

Editorial

I cannot resist, in introducing this Trinity 2005 edition of Christ Church Matters, congratulating the 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 mens' eight at the Olympics in Athens in 2004. On the subject of rowing, 'Three Housemen 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 Housemen 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 Meadow Building. After wending my unfamiliar way across Tom 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 Meadow Building, where I would be spending the next two years. Blissfully ignorant of the social geography of the House, I did not realize that I had been relegated to the furthest outpost of the college demesne. One step more and I would have been pitching a tent in the Master's 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 Meadow Building. Facing east, the window overlooked part of the Master's garden and Merton. 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 Malta, Edward de Bono.

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



Several friends at LMH allowed us to "borrow" their college's prized canoe called *Pocahontas* snugly berthed on the Cherwell

plovers eggs and Cointreau 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 Wasteland* 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 permeated Meadow 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, Michael Eaton, we hatched a plan to travel by canoe down the river to London without any break. Although none of us had ever come close to white-water canoeing, we were keen to improve on Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* by paddling the 112 miles to Westminster. So far as we knew, this would be a first. Several friends at LMH 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 Thames so that we would not have to fight the strong currents after Richmond. Michael 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 Fleet 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 Meadow side of college with paddles and gear in hand. Unfortunately a groundskeeper spotted our scrambling and reported this transgression to higher authority unbeknownst to us. With mounting excitement

...continued over the page

we made our way down to Folly Bridge where we had moored the canoe overnight.

To make a long story short we paddled steadily downstream for over thirty hours including portages around thirty-three locks. Our shifts at the bow and stern lasted four hours and the man in the middle doled out modest amounts of food and drink and kept our tea or coffee warm on a mountain stove. Distance of time has blurred my memory of the arduous haul. But I well recall a mid-river interview by an enterprising journalist who had hired a small boat near Henley and followed us downstream for half a mile pestering us with questions. Portaging the heavy canoe around all those locks at night and in intermittent rain resulted in some nasty bruises and scrapes. We passed by Eton College on the morning of the glorious fourth before the festivities had begun. As the river gradually broadened below Putney, we felt small and vulnerable whenever tugs and steamboats made large waves that rocked our frail vessel.

Moving more rapidly than expected, we passed under Westminster Bridge almost four hours ahead of our forty-hour schedule. Since we had arranged our reception party for 10 pm, we had to kill time. Disembarking near Waterloo station,

we wandered about and took in a film. Then just before the appointed hour we returned to the canoe and made our way across the river to Westminster pier where we were greeted by a dozen reporters and our companions from the Ruskin School of Art and LMH. The warmth of our reception and the effects of champagne rapidly wiped away any residual fatigue. The somewhat bemused pier-master at Westminster took this event in such good stride that he joined in the champagne toasts. One tabloid reporter ran true to form by showing more interest in where and with whom we were spending the night than in our riverine feat. To his queries I ventured the somewhat fatuous reply that ours was an "experiment in international living" and a "protest against professionalism in pranks."

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 hierarchs back at the House. Shortly after our triumphal return we received a sobering 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 chortle: "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)

Cardinal Sins

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BACK IN 1896, a young Catholic man from Dublin, one of seven children of the biggest baker in Ireland, who had just graduated with a 4th class BA in Jurisprudence from Christ Church, travelled to Athens with his friend Constantine Mano (Balliol 1894). Mano was heavily involved with the organisation of the first modern Olympiad, but it is unlikely that he foresaw the consequences of taking John Pius Boland with him.

On April 6, over breakfast, a Greek gentleman by the name of Kasdagli, asked whether Boland, who was known to be quite a sportsman, would be competing in the tennis competition. Apparently the number of entrants was low. As one does, Boland agreed to enter both the doubles and the singles, and found himself paired with a German called Fritz Traun. Boland had come unprepared, but played in his ordinary shoes and with a tennis racket he had found in the Panhellenic Bazaar. In true Boys' Own style, Boland came out on top, winning both the singles title - against Kasdagli, the very man who had invited Boland to play - and the doubles by two sets to love, on 11 April. Boland became both Ireland's and Britain's first Olympic champion.

Christ Church has not produced large numbers of Olympic sportsmen, but one probably less known is Hugh Edwards who came up to the House 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 coxless pairs, with his Christ Church partner, Lewis Clive, he found himself also taking the place of a sick oarsman 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 medals 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.



Portal was a good shot, and an excellent fly-fisherman. He also maintained a stud, and yachted. In 1935, he accepted the chairmanship of the British Olympic Association. It was through his generosity that Britain sent a large team to the troubled Games of 1936 in Berlin.

In 2004, we came full-circle when Robin Bourne-Taylor, captain of this year's Oxford VIII and President of the University Boat Club, competed in Athens. John Boland's participation in the first modern Games in Athens was one of gentlemanly amateurism, perhaps the most prized aspect of those early Olympiads. Times have changed, and the Games are now a show-case for the greatest of sporting prowess achieved by years of dedication. Long may the House continue to wave the Olympic flag!

JUDITH CURTHOYS, *Archivist*

Birth of the Virgin

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 1751 - 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-barren 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 has now been bought by 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,



Preparatory drawing recently purchased by Christ Church (fig 2).

paving the way for a formal approach in the New Year, Mr Nops, suggested he may be able to help. The Christmas spirit, it seemed, had worked some unexpected magic! Seizing the opportunity, I took him to the gallery to see the painting in question.

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*.

Birth of the Virgin by Corrado Giaquinto (fig 1).

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 Cushing. He studied Russian for a year at the University of Colorado before being assigned to work for Admiral Schurimann in Moscow, and subsequently as his chief of staff when Admiral Schurimann was appointed Director of Naval 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 back 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 Bear*, 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 moaning 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."



Leslie Youngblood

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 'missions' 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 both 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 organised 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 week: 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 organised 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 performances 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 Boulet on 020 7735 2869 or e-mail: valerie.boulet@ovalhouse.com.

Fortune Favours the Bold

IN NOVEMBER 2004, I was accepted into the inaugural Executive MBA (EMBA) class 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 suitable person to speak to. With time running out (the EMBA office needed to know which college I was to apply to) and the firm belief that fortune favours the bold, I left the administrative office and walked across the Quad to Staircase 8. 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's policy on EMBA students was reconsidered, and applications were accepted for the course.

We're now 15 months into the 21-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 of the right people 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, Aston Martin, Rio Tinto and Credit Suisse First Boston. We spend our days in the lecture theatres and our evenings brainstorming each others' 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 throughout Europe. To date, we have been quite fortunate in attracting suitable potential



Mark Carmichael

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 would be financiers.

The Executive MBA (EMBA) at the Said Business School is a modular programme designed for those engaged in professional careers seeking to increase their spectrum of business skills. It is based on the same syllabus as the full-time MBA but is spread out over 14 weekly modules over a 21-month period. This enables students to maintain their full-time employment while earning their Oxford MBA degree.

Mark Carmichael, (2004)

HOUSEMAN IN OXFORD TRIUMPH

The Boat Race this year saw what is becoming a regularly strong Christ Church representation, with David Livingstone sitting at six in the Isis boat and me in the bow seat of the Blue boat. It was a pleasure to be President of the OUBC this year and I have no doubt that the brilliant characters and determination of everyone in the team gave us the winning edge on the day. With a considerable weight advantage going into the race it was clear that the challenge would be for our boat to focus on its' own rowing and perform on the day. The crew did that in a relaxed and confident manner and although pushed fiercely by Cambridge the Oxford strength of rhythm came through to win by a good two lengths. After five years I couldn't have asked for a better way to finish my Boat Race rowing.

Robin Bourne-Taylor (2000)

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 support that exists for the House.

Christ Church is committed to retaining excellence. In an era of diminishing government funding external support has, once more, become an essential part of our funding

mix. It is wonderful to have elicited such generous support over the past few years, both for our Campaign and for the Annual Fund. The Campaign for Christ Church is very much about securing our future, whilst the Annual Fund aims to provide funding for immediate use. We hope that increasing numbers of old members will choose to join their peers in contributing to whatever aspect of Christ Church you hold most dear.

The listing of donors to Christ Church in 2004 on the following pages illustrates the immense support 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.

SUE CUNNINGHAM, Development Director

Biographies at Christ Church

BELINDA JACK, Tutor in French and author of *George Sand: A Woman's Life Writ Large* in discussion with Jonathan Wright, Peter Pulzer Official Student and Tutor in Politics and author of *Gustav Stresemann: Weimar's Greatest Statesman*.

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

JW: You don't have to thank me for talking about Stresemann! But it may come as a shock to some of my old pupils to hear that I have finished it at last.

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 speaking, into a number of phases. Is that right?

JW: Yes. His career was progressing nicely pre-war; he was knocked 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 conclusions 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?

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. One 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: 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 nationalist to European statesman. They matter too in another way. As my writing progressed I became increasingly interested in what made him a politician and why he stuck to it to 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 Disraeli (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: As a literary biographer I am always fascinated by the relationship between the life and the writing and the slippery backwards and forwards movement between the two. Clearly the volume of documentary material which you researched was quite extraordinary. But where did you find evidence of the 'inner life' as it were?

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: 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?

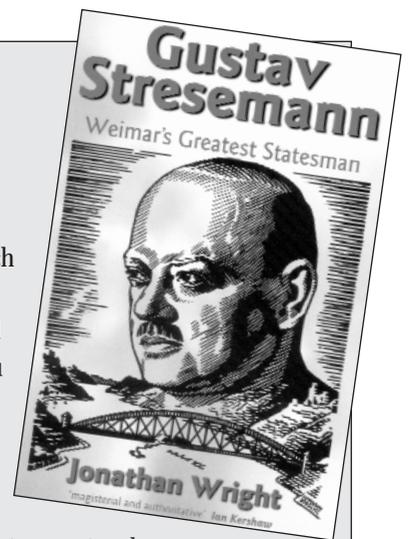
JW: Yes. One example would be the shift in the international situation after 1923 when Britain and the United States were anxious to bring stability to the continent. Stresemann profited by this change but would any German Foreign Minister at the time have followed the same policy? I believe his previous experience did 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 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: Well of course the *bien pensant* 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. Had he 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 a 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.



Christ Church Association News

TRINITY TERM 2005

ISSUE 15

Editorial

This edition brings news of four old members who have made their careers in industry. As this is a slimline edition we may not have the quantity, but check out the quality.

You may also like to check out your year rep. The places are filling up fast but if you are interested in becoming a year rep yourself, do let us know.

You'll also find lurking within this publication an advertisement for a book about Christ Church for which

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.

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981), Editor, Fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com

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. But there is still plenty of opportunity for more Year Reps. Ideally we would like 3 per year. If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact Simon Offen (1986): tel - 01296 653238 or e-mail – Simon.Offen@nationaltrust.org.uk

A Year Rep. is the focal point for the year group. They are asked to do as much as they are able to given the time constraints of modern life. 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
1950	Tony Burden	roey.burden@btopenworld.com
1950	John Ellison	elli255@attglobal.net
1959	Fergus Madden	fergusmadden@doctors.org.uk
1966	Robert Boyle	robert.w.boyle@uk.pwc.com
1966	Adrian Fort	adrianfort@hotmail.com
1968	Haydn Rawstron	hjrboss@hrl.vianw.co.uk
1968	Nick Nops	nick.nops@hpcgroup.co.uk
1973	Nick Alexander	nick.alexander@btinternet.com
1973	David Binsted	dcbinsted@aegislimited.co.uk
1980	Jon Carley	jdfcarley@chchbc.org
1981	Catherine Blaiklock	blaiklock220499@yahoo.co.uk

1981	Fiona Holdsworth	fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com
1983	Simon Firth	simon.firth@linklaters.com
1983	Andrew Green	andrewgreen@bpipoly.com
1984	Pollyanna Deane	pdeane@blg.co.uk
1984	Jessica Pulay	pulay@ebrd.comj
1985	Kimberley Littlemore	guy.littlemore@virgin.net
1986	Simon Offen	Simon.Offen@nationaltrust.org.uk
1987	Daniel Moorhead	Seamus.Moorhead@ubs.com
1987	Vicky Cunningham	vickyphoenix@yahoo.com
1989	Stephen Brien	stephen.brien@mercermc.com
1989	Adam Walker	adam@thewalkers.fsworld.co.uk
1990	Tony Pastor	tony.pastor@isntv.co.uk
1995	Kate Heard	kate.heard@ashmus.ox.ac.uk
1998	Sophie Biddell	sophie.biddell@chch.ox.ac.uk
1999	Tom Greggs	greggsthomas@hotmail.com
1999	Dan Rumney	danrumney@warppmail.net
1999	Ben Fasham	fashamp@hotmail.com
2000	Sebastian Falk	sebfalk@hotmail.com
2000	Xenia Iwaszko	xiwaszko@law.harvard.edu
2000	Michael Taylor	michael.taylor@chch.ox.ac.uk
2001	Stephanie Appleyard	sjappleyard@qinetiq.com
2001	James Blythe	james.blythe@planetwave.net
2001	Annabel Charnock	a_chnock@yahoo.co.uk
2001	Rebecca Clarey	don_clarey@yahoo.co.uk
2001	Amy Crossley	mailmeamy@yahoo.co.uk
2001	Greg Foster	gregfoster_is@hotmail.com
2002	Benedikt Krings	benedikt.krings@chch.ox.ac.uk
2002	Atli Stannard	atli.stannard@chch.ox.ac.uk
2003	Charlotte Jepps	charlotte.jepps@chch.ox.ac.uk

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

APOLOGY TO MICHAEL COOPER (1983)

Association News apologises to Michael Cooper for printing the wrong "now" photo of him in the last edition. The man featured in the old members in politics feature instead of Michael, was his boss, Johnston McNeill, Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency. Sources close to Mr McNeill say that he has a strong sense of humour, and was tickled to see the photograph but felt Michael may have deliberately

got his own back for previous tricks he had played on him. Readers will be pleased to know that Mr McNeill has retained his sense of humour, Michael has retained his job and the Editor of this newsletter has retained the correct photograph. The real Michael Cooper is now revealed.



Letter to the Editor

I'm afraid Simon Offen'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, we being self and wife and son Alistair (1988) also plus wife, thus representing both oldies and younger generation. We found the trip a very welcome alternative to the garden parties. More please!

Sincerely, ROBIN SAWERS (1953)

TRIENNIAL OVERVIEW OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY CHRIST CHURCH IN WHICH OLD MEMBERS MIGHT LIKE TO PARTICIPATE 2005 – 2007

2005	2006	2007
<p>First Quarter</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Vacation Job Placements Association Meeting Careers Evening 28th March – Supper, Wine Tasting, and Waddesdon pre-opening preview 31st March – 2nd April Oxford North American Reunion (New York). Christ Church dinner on 1st April. <i>Hilary Term dates: 15th January – 11th March</i></p>	<p>Vacation Job Placements Careers Evening 29th March – 1st April – Special Interest Weekend <i>Hilary Term dates: 14th January – 10th March</i></p>
<p>Second Quarter</p> <p>18th June – Commem. Ball 23rd June – Gaudy (1947-53) <i>Trinity Term dates: 24th April – 18th June</i></p>	<p>6th – 9th April – Special Interest Weekend: Food & History Options 24th – 25th June – Women's 25th anniversary celebrations. 22nd June – Gaudy (1954-58) <i>Trinity Term dates: 23rd April – 17th June</i></p>	<p>21st June – Gaudy (1959-62) 23rd June Proposed Summer Event – Garden Party or a Sports Day – possibly with an evening event (1970s) <i>Trinity Term dates: 22nd April – 16th June</i></p>
<p>Third Quarter</p> <p>1st July – Chemists' dinner 4th – 9th Sept.- Conflict Series conference: War at Sea in the Age of Sail – Trafalgar Bicentenary 5th Sept – AGM and Old Members' day at the conference 30th Sept – Gaudy (1980-83)</p>	<p>3rd – 8th Sept - Conflict Series Conference 23rd Sept - Day School and Christ Church Association Dinner and AGM 29th Sept – Gaudy (1984-87)</p>	<p>Proposed City Event Committee Meeting AGM and Association Dinner (incl. Family Programme) 9th – 14th Sept – Conflict Series Conference 28th Sept – Gaudy (1988-90)</p>
<p>Fourth Quarter</p> <p>Careers Evening Young Persons' Event (1990s) – London 9th Nov Year Reps' Meeting & Dinner in Hall <i>Michaelmas Term dates: 9th October – 3rd December</i></p>	<p>Careers Evening Proposed Legal Event Year Reps' Dinner & Meeting <i>Michaelmas Term dates: 8th October – 2nd December</i></p>	<p>Careers Evening Year Reps' Dinner & Meeting <i>Michaelmas Term dates: 7th October – 1st December</i></p>

Book Review

INDELIBLE MEMORIES Playingfields and Battlefields by Tony Pawson (1946)

Tony Pawson's 14th 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 Clive 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 Oxford's 5-4 win in 1948, rated the best Varsity match ever for excitement and quality with each side having several future amateur internationals, including Tony. It was however the Pegasus experience on which he concentrates with this Oxford and Cambridge team twice winning the FA Amateur Cup at Wembley before full 100,000 crowds.

When taking his entrance exam from Winchester College in 1940 his viva question in virulent tones was "Will you please explain why it is that your father and two uncles came to the House, but your older brother has gone to Magdalen?" The response "Am I my

brother's keeper?" pleased the Dean and helped confirm entry. But following Dunkirk, the volunteering age was lowered to 19 and it was six years before he could take it up.

Half the book covers his experiences and personal thoughts while fighting with the Rifle Brigade in the 6th Armoured Division throughout the Tunisian and Italian campaigns, both of which ended in the mass surrenders of over 250,000 Axis troops, the largest number to surrenders to us anywhere while the war lasted.

The sporting chapters cover the three sports in which he played to international level. In cricket he helped the MCC beat South Africa in 1947, captained the East of England against the West, and played

for the Gentlemen against the Players in that annual Lord's fixture. He is currently Kent's longest surviving cap, cap 111 at age 83. One chapter also sets the record straight about the unjustly maligned Oxford cricketer and England captain Douglas Jardine and the controversial misnamed 'Body Line' Ashes series. He explains why at the time the two most prestigious former Australian Test captains, and the most respected cricket writer of the day Harry Altham, who was out covering the series for The Observer, all agreed contrary to current wisdom that it was Australia, not Jardine and his team, who were unsporting and

dishonourable.

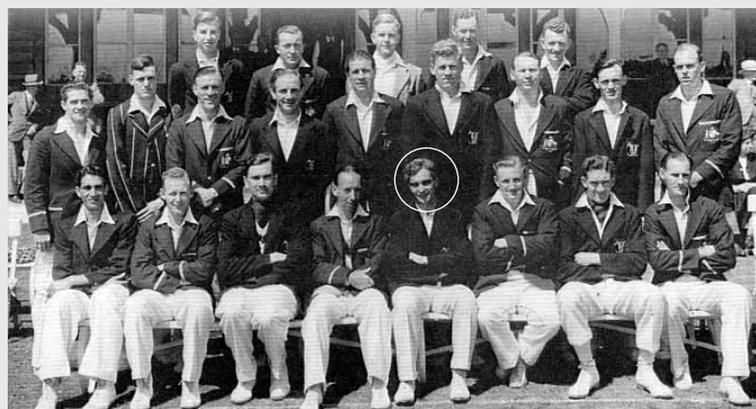
In soccer he became the only man since before the war to have played as an amateur in both First Division soccer (for Charlton) and County Cricket. He also won 12 amateur international caps and was a member of the Great Britain squad for the 1952 Olympics.

Included also are fishing memories. In 1984 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 246 pages plus around 120 pictures. It is available to all connected with Christ Church at £12 (shop price £20) plus £3.00 p & p if ordered direct from Tony Pawson OBE, Manor House, Chilcomb, Winchester, Hants SO21 1HR



Captaining Oxford v Australia 1948

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 Rothern (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 her 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 no strong 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 course work on the Age of Reason in France which demanded a similar approach."



Does Simon have any regrets about his choice of career? "Absolutely not. I can thoroughly recommend a career with a multi-national, especially Unilever. Lots of intellectual challenges, a dynamic and creative environment and a truly global scope."

Simon Rothern graduated in Modern Languages. He started his career with Rolls-Royce Aero Engines in IT, then worked in the Pharmaceutical industry and in Advertising before joining Unilever as a Brand Manager in 1974. He has spent 20 years of his 30 year career in Unilever working abroad in Europe, Latin-America and the United States. His current position is as Senior Vice-President of Unilever's Foods business in Europe.

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. Intellectually it had 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 drug: 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 use the method of learning that Oxford helped me with – listening and asking questions, analysing different sources, working out what it means and the implications.

I've also found it essential to get on with people from all walks of life, and 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 stead. 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, and 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

What...no MBA? Stephen Cunliffe (1964)

Oxford opened my eyes. When I came up to Christ Church in 1964, my horizons were instantly broadened, far beyond the provincial point of view of suburban Manchester. I realized there was a big world out there, and I wanted to be part of it.

Travel was an obvious response. I spent long vacations driving to Istanbul and back, or climbing in the Swiss Alps. With a second in Modern History I was able to embark on a career in international business, motivated more by 'international' than by business. My first destinations weren't very glamorous; behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe in



the late 60s was a bleak place to be, but also in its own way another eye-opener.

Over time I became more serious about business. It appealed to my competitive instincts, and I reckoned that if I was going to compete I might as well 'play in the big leagues.' So I set my sites on America, and arrived here in my mid thirties after a few years in Canada. First in Boston, then Chicago, and then to Los Angeles where I joined my current employer.

Years later I find myself running one of Nestle's largest subsidiaries, a sizeable company in its own right. Conventionally, it's been a successful career, but there is a price to pay. Thousands of employees and billions of dollars of business create a weight of responsibility that cannot really ever be set down.

When I am asked by eager young trainees about my own qualifications, I am only half-joking as I tell them my first and only management training was as cox of the House eight... "I'll give the orders, you do the work!" But in truth I have come to realize that there are

fundamental similarities between the study of history and the practice of business leadership. Both involve the synthesis of large amounts of loosely connected information, the drawing of conclusions, and then the convincing communication of those conclusions.

Business has changed, mostly for the better, over the almost forty years that I have been part of it. Teamwork and consensus play a larger role; there is more emphasis on leadership than on management. The formerly glamorous transatlantic route that used to form most of 'international' business is now just one part of a truly global business world. What has not changed yet is the preponderance of white males in the top positions of global companies. But we will soon be going the way of the dinosaurs. I occasionally teach at the Kellogg Business School in Chicago, ranked by the Economist as the best in the world. Less than half of the students are white, and less than half of them are male. *Vive la difference!*

Stephen Cunliffe is the President and CEO, Nestle Prepared Foods Company.

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 Marks 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 launching 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. Having 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 largely practical based career has tested my adaptability and resilience. I now believe I am a more well-rounded person, but I do still enjoy indulging in my 'Oxfordisms' frequently!

Studying at Oxford made me extremely disciplined and able to manage my time and priorities well. This is a skill I have found vital since moving into the retail industry. I have also been taught how to analyse information quickly, logically and efficiently and this skill has become



an important part of my management role at M&S. Unfortunately I haven't been able to use the specifics of my Geography degree to assist me at M&S, and whenever anyone finds out my degree choice their faces usually show their confusion as to how I ended up in retail! However, my time at the House allowed me to develop my management skills in ways I never realised, through managing the workload, the broad spectrum of people I encountered and having 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 Marks and Spencer Graduate Management Trainee

Christ Church and the making of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography



Ivon Asquith



Colin Matthew

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-*History Today* award for the promotion of history.

Christ Church's association with this vast undertaking deserves notice. Ivon Asquith (Student 1989-2004), managing director of Oxford University Press's academic division, was a key figure in the initial planning of the new dictionary and served on its supervisory committee from inception to publication; the late Colin Matthew (Student 1976-1978; Lecturer in Gladstone Studies 1970-1994) was founding editor from 1992 until his untimely death in 1999. On taking office Colin identified his chief task as being to mobilise and coordinate the expertise of the worldwide community of learning. He did so with remarkable effect: about 10,000 authors contributed, and these included about 1,800 based in North America, and 400

from Australia and New Zealand. As a reviewer in the *London Review of Books* observes, 'the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* has refreshed and fortified our sense of what can still be meant by the collective endeavour of "scholarship"'.

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-1500 entries on art and architecture. Colin Matthew led from the front, contributing many new entries and revisions of existing ones, the former including Gladstone, Asquith, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, and John Buchan. Christopher Haigh writes on, among others, Richard Marshall (or Martial), dean of Christ Church from 1553 to 1559; castigated by some sixteenth-century critics as a religious turncoat or 'chameleon', Marshall 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 Thomas's contributions include Macaulay who, the entry concludes, would have taken as a compliment Matthew 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 St Augustine (by Henry Mayr-Harting) through to David Lewis (by Alan Bowman), J. I. M. Stewart (by R. F. S. Hamer), George Series (by Derek

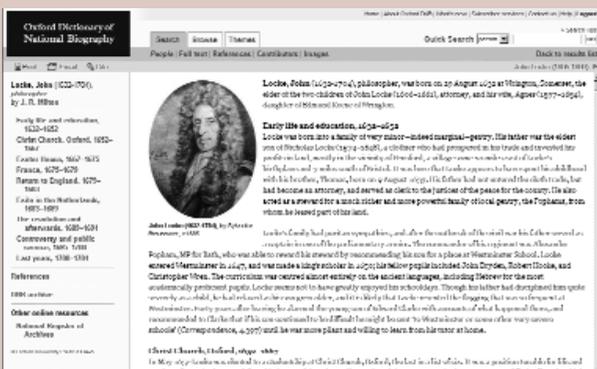
Stacey) and Eric Heaton (by R. W. Truman). The chronological range of J. F. A. Mason's articles encompasses one of William the Conqueror's vassals Roger de Montgomery, first earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1094) - after whose surname the Welsh county was named - and four nineteenth-century Deans of Christ Church (Smith, Hall, Liddell and Paget). Another Dean, Thomas Gaisford, is reappraised 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 Curthoys's subjects include Edward Hannes, the Christ Church-educated physician who in 1700 attended, with fatal consequences, the Stuart heir William, duke of Gloucester. Hugh Trevor-Roper wrote on Thomas Sutton, founder of the London Charterhouse, Peter Hinchliff on bishop Colenso, Geoffrey Bill on Claude Jenkins, and Robert Blake on Lord Cherwell. An especial poignancy now attaches to the magnificent entry on Alfred – one of seven articles contributed by Patrick Wormald, whose death occurred in the week of the dictionary's launch.

Christ Church also figures largely in 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 Matthew (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 Matthew's supervision. He went on to edit (jointly with Michael Brock) the two volumes of the History of the University of Oxford covering 1800-1914, in which Christ Church plays a major part, and since the project's inception has been a research editor on the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

MARK CURTHOYS (1978)

Left: Screenshot from the on-line edition



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 16th March. I had received from the House several leaflets announcing a variety of study programmes of different durations. I was attracted to the Day School, entitled *World War II, Unfinished Business*, for several reasons: it was short; it dealt with a vitally important period of the lives of both me and my wife, wartime soldier and Wren respectively; and we had some previous stimulating experience of two of the four lecturers.

The first lecturer, Andrew Roberts, we had heard before compare and contrast Wellington and Napoleon. This time it was the turn of Churchill and Hitler. We had always thought them to be opposites, but the areas of similarity proved to be most interesting.

Robin Niellands gave a very fair balanced account of the moral issues raised by the Allied bombing offensive. He augmented his argument by presenting four members of the RAF's heavy bomber force, whose testimony was graphic and moving. Our casualty rates were horrific and the endurance and courage of those crews came over starkly. The jury is still out on this issue.

We must admit to being amongst those who believed, thanks to the recent revelations about Bletchley Park, that our Intelligence Services in WW II had the edge over the Germans. Col. John Hughes-Wilson steadily

demolished this conceit. His revelations of German Intelligence and also of failures in British Intelligence painfully redressed our perspectives. We found his talk depressing but salutary.

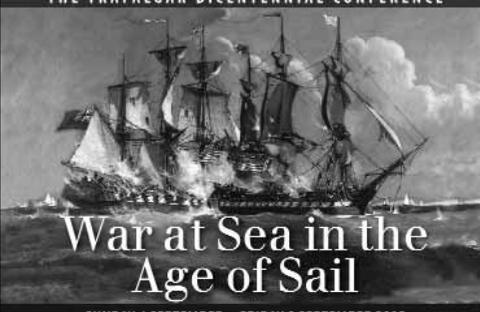
I had already read the major part of Correlli Barnett's contention that in both World Wars, WW II in particular; the British Empire was on balance a serious liability to Britain. For a son of a career-long member of the ICS, proud of our unique empire, this came as another shock. Indeed, Prof Barnett clearly hoped he would provoke protest, but there was little of that after his talk.

At the end of each talk there was ample time for questions and contributory opinions. Also there was an interval for refreshments in both morning and afternoon, giving an opportunity to talk privately to the lecturers and, if one wished, to buy copies of their books personally autographed.

This fascinating day was meticulously organised. Everyone we met was most friendly and included a fair proportion of old House members (though only two were our contemporaries!) The Dean, Christopher Lewis, extends an exceptionally warm and informal welcome to old members of Christ Church. Our experiences of this conference would encourage us to come back to the House again.

DICK GOULD (1946)

THE TRAFALGAR BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE



War at Sea in the Age of Sail

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2005

Christ Church, Oxford and the National Maritime Museum have combined to bring together the finest speakers from Britain and the USA, in a conference on the enduring subject of life – and war – at sea in the age of sail.

During this five-day residential conference you will hear the most distinguished international speakers and participate in a diverse cultural and hospitality programme. For a brochure with detailed information please contact:

War at Sea: In the Age of Sail
The Steward's Office,
Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP
Tel: +44 (0)1865 276174/286848
Email: waratsea@chch.ox.ac.uk



Notices

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A CHRIST CHURCH LODGE?

It's called Aedes Christi, was founded in 1989 and is open to all male matriculated members of the House. We meet and dine four times a year – thrice in London (2 minutes from Barbican station) and once in Oxford (dining in the House). If you have heard alarming stories of secrecy, oaths or corrupt practices within Masonry forget them for they are no part of English Masonry, which probably started during the Civil War to bring together in a safe environment old friends who had been separated by the War. Secret passwords were used to make them safe and discussion of religion or politics was banned. Our meetings take a little time enacting our innocent ceremonies before we dine together. Our aim is to enjoy the company and conversation and collect alms for charities, especially those connected with the House. We meet as late as possible – normally 6.20pm – and we finish by 10pm. We are effectively a dining club for members of the House, and we enjoy ourselves particularly because of our wide ranges of occupations and ages. If you are already a Mason come and join; if you are not a Mason let us make you one. Please make all expressions of interest to the Secretary, Richard Bates, 11A Richmond Way, London W12 8LQ – email: secretary@aedeschristi.org. Further information can be found at: <http://www.aedeschristi.org>.

ASSOCIATION AGM AND DINNER WITH A DIFFERENCE – MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

For the first time, the Association AGM and dinner will be combined with a taster of one of the popular in-House conferences, 'War at Sea'. We hope that you would like to join us. The programme for the day will be:

- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.15pm Association Committee Meeting
- 4.00pm Tea
- 4.15pm Lecture (Free)
- 6.00pm AGM
- 6.30pm Drinks

7.00pm Dinner in Hall with conference delegates
Lunch: £12 Dinner: £20

An all inclusive ticket to include full day at the conference, commencing at 9.15am, lunch and dinner: £92.00

WANTED... MORE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A number of Association committee members are due to retire this year so we are looking for dynamic, energetic and enthusiastic members to fill the gaps. If you feel you fit the bill and are interested, please contact our Chairman Simon Offen by telephone: 01296 653238 – or by e-mail: Simon.Offen@nationaltrust.org.uk.

CAPTURING THE HABITS OF THE HOUSE

Christ Church has teamed up with Third Millennium Publishing of London in an exciting venture to produce a book about the House. This will be neither a history of the college and cathedral, nor a book solely designed to adorn a coffee table. It is intended to be a stimulating anthology of articles, vignettes and images capturing the history, habits and harmonies of the House. We hope that as you dip into the volume, it will not only serve to rekindle happy memories but unmask facts and stories about Christ Church you never knew.

We would love you to play a part in the book. You may like to contribute by sending memories, reflections or anecdotes from your own college days. You may have photographs, cartoons or other memorabilia. All contributions should be sent to Fiona by October 2005. Or you may simply wish to subscribe. By subscribing you will pay considerably less than the published price, receive your copy ahead of publication and have your name included in a special index with all those who will have made publication possible.

More information can be found in the brochure, or else contact the Managing Editor, Fiona Holdsworth by e-mail: fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com or by phone: 07802 751184.

CALLING ALL WOMEN

ASSOCIATION NEWS - WOMEN'S SPECIAL EDITION

The next edition of Association News will mark the 25th anniversary of the entry of women into Christ Church. We are looking for contributions from women over the 25 years, or possibly from men, which could be appropriate for inclusion in the edition. So if you would like your reminiscences included, send them to the editor, Fiona Holdsworth e-mail: fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com before the end of July.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Since their arrival in 1980, women have been making their mark at the House. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of women at Christ Church, a weekend of events is planned on 24-25 June 2006. But we need your help to make it a success!

At present, on the Saturday afternoon a number of members of the House will talk about what it was like being a woman at Christ Church, and what they have done since, with opportunities for informal networking with other old members from all walks of life. For sporty (and also not-so-sporty) types we'd like to provide the chance to get back into a team; and if you're a creative type whose work is sold or published we'd like to see it. The highlight of the weekend will be a unique, women-only dinner in Hall, possibly followed by a disco – and on Sunday we'll host a number of activities for partners and families too.

If you'd like to join the working group helping to shape the celebrations, or if you can help us pull parts of the event or sports teams together, or can suggest possible speakers, your help would very welcome. No one knows better than you who's out there and what they're doing now. By sharing that knowledge we can make this a celebration to remember!

For more information please contact Emma Turnbull on 01865 286598 or email: emma.turnbull@chch.ox.ac.uk.