officer in Swaziland in the 1960s. Second, to help counter the generally negative perception of our colonial past. And third, and most important, to try to raise Swaziland’s profile.

Swaziland is currently ravaged by drought, probably caused by global warming and has the highest HIV/AIDS level in the world (42%). It desperately needs inward investment. As Deputy Prime Minister Albert Shabangu said last year, “if something is not done, the nation will cease to exist.” I hope the book shows that the Swazis are a delight and deserve to prosper.

John Miller (1958)

Sons of the morning
Simon Watson’s novel trilogy, ‘Sons of the Morning’, evokes the experience of a middle-class boyhood and education in the 1950s and 1960s. In the first volume, ‘A Storm of Cherries’ (published 2006), the protagonist, Johnny Clarke, grapples with the post of head boy at his prep school. In the second, ‘Dancing Days’ (published 2007), he is a public school sixth former, in love for the first time. In the third, ‘The Last Enchantments’ (to be published early 2008), he is enjoying his second year at Cardinal College, Oxford with work, politics, rowing, love and friendship and the future?

Simon Watson (1962)

Inspired by the centenary of W.H. Auden’s birth, we have just introduced a web page on the Christ Church website www.chch.ox.ac.uk to publicise books written by old members. Here is a small selection of old member books published recently.

Christ Church memories and reflections
An old Houseman looks back with affection and amusement on his time at the House over 50 years ago. His abiding feeling is one of gratitude for being permitted to experience so much excellence and eccentricity. When he dies, his spirit will assuredly keep flitting back hoping to be permitted to hobnob with the worthies who have gone before. He won’t be framed and put in Hall. He does not deserve it. The text explains why, with delightful illustrations of mishaps by Alexandra Buhler (2005).

John Abecassis-Phillips (1955)
The Christ Church Association’s careers advice scheme

The Christ Church Association’s careers advice scheme has been running for more than 15 years. It gives advice to students on their chosen careers, helps them decide which to choose, and provides contacts across a number of industries and professions, both for vacation work and for jobs. We have recently extended the scope of our work to include old members with established careers who may be looking for a career change or who are returning to work after a career break.

The aims of the scheme are to:
- Provide careers advice to all students
- Enable students to find job placements during the vacation
- Provide advice and contacts to members of the House throughout their careers

The key to all of this is networking. We are able to take advantage of a number of recent developments to provide better networking for members of the House throughout their careers. Through the Christ Church alumni database we know which old members are willing to be contacted and to give careers advice. We also have access to the Association’s year reps.

We have recently expanded the careers advice team to four, bringing in three people to help Tony Burden organise events and coordinate contacts between members of the House.

In addition, we are now liaising with the Oxford University Careers Service based in the Banbury Road.

For undergraduates and recent graduates we run Careers Evenings twice a year (usually May and November) where students have an opportunity to talk about their career choices and ambitions with a number of old members from a range of jobs / professions (finance, public service, media, law, IT etc). These are informal “stand up, mingle and chat” sessions, at the end of which we compile a list of students and arrange appropriate contacts for them.

If you’re willing to provide advice to undergraduates and other members of the House, please let us know who you work for and in which industry / profession. If you’d like careers advice yourself, please contact one of us and we will either give advice based on our own experiences if appropriate, or put you in contact with people who can help.

Profiles of the careers advisors:

TONY BURDEN – whose career has been as a recruitment consultant/headhunter.
Contact on 0207 834 7057 or at roey.burden@btopenworld.com

TONY HART – 25+ years in sales, marketing and business development in the IT, telecoms and media industries, working for major US corporations (Intel, Cisco etc) and small UK companies and high-tech start-ups (RM, Packet Vision etc).
Contact on 07919 443303 or at tony.hart@sbs.ox.ac.uk

SHAAN LIBBY – Shaan currently runs her own consultancy, Shaan Libby & Associates, doing international business development and grants for Biotech / Medical Device / Environmental Technology companies. Prior to setting up on her own, Shaan worked as Vice Consul (Trade) at the British Consulate-General, San Francisco from 2000 to 2005.
Contact on 01865 427 639 or at shaan@shaanlibby.com

KATE HEARD – followed a BA in Modern History at Christ Church with an MA in Art History at the Courtauld Institute in London and a PhD in Medieval Art History at St John's Cambridge. She is now Print Room Supervisor at the Ashmolean Museum, working with the Department of Western Art’s world-class collection of works on paper.
Contact on 07788 862496 or at kate.heard@hotmail.co.uk
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**JUNE 2007**

15 June  
**BOAT CLUB SOCIETY DINNER**  
Christ Church  
Members of the Boat Club Society and their guests are warmly invited to this annual dinner. The cost is £65 to include pre-dinner champagne and dinner in Hall. Wine is available for purchase from the Buttery and the Undercroft will be open for those who wish to continue on with the evening. We can accommodate requests from groups of society members who wish to sit together. Rooms in college are available on a first come, first served basis.  
Contact: Sarah Jacob, 07950 292358  
sarah_jac@yaho.co.uk

21 June  
**GAUDY (1999-2000 MATRICULATES)**  
Christ Church  
Contact: Margaret Heffron, Steward’s Secretary 01865 286580  
margaret.heffron@chch.ox.ac.uk

22-24 June  
**WA: ALDEN CENTENARY CELEBRATION**  
Christ Church  
A weekend celebrating one of Christ Church’s – and England’s – finest wordsmiths with a full programme of discussions, lectures, dramatized readings and musical performances. For more information see page 11.  
Contact: The Steward’s Office 01865 286848  
secretary@chch.ox.ac.uk

7 July  
**BOAT CLUB SOCIETY HENNY DRINKS PARTY**  
Henny-Royal Regatta (4-8 July)  
A Drinks Party for all Christ Church old members and their families at the close of racing (6-8pm) in car parking space AFH of Lion Meadow  
Contact: Sarah Jacob 07950 292358  
sarah_jac@yaho.co.uk

**SEPTEMBER**

9-15 September  
**CONFLICT SERIES CONFERENCE: THE NATURE OF WAR**  
Christ Church  
The sixth conference in the Conflict Series examines war in its various manifestations. Distinguished speakers will be led by Professor Huw Strachan. Members of the House will receive discounted rates.  
Contact: The Steward’s Office 01865 286848  
conference@chch.ox.ac.uk

14-15 September  
**MEETING MINDS: OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND**  
Oxford  
The first of its kind, this is a collegiate University Event to which all Oxford alumni are warmly invited. There will be a varied programme of lectures, panels, activities, tours and a degree ceremony as well as college-based dinners and reunions across the university. The Dean will host a drinks reception for Christ Church old members, followed by Dinner in Hall on Saturday 15 September. The Christ Church Association AGM will take place in the afternoon of Saturday 15 September.  
Contact: Sandra Harrison, Development Secretary 01865 286425  
sandra.harrison@chch.ox.ac.uk

28 September  
**GAUDY (1968-1990 MATRICULATES)**  
Christ Church  
Invitations will be sent out about six weeks in advance.  
Contact: Margaret Heffron, Steward’s Secretary 01865 286580  
margaret.heffron@chch.ox.ac.uk

**OCTOBER**

10-12 October  
**MICHAELMASTERS’ TERMINUS**  
10 October to 1 December  

**NOVEMBER**

8 November  
**YEAR REPRESENTATIVES’ DINNER**  
Christ Church  
The annual meeting and dinner for Christ Church Year Representatives  
Contact: Sandra Harrison, Development Secretary 01865 286525  
sandra.harrison@chch.ox.ac.uk

21-22 November  
**CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION ARTS WEEKEND**  
Christ Church  
Now’s the time to make a date with the calendar of events. Programme will aim to provide a not-too-serious opportunity for old members, their families and friends, to display and discover their artistic and other talents through a range of activities for all ages. Full details will follow in the college newsletter in December, and on www.chch.ox.ac.uk

22-24 November  
**CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION CITY LAW DRINKS PARTY**  
Ashbolt, Broadwalk House, 5 Mill Street, London, EC2A 2HA  
The Dean and Christ Church Law Tutors are hosting a drinks party in the City for all old members in the legal world. The guest speaker will be a notable Harvardian from the law profession.  
Contact: Sandra Harrison, Development Secretary 01865 286525  
sandra.harrison@chch.ox.ac.uk

14 November  
**CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION CITY LAW DRINKS PARTY**  
Meet for the Christ Church Association’s first “Arts Weekend”. The weekend’s programme will aim to provide a not-too-serious opportunity for old members, their families and friends, to display and discover their artistic and other talents through a range of activities for all ages. Full details will follow in the college newsletter in December, and on www.chch.ox.ac.uk

23-30 March  
**SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKEND**  
Christ Church  
The ever-popular annual Special Interest Weekend will be held over this weekend – keep the date free! Old members will receive a discounted rate.  
Contact: The Steward’s Office 01865 286848  
specialinterest@chch.ox.ac.uk

**APRIL**

1 April  
**TRINITY TERM**  
20 April to 14 June  

2-6 April  
**SUNDAY TIMES OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL**  
Christ Church  
After the success of the last two years, the Literary Festival will be held again at Christ Church.  
Contact: The Steward’s Office 01865 286848  
www.sundaytimes-oxfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

**MAY**

3 May  
**CHRIST CHURCH DEGREE DAY**  
This is the annual Christ Church-specific degree day at which Christ Church can present up to 50 candidates.  
Contact: Margaret Heffron, Steward’s Secretary 01865 286580  
margaret.heffron@chch.ox.ac.uk

**JUNE**

8-9 June  
**GAUDY (1961-66 MATRICULATES)**  
Christ Church  
Invitations will be sent out about six weeks in advance.  
Contact: Margaret Heffron, Steward’s Secretary 01865 286580  
margaret.heffron@chch.ox.ac.uk

**JULY**

3 July  
**GAUDY (1999-2000 MATRICULATES)**  
Christ Church  
Contact: Margaret Heffron, Steward’s Secretary 01865 286580  
margaret.heffron@chch.ox.ac.uk

For news and more information about events, please visit our new-look website www.chch.ox.ac.uk