Editorial

My predecessors as co-editors of the College, or if you prefer, the House part of Christ Church Matters, have emphasized such themes as the College as community, the idiosyncratic views of Tutors and Professors, (particularly when the prospect of retirement gives them the moment to express them), the amazing interest of scholarly research of various kinds, our funding uncertainties, which seem to be borne politic and personal, and of course the great importance of our Old Members, who are the basis for a strong sense of historical continuity, and who encourage us with their welcome expressions of gratitude, and their interestingly anecdotal accounts of their time here. So our editorial policy is not likely to change.

Academics in Oxford have the great challenge of attempting to find, by the fairest means possible, the cleverest students of their generation. If we do that, we can continue to have the great pleasure of teaching men and women with an amazing range of talents, which are far from being confined to those of academic performance. It's not surprising then, that through journals like this, we can share our common interest in reading about the activities of our graduates long after the three or four years of the reading, writing, – and dialogue with tutors – which lead to an Oxford degree are over. In various ways, the conversation can continue. It is a great pleasure for the members of the present Governing Body to be in touch with people who are so very interesting.

Christopher Butler
Tutor in English & Co-Editor

First Impressions of Christ Church

I was once in Green Park underground station standing by a ticket machine which was experiencing some form of difficulty. An official came along, banged on the machine and shouted ‘Jack’, at which the front opened and Jack emerged. There was applause.

My first impression of Christ Church has been of a place which people see as ancient, beautiful, venerable and perhaps somewhat inactive, whereas in reality all kinds of creative and indeed human activities go on behind the façade. Buildings are significant and many people have an affection for them, yet the purposeful community which flourishes here must claim priority.

We moved from St Albans (where I was Dean of the cathedral) in mid September and are now well settled at the corner of Tom Quad. ‘We’ includes Rhiona, my wife, Hugh, our seventeen-year-old son, eight chickens and four guinea-fowl; two other children have more or less left home. We have inherited from the Drurys a cat, a thorough and amusing hand-over and some sharp tools in the Deanery workshop.

I have made another discovery, something which is obvious to everyone who reads Christ Church Matters, namely that the boundaries of the House are wide and hard to define. They include 7,500 Old Members, a number of Friends and then also many families of current members who have just begun to receive this magazine. Just about my first duty was to speak at a Gaudy for a recent group of Old Members, those who left about ten years ago. What they said and what many others have written, shows that there is a context of strong support for the College. One person who wrote was over the moon when he expressed his gratitude for being included in an event here and was told ‘But you are one of us’.

There are current and future challenges on a number of fronts, including our response to the White Paper on Higher Education, but I can report that the College is in good health and feeling robust about its future and that of the University.

I look forward to meeting Old Members and Friends of the House.

Christopher Lewis
Dean of Christ Church

Cardinal Sins

Historically, undergraduates at Christ Church often resorted to petitions to make their voices heard. An example that Members might remember was the one handed into the Censors in 1968 campaigning for the preservation of the grass in Tom Quad against the encroachments of the motor car. The tale of the undergraduates’ success is recorded in the 2002 Annual Report. Some petitions have met with failure, others with repercussions beyond their original intent.

In 1643, the Students (who were not, of course, the GB then) complained that their 9oz daily allowance of bread was insufficient. They were reprimanded for being greedy at this ‘time of dearth’ by no lesser men than the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. Forty-five years later, on 25 January 1641, another petition asked the Dean and Chapter for an improvement in the Students’ allowance.

Forty-five years later, on 25 January 1641, another petition asked the Dean and Chapter for an improvement in the Students’ allowance. The prices that they paid for their food and drink, wood and coal, were fixed against the price of corn in Oxford market. As grain prices rose with the onset of civil war, the cost of living at Christ Church was rising daily, and the Students felt that their stipends, fixed for decades, were not keeping pace. The Civil War and Commonwealth seems to have been a great period for petitioning, perhaps the national mood of discontent had percolated through the College walls.

In 1658, with the Civil War in full swing, and with the King and Court in residence at Christ Church, the Students once more berated the Dean and Chapter for reducing their commons to one meal a day ‘farre below what they conceive as their due’ especially as ‘the greatest part of them [were] in Armes’. Seven years later, they were asking for corn rents to be more equally distributed to provide better stipends for college curates and improved accommodation for themselves.

In 1651 there were complaints that stipends were not being paid on time and, just before the Restoration, in 1659, the Students petitioned for canoniages to be filled by Students and for the restoration of sermons in Latin.

But the petition which had perhaps the most dramatic effects for Christ Church prompted the celebrated ‘Bread and Butter Row’ of 1865. The food and drink that undergraduates consumed was purchased wholesale by the butler, the manceiple, and the cook wholesale, who then charged the students whatever price they felt they could get away with. The butler was making a 60% profit on the market price of bread and butter. Cost was not the only issue; according to the 108 undergraduates who signed the petition of 4 March 1865, the quality of dinners and the beer were well below par. Auditors were called in to investigate, but the results were unsatisfactory; the report presented to the Dean only dealt with the method of accounting. The issue reached the press, correspondence appeared in The Times and other London papers (and was soon published in pamphlet form, a copy of which survives in the archive) – largely because one of the prime instigators of the petition was the eldest son of the proprietor of The Times and, like so many small things that go public, the row took on bigger proportions than one suspects that the undergraduates intended.

The debate became entangled with the wider issue of the constitution of the College. In its original intent, the petition of 4 March was successful; in December 1865, the Censors and the Treasurer recommended the creation of the office of Steward, the remuneration of the catering staff by fixed salaries, and the fixing of the cost of dinner. On 11 December, the Treasurer, Robert Faussett, was elected Steward. The ‘Bread and Butter Row’ had become, though, more than just a dispute over the cost of lunch; it was a crucial factor in the reorganisation of Christ Church’s whole constitution.

Judith Curthoys
Archivist
We are all familiar with the stereotypical image of angelic boy choristers, dressed in cassocks and surplices, peering innocently over the edge of the choir stalls. As for the ethereal sounds they make, Old Members of the College will recall hearing them as punctuations of their daily routine at Christ Church, early in the morning for those who lived in Meadow Buildings throughout the day for those in St. Aldate's, or possibly at Evensong time, crossing Tom Quad before dinner. These mysterious sounds are built into the fabric of Christ Church; they have been at the heart of its life since its foundation. But you may be surprised to discover what lies behind them and what is involved in a typical year for a Christ Church chorister these days.

When William Walton, probably our most famous former Christ Church chorister, wrote to his mother about his experiences here, his childish economy of language touching revealed an enthusiasm for singing in the Cathedral which is felt by most choristers. 'On Friday we had a full practise[s]. It rained all day. We had a game yesterday. I had a solo in Arnold in F. The Dean preached this morning. We are having “When Jesus was born” Mendelssohn. I think this is all the news this week. With much love, Billy.' He would probably recognise the current routine consisting of daily morning rehearsals in the Chapter Parlour, daily Evensong in the Cathedral, and moreover he would even recognise much of the repertoire, music by Byrd, Palestrina, Bach, Mozart and Haydn. For many of our boys, school lessons are an evil necessity to be endured between bouts of singing, and no doubt it was the same for Walton.

What he would not recognise would be the extraordinary range of additional activities which now spread the name of Christ Church throughout the world and which give the choristers unforgettable cultural experiences. Last year started in Finland, where the choir was the star attraction in the Lahjo Organ Festival, singing music by the Beatles in the town square and Britten in the festival's final concert. Despite a concert the following day in the magnificent Helsinki Cathedral, the boys were still able to fit in a glorious harbour trip. Their sudden enthusiasm for washing caused by the novelty of their daily encounters with the sauna was, of course, only a temporary aberration, as every parent can imagine!

The choir was boarding a plane again in November, this time bound for Paris to sing concerts in Notre Dame and l'Eglise St. Roch, taking advantage of the BBC broadcast of the recording of Christmas music to accompany the recording sessions. Last year this was revealed as an exploration of the spirit of Christmas music to accompany the recording of Christmas music. However, another source of excitement which is a regular feature of the life of a Christ Church chorister is recording and broadcasting. This year has been no exception. The first of two BBC broadcasts featured a newly commissioned work by Robert Saxton, a setting of the Alternative Canticles which tested the skill of the choir to its limits. The other broadcast included Janaček's dramatic setting of The Lord's Prayer, scored for solo tenor, choir, harp and organ. The choir sang this in the original Czech, for which there was specialist language coaching.

The 20th-century theme dominated CD recording this year. The choristers completed a CD of Britten's music for children by recording A Ceremony of Carols and the Missa Brevis, having already recorded The Golden Vanity and Children's Crusade last summer. Britten's genius at writing for children in an unpatronising way gives them a powerful affinity with his music. His vocabulary is technically demanding and emotionally sophisticated, but it stretches the imagination so that young people are coaxed into achieving new heights of musicianship. This CD has just been released. [SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS] By contrast the challenge presented by the music of Janáček (the other CD recording project) was quite different. Familiarity with the language was a priority of course, as was an exploration of the spirit behind the music. This is strongly influenced by folk idioms and an almost primeval religious fervour, resulting in music of striking dramatic force. Television recording makes very different demands. Here the priority is to achieve perfection in the visual medium, whilst not compromising sound quality of course. Usually this involves recording the sound first and then shooting the film with the choir singing to playback – much harder than it sounds! The choristers' regular appearances on TV have made them extremely professional in these recording sessions. Last year this was revealed in several different contexts. First there was a recording of Christmas music to accompany the Dean's series on Channel 5. Then music was recorded for inclusion in a programme about Robert Hooke, whose tercentenary was celebrated this year. Finally, the choristers combined forces with the Oxfordshire County Music Service percussionists for a rare performance of Britten's Children's Crusade. This powerful work, using Hans Keller's translation of Brecht's poem of the same title, combines a highly complex linear musical language with an oriental exoticism in the use of percussion. The programme will be shown on BBC2 next year.

Such is a typical year for a Christ Church chorister, but of course, there is much more to it than this. There are the school lessons, the instrumental lessons, the sport, the scholarship exams and the endless, endless services and sermons! All of which amounts to an incredibly full life. I am often asked how we create the Christ Church sound? In Ben Okri's novel The Famished Road an African father speaks to his child: “There are human beings who are small, but if you see you will notice that their spirits are ten thousand feet wide”. Ultimately it is this spiritual resource, at its most touching and powerful in children, which gives the choir its character. The sound is inseparable from the distinctiveness of the individual singers, and it is this which repeatedly strikes those who hear the choir. The music profession is full of ex-Christ Church choristers who can attest to this experience. A couple of years ago a boy wrote to me shortly after leaving the choir: “thank you for changing my life”, he said.

STEPHEN DARLINGTON
Organist and Tutor in Music
Coming back to going head and (almost) winning at Henley

Less well-tempered rowers than before, we are the First Eight of 1958, gathered of a June Saturday lunch to conjure up the memories of going head and almost winning at Henley.

We had the stuff of success, three Blues, going head and almost winning at Henley.

Saturday lunch to conjure up the memories of Less well-tempered rowers than before, we are

The crowd seemed out of Edwards, coach of the Blue Boat as our coach. We began that Eights week forty five years ago in third place, bumped Merston on first night, then The Queens second night, and rowed over in solitary majesty third and fourth. The ritual wetting of our cox seemed preordained by his name – Philip Wetton! – who had his revenge by dousing most of us. After burning the ceremonial shell by Meadows, we were elevated at the Bump Supper like victorious Greeks returning after Troy to the High Table where fellow rower Tarquin Olivier anointed us with shaken champagne.

Arriving at Henley several days before the racing, life in our spacious, rented Thames Valley house assumed a boisterous monasticism. Meals appeared mysteriously and we all slept in a huge room on rented cots. When we were visited by the coach of Jesus College, Cambridge, (head of their river and our eventual opponent in the final) who revealed impishly that he had an American in his crew, “Jumbo” immediately introduced me as “our American.” I never did ascertain whether I was meant to act like a noble savage or shaman or secret weapon!

Churchill was right - that Henley was a “beautiful pageant of English life,” a scene drawn from Brideshead or The Oxford Book of English Stereotypes. Superannuated rowers, nautical Falstaffs satirizing themselves in white blazers and childish caps, they were armed with women under broad hats like birds about to take flight. Now we have succumbed to the charm of being their reincarnations!

We competed in the Ladies’ Plate, then restricted to Oxford and Cambridge colleges and Trinity College, Dublin. As in all elimination contests, winning is less important than avoiding defeat which fosters a strange comradeship between opponents. Getting to the start requires padding down the course in reverse and crews sense each other in the fecund silence.

While the hour-long seconds pass, there sometimes passes a polite “Have a good row,” though I was inclined to add sotto voce “but not too good!” The first three races against St. John’s (Oxford), St. John’s (Cambridge), and Pembroke (Cambridge, the reigning champion) followed a curiously similar pattern, in each we got behind but pulled back and finally won.

In the final our opponent was Jesus, head of the river at Cambridge, whose coach had visited us. Ever-wise and sensitive to omens, “Jumbo” warned us that the Steward in charge of scheduling always designated what promised to be the best race of the day at 3 pm just after lunch on the Saturday. It was us! But, unlike the previous races, “Jumbo” would not predict this one. We paddled with deliberate stateliness down the course to gentlemanly shouts of “Have a good row, House”. The crowd noise faded gradually until we were alone with our opponents, the stake boats, the starting boat … and our own jumbled thoughts. The gentle Thames countryside almost belied our race and made the whole affair seem a fantasy. But the incantation was finally pronounced and we sprang to an uncharacteristic length’s lead, lost it by the mile post, then they pulled a length ahead and we responded but not enough and they won by a deck-length.

These facts were scrambled, however, by the drama. What began with the starter’s clear words against a pregnant silence grew louder and louder until the whole affair seems a fantasy. But the peremptory incantation was finally pronounced and we responded. For a few hours we disdained Heraclitus’ dictum that we could never return to the same river twice.

Now is then, then is now. For a few hours we disdained Heraclitus’ dictum that we could step only once into a moving stream. We are mostly there (except for stroke “Hoofy” Lander, deceased, and cox Philip Wetton). Except me, all are with wives who are all English except two. For how long have we been so long ago? Above all, allies in the recent conflict and uninvaded, we had been emboldened by our shared victory. As a young American, British veterans had often recounted tales of Yanks during their “good war.”

Above all, we had been privileged, all public school except for me (but I had been at Princeton). We shared an unarticulated but ineffable assumption of success. In contrast to our children and grandchildren whose idols are rock stars, our models were our elders and we were more like our Victorian grandparents than our grandchildren.

Eating in Hall the night before our lunch, I had difficulty distinguishing my fellow diners from German, French and American students or from youth anywhere, whereas in our day we accepted the burden and advantage of being different. But have we been “successful”? We had had interesting, some prosperous, some honored lives but without public fame. Privilege may be a double-edged sword, stimulant or opiate which blunts the hunger of ambition. Time had also severed the seemingly impregnable continuities: while some of my friends’ children had followed them to their public schools (and my daughters to Princeton), only two of those children had been at the House.

The Anglo-American relationship had taken curious twists. Stephen Sandford [¶] had admitted to me in the 1970’s that in the 1950’s he had believed America had all the answers. But the events of the 1960’s (race, assassinations, Vietnam) had dampened his faith. Yet our lunch now occurs against the backdrop of another alliance and even those (like myself) who oppose the Iraq war, are still tugged by “the special relationship.”

LANCE FARRAR JR. 1957

The traditional docking of the cox. From lower left to upper right: Philip Wetton (hand just in water). Stephen Sandford, Lance Farrar (pushing), David Badcock (pouting). Photographs courtesy of David Edwards 1955
The Christopher Tower Prizes for poetry, which reached their third year in 2003, have gone from strength to strength. This year’s winners were the tip of a very large iceberg, from just under 600 entries, from nearly 300 different schools and colleges, the Tower Prizes are now the most heavily-subscribed (and lucrative) for this age group.

Each year, 16-18 year-olds are invited to write a poem on a specific theme: the topic for 2003, ‘The Passport’, produced some very strong work. As before, the judges found much to admire – not least, the variety and freshness of the best writing, which went beyond the stock-in-trade of the more usual kind of ‘competition-poem.’

Meeting each year’s Tower Prize winners at the annual awards event in Christ Church is a reminder of how much imaginative writing can mean to talented young people; far from being just another string to the bow of academic achievement, it is sometimes a vital part of their lives. With this in mind, Christ Church ran the first Christopher Tower Summer School in poetry at the end of July: a dozen young people, from all over the country, were invited to participate, and stayed in College for three days of writing classes with publishing poets.

There is nothing new in writing classes, but the Tower Summer School, unlike other classes, is entirely free to the participants. What’s more, the young people taking part this year reported on very positive experiences, which had made them think in new and constructive ways about writing. Each participant had the task of producing a piece of poetry on or around the theme of Icarus and Daedalus, and workshops on this myth set the scene for detailed discussions. Later, the poems in progress were subjected to some very minute – and, again productive – criticism from participants and tutors alike. Finally, the poems were published in pamphlet form.

Like the Tower Prizes, the Summer School shows what can be achieved by imaginative funding initiatives. Almost every Oxford college can boast some measure of a poetic past, Christ Church, uniquely, can demonstrate a real investment in poetry’s future.

Peter MacDonald
Christopher Tower Student in Poetry

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The House has been, historically, the strongest of all the Oxford college boat clubs. Head of the River 30 times (ahead of any rival), provider of the most OUBC Blues (slightly ahead of Magdalen) and with, arguably, the best record at Henley Royal Regatta, the Christ Church Boat Club is heir to a long and proud tradition.

Old Members of the House may be certain that standards are being maintained. In 2003 two more men’s Blues joined the roll (one going on to a bronze medal at the World Championships) and the women had greater Varsity boat representation than ever before. In Eights the Women’s 1st VIII gained three bumps and, although the men lost a place, their record of eight bumps up in three years speaks for itself.

Plainly times have changed in the rowing world, and the club has had to change within them. No longer will Oxbridge colleges dominate British rowing; it is now very difficult even to qualify for the Royal Regatta, let alone win it. But the aim of the House is, as it has been since 1815, to seek the headship, both in men’s and women’s rowing. If Pembroke College can achieve this, then it is certainly not impossible!

So, the ambitions of the club remain high, and a great deal of effort – both on and off the water – is made to this end. Both senior crews now row at Wallingford to get the benefit of a long stretch of uncrowded water. At Easter 2003 a men’s crew went over to Holland to take part in the Head of the Amstel and to forge a link with the Royal Student Rowing Club ‘Njord’. Members of the Dutch club visited the House for Eights and it is hoped that the relationship will be of future mutual benefit.

These activities all help to raise the standard, expectations and profile of the Boat Club. They also lead to increased expenditure and budgetary juggling from our Treasurer and Senior Member, the Ven. John Morrison, Archdeacon of Oxford. The College, though supportive, has many other calls on its funding. This is where the Christ Church Boat Club Society comes in. An association of old members of the club, it provides support, fellowship and supplementary funding for the ‘in statu pupillari’ youngsters who fly the flag. Some of our membership have been involved in coaching and in helping out in other ways.

We urge all our old oarsmen and women to join the Society, to provide necessary and much-needed support and to participate in the success of the club of which we were – and are – a part.

Jon Carley 1980

E-mail: jdfcarley@chchbc.org  Website: www.chchbc.org

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The Tower Poetry Prize & Summer School

This year’s Tower Prize Competition is open for entries until March 1st, 2004. Details of this, along with pamphlets of last year’s winning poems, and of poems from the 2003 Tower Summer School, may be obtained from the Tower Poetry Office, Christ Church. Full details are also available at www.towerpoetry.org.uk.
The Introduction of the Millard and Lee Alexander Fellowship

During Trinity Term 2003, Christ Church appointed its first ever Millard and Lee Alexander Fellow. Dr Daniel Hooper will join us in October 2003, and spend a year as a member of the College in order to study dark matter, the possibility of observing microscopic black holes, and the search for extra dimensions and super-symmetry. The new Fellowship provides an opportunity for postdoctoral visitors to Oxford at an early stage in their careers to benefit from membership of Christ Church and its Senior Common Room. It fills a long-felt need for a way for such visitors to have a connection with a college in Oxford at the same time as they build on their promise as researchers in the sciences within one of the university’s departments. The Fellowship is a result of the generosity of Professor Millard Alexander, who himself benefited from holding the Dr Lee’s Visiting Fellowship (a Fellowship customarily awarded to senior visitors – it is at present suspended because of financial constraints, but Millard is keen, along with Christ Church itself, to see the Fellowship reinstated).

Millard Alexander, distinguished university professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland (USA) was a Guggenheim Memorial Fellow and the Dr Lee’s Visiting Research Fellow at Christ Church during the academic year 1997/8. Millard’s research is in the same general field as my own, and he worked in the same department as me, the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory (PTCL), and became a true friend. His immediate collaborator in the PTCL was Dr David Manolopoulos (Tutor at Teddy Hall), but Millard also took to Christ Church with enormous enthusiasm. Not only did he interact strongly with members of the SCR, but took a real interest in the work of our undergraduates and graduates, and helped me out very substantially in teaching our pupils, and generating enthusiasm for science and chemistry in them. It is hard to express adequately the debt a Tutor owes to someone like Millard who generates new excitement in our pupils from outside ‘the system’. At the same time, the research that Millard undertook alongside David Manolopoulos is regarded as ground breaking.

Of his time in Oxford and Christ Church, Millard says:

“This sabbatical visit to the UK allowed me to complete some novel theoretical research in the understanding of how electrons control the outcome of chemical reactions. However, it was the membership of the Senior Common Room at the House which made my experience in the UK unique. I greatly enjoyed the many dinner time conversations with the diverse group of Students and Junior Research Fellows at Christ Church. Me and my wife Lee had numerous visitors during the time we spent in Oxford, and made each visit memorable by their own private visit to the House, and when possible an invitation to dinner. I took pleasure in becoming, for a short time, a member of the group of Chemists at the House: Student, undergraduate, and postgraduate. I especially enjoyed the Masters’ garden. I am good friends with Dr Charles Clark, a physicist at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Clark was the Dr Lee’s Fellow during Trinity Term 1999 and he had, too, a memorable experience at the house. We often reminisce about Christ Church. Having made a bit of money in the stock-market boom in the late 90s, I wanted to make a charitable benefaction which would allow other foreign visitors to Oxford to have an attachment to the House and membership of the Senior Common Room. In the physical sciences, there are many postdoctoral research workers and visitors, who do not have any college ties, and who thus miss out a special aspect of the social side of Oxford, which is centred in its colleges. Accordingly, I decided to make a gift to the House to endow a Fellowship that would allow a postdoctoral worker in the physical sciences to become a visiting member of the College and its Senior Common Room. The holder of this post, to be known as the Millard and Lee Alexander Fellow, will be of preference from North America or a Commonwealth country.”

The first Alexander Fellow was appointed from a very strong list of applicants. Dr Hooper, is 26 years old, and obtained his PhD in astrophysics earlier in the year, with 15 refereed publications already to his credit. He is to work with Professor Silk in the Oxford Department of Astrophysics, supported by the Leverhulme Trust.

The Millard and Lee Alexander Fellowship represents a new kind of opportunity for young visiting scientists to become closely associated with a college. Millard Alexander has thus enabled Christ Church to meet a need that has been felt for some time, and we are most grateful to him for the generosity that makes the venture possible. We hope that Dr Hooper and his successors will enjoy what Christ Church has to offer as much as Millard so clearly did.

Richard Wayne
Professor of Chemistry
Chris Patten, who featured support for top-up fees in his campaign for the Chancellorship last Spring, was sticking to his guns when he visited Christ Church in July. Because governments of all complexions have, he said, consistently under-funded higher education, top-up fees offer the only hope of financial relief to Oxford – and to other universities.

The rather different stance recently adopted by his former party colleagues he dismissed as ‘intellectually disreputable’.

This might make for interesting debate when he visits Newcastle upon Tyne, of whose university Mr Patten is also Chancellor.

Whereas a majority of Oxford’s academic community appears to be in favour of the projected fees – although only one in five community appears to be in favour of the fees – although only one in five bothered to take part in a postal ballot on the subject during the summer – Newcastle’s response to the Government’s White Paper called the proposal ‘divisive’, risking the creation of an ‘unhelpful’ tiered system of higher education.

Chris Patten had also said, in a message to Oxford’s undergraduates, that he intended ‘working for Oxford’ to be his main pro bono activity. Before he left his Brussels office for Oxford, I had asked him what comparable message he had given his Newcastle ‘constituency’ (no nonsense about elections there: a preferred candidate is nominated by the senate and court to convocation and, unsurprisingly, gets appointed). ‘I told them that I would see them when they wanted to discuss university affairs, and I do’, he replied smoothly, no need for civil servants to come up with an emollient answer.

Chris Patten was visiting the House for evensong in the cathedral and dinner in hall as part of the Oxford University Society’s annual weekend; earlier in the day he had presided over the Society’s annual general meeting. The same month saw him formally installed as Chancellor after an election which featured one or two innovations: for the first time BAs could vote (if they turned up in person); the Cambridge-educated Ms Toksvig was the first female candidate.

In other respects things went on much as before. Despite the greatly expanded electorate, the number voting was virtually the same as in 1987. And for the third time in a row (the sixth since 1900) the winner came from Balliol. The House, which features so prominently in other lists (British prime ministers, ‘rulers’ of India) more than held its own in the 19th century race for the chancellorship. Portland, Grenville, Derby and Salisburry, all Housemen, clocked up 80-odd years between them (all of them feature on the PM list as well). But in the 20th century, Halifax was Christ Church’s sole winner, occupying the post for more than a quarter of the century.

When asked, the Chancellor was suitably non-triumphalist about his old college’s recent strike rate, merely speculating that if the election had taken place at another time, ‘worthy candidates from other colleges might have emerged.’ As to the apparently nil effect of enlarging the electorate, Chris Patten would say no more than that some form of electronic voting might be on the cards in time for the next election.

Nor could I tempt him by suggesting that his experience of balancing the forces of democracy and oligarchy in Hong Kong – as described in his 1998 book East and West – might have some relevance to dealings with the academic community. The best he could come up with was that, on occasion, ‘the democratic nature of the best university communities can impede necessary change.’ Not much scope for a supplementary there.

In a press comment the same month, Chris Patten had said he thought the lowering of the Union flag in Hong Kong represented his best claim to a Warholian 15 minutes of fame. I asked whether negotiating with wily oriental politicians might also have been good preparation for working with Oxford’s academic mafia? Or how about time spent facing the: the stalwarts of the (then) Royal Ulster Constabulary? Or the handbag – wielding Tory ladies? No catching him out there, either: ‘What could prepare a Chancellor for working with the pick of academic communities?’ was his reply. Hmm.

Getting back to finance, I asked Chris Patten what advice he had for colleges like Christ Church whose assets, although architecturally and aesthetically unmatched, fail to produce income for desirable projects? Even the richest colleges, he agreed, need help, for example, to increase the bursaries available for poorer students. His prescription is for British alumni to become ‘responsible donors’ to their colleges as do their counterparts in the United States. The White Paper, too, hoped British universities could build up endowments against lean times. But with the best placed U.K. universities struggling to match anything in the US top 150, let alone mighty institutions like Harvard and Yale (‘weapons of mass attraction’, the Chancellor called them in his after-dinner speech), there’s a long way to go.

As a modest photo-opportunity was set up in Tom Quad, it occurred to me that Chris Patten’s predecessors, the one best remembered at the House is probably the Earl of Derby* who, as an undergraduate in 1817, decapitated the bronze statue of Mercury. It took until 1928 for the statue to be replaced (the original head still sits on a ledge in the library).

East and West, by contrast, paints a lack-lustre picture of the young Patten: ‘I spent my three years at Oxford enjoying myself in a rather cautious, laid-back way – played a few games, slept a lot.’ Surely, I asked him, there must be some juvenile indiscretion to which he might like to confess – rather than have it revealed in The People (worse yet, in Cherwell)?

After searching his conscience he admitted that he (and one assumes accompanists whom he still protects) once scaled the wall from Balliol in order to cover the Trinity JCR floor with turf intended for that College’s front lawn, the consequent cleaning bill adding heavily to that term’s battles.

Harold Macmillan, Chris Patten’s predecessor but one, famously remarked that the main reason for having a Chancellor was that without one there could be no Vice-Chancellor, and nothing would get done. Chris Patten told the OU Society he enjoyed Roy Jenkins’ view of the office – ‘impotence assuaged by magnificence’. The ‘cautious and laid back’ young Patten has matured into a style on the informal side of magnificent, trenchant comments on Government and Opposition alike, and his stated intention to do whatever it takes to promote Oxford’s interest (and not ‘behind closed doors’, he promised) makes it seem unlikely that ‘impotence’ will be an accurate description of his Chancellorship.

Chris Sladen 1993

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* a new biography of Derby, by Angus Hawkins, Vice President of Kellogg College, is due shortly.
Time’s passage and an all unrecognized personal expectation of change ambushed me at the recent Christ Church celebration of the Rhodes Scholarships Centenary (July 3rd and 4th, 2003). I must have been away from Oxford for too long. At the Reunion, I found myself dumbfounded by the persistence of public telephones tucked away in the same shadowy JCR corner I knew as a “gentleman commoner” 20 years ago, though why this astonished me wasn’t clear; I have always taken the 900-year endurance of the cathedral fabric practically for granted . . . .

Much else was also the same. From rooms in Meadow Building, I heard gravel still crunching reassuringly outside the window, although this time it was churned up by rolling suitcases of Old Members instead of crew plimssoles running down to the river. Ringers worked up Sunday morning quarter-peals from 8 to 10 to the full 12 bells, ending with satisfying rounds and punctuated at last with two trailing exclamatory strikes while they coaxed the – still cantankerous – bass bell to set. Tom Quad was identical architecturally, although its etiquette of use was graciously unbent for our pre-dinner reception on the 4th; treading upon Tom’s grass was a little unnerving at first, like an unexpected hug from a heretofore extremely formal great-aunt.

The 50 Rhodes Scholars who attended dinner with tutors and staff in Hall on the 4th were welcomed by Peter Paine’s Latin grace. Ken Brown expressed appreciation from all of us when he spoke of the gifts study at Christ Church afforded Rhodes Scholars: a unique perspective on one’s own country possible only from outside its borders, ample time to absorb arts and sciences and international customs. John Drury, spending one of his last evenings in Hall with us as Dean after 12 years, underscored the College’s nature as a “real political institution” where members learn the arts of peace by association in a supportive community. Members following Ken’s encouragement to express our gratitude to Christ Church were glad to hear of the continuation of the American Friends’ Scholarships and of the upcoming Campaign for Christ Church.

After the Dean dismissed us with the Chancellor’s words from the Encaenia ceremony (“Dissolvimus hanc Congregationem”), we proceeded to Merton gardens to join other Rhodes Scholars there from University, Pembroke and Oriel for post-prandial drinks and spectacular 4th of July fireworks above the Meadow. Time does pass – albeit slowly – at Christ Church, but the warmth of its welcome for members and our affection for the House remain absolutely unchanged.

ILA BURDETT 1981
It is a pleasure that, among the early reservations, members of the House have already booked on both programmes. Some special arrangements are in place for members including a private reception, hosted by the Dean and the Chairman of the Christ Church Association at both the April Special Interest Weekend and the September-D-Day-Anniversary programme. Also, a reduction of 10% is offered to members and their guests attending the September D-Day event, representing a saving of over £85 per head.

**Churchill and Roosevelt at the House**

The House’s autumn conferences can now justifiably describe themselves as a series, the second ‘conflict’ programme being held this year, again in the first week of September. Churchill and Roosevelt in Alliance entitled another good turnout of participants from home and overseas, including many members of the House. Given the theme, it was not surprising that there should be a strong transatlantic representation and it was pleasing also to welcome participants from Germany and Australia.

Many speakers highlighted the topicality and continuing relevance of the Atlantic Alliance, though the main focus was on the relationship of two quite different individuals, forged in the extraordinary circumstances of World War Two. The proceedings were opened by Professor Warren Kimball, Professor of History at Rutgers University, New Jersey, who genially dented the extraordinary circumstances of World War Two. The speaker’s fascinating tactical ‘what ifs’ about Alexander’s strategy in Northern Italy and the Balkans, led to a lively intervention by the session chairman, Professor Sir Michael Howard. Not only had Sir Michael fought in that theatre but he added his significant weight as a historian to counter arguments against an assault on Germany through Hungary and Austria in the last days of the war.

Sir Michael Howard, formerly Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford University and Honorary Student of the House, himself entertained his audience with ‘counter-factual questions’. Liveliest among these was to speculate why Hitler took on another enemy by declaring war on the USA after Pearl Harbor. He concluded with an optimistic view on the level of freedom enjoyed today by all the people of Europe and girded his audience with his list of the heroes and villains of the twentieth century, Churchill and Roosevelt themselves enjoying only fourth place on the heroes’ list! The lecture programme was concluded with Jonathan Fenby’s lively talk on ‘The Awkward Allies’, General De Gaulle and Chiang Kai Shek. This ‘troublesome pair’ were both militarily weak but showed how minor allies can twist the arms of more powerful partners.

Nearby Blenheim Palace and Blaydon were the outstanding destinations, and the social programme included tours of the House and its gardens, a Cathedral concert and the College Picture Gallery. At the end of the event, participants offered some generous commentary on the programme. Among the Old Members of the House attending was Peter Newman (1952) who found it a “wonderful experience with a superb historical programme”. “The combination of lectures, visits, concert, welcoming and final drinks parties, with the Gala Dinner was good. We felt busy but not rushed, with enough time to relax”.

The concluding Gala Dinner was the opportunity to launch the programme for next year’s flagship event in the College Calendar, D-Day: the Sixtieth Anniversary is being run in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum and will take place at the House between 4 and 9 September 2004. This event has a similarly diverse lecture, cultural and hospitality programme with a speaker list headed by Sir Martin Gilbert and including world class participation from Britain, Canada, USA and Germany. A number of enthusiasts were confident enough to book for next year before their departure.

**John Harris**
Steward of Christ Church
Jack Paton graduated from St. Andrew’s University in 1939 and took his doctorate at Birmingham in 1962. After spells at Princeton and the Rutherford Laboratory, he was appointed in 1968 as a Faculty Lecturer in the Department of Theoretical Physics at Oxford, and became in the same year a Lecturer with prospects of a Studentship at Christ Church. Whatever the prospects might have been, they were surely realised. Jack became a Student the following year, Senior Physics Tutor in 1987, Junior Censor in 1999 and Senior Censor in 2001. He was also Tutor for Admissions for three years from 1996. He is now retiring after 35 years at the College.

To the new arrival in 1968, not only his title seemed quaint. Jack comments that at that time the college was ‘a branch of the 19th century’. For dons and students alike, life could be a leisurely affair. Some tutors were regularly to be found playing croquet on summer afternoons. The style of teaching, in physics at least, was far removed from today’s rigorous schedule. Doubtless this gave the more able students valuable time to reflect, but the less committed found other uses for it – for example, to drive golf balls from Peck into Tom Quad. As for admissions policy, the idea that this was anybody’s business but the College’s was still decades away. Jack recalls that in his first year he was spared whatever surprises might have been occasioned by the reportedly idiosyncratic interviews at admissions because no-one mentioned them to him until after the event. And there were, of course, no female dons or undergraduates.

Since that time, the expectations of society have changed, and Christ Church has put the interests of the College above his own. At an age when most people are looking forward to retirement he became Senior Censor, the first scientist to do so since Michael Grace, also a physicist, who was in post when Jack arrived. When asked what his ambitions for his Censorship were when he took on the job, Jack replied ‘To get through the two years without disaster.’ Of course, he accomplished much more, but not by setting out to do so. He has never had an agenda; he is softly spoken, almost self-deprecating, and does not go in for grand initiatives. Progress under his Censorship has come about as the cumulative effect of tackling many unspectacular issues with wisdom, tact and sheer hard work, earning him universal affection and respect.

A good example of the unobtrusive role he has played over the years is his association with the Sutton Trust Summer School, a university-wide initiative, which came into being in 1997 to encourage state school pupils to think in terms of applying to Oxford. Jack, who has always been concerned to widen access, set up and ran the physics section. Four of the sixteen physicists who attended in that first year applied to and gained places at Christ Church, three got Firsts, and the fourth became President of the JCR.

As a college tutor, Jack is at his best. His influence has been reflected in a steady rise in the academic performance of our physics students, who in recent years have averaged around 40% Firsts, well above the university average. He presents a role model to which they can hardly fail to respond: he is a scholar, unassuming but passionate about his subject, and also, of course, a first-rate physicist. For colleagues and students alike, a discussion with Jack leads to enlightenment but never humiliation; he takes equal pleasure in getting a point across and in gaining a new insight for himself. He also cares deeply about the welfare of his students, to whom he has been a constant source of support, advice and help.

Despite all his work for the College, Jack has had a distinguished research career in elementary particle theory, perhaps the most competitive area in physics. His most significant achievement, the development of a ‘flux-tube’ model of quark interactions, is still giving insights into the fundamental forces of nature. A search for ‘Chan-Paton factors’ on the Internet reveals over 1600 entries, all, alas, incomprehensible to the layman. His fascination with physics remains undiminished; he speaks with obvious enthusiasm of his plans to study the theory of quantum computation in his retirement.

There is, of course, life outside the university. Jack and Renée, married now for nearly 40 years, live in Shotover, where Jack can now spend more time in the garden and at the piano (he is an accomplished musician). We hope that as many of his former students as possible will join us at a lunch on Saturday 10th January 2004 to wish both of them well in the future – details will follow. Finally, I would like to express my own personal gratitude to Jack for his unfailing consideration, guidance and friendship during our years together in Christ Church. His modesty, conscientiousness and gentle good humour are a byword in the College, and we hope we shall see him there for many years to come.

DEERE STACEY
Alfred Morris Tutor of Physics
Lost Old Members – can you help and help yourself as well?

It is sad to think that there are 1255 Old Members of the House with whom we have lost touch. They are not totally lost you will realise, but College no longer has details of how to contact them. This figure of 1255 is 16% of the total number of 7820 old members on the database.

We have managed to discover how 9 of the other Oxford colleges rank in this regard and unfortunately 16% of lost Old Members is one of the highest.

Is there anything you can do to help? If you discover the whereabouts of anyone on the lost list, please let the Development Office know. For every member you “turn in” we will enter your name in a draw for a bottle of House Port. There will be 5 winners.

Simply send contact details of the lost Old Member you have found, along with your name, so we can enter you into the draw, to Emma Walsh in the development office at Christ Church, or via e-mail: emma.walsh@christ-church.oxford.ac.uk.

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

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It is sad to think that there are 1255 Old Members of the House with whom we have lost touch. They are not totally lost you will realise, but College no longer has details of how to contact them. This figure of 1255 is 16% of the total number of 7820 old members on the database.
I have been asked to give my impressions of Christ Church, and I take that to mean the more vivid memories I shall carry into retirement. This is not easy. Obviously the most striking fact about it is its grandeur and beauty, but I came to that late. As an undergraduate I was quite sensitive about architectural settings. It thought Magdalen, my college, the most beautiful in Oxford and still do. Christ Church then (in the 1950s) looked very run down. The Library was a pile of flaking black stone of no discernible style. Tom Quad was black with smoke too. I only woke up to the scope and size of Christ Church when I was appointed, by which time the cleaning and restoration of the stone was nearly complete, but by then I was more interested in the people who make an institution than in its buildings. Christ Church's rulers have always built on a grand scale, obliterating the old and putting a wholly new structure in its place. So it strikes some people as too grand, as dwarfing its inhabitants. Other colleges have a domestic cosiness and charm. We have a touch of folie de grandeur, which is why the College is best seen with its vast spaces filled with people going about their business. That at least is how I want to remember it. So for me the Hall will always be remembered as set for a dinner like the Summer Gaudy, filled with black gowns and white shirt fronts, and here and there the flash of doctoral scarlet, and with a whiff of brandy rising like an exhalation of pride, from 'a fair field of folk'.

The Library was always, till the Health and Safety Commissions interfered, not just a collection of books but a place for assembly. I can recall the Vice Chancellor asking to use it for a reception. We often used it for concerts. My two memories of such occasions are of Menuhin playing Bach on a rostrum at the east end of the Upper Library, and in the course of a complex passage being disturbed by the switch of the fire alarm above his head, and twisting his ascetic profile round and upwards while still playing, to see whence the sound came. The other is of the Brandis Quartet playing in the centre of that long room, with the audience ranged on either side, and demonstrating not just the acoustic facility of music in a booklined room, but the happy consonance of classical chamber music with the mouldings and plasterwork trophies on the walls.

I was shocked in 1967 to hear an elderly colleague before his retirement, admit that he had never been inside the Picture Gallery; but for me it was the new building of my first year here, opened by Her Majesty the Queen (always referred to mysteriously as 'The Visitor'). It was also conveniently at the foot of my staircase, Canterbury 4. From my windows, it looked more like a bunker than a palace of art, and I had a sort of watching brief, to tell the Clerk of Works when the falling chestnut leaves had clogged the gutters and he should watch for leaks. But I have seen it, despite the faults of its design, steadily establish itself in Oxford's artistic life and have felt the immense privilege of being able to drop into it any hour of the working day. I found myself drawn not to the vulgar Butcher's Shop, nor to St Lawrence writhing on his grid iron, but to the maidens of the pupil of Botticelli in their soothing colours, and to Lippi's Centaur explaining his wound with the kind of expression an undergraduate might have who had not completed his essay. It is a great resource, not indeed suited to the numerous modern exhibitions now held there, but still valued by generations of undergraduates. No doubt the Health and Safety Commissar will learn that it also hosts parties and will move to restrict its use.

A young American graduate recently told me that he found it “awesome” to think that Charles I had sat in the seat in the Cathedral we now accord the Vice Chancellor, and I realized that I had never associated the place with the Stuarts or the Civil War. One reason is that our liturgy in its essentials antedates the Stuarts, and our choral music (which seems to me to become more beautiful with every year) is taken from the whole European tradition of Church music and not merely the English one, Catholic masses and Wesleyan hymns, Byrd and Baroque and Bunyan, a rich and varied repertoire. Perhaps it is also because our Anglican tradition softens our history by domesticating it. The nation's story seems to me to become more beautiful with the Stuarts or the Civil War. One reason is that our liturgy in its essentials antedates the Stuarts, and our choral music (which seems to me to become more beautiful with every year) is taken from the whole European tradition of Church music and not merely the English one, Catholic masses and Wesleyan hymns, Byrd and Baroque and Bunyan, a rich and varied repertoire. Perhaps it is also because our Anglican tradition softens our history by domesticating it. The nation's story is one thing, but the Cathedral is full of others. Burne-Jones's great window to St. Frideswide is the story of the frustration of lust. Here in the same transept is a monument to a learned Canon who once proposed to Harriet Grote, who preferred the future historian of Greece. Over there on the other side of the choir is a plaque to a canon-professor whose wife ran away with the brother-in-law of Macaulay's sister, and so on. What we want is another publication, like the Anthem book, which will explore the background history of the monumental art of the place.

The Tourists are herded along a paved and walled route from which they get no more than a glimpse of a flower or a tree, but behind the grand façade are several gardens of great charm. One still meets undergraduates who are quite unaware of the most recent to these. When I arrived in Christ Church there was only one secretary whom one could ask to type an official letter or article. (In those days we used to have meetings to save us the bother of writing to one another about College business. Now we send quantities of e-mails instead, and indeed have invented a ‘meeting by circulation’.)

Joan Page was the last secretary to go round the Canon's houses and take dictation. She was a kindly person whose devotion to the place was expressed in a legacy so generous that we were able to create the new garden round Pocock's plane. This is one of the most peaceful places in College. I go there often, in the spring especially, to see first the daffodils and a little later the bluebells which grow in the shadow of the great tree. I hope that one day Miss Page's generosity will be completed by the addition of a door giving direct access to the garden from the Meadow Gate. I recently took a visitor through the Master's Garden onto the wall we share with Corpus. As he looked down over the scene, he exclaimed, ‘How do you get any work
done in this place? It is indeed a beautiful place, but the beauty surely enhances the work, and it means that there is a covert aesthetic education going on whether the formal work is done or not.

For me there has been another factor which has made it primarily a place to teach. I was elected in 1967 under the old statute which required a tutor to be on probation for a year before formal election to a Studentship. That has long been repealed, but I confess that I have never shaken off the early feeling of disjunction. We all know that the House is governed by the Dean and Censors - and the ex-Censors. The Censors leave office, but they stay on the inside track. They determine what there is of College policy. They know the arcana of the place. The rest of us learn only what is thought safe to know. Of course we have open government, but after half a working life in the place I remain ignorant of some of its most important activities; or else I learn about them years later, at a bus-stop from a supernannuated clerk, or in a supermarket from a retired scout. In a government renewed by cooption, there is not much advantage in seniority, and experience is regularly ignored or disregarded. But I have found that the system has its advantages. It means that we are not plagued with College politics. A tutor need not make use of what Charles Stuart used to call the higher powers of intrigue. Our Common Room has been in my time singularly free of jealousy and malicious gossip. But the great advantage in my work has been that teaching has been separated from College discipline. I have never been called on like the Dean in Philip Larkin’s poem, to summon an undergraduate to give his version of the events last night. Tutorials have been (I hope) about more civilised or civilising issues, and have led to mutual respect and affection. (There was indeed a time when the more thoughtful Senior Censor would send one a brief note with some such message as ‘you may care to know that your pupil X was in an affray in St Aldates last night, and is on a charge of GBH shortly’, but even these messages are now happily withheld.)

Every October I have felt my spirits lift at the prospect of a new intake of young people, eager and a little apprehensive at the life ahead of them. Someone told me when I began teaching that the day the youthful foot fall on the stairs or the brisk knock on the door caused my spirits to droop, I would know it was time to retire. I can honestly say I have never known that feeling. Actuarily (as Alban Krailsheimer used to say) the case for retirement is compelling, but boredom with teaching is not why it becomns.

**Dean’s Retrospective**

Being Dean here is a great job for a dilettante – or, more flatteringly, someone with an inter-disciplinary cast of mind. Any Oxbridge college requires its head to have an interest in all its miscellaneous life, from the range of academic subjects to the installation of showers. But Christ Church does it in spades, adding the life of a Cathedral (to which Trollope is still relevant), a collection of pictures and a public park. Not surprising, then, that I have lived a happily secluded life and rarely been out of the place – most commonly to New York. My formation as a clergyman – those afternoons spent parish visiting – has been an advantage because it has grounded all the administration in clergyman – those afternoons spent parish visiting – has been an advantage because it has grounded all the administration in ministry: that is the service of people, individually and collectively.

There’s a realism to that which suggests thinking about Christ Church as a political institution – and it grants that it is more of a town or a big village than a polis or city, its reality is a community, managing its affairs towards a sense of common aim of human flourishing. As such, it is a witness against the distorted politics which is grounded in accountancy – crude and misleading accountancy, it should be said, to differentiate it from our more truthful and refined kind and the Herculean labours of our Treasurer. In a place like this, where the scale and intimacy means that everyone affects the lives of everybody else, there is no avoiding the multifarious facts of life together or the duty of managing them well. It is only because they have been managed well in the past, and because we are of a size and temper which makes it possible for them to be managed by people with other interests than sheer management, that we have lasted so much longer than the average business or royal dynasty. We are grounded in human nature in a particularly ineluctable way. That is all a bit general. What is the particular temper of Christ Church? It springs from its multifariousness. Here, your neighbours are people occupied with deeply interesting things: a concern with other peoples’ affairs (not a hard thing to come by and richly exemplified by our John Ruskin), and a kind of positive tolerance and ‘letting be’ which is rather less common and belongs in the political tradition of our John Locke. In Christ Church people talk about their work with one another and keep a shrewd and kindly eye on one another’s welfare. With those ‘inestimable benefits’ – a Prayer Book phrase – in its system, it flourishes and will flourish.

**William Thomas**

Emeritus Student

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**John Drury**

Honorary Student

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**Christ Church Matters**

**MICHAELMAS TERM 2005 ISSUE 12**

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**Trollope is still relevant**, a collection of all its miscellaneous life, from the range of college requires its head to have an interest in working life in the place I remain ignorant of some of its most important activities; or else we have open government, but after half a working life in the place I remain ignorant of some of its most important activities; or else open government, but after half a working life in the place I remain ignorant of some of its most important activities; or else...
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Christ Church on Saturday, 20th September, 2003

PRESENT: David Gillespie (Chairman)  
Nick Alexander (Honorary Vice-President)  
Simon Ollen  
John Ellison  
Fiona Holdsworth  
Susan Cunningham (Development Director)  
Nick Nops  
Emma Warburton  
David Hine (Development Advisor, Representative of the Governing Body)  
Haydn Rawstron

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES:  
Ken Brown  
Laurence Boyle  
John Edwards  
Frank Versaci

APOLOGETES:  
Pollyanna Deane (Secretary)  
Robert Boyle (Treasurer)  
Martha Hillier  
Tony Pastor  
Tony Burden  
Stephen Brien  
Peter Bebb

1. APOLOGIES  
Apologies were received as listed above.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21ST JUNE, 2002  
The minutes had been published in Christ Church Matters and were circulated to the meeting.

3. REPORT ON ACTIVITY SINCE THE 2002 AGM  
The Chairman reviewed the activities of the past year. He stated that the City Event had been moved from April to November, due to the Queen Mother’s funeral. He commented that it was disappointing that less than 100 people had gone to the City Event. The Young Persons event was well received and guests were enthusiastic about being more involved in Association events. Most guests to the Summer Event commented that they enjoyed the day, and appreciated being offered some new things to do such as attend lectures and the Art workshops for children. £340 was raised for the Annual Fund from the raffle, the prizes for which were generously supplied by members of the Association Committee. Thanks were offered to the Steward and to the Development Office for their input.

Around 60 of the 175 Old Member Rhodes scholars returned to Christ Church with partners and guests, for the Rhodes Reunion on the 4th July. Centenary celebration events were organised by the Rhodes Trust in London and Oxford and participating colleges welcomed back their own Old Members for college events. Christ Church was one of five colleges who joined together to provide an after dinner fireworks display in honour of our guests. The other colleges were: Merton (where everyone gathered for the display), University, Oriel, Pembroke. The Dinner in Hall and fireworks were very well received.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT  
Financial report prepared by Robert Boyle. It was recognised that there is some absorption by the Development Office of Association costs and the financial summary reflected just the Association organised events. The closing bank balance of £5,531 should be adequate for foreseeable requirements.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
a) In accordance with clause 5(2) of the Constitution, Stephen Brien shall be re-elected to the Committee for a period of three years.

b) There were three candidates for membership of the Committee, Fiona Holdsworth (1981), Martha Hillier (1994) and Tony Pastor (1990) and in accordance with clause 5(2) of the Constitution they were duly elected.

6. OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON GOALS AND FUTURE ACTIVITY  
Nick Alexander explained the Year Representatives’ scheme (see article on page 15 for further details). Ken Brown asked what percentage of Old Members were actively involved in the Association and whether the Association had ever considered charging a membership fee. The Chairman commented on event turn-out in the last couple of years and stated that attendance had gone down from approximately 300 attending in past years, to 120 for the 2003 Summer Event. The Chairman said when the events first started that demand was high, and once the demand had been satisfied, attendance steadily dropped. He said that a membership fee had been discussed some time ago and that perhaps, in consultation with the College, it might be appropriate to revisit it.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
David Gillespie announced his decision to resign as Chairman of the Committee after the AGM. There was a vote of thanks to him for his work as Chairman.

The meeting was declared closed at 1830.

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981)  
fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com
WHENCE WE CAME, WHERE WE WENT

Last year I published an Eberstadt family history (Whence We Came And Where We Went), going back to the 17th century. The editor of this newsletter, whose generosity and understanding encouraged me, and who can say no to such an offer, wrote me the following:

To: Walter Eberstadt
From: Editor
Date: Sep 15, 2003
Subject: Feedback

Dear Walter,

I hope you have had a chance to read the newsletter. I am writing to get your feedback on the Eberstadt family history. We are considering publishing it in book form, and we would like to hear your thoughts on the content and presentation.

Sincerely,
[Name]

Editor

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A NEW INITIATIVE — YEAR REPRESENTATIVES

The Association is exploring a very interesting new initiative that has been developed most successfully by other similar institutions. Year Representatives are intended to disseminate information to and collate information from a group of their immediate contemporaries.

Elsewhere this has proven to be the most effective means of communication with alumni since it involves direct contact between those who had most to do with one another when they were at the House. Feedback from Association events has shown that what Old Members most want is to foster relationships between Old Members with one another and with the College. It has not been possible to gain sufficient feedback through existing channels to understand why demand has fallen. However we very much hope that Year Representatives can provide a better communication channel that means the Association can provide occasions for which there is demand and avoid those for which there is not.

In the meantime I would be very pleased to get any direct feedback from any Old Members. For example, did you find the holiday of the Association event interesting? If so, what? If not, why not? What did you like or dislike about it? Any comments on the event?

Sincerely,

[Nick Alexander]

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A six week trip to France and Italy with my pre-war friend Adam Stanton, who after almost six years in the Scots Guards had come back to read law, was for me the highlight of post-war Oxford. In part with the guidance of his father, Sir John Stanton, who had also been at the House, we packed cathedrals, churches and museums into any eye opening experience. From time to time I still look at the diary I kept. My mother’s father had taken me before the war to the great Dutch museums. I had come to think they had no rival until I spent time in Florence, Venice, Padua, Verona, and, of course, Paris. I did not venture until decades later, with my wife, to Rome. I was afraid in Rome I’d find I was not really a well educated person.

In my post-war Oxford time I started to make a little money lecturing and writing on European and especially German political and economic subjects which whetted my appetite to try my hand at journalism. With Roy Harrod’s help I was hired to write for the Economist at £400 a year, on which I managed quite nicely. Soon I had an almost princely income of £1000 a year which included an extremely low paid part time position as City editor of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo.

After a while I decided I’d better try and make ‘real’ money, rather than write about it, and thus I came to end as a partner in Lazard’s New York house.

Whence We Came, Where We Went by Walter Eberstadt is published by W.A.E Books, New York.

WALTER EBERSTADT
(1939)
Boozy Old Members

Two house alumni have forged a business link across a generation to combine their skills and expertise in a new drinks enterprise, Blackwood Distillers. Founded 18 months ago, by Caroline Whitfield (Mat ’83), the company started with her idea to build the first whisky distillery in the Shetland Islands, the only region of Scotland never to have one. Caroline’s background since leaving Christ Church has mainly been in international business (including an MBA at INSEAD) and she is known as an innovation expert – spotting, starting and culturing new businesses or concepts. She has just been appointed a judge of the Queen’s Award for Enterprise (Innovation). The Blackwood plan included launching a range of white spirits (gin, vodka, liqueurs) meanwhile, using local ingredients from Shetland, to be a success in their own right as well as help the whisky finances as the spirit matured. A team came together on the whisky side and then, with a view to sparkling ideas on the new products side, Caroline met Tom.

Tom Jago (Mat ’43) is a creator of new spirits of international renown. Probably best known as the creator of Bailey’s thirty years ago, his track record also includes Johnny Walker Blue, Piat D’Or and others when running new product development at IDV. He has latterly been aiding the re-launch of Hine Cognac and Krug champagne. Time in the navy during the back end of the war, and in advertising, helped broaden his views.

Over the last year, they have created three new spirits products that at this year’s Vincenzo in France were a smash hit with distributors in over 20 countries seeking the products. They will shortly be available at Harrods and other places of note! Their Shetland Vodka using local spring water has a colour change label, when the product is chilled it tells you it is ready to drink. Blackwood’s Gin at 47% is the strongest on the market and the pale green hues of the gin infused with local wild botanicals are a particular hit with premium establishments. However, without question the star product is classic Tom: a totally innovative vodka cream liqueur that is made with vodka, local Scottish cream and natural vanilla. The company now has export arrangements in USA, Canada, Australia and across Asia – driven by upsurge in interest. As Caroline says: “The creation is called Jago’s after Tom – there could be no other name. It is also fitting to see him have some wider recognition for a lifetime of creative business achievement!”

Both see new product creation as more art than science, more a quest to capture the zeitgeist in a new product that engage the public’s imagination. As Tom says “five minutes of dreaming can be worth months of market research – Baileys failed all known research criteria.”

Tom added some thoughts on his time in Christ Church: “I learnt to imagine. The tiles in Robin Dunstan’s rooms inspired Jabberwocky. Canon Jenkins lectured lectures and sermons on the Venerable Bede. Losing (I imagined) the only beautiful girl in Oxford to Freddie Ayer. Listening to J.L. Austin defining ‘it’ for three consecutive lectures. Failing to challenge bewildered pedants (Trevor-Roper and Frank Pakenham) sufficiently. I dreamed, the spires dreamed. I chose the off-centre path ever after…”

Caroline concluded: “Reading law helped me realise what I am not – a lawyer! My mind was drawn to the clash of new ideas and old structures I should have read PPE. Having arrived unconventionally from the wilds of Northern Canada on one of the last Modern Studies entrance exams for those from ‘The Colonies’, I knew my path forward would be unlike many of my peers. Christ Church left me with great confidence that I would find my own way in the world on my own terms. That sense of intellectual adventure and enthusiastic wonder about what might be possible in the world has grown further and helped me be a more resolute entrepreneur and indeed, I hope, mother. Looking back, I now see more humbly that it was the very fact of having been at Christ Church (and later INSEAD) that allowed me the reputational liberty to pursue my dreams just as others have, before and since.”

Caroline Whitfield (1983) and Tom Jago (1943)

Blackwood Distillers
159 Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0EP
www.shetlandwhisky.com
e-mail: caroline@shetlandwhisky.com

Kindred Innovative Spirits: When Caroline met Tom

“You don’t have to be mad to join this Company, but if you are it helps?” These wise words, uttered by my future boss, concluded the final interview just before my entry into the Petfood Division of Mars Group in the late sixties. They preceded some seven years of very demanding, strenuous yet most exhilarating work in this famous family-owned food group. Certainly an atypical enterprise. But, there was method in their madness!

I fear this streak of madness has pervaded some of the major decisions of my life. In the early seventies, my wife and I acquired an age-old, rather decrepit medieval “maison forte” in South West France, a decision which triggered many questions as to the state of our sanity in family circles. And deciding to leave Christ Church has mainly been in international business (including an MBA at INSEAD) and she is known as an innovation expert – spotting, starting and culturing new businesses or concepts. She has just been appointed a judge of the Queen’s Award for Enterprise (Innovation). The Blackwood plan included launching a range of white spirits (gin, vodka, liqueurs) meanwhile, using local ingredients from Shetland, to be a success in their own right as well as help the whisky finances as the spirit matured. A team came together on the whisky side and then, with a view to sparking ideas on the new products side, Caroline met Tom.

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I fear this streak of madness has pervaded some of the major decisions of my life. In the early seventies, my wife and I acquired an age-old, rather decrepit medieval “maison forte” in South West France, a decision which triggered many questions as to the state of our sanity in family circles. And when, twenty years later, we acquired the 60-acre vineyard which originally belonged to the old chateau, we were considered totally “bezirk”.

We acquired the house to “grow roots” for our already numerous family, in our somewhat nomadic existence. The vineyard tickled my imagination for many years, and when it finally went on sale in 1991, we took the plunge.

Did my years in the House lead to this choice? Not directly. But I do have vivid recollections of the excellent 1920 House Port, good wines at the Elizabeth, Randolph and the Mitre (before it lost its soul), and more generally of the “gracious living” we experienced in good company, combining excellent port with long, earnest and passionate discussions. Further, my old Beaumont and “Other Place” friends and connections, such as David Peppercorn and his wife, Serena Sutcliffe, provided excellent advice when we took over the vineyard in 1991.

Wine for my wife and I has become a matter of passion and devotion. It is no sinecure. The quest for quality requires hard work, infinite attention to detail at every stage (which my wife does much better than I). It also demands regular investment, and so requires good, enterprising, understanding bankers... a rare bird in difficult economic times.

But it does provide tremendous satisfaction. It is still a rare field of activity where the human touch and experience far outstrips the systematic computer-led approach, and combines scientific knowledge with human, even artistic experience. We are lucky to work with very competent outside consultants who have these valuable characteristics and help us and our team outstandingly.

We should of course be very happy to see any Old House Members who could be wandering in our sunny climes, take them around our vineyard, winery and barrel chai, and, why not - taste some of our vintages.

Robert Schulte (1954)

Château de Beaujolais
F47180 Saint-Sauveur de Meilhan, France
Tel: 00 33 5 53 94 30 40 e-mail: chateau_de_beaujolais@hotmail.com
M conversation with the Steward earlier this year began with my asking him if today’s students drank as much as when I was up at the House. Once he had told me that Christ Church imports 3,000 bottles of its basic Bordeaux each year, I was reassured things hadn’t changed much in 20 years, and this was clearly potentially a very attractive market for me. For, as I explained to John Harris, after a career in Investment Banking, I had decided that I wanted to create something which would give me and others pleasure, and three years ago, bought 12 hectares of vines just outside Aix en Provence. My first vintage was 2001, and that was why I was now sitting in the Steward’s office for the first time since leaving Oxford in 1980.

When asked to write this article, I was told to emphasise the value of having been at the House for my new career – but all I could come up with was that I learnt to drink large amounts, and to drink well. The cellars of the Oxford colleges are legendary but the keys kept close by the Steward and the Butteryman, I am hoping that now I may be able to persuade the powers if not to let me loose, at least to give me a guided tour!

Having read Modern History, I joined Schroders in 1980 and spent the next twenty years with them, in London, New York, Paris and Singapore. And then I left – to embark on a project from which I was told that if I wanted to make a small fortune, I better start with a large one …

Back to University at Dijon (Oxford did not enter the radar for this particular course!), six months working in a first class vineyard nearby, and one day in December 2000 I woke up to the realisation that I had 40,000 vines to prune, no real experience, no workers, no cellar, and no tractor … Today, the cellar is nearly built, the two tractors have run up 1200 hours between them, we have a team of three including myself, and our first two vintages are on sale. Although buying an existing vineyard would have been an easier option, taking the route of creating something from scratch, while it took longer, has been infinitely more satisfying. To see the wine leave the vineyard to be exported to seven overseas countries, to see it on wine lists in restaurants in Paris, to see the smile on someone’s face when they try it – has made the whole adventure utterly worthwhile. And a good write-up from the trade magazines certainly beats winning a multi-million dollar mandate for an international bond issue in terms of personal satisfaction!

And the House in all this? I never focussed much on the Roman approach to winemaking, but being at Christ Church did give me the self-confidence to try new things and to challenge myself – when asked why I was leaving the security and material comfort of a world that I knew and mastered, I have said because I would prefer to try something that I feel passionately about and accept the possibility of failure, than never to try at all and to go through the rest of my life wondering “What if …” . And for that, I have Christ Church to thank.

Now, Mr Harris, about that tour of the cellars …

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CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER EVENT – 28TH JUNE 2003

How do you try to entice Association members back to the House? How do you try to offer something different to the Old Members? How do you try to appeal to young and old?

This year we tried by mixing human pain and childrens’ art, admissions politics and treasure for children, black holes and whisky. The pairings are illustrative only! A fair number of you came; why not more?

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One of the trade magazines certainly beats winning a multi-million dollar mandate for an international bond issue in terms of personal satisfaction! And the House in all this? I never focussed much on the Roman approach to winemaking, but being at Christ Church did give me the self-confidence to try new things and to challenge myself – when asked why I was leaving the security and material comfort of a world that I knew and mastered, I have said because I would prefer to try something that I feel passionately about and accept the possibility of failure, than never to try at all and to go through the rest of my life wondering “What if …”. And for that, I have Christ Church to thank.

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OLD MEMBERS’ QUESTIONNAIRE

Oliver Brettle commented: ‘I was very pleased to win the wine. Apart from a few little coffees, it is the first prize I have ever won.’

Thanks to the 2672 of you who returned the Old Members’ questionnaire. All those received by 28th March were entered into a draw.

Congratulations to Oliver Brettle (1987) who won the wine.

MICHAELMAS TERM 2003

CONGRATULATIONS TO OLIVER BRETTEL (1987) WHO WON THE WINE.
In this issue we hear from six members involved in the voluntary/charity sector as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

I read modern history and graduated in 1995 with no definite career path. I left the House equipped with strong investigation and research skills, the ability to interpret and validate large volumes of information and think analytically. These skills in addition to the personal development gained whilst at Christ Church gave me the confidence to pursue my ambitions search for a challenging and fulfilling career.

After a couple of years working for an Oxford based tour operator, I felt the need for further professional development within a larger organisation with greater opportunities so I moved to Severn Trent Plc and trained as a business analyst working within the Information Systems area. I found the role fulfilling but after 2 years an opportunity arose within Oxfam at the HQ in Summertown, Oxford. I was initially wary of moving away from the private sector, partly because of the rather ‘staid, dusty and under-resourced’ reputation the charity sector held then, but also because it meant my household would now be working completely in the charity sector, as my husband was already working for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Initial concerns were soon dispelled when I actually found out more about Oxfam and how it operates. Oxfam’s mission is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Although Information Systems may seem detached from the international and humanitarian work that takes place globally, it plays a vital role in helping Oxfam deliver its mission by providing staff and volunteers with appropriate communications tools, office and business systems, and to improve the cost effectiveness of Oxfam GB. To know that all the work I do makes an important contribution to these efforts is an amazing motivation.

In addition, the marketplace for supporters has never been so crowded and like all charities we’re finding it harder to recruit financial donors. Oxfam also wants to become a global campaigning force and keep our 760 shops open. The organisation is therefore forward thinking and innovative, looking at ways of working to become a ‘modern, professional organisation that gets things done’. I therefore consider myself fortunate, nearly 3 years on to be working within such a stimulating and exciting working environment and am grateful for my time at Christ Church for providing me with the foundation of skills and experience to enable me to recognise and exploit the opportunities that have brought me where I am today.

RACHEL MIDGLEY (1992)

There is certainly no set route to follow for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the charity sector, but the one thing that would stand you in good stead is experience. Whether this is gained through volunteering, or through work placements, the importance of experience should not be underestimated.

My first real introduction to the charity sector came like so many others from attending RAG events in House. From here I was co-opted into standing for ICF Rag Rep, and can honestly say that I haven’t looked back since. Coin trails around Tom Quad led to full-blown RAG parades around the city centre and on completing my degree in geography I took up the position of Rag Sabbatical Coordinator for the University. In this sense I was incredibly lucky as to the insight to the charity sector that was afforded me: from the variety of different charities, to the people, practices and of course opportunities that exist.

I am also in the enviable position of being able to compare the relative merits of two different charities; many lively debate on this subject can be heard in the Midgley household as my wife Rachel works for Oxfam.

Having started my career seemingly on a complete tangent to my degree in Geography, I now find myself using skills and techniques acquired during my time at Oxford in my day to day work. Whilst there is certainly irony to this, I take a great deal of satisfaction from my work and the parallels that often make me think back to those glorious days at the House.

STUART MIDGLEY (1992)

A conventional career path for 14 years led me from reading PPE to accountancy, venture capital and business. Then 5 years ago I became the Finance Director of Tearfund, a Christian relief and development charity. I never expected, or planned to be working for a charity or Christian organisation but I don’t think it will be a surprise to those who knew me at Christ Church.

So how did I come to be working at Tearfund? The simple reason is that, as someone once said, ‘life is not a dress rehearsal’.

So when the FD role at Tearfund came up I jumped at it as it gave me the opportunity to combine a desire to address issues of poverty with the skills I had built up in my commercial career. Looking back many of the seeds of the decision were sown or germinated while I was at Oxford. I loved my time at Christ Church – it was both great fun and a time of development: my Christian faith grew and deepened at Oxford and this has given me my framework for life; the great benefit of studying PPE was that it encouraged me to question and challenge, and being at university gave me time to travel – in my first summer vacation I spent 8 weeks working in Haiti with Tearfund. However my time in Haiti had one unexpected consequence. I still remember very vividly sitting in my collections at the end of the Christmas term following my visit and the Dean saying “Mr Gough I believe you had a rather lazy summer vacation.” To which Peter Pulzer replied “Not so much lazy, just he did not do any academic work.” I got on really well with Peter Pulzer and I am sure if time could be repeated he would encourage me to do the same again but just to read a few more politics books as well!

Five years ago it felt like a big step to leave a traditional career path and join a charity. I do not know where my current role will lead to but I am sure it will be an exciting and fulfilling journey – and we only have one journey through life.

RICHARD GOUGH (1981)

Page 18
From Christ Church to Oxfam Director in six easy steps.

A geography degree equipped me for so little in the world of work but so much in the journey of life. And to study for it within the privileged, inspiring and hallowed context of the House made all the difference.

Four steps through the marketing departments of four quite different FTSE 100 food/drink companies - earning reasonable amounts of money (not a hint to the college fundraisers!) – I approached middle life and the true benefit of Christ Church kicked in.

I guess the Christ Church name had opened a few business doors and helped me to secure bigger and better jobs than I would have done otherwise. But, more importantly, the House gave me a perspective on the wider world.

Members of Christ Church have been serving and leading organisations for centuries. So often out of a sense of service and invariably taking responsibility for making the world a better place. Not leaving it to others but using the platform of Christ Church to seize opportunities and make a difference. Rather than producing self-seeking graduates, I believe the House specialises in producing altruistic citizens of the world.

It seems a long time ago then but I was particularly bothered about career planning. When I left I had various offers – something shady working with FOI, a librarian in the House of Commons or a manpower assistant at the National Economic Development Office. I plumped for the latter – not sure why now! I was particularly interested in Labour economics and trade unions and had met Jack Jones on a number of occasions so in fact I only stayed with my NEDO job for six months before I became Jack Jones’ research officer, wrote his speeches and got heavily involved with all the turmoil around the 1979 winter of discontent.

A long and tortuous path has led me into the charity world. I was the founder director of the National Lottery Charities Board (established in 1995) and so became involved in the whole dynamic and interesting world of Britain’s not-for-profit sector. This inevitably led to being headhunted for the Chief Executive of ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations).

We are a professional association for the country’s charity and not-for-profit chief executives. We support, connect and campaign on their behalf. The stereotype of charities is that it is all “raffles and jam making”. The reality is that there are some 1.5 million workers in the sector and increasingly we are delivering public services, taking over that role from the Government and local authorities. To be a chief executive in a charity these days you have to be financially astute with a business like approach to delivery. The real advantage of charities is that they are flexible, non-bureaucratic and close to their users and communities. So unlike our big national public services in health and education at times? Indeed, as part of our campaigning role, we are producing a book “Replacing the State – the case for third sector service delivery”, which will set out a case for a shift of service delivery from Government agencies, local and health authorities into not-for-profit organisations. The sector is growing, it is dynamic and it is fun to be leading an organisation promoting the values of the third sector.

I was not sure what I was going to do when I left Christ Church in 1979! Certainly did not expect to end up running the organisation that represents the countries’ charity chief executives.

I had been Chairman of the Oxford University Labour Club and heavily involved in politics. I was, of course, reading PPE and I was there at the time of the two general elections in 1974 so I was very involved with the Oxford City Labour Party supporting the candidate Evan Ludz who lost the election in February but won it in October. And of course I was an invertebrate attendee at the union and speaker in debates – it was great to see my good friend Benazir Bhutto becoming President.

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MICHAELMAS TERM 2003

Issue 12

RODERICK MACLEOD (1958)

STEPHEN BUBB (1972)

EDWARD FOX (1977)

RODDIE McLEOD (1958)

EDWARD FOX (1977)
**NOTICES**

**Gaudy Schedule**
Old Members of the House are invited periodically with their contemporaries to attend a Gaudy as guests of the House. The summer Gaudy is usually held on the last Thursday in June, and the autumn Gaudy on a Friday in late September or early October. The remainder of the current programme is:

2004
- Summer up to 1946
- Autumn 1976 - 1979
- Autumn 1990 - 1993

2005
- Summer 1947 - 1955

Please check our Old Members’ List on pages 10-11 for details.

**Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity**
Reverend Professor George Pattison has been appointed to the Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity from 1 January, 2004.

**North American Oxford Reunion 2004 – Save the Dates**
In Spring 2004 a number of Christ Church Old Member events will be taking place in the United States. Please keep a note of these dates as you plan your spring break.

- April 16th 2004: Oxford University Reunion at the Waldorf Hotel. There will be a Reception and a guest speaker.
- April 17th 2004: University Reunion Lectures at the Waldorf Hotel.
- April 18th 2000: University Reunion Lectures at the Waldorf Hotel.

**Robert Hookes Commemoration**
As a follow up to the Hookes Commemoration 2003 held at Christ Church in October, a multi-author volume edited by Allan Chapman and Paul Hancock and entitled “Robert Hooke and the English Renaissance” is now published in the autumn 2004 by Gracewing Ltd, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QF. Price £15.99. The book explores ways in which Hookes seventeenth century inventiveness shaped the centuries that followed and is still important today.

**Masters’ Garden sales restored**
Readers who have not visited the Masters’ Garden recently will be glad to know that the stone tablet in memory of G T Hutchinson, Treasurer of the House from 1911 to 1935, has been handsomely restored. The renewed longevity of the garden more than justifies the contribution that G T Hutchinson made to the creation of this garden. Work also progresses on the garden’s redesign and planting (Christ Church Matters 10, Michaelmas 2002).

**Veterans’ Lunch**
A handful of members who matriculated in 1939, with some of their partners, arranged an early celebration of the 75th anniversary of their arrival at the House with an informal lunch in hall during August. The occasion was both enjoyable and decorously a bread roll was thrown and minor blemishes to the hall’s structure were attributed to occupation of the College by royalist supporters during the late civil wars. Old Members considering a reunion of this kind – or wishing to exercise ‘dining rights’ – should contact the Steward’s office on 01865 798600 or 01865 276174.

**Engineering Success**
Oxford engineers scoop 4 of the 12 Science, Engineering and Technology Student of the Year Awards for 2003

- The winners of the twelve categories in this highly prestigious national competition were announced at a gala Banquet in London’s Guildhall on Tuesday 9th September. Oxford undergraduates from the Departments of Chemistry and Engineering Science comprised 11 of the 36 names short-listed. The winners were selected on the basis of their final-year project work, and their potential as ambassadors for Science and Engineering Technology. The winning Oxford entrants had all been reading Engineering Science. OGA Award for the Best Mechanical Engineering Student: Jonathan Eddolls, Christ Church. Modelling the working process of twin helical screw compressors.

**Research on spelling and ageing**
Junior Research Fellow, Meredith Shafto, is researching spelling abilities in old age. Although older adults are often concerned about declining language abilities, research indicates both loss and gain.

- The Department of Psychology subject panel is currently recruiting residents of the Oxford area aged 65-85% for participation in this research project. Experimental sessions are held in the Department of Psychology, South Parks Road, and involve about an hour of simple written and computer-based tasks.
- If you are interested in participation, contact the head of the subject panel, Mrs. Anne Baker at 01865 271405. For additional information on this project or other aspects of Meredith’s research, she invites readers to write to her in College, or email meredith.shafto@chch.ox.ac.uk.

**Enigma Goes to the USA**
The memorable and highly successful Enigma and the Intelligence War conference, held at Christ Church in September 2002, is to take to the road in April 2004. A three-day event in Spring 2004 a number of Christ Church Old Member events will be taking place in the United States. Please keep a note of these dates as you plan your spring break.

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- April 17th 2004: University Reunion Lectures at the Waldorf Hotel.
- April 18th 2004: University Reunion Lectures at the Waldorf Hotel.

**For further information please contact:**
- Trevor Rowley, Director of Academic Study and Travel, at 0870 7500 659 for ticket information.
- The conference is organised by Academic Study and Travel and takes place on the last Thursday in June, and the autumn Gaudy on a Friday in late September or early October. The remainder of the current programme is:
- 2004
  - Summer up to 1946
  - Autumn 1976 - 1979
  - Autumn 1990 - 1993
- 2005
  - Summer 1947 - 1955

**Contact Details**
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- Sarah.louise.williamson@chch.ox.ac.uk
- Trevor Rowley, Director of Academic Study and Travel, at 0870 7500 659 for ticket information.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER**

**Michaelmas Term**
12th October – 17th December 2003
(to 22nd January 2004)

- THE LIFE OF THE VIRGIN MARY
  A display of drawings and paintings in the Picture Gallery from the permanent collection following the life of the Virgin Mary.

- DRAMA IN THE MAKING: TADDEO ZUCCARO AND THE ART OF DRAWING IN MID-16TH CENTURY ROME
  A selection of drawings exhibited in the Picture Gallery by Taddeo Zuccaro (1529 - 1566) and his contemporaries in Rome. The highlight of this exhibition is the generous loan from the Royal Collection at Windsor of two Zuccaro drawings. One of which (The Adoration of the Shepherds) will be reunited for the first time with a drawing from the collection at Christ Church believed to be its sister half.

30th
- ADVANCE CAROL SERVICE, CHIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Contact the Revd Ralph Williamson, Chaplain, for details)

3rd – 6th MARCH

- CONCERT AT ETON
  (Call 01753 671171 for details)

5th
- MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH CAROL EVENT
  (Call 01296 623550 for ticket information)

9th
- MUSIC AT OXFORD CAROL CONCERT
  (Call 0870 7500 659 for ticket information)

23rd
- CAROL SERVICE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Call the Cathedral Office on 01865 276154 for details)

24th
- CAROL SERVICE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Contact details as above)

25th
- SUNG SERVICES AND AFTER SUNG ECCLESIAST, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Contact the Verger’s Office for details on 01865 276154)

**DECEMBER**

1st – 21st

- THE TEN POTTERS
  The second work of a collection of Oxfordshire potters, exhibited in the Picture Gallery.

5th
- 20.00
  MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH CAROL EVENT
  (Call 01296 623550 for ticket information)

9th
- 20.00
  MUSIC AT OXFORD CAROL CONCERT
  (Call 0870 7500 659 for ticket information)

23rd
- 19.30
  CAROL SERVICE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Call the Cathedral Office on 01865 276154 for details)

24th
- 15.00
  CAROL SERVICE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
  (Contact details as above)

**JANUARY**

7th January – 25th March 2004

**HILARY TERM**

- ARTS AND LETTERS
  (Contact 01865 276154 for details)

**FEBRUARY**

- CONCERT AT ETON
  (Call 01865 276154 for details)

**MARCH**

- 3rd – 6th
  - 6TOPIPS
  (Call 0870 7500 659 for ticket information)

- 19
  - CONCERT AT UPPINGHAM
  (Call the Music Department on 01572 822267 for details)

**APRIL**

**TRINITY TERM**

- 20th April – 6th July 2004

1st – 4th

- SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKEND:
  - FOOD & DRINK OR HISTORY PROGRAMME’S AVAILABLE
  - Contact the Steward’s Office for details

4th
- HOLY WEEK SERVICES BEGIN

28th
- 8pm
  - OXFORD PHILHARMONICA ORCHESTRA WITH CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR
  - Conducted by Dr Stephen Darlington including Mozart’s Requiem
  (Call 01865 276154 for details).

**Contacts & Opening Hours:**
- Picture Gallery: 1st April – 30th September
  - Monday-Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00
  - Sunday: 14.00 – 17.00

- 1st October – 31st March: Monday-Saturday: 10.00 – 13.00
  - Sunday: 14.00 – 16.30

For further information please contact:
- Jacqueline Thalman or Sarah Louise Wilkinson
  - Christ Church Picture Gallery, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP
  - Tel: 01865 - 276172 Fax: 01865 - 202429
  - Email: Picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk
  - Jacqueline.thalman@chch.ox.ac.uk
  - Sarah.louise.williamson@chch.ox.ac.uk

- Steward’s Office
  - Tel: 01865 276174

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