CONTENTS

DEAN’S DIARY 1
CARDINAL SINS – ROYAL VISITS TO CHRIST CHURCH 2
COLLEGE NEWS 4
CATHEDRAL CHOIR 8
JCR REPORT 10
GCR REPORT 11
LIBRARY – GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING 12
THE Earliest PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHRIST CHURCH 15
A University EDUCATION 18
ASSOCIATION NEWS 20
Peter Keddie 20
Events 22
Career focus – Technology 24
Christ Church Women in Science 26
Impressions of New Zealand 28
Christ Church Boat Club 30
Book Reviews 31

OVALHOUSE 34
MICHELANGELO IN NEW YORK 36

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUE BOAR QUAD AND THE PICTURE GALLERY 38

GHOSTS THAT NEVER HAUNTED CHRIST CHURCH 40
BOOKS WITHOUT ENDING 42
THE LIFE AND SCIENCE OF Dr PAUL KENT 43

The editors of CCM 41 are Dr Anna Port and Simon Offen.

We apologise for an error on p. 14 of CCM 40: a photograph was incorrectly labelled as being of Alexander Russell (the photograph was instead of Robin Dundas).

With thanks to the following for their contribution of photographs for this edition of Christ Church Matters: Anke Kloock, Paul Port, Eleanor Sanger, David Stumpp, and Revd Ralph Williamson.

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Design and layout: Baseline Arts Ltd, Oxford.
Printed by Holywell Press, Oxford.

CHRIST CHURCH GAUDY DATES

FIXED DATES

Friday 28th September 2018 – 1959
Friday 28th June 2019 1960–1965
Friday 4th October 2019 1966–1970
Friday 26th June 2020 1971–1975
Friday 2nd October 2020 1976–1980

PROVISIONAL DATES

Friday 25th June 2021 1981–1985
Friday 1st October 2021 1986–1989
Friday 24th June 2022 1990–1993
Friday 30th September 2022 1994–1997
Friday 23rd June 2023 1998–2000

CONTINUED CYCLE

Autumn 2023 2001–2003
Summer 2024 2004–2006
Autumn 2024 2007–2009
Summer 2025 2010–2012
Autumn 2025 2013–2015
Summer 2026 2016–2018

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HOLYWELL PRESS LTD
M33 9SG (UK)
Printed on Carbon Negative paper

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That our institutions live in challenging times is not the main problem. That we forget that we have always lived like this – that may be the problem. Oxford is once again the focus of intense media scrutiny on a number of fronts – access, admissions, welfare, wealth – to name but a few. These are tough times to be an institution trying to serve the public. There are ever increasing demands for higher standards, yet the resources to drive the necessary change and development struggle to keep pace.

In the midst of such challenging times, there is no room for complacency; no point in despondency; and no gain in weary resignation. Realism coupled to vision, and the sheer determination to continue with the work of education in the cause of public service and social transformation, are always key.

So despite what the headlines may say at present, Oxford remains a vibrant, inclusive place – one of the greatest universities in the world, and a beacon of learning and opportunity. To be sure, there is more to be done; scope for change and room for improvement. In driving that work forward, your support remains invaluable – not least for the encouragement it offers.

As members of the House will all know, time is fluid here. Oxford, located one degree, 15 minutes and 24 seconds west of the prime meridian at Greenwich, is technically 5 minutes and 2 seconds behind GMT. So when it is 9:05 pm in the rest of Great Britain, Great Tom toils across the city, not nine times to mark the hour, which would make some kind of sense, but 101 times. In 1664, Christ Church had 101 students. Curfew was 9pm. Ergo, 101 peals every night ever since, calling those now former members out of the pub – and into their beds.

However challenging our age, attuning ourselves to the sureness of the passage of time brings us wisdom and perspective. So does the cycle of nature. One of the great glories of Christ Church are our beautiful gardens. They are lovingly and professionally cared for by our expert staff, overseen by Head Gardener, John James.

In the back garden of the Deanery is the Alice Tree (pictured below), which has certainly seen better days. It remains, however, resilient. It is now over three hundred years old, and undoubtedly in the late evening of its natural life, however, John and his team have carefully cultivated seedlings that now reside in our nursery. So in due course, a new Alice Tree will rise up for future generations.

Some sixty-five years ago, and also writing in a time of great challenge and change, Leslie Hunter wrote this short parable:

As the threats of war and the cries of the dispossessed were sounding in our ears, humanity fell into an uneasy sleep. In our sleep we dreamed that we entered the spacious store in which the gifts of God to humanity are kept, and addressed the angel behind the counter, saying: ‘We have run out of the fruits of the Spirit. Can you restock us?’ When the angel seemed about to say ‘no’, we burst out: ‘In place of violence, terrorism, war, afflictions and injustice…we need love, joy, peace, integrity.’ Without these we shall all be lost.’ And then the angel behind the counter replied, ‘We do not stock fruits here. Only seeds.’

We are a House of Learning, and our interest is in solving and removing the problems and challenges this world faces; not making them easier to live with. The art of education lies in cultivation; and in planting seeds of hope.

That is why we continue to ask for support and help, for we want to offer an education that is transformative. We educate for change. As the saying goes, if you want to plan for five years ahead, plant a seed. If you want to plan for ten years ahead, plant a tree. If you want to plan for a lifetime ahead…then educate.

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy
Christ Church has hosted many royal visits throughout its history. Henry VIII’s first queen, Catherine of Aragon, made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St Frideswide in 1518 praying that her next child, already on the way, would be a son. The king never came, but then Christ Church was founded only a few weeks before his death in January 1547.

Although they were frequently in contact with the Dean and Canons, particularly over the provision of statutes for the new college, neither Edward VI nor Mary Tudor made it to their father’s college. Elizabeth, on the other hand, visited twice. In 1566, during one of the plays put on for the queen’s entertainment, the stage collapsed killing three men and injuring five more. Elizabeth’s own surgeon attended to the needs of the wounded. She came again, towards the end of her reign, in 1592. This time the Dean made sure that the University took some responsibility for the costs.

James I stayed for three days in August 1605, when the cornets, still kept in the library, were purchased for the occasion. The treasurer managed to claw back £105 from the University as its contribution to the £177 bill (around £37,500 today). The expenses of a royal stay were always a problem. In 1636, when Charles I came to stay, the accounts for the entertainments show that Inigo Jones, the chief designer, spent £260 just on the stage and scenery and another £300 for costumes. But things were to get more difficult still when Civil War broke out in 1642 and the King decided to make Oxford his base. Christ Church became his residence for four years, with all the attendant difficulties and expense of court, cathedral, army, and students all trying to function in the same limited space.

After the Restoration, royal visits continued but they were more personal affairs. Charles II stayed on two occasions, the first with both his queen and Lady Castlemaine, housed diplomatically at opposite ends of Christ Church.

While the Stuarts had been regular guests, the Hanoverians were not. There seem to have been no royal visitors after the

Archivist, Judith Curthoys, reflects on occasions when Christ Church has played host to members of the royal family.
reign of Queen Anne – who stopped by briefly in 1702 – until the Prince Regent (the future George IV) and the Duke of York came for dinner in 1814 for the celebration after the Peace of Paris. In 1858, the future Edward VII came up to Christ Church as an undergraduate and, only five years later, soon after their marriage, Princess Alexandra presented prizes to the University Rifles in Tom Quad.

It is in the last century, however, that there has been the largest number of royal visits. These are short affairs – no longer does the monarch stay for days and certainly not for years – but no less exciting for that. In 1925, as part of the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Cardinal College, George V and Queen Mary came for a garden party. The event was recorded on film, the first moving pictures taken at Christ Church. Then, in October 1946, the quatercentenary of Christ Church was commemorated with another royal visit, a performance of Shakespeare’s Henry VIII, and a dinner – in spite of post-war rationing. The event must have cheered people up tremendously. Desmond Minty, an exhibitioner who came up in 1944, wrote home to his parents that evening to describe the occasion.

At 7.10 the cathedral choir, standing at the top of the steps leading into hall, started singing ‘Jubilate Deo’ as The Royal Party approached the hall. It sounded lovely and very, very beautiful, and seemed to bring out a sort of awesome solemnity. Then the procession came in to hall. First the mace bearers, then the King with Mrs Lowe (the Dean’s wife), followed by the Dean with The Queen, and then senior dons and the Chancellor of the university, (Lord Halifax). Lady Halifax was with Mr Dundas (my ancient history tutor). They reached high table and after grace had been read we all sat down. There was soup, fish, roast chicken and meringues for sweet. We drank champagne and then after a fanfare of trumpet we sang “Here’s a Health unto His Majesty” and drank it in port.

After dinner, the royal party went to the Deanery until it was time to depart at 9.15pm. Desmond told in his letter that he and his friends all cheered like mad and sang ‘for he’s a jolly good fellow’. They [the King and Queen] got into the car and we raced over the quad (nearly falling into Mercury in doing so) and stood near the gate. As the car came round the quad and under the gate we cheered ourselves hoarse and just as it was passing under the gate a crowd of us gathered round to push and give him a real send off. They both looked very happy and the Queen was giving that famous wave of the hand that I have seen so often on the pictures before. I was one of the first to get to the car and got right at the left hand corner where the King was sitting. With only the car between us I was no more than a foot away from him. He looked as pleased as punch and was obviously enjoying it immensely. We pushed the car till it gathered speed and we could keep up with it no longer – and all the time we were cheering our heads off.

The present Queen has visited at least five times during her reign (in 1960; in 1968 to open Blue Boar Quad and the Picture Gallery; in 1992; in 2006; and most recently in 2013 when Her Majesty presented the Maundy Money in the Cathedral.) Will she be coming again in 2025 to celebrate our 500th anniversary?
Portrait of Christ Church Alumnus Sir John Gurdon unveiled

On Friday 23rd February a portrait was unveiled of Christ Church alumnus Sir John Gurdon, who received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2012. The portrait, painted by Geoffrey Hayzer, joins those of other eminent alumni and former members lining the walls of our Hall.

Sir John came to Christ Church to study Zoology in 1952, and went on to complete his DPhil in Oxford in 1960. He has undertaken pioneering research in the field of nuclear transplantation and cloning, including making the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become stem cells, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 1971, and was knighted in 1995.

Professor Guy Wilkinson elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society

Professor Guy Wilkinson, Tutor in Physics at Christ Church, has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his exceptional contributions to science.

Fifty eminent scientists have been elected this year, along with ten new Foreign Members, described by the Society’s President as ‘the world’s best scientists’.

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship made up of the most eminent scientists, engineers, and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth. Fellows and Foreign Members are elected for life through a peer review process on the basis of excellence in science.

Professor Guy Wilkinson is a Professor of Physics and Alfred Moritz Student and Tutor in Physics. He is a High Energy Physicist working on the Large Hadron Collider project at CERN, Geneva. His particular fields of interest are quark flavour physics, CP violation and precision electroweak physics. Between 2014 and 2017 he led the LHCb collaboration as its spokesperson, having previously served as its physics coordinator during the crucial first two years of LHC operation.
New Organist for Christ Church

Christ Church is delighted to announce the appointment of Steven Grahl as the new Organist at Christ Church Cathedral.

Succeeding Stephen Darlington, who has held the office for 33 years, Steven takes over a unique role. As well as being Director of Music for the Cathedral, and overseeing the world-class Cathedral Choir, he will also hold significant academic roles in the Faculty of Music in the University, as well as the College.

Steven Grahl is currently the Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral, where he has been in post since 2014. He is also a Junior Fellow at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Conductor of Schola Cantorum of Oxford, and President of the Incorporated Association of Organists. In addition, Steven is conductor of Peterborough Choral Society, and the Stamford Chamber Orchestra. He was previously Assistant Organist at New College Oxford. He held the position of Organist & Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church, London, from 2001-2014.

The Dean welcomed Steven’s appointment by saying: “We are thrilled that Steven will be joining us in September. He is an exceptional musician, who will lead our Choir into the next decade, and take it to even greater heights. His predecessor, Stephen Darlington, will be a hard act to follow, but I know in Steven Grahl we have the right person for the job.”

Steven responded: “I am delighted and honoured to be appointed to Christ Church and to the Faculty of Music at Oxford. The opportunity to continue Stephen Darlington’s excellent work and to contribute as a scholar and teacher to the vibrant life of the University is a most exciting prospect. Whilst I am sorry to be leaving Peterborough Cathedral after four richly fulfilling years, I am very much looking forward to shaping future developments in the musical life of Christ Church Cathedral.”

2018 Tower Poetry Competition winners announced

The theme for the 2018 Tower Poetry Competition was ‘Secrets’, which led to a wide range of interesting responses in the poems from this year’s entrants. This year the judges were John Fuller, Christopher Reid, and Professor Peter McDonald.

The winners were announced at a lunchtime reception at Christ Church on Wednesday 18th April. The first prize of £3000 was awarded to Taraneh Peryie from Bristol Grammar School, for her poem entitled ‘Richard’. The winner of the second prize of £1000 was Lucy Thynne from Lady Margaret School, London, for the poem ‘untold secret to my mother’, while Robbi Sher of Highgate School, London, won the third prize of £500 with her poem ‘A Secret No Longer’. All three winners will be invited to the Tower Poetry Summer School, taking place at Christ Church this year.

You can read all of the winning poems on the Tower Poetry website www.towerpoetry.org.uk/
Professor Mark Edwards admitted as Senior Proctor of the University

Professor Mark Edwards, Tutor in Theology at Christ Church was admitted as Senior Proctor of the University in a ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre on Wednesday 14th March.

The Senior Proctor, Junior Proctor and the Assessor are elected annually by colleges in a set cycle. As well as being members of key decision-making committees within the University, the Proctors and Assessors ensure that the University operates according to its statutes. They have some responsibility for student discipline, for ensuring the proper conduct of exams, and for dealing with complaints. The role also includes ceremonial duties, such as those carried out at degree ceremonies. The Admission ceremony has taken place in the Sheldonian Theatre since 2013.

Lawrence Yu Ho Wing presented with Global Study Award

Lawrence Yu Ho Wing, DPhil student in Experimental Psychology, was awarded a 2016/17 Global Study Award by the British Council IELTS, International Student Identity Card (ISIC) Association, and Study Portals. The Global Study Awards are designed to support highly motivated, talented individuals who can actively demonstrate their potential to contribute to society through their studies, as well as showing a strong commitment to developing their career, and their sincere interest in increasing intercultural understanding and exchange. Lawrence Yu is one of only six winners from the 100,000 worldwide applications in 2016.

Lisa Thalheimer selected to be GYCN Climate Ambassador

Graduate student Lisa Thalheimer has been selected to be a Global Youth Climate Network Climate Ambassador. Lisa is currently in the first year of a DPhil in Geography and the Environment, researching climatic extremes and migration.

The Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN) is part of the World Bank Youth to Youth (Y2Y) Community, a multi-faceted network of young professionals dedicated to engaging, inspiring and empowering young people in global development. Lisa said, “In my role as Climate Ambassador for the UK, I aim to bring together the youth around Oxford, the colleges, as well as the School of Geography and the Environment and the Oxford Climate Society, and connect climate initiatives around the UK and the world”.

Victoria Gill finalist in the Oxfordshire Concerto Competition

Violinist Victoria Gill, currently in her third year of studying for a BA in Music at Christ Church, was a finalist in the Oxfordshire Concerto Competition held at Oxford Town Hall on Saturday 3rd March.

The competition, presented by the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Oxfordshire County Music Service, was launched in 2011/12, and comprises both a Junior and Senior competition. It is open to all instrumentalists who are aged 23 or under on 31st August 2018, who are Oxfordshire residents or students, and are in full-time education or on a gap year following A-levels.
Christ Church students play in Varsity Rugby Matches

Two Christ Church students, Dan Moor and Pat Metcalfe-Jones, were selected for the Oxford teams that took part in the 2017 Varsity Rugby Matches against Cambridge, which took place at Twickenham Stadium on 7th December.

James Trickey Run 2018

On Sunday 6th May members of Christ Church, including both staff and students, took part in the annual James Trickey Run, held each year in memory of a Christ Church alumnus who passed away in 2014. Participants have the choice of entering either a 5K or 10K race, which takes place around Christ Church Meadow. Around £900 was raised – more than double that which was achieved in 2017. Of this, £100 goes towards the upkeep of the churchyard where James is buried, at St Laurence Church in Taynton, with the rest of the money being split between the RAG charities.

Academic and Research News

Dr Carissa Véliz, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy, was awarded the BSS-Santander Universities Scholarship by the BritishSpanish Society Grants Committee and Santander Universities. The Scholarship is awarded to UK or Spanish nationals engaged in University studies at postgraduate level that have some connection with bilateral links and relationships between the UK and Spain in any field of academic interest.

Dr Robin Thompson, Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics and Biology, was awarded the 2017 PLOS Computational Biology Research Prize in the Public Impact category for his paper entitled ‘Detecting Presymptomatic Infection is Necessary to Forecast Major Epidemics in the Earliest Stages of Infectious Disease Outbreaks’.

Dr Fabian Schneider, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Christ Church, was part of an international team of astronomers which revealed an ‘astonishing’ overabundance of massive stars in a neighbouring galaxy. The discovery, made in the gigantic star-forming region 30 Doradus in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy, has ‘far-reaching’ consequences for our understanding of how stars transformed the Universe into the one we live in today. The results were published in the journal Science, in a paper on which Dr Schneider was the lead author.

Dr Patricia Lockwood, Junior Research Fellow in Psychology, was awarded the Frith Prize by the Experimental Psychology Society, for her PhD thesis. The prize recognises experimental psychologists at the start of their career who have produced an exceptional body of work in their PhD thesis.

Dr Kerri Donaldson Hanna, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Physics and UK Space Agency Aurora Research Fellow, was awarded a 2018 Winton Capital prize, which recognises the outstanding work of young researchers.

Dr Jena Meinecke, Junior Research Fellow in Physics, was presented with an Early Career Researchers MPLS Impact Award by the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences division at the University of Oxford. The annual MPLS Impact Awards aim to raise awareness of impact by rewarding it at a local level, with winners receiving an award of £1000.

Dr Belinda Jack, Official Student and Tutor in French, had a second article, ‘Poetry and Emotion’, published in The Lancet, one of the world’s leading medical journals.

Dr Gabriele Watson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Law, has had her first book, Respect and Criminal Justice, accepted for publication by Oxford University Press.

Dr Sam Ferguson, Junior Research Fellow in Modern Languages, has published a book on Diaries Real and Fictional in Twentieth-Century French Writing.
To encapsulate the extent of Clive Driskill-Smith’s contribution to Music at Christ Church in a single short article is an impossible task. He has been outstanding in every way, serving to enhance the reputation of Christ Church both here and abroad primarily through his pre-eminence as the finest organist of his generation.

I well remember Clive’s interview in 1994, when we offered him a deferred place for 1996. His referee had described his piano playing as ‘breath-takingly impressive’ and this was borne out in what we heard both on the piano and organ. He was also a bassoonist in the National Youth Orchestra. Academically he was very bright, subsequently gaining Firsts in Mods, FHS and then an MPhil in Interpretation and Performance. As Organ Scholar he was exemplary. There have been many ‘golden’ periods during my time at Christ Church, and one of them was definitely when David Goode was Sub-Organist and Clive was Organ Scholar and then Deputy Organist during an interregnum. They made a wonderful team, sharing musical brilliance of very different types, a strong work ethic, and a modesty which belied the depth of their talents. It was not a surprise that Clive was by far the strongest candidate when David Goode left, and he has been Sub-Organist since 2001. During this time he has directed the choir during several of my sabbaticals, taught many undergraduates and mentored a succession of Organ Scholars, who owe much to his calm guidance.

Clive’s achievements in the wider world of the organ profession are glittering. At the Royal College of Organists he gained all the major prizes in the Fellowship examinations and also First Prize in the RCO Performer of the Year competition in 2000. The final involved playing a concerto with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra in Bridgewater Hall in Manchester: I was there and it was electrifying! In 2002, he won the prestigious Calgary International Organ Competition, and his concerts and recordings have been received with huge acclaim. He has performed all over the world, and also in this country, at the BBC Proms, the Royal Festival Hall, and the Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

So what are the features which have combined to generate such glowing responses to his performances? There are two categories of organists at the highest level: those who focus on technical virtuosity and the compelling mechanical aspects of the instrument and those whose touch is more akin to that of the pianist, projecting a more expansive approach to the organ. Clive definitely falls into the latter category. His performances are finely nuanced and deeply sensitive and they consistently demonstrate the capacity for the instrument to transcend its mechanical limitations when in the hands of a true artist. The same applies to his accompaniments, when his preparation...
is always so meticulous that he is able to act in true partnership with the conductor. Watching Clive play, as I have done on many occasions, never fails to remind me of this extract from W.H. Auden’s *Horae Canonicae*:

> You need not see what someone is doing,  
> To know if it is his vocation,  
> You have only to watch his eyes:  
> A cook mixing a sauce, a surgeon  
> Making a primary incision,  
> A clerk completing a bill of lading,  
> Wear the same rapt expression,  
> Forgetting themselves in a function.

It would be difficult to find a more evocative expression of what it means to have a vocation and, whilst there is no mention of music, those of us involved in performance must surely recognise this description in Clive. His is a rare and special talent.

Clive is leaving to take up a new post at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, Texas. This will be an exciting challenge for him, but he is already much celebrated in the USA so he will ‘hit the ground running’! He will be greatly missed at Christ Church but we wish him every success in the next stage of his life and thank him for contributing so profoundly to the great history of music in this place.
2017/18 has been another exciting year for the JCR. The year will be remembered in particular for the amazing Commem Ball that took place in Trinity 2017. It was a truly amazing night that excelled beyond all expectations and we cannot thank the committee and all those involved enough for all that they did.

All our JCR officers have been working tirelessly and a number of exciting events, both new and traditional, have emerged from all their efforts. We have raised a huge amount of money for the University RAG charities, with events ranging from a Valentine's formal hall to a Summer Party in the Master’s Garden, where the college Tortoise made an appearance. We also recently hosted our annual run in memory of Christ Church alumnus James Trickey, where despite the sweltering temperatures huge numbers of students committed to the 10km route and finished in impressive times.

We had a fantastic year of sport: Following on from the impressive rowing success in Torpids, our teams won victory in both Rounders and Waterpolo cuppers. The Men’s 1st XI Football and the newly rejuvenated Women’s Football team both achieved promotion from their respective divisions, whilst the basketball team went unbeaten for all of Hilary term and the Men’s Rugby team was boosted by Canadian International Dan Moor steadying the ship.

At Christmas, following the illumination of the Christmas Lights in Peck, we held a Santa-themed dinner. The sight of two hundred students in Santa Suits was really something to behold, and it was a true marker of the success of our Fresher’s week and Michaelmas term more generally that all years came together to celebrate so happily as one community.

We held our annual exchange with Trinity College, Cambridge and hundreds of students got involved despite the snow. Sports ranged from the traditional football and hockey, to Ultimate Frisbee and darts, and it was wonderful to have so many in college welcome our visitors.

Our Arts Rep has put on an unprecedented number of events, heralding a new tradition of the Christ Church Arts week, and an Easter Egg hunt, with prizes as exciting as a trip on the Eurostar being generously donated. Christ Church students have unsurprisingly been involved in a number of theatrical productions, taking centre stage and directing shows all around Oxford.

Our LGBTQ officer also organised many events, hosting an inter-college Unity dinner in the McKenna Room and celebrating LGBTQ+ history month with the LGBTQ+ flag flying for all of February. This was then joined by a flag to celebrate Women’s Suffrage, a tradition which we hope will continue for years to come.

The Welfare team has, as always, been committed to looking after everyone, including producing a new and improved Welfare handbook.

Recently, for the first time, the JCR agreed a Leaver’s Gift for Student Welfare, and we had plans approved for a new café to open in the JCR; the product of many people’s hard work; and a place to be the centre of college life in the future.

I count myself truly fortunate to be surrounded by so many talented and motivated people and to study in such a place as Christ Church. I am sure that in the forthcoming year we will achieve just as many exciting things, and I thank all who have helped us this year.
On 22 June 2017, I had the privilege of attending my first Christ Church Gaudy Dinner as GCR President. Although I had just completed my third term at Oxford and had become well acquainted with student life at Christ Church and the degree of community and fellowship that exists within the community, I could not have imagined the extent to which the connection between students and college existed. As the grace sung by our Cathedral Choir echoed off the stained glass windows of the Hall, I could not help but notice the emotional state of the alumni who, after more than ten years, were being welcomed back to a place that, even for a brief point in their lives, they could call home.

Home… the Hall where they broke bread, shared countless meals, and exchanged an endless series of ideas.

Home… the gardens that provided the much-needed tranquility and reprieve from their studies and their work.

Home… the community of friends with whom they celebrated some of their greatest successes and endured some of the most difficult challenges of their lives.

It was indeed Christ Church that served not only as a place of magnificent towers, stairways, and quads but as a community that left a profound and indelible mark on the history of each and every individual that was participating in that dinner. As the Choir concluded the grace and the alumni sat down to begin their meal – with some wiping away the kind of tears that only the tenderness of nostalgia can provoke – it was at that particular moment that I learned what it meant to belong to an Oxford college and what it meant to belong to something far greater than myself.

After having just completed my second year at Oxford, it is difficult not to feel bittersweet over the conflicting sentiments of, for the second time, saying goodbye to those that are leaving. On the one hand, we cannot help but feel the emotional sting of being separated from the people we have grown to care about. But on the other, it is difficult to look at our peers and not feel a deep sense of admiration for those – our friends and acquaintances – that will inevitably become innovators and leaders in every facet of society throughout the world.

It is difficult to look at our peers and not feel a sense of humility and inspiration when considering the positive change that they will make in the world community. Most importantly, it is difficult to look at our peers and not feel comforted knowing that there will always be a bond that unites and brings us together.

On 22 June 2017, I had the privilege of learning what it means to belong to Christ Church and what it means to – after a lifetime of experiences – return to a place from a distant past, break bread with lifelong friends, and, most importantly, feel like you have returned home.
In an environment like Oxford, our relationships with books and libraries seem to be very deep-seated and, having started to meet some of you on visits back to the House, it seems the Library at Christ Church holds a place of great affection in your hearts with memories of happy hours working here (or just as part of the vista from Peck, for those who spent less time inside!). When we delve beneath the surface, it would seem historically that this has always been the case with the Library being the beneficiary of goodwill from members of the House from the very outset, owing much of its existence to them.

In 1705 when the original Library in the Cathedral cloister was full to bursting, it was decided a new Library was required. The majority of the cost of the construction of the "new" Library building as we know it now, was met by members of the House who provided over £13,500 of the £15,000 required, and their money was invested in the construction of the grandest space within Christ Church. The interior of the Upper Library is particularly spectacular and continues to take the breath away. It stands as a monument to the generosity of the members of the time.

When the New Library opened in 1772, it was only the Upper Library which contained books, as the Picture Gallery filled the ground floor (another spectacular gift!). The space was not designed for undergraduate use, however, and was the preserve of Senior Members as a grand place to bring guests to demonstrate the serious academic nature of life here. Times have, naturally, changed and at the time of writing, the space is currently filled with students, using it as an additional supervised revision space during Trinity Term. This was made possible through the generosity of an Old Member, and we have just received a commitment from another alum to fund the next 5 years of these extra staff costs.

The Library building may have taken a very different form had it not been for the generosity of members. And similarly, the contents of the Library would look...
dramatically different had it not been for the major bibliophiles who gave books in such large quantities that shelves of the Upper Library were full before the building was even finished, requiring amendments and the blocking up of four of the windows on the north side. The names of the major benefactors are painted above the bookcases, with the North wall housing the founding collections of Nicholson, Dean Aldrich, Canon Stratford and Professor Morris; all sizeable and impressive gentlemen’s libraries. However, it never fails to amaze when people turn to the South wall and see just one name painted above the shelves of the Library’s largest single bequest – the Library of Archbishop William Wake (1657-1737) who gave his collection of over 8000 printed books and a major collection of Byzantine manuscripts, along with all of his personal papers; the only set of Archbishop’s papers outside of Lambeth Palace. Wake’s books are of interest for their scholarly content, of course, but also have great bibliographic importance as a complete personal library, reflecting the tastes and interests of a great eighteenth-century polymath. The gallery above the Wake collection had to be added to the construction plans in order to make room for the Library of the Earl of Orrery which now stands as the pre-eminent collection of early scientific and mathematical works in the UK.

When showing guests around the Library, one of the most common remarks is “well, it’s lovely, but surely no-one ever uses these books – they’re all just so old”. Not so! Access to the collection is open to all with valid scholarly reason, under supervision, of course, as I believe firmly that we would be doing our generous forebears a great disservice to restrict access. In addition, as a direct result of classes taught in the Upper Library, two students are currently exploring the possibility of a career in libraries/archives, which I consider a fantastic achievement for the Library.

One of the hidden treasures of Christ Church is the Allestree Library, tucked discretely away in a room above the Cloisters, housing the library of the Regius Professor of Divinity since 1681. Left in the will of Richard Allestree (1621-81) not to the College, but to successive Professors, the books remained the property of the University until 1944, when it was decreed that the books should become the property of Christ Church. It is one of the most unexplored parts of the Library’s collection, and one of the most intriguing, through which came one of our greatest gifts, Queen Elizabeth I’s Bible in its beautiful hand-embroidered binding.

Books continue to be given to the Library on a weekly basis, from all corners. Scholars from across the world send to us copies of their publications containing images from the Library’s collections, enhancing what we know about our own books. Academics continue the tradition of gifting books they have written to
the College’s collections, and these are always popular with students wishing to know more about their Tutors’ opinions! Perhaps our most popular example of books in this category would be Charles Dodgson’s presentation copy to the Common Room of the first edition of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.

One of the most interesting and varied sources of acquisition, however, is from you all: Old Members of Christ Church who take the time to send or bring in copies of your books to the Library, and it is with great pleasure that they are received as it is wonderful to be able to preserve the literary output of members of the House. In Library terms, these books are collectively referred to as the “Z” collection; I do not want it to sound like these are books relegated to the end of a classification scheme (they very much are not!) but by their nature these are books which span just about every topic imaginable (cricket, country houses, contemporary poetry etc.) and thus seemingly it was better to classify them together by their unifying feature, and set them apart from the rest of the collection.

We are also fortunate to have several ‘named funds’ set up by members (or in their memory) which allow us to continue the purchase of books for the modern collections, all of which bear a bookplate explaining their origin.

As we have started work trying to rationalise the Library’s basement stores under Peck 9.1 and 2, we have found some touching inscriptions in books donated to the Library in memory of the fallen of the World Wars. These are books which in themselves might no longer be relevant to taught courses, or be of any great financial worth, but which are so important for the institutional memory to which they add. We are busy reclassifying these books (which were in the Roman numeral sequence) into the Z collections to preserve them for future generations.

Gifts come not just in the form of money or books. There are many friends to the Library who give their time and expertise to deliver talks, lead seminars, transcribe and translate texts, co-curate exhibitions, write catalogues – the list goes on – which all greatly enriches the Library’s offering, but also demonstrates the breadth of the appeal of our holdings and the varying uses to which they continue to be put.

Some gifts are perhaps less visible with core work such as cataloguing and digitisation being funded by members of our own community. In terms of digitisation, Christ Church is in a different league to our other college counterparts in Oxford; work that simply would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors. Images are now being delivered across the world, spreading the name and reputation of the Library globally. As is to be expected, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

I feel immensely lucky to have the responsibility to look after such a magnificent library, and one which has been, and continues to be the beneficiary of such generosity, clearly demonstrating the high esteem in which it is held. To both those who have supported and those who continue to support our work, a huge thank you.
Simon Murison-Bowie is a Research Affiliate on the Bodleian Library’s project to create a catalogue raisonné of the images of William Henry Fox Talbot, the inventor of the negative/positive process in photography.

Christ Church and photography have always been linked through the name of Lewis Carroll and his productive years with the medium, 1856 to 1880. In 2015 his photography was celebrated by an exhibition in the Upper Library and its accompanying catalogue The Other Side of the Lens: Lewis Carroll and the Art of Photography in the Nineteenth Century. (https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/library-and-archives/lewis-carroll-and-art-photography)

But Christ Church featured in the earliest years following the invention of photography by the Englishman William Henry Fox Talbot. Talbot (1800–1877) was a model nineteenth-century polymath; he had excelled in Classics and Mathematics as an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, and subsequently extended his interests in Botany, Chemistry, Optics, Astronomy, Etymology and Ancient History from his home, Lacock Abbey near Chippenham, Wiltshire – he was Member of Parliament for Chippenham from 1833 to 1835 and High Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1840. The only thing he could not do was to draw. To cut a long and complex story ridiculously short, necessity being the mother of invention, he invented photography; a means of using a camera obscura to fix an image on a piece of paper. He called his images ‘photogenic drawings’ and the title of his book (or rather a series of six fascicles) The Pencil of Nature; the connection between drawing and photography is thus explicitly made.

Here my aim is not to focus on the technology employed by Talbot – this and the subsequent developments of his ‘calotype’ process are covered well and succinctly in the aforementioned The Other Side of the Lens. Rather, I want to understand Talbot’s working methods by giving myself problems of a similar nature.

I am an Oxford-based photographer (and retired publisher) who has found himself for years walking past scenes depicted by Henry Talbot – this and the subsequent developments of his ‘calotype’ process are covered well and succinctly in the aforementioned The Other Side of the Lens. Rather, I want to understand Talbot’s working methods by giving myself problems of a similar nature.
There is, for example, an image of the Oriel Gate onto Oriel Square – see Figure 2. My initial photograph taken from street level (Figure 3) presented a very awkward approximation to Talbot’s image; his was clearly taken from an elevated viewpoint, which I eventually found to be rooms on Canterbury 2 – see Figure 4.

The most casual viewer will note the continuity of image from the 1840s to the present day. But there is change, too. Compare Talbot’s view down St Aldate’s of Tom Tower (Figure 5) with mine (Figure 6). They show both the continuity of the buildings and the change – traffic, street furniture, the railings by the two men on the left of Talbot’s image (railings donated to the war effort in WWII, uselessly it seems as all this stuff was dumped in the Thames Estuary). But there is more serious change, too. Compare my photograph (Figure 7) with Talbot’s (Figure 8). Taken from the Main Garden of Corpus Christi, they both show the spire of the Cathedral and the top of Tom Tower but there are substantial changes to the Corpus buildings and, of course, the trees.

Soon after I had started my project, I became aware that the Bodleian holds part of Talbot’s archive and is building a catalogue raisonné of all his negatives and prints under the directorship of Dr Larry Schaaf, the world’s leading expert on Talbot. (See https://talbot.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/) Larry and Brian Liddy, his Research Assistant, have been extremely generous of their time and expertise. The fact that there are several hundred items relating to Oxford set me off on another track of enquiry. Who did Talbot know in Oxford?

There is very little concrete evidence of who he may have known in the archive of Talbot correspondence, another resource created and curated by Larry Schaaf. (See http://foxtalbot.dmu.ac.uk/) One who does appear, however, is Christ Church man William Buckland. There is a note from Talbot to Buckland dated 29 July 1840: ‘Mr. Fox Talbot will do himself the pleasure of calling on Dr Buckland if at home this morning.’ There are also letters from Buckland thanking Talbot for photogenic drawings and one (7 June 1847) where he thanks Talbot for his ‘Promise to replace Tom Tower & the Cathedral of Ch Ch’. We have already considered the two candidates for the Tom Tower image (Figures 1 and 7). The scaffolding around Tom Tower in the second of these is something that intrigued College archivist, Judith Curthoys. The hope was that the scaffolding would help establish a date for the photograph. Christ Church records show that the Treasurer was requested on 19 August 1840 to estimate the cost of repairs to the Great Quadrangle and Tom Tower and a letter from 1845 in the estates correspondence mentions scaffolding on Tom Tower in the winter of 1840/1841. Frustratingly nothing matches up. We know Talbot was in Oxford in late July (before the Treasurer had been asked to get an estimate) but have no indication that Talbot made a visit that winter. So we are none the wiser – yet. As for the photograph of the Cathedral mentioned by Buckland, there are again two candidates: Figure 8 and Figure 9; the second, only recently come to light, seems the more likely.

In total there are only six views of Christ Church by Talbot: the two of Tom Tower, the two which include the Cathedral spire, and two of Peckwater Quadrangle. With the exception of Figure 9, which is held in the Talbot Collection at the British Library, all the Talbot photographs mentioned here are held at the National Museum of Science and Media in Bradford and form part of the largest and most important collection of photographs by Talbot anywhere.

The writing of this article has led to the idea of adding to the number of Talbot-type calotypes by asking the modern-day calotypist, Rob Douglas, to apply his skills in the College. The image, Fig. 10 far right, of Tom Quad – the photograph Talbot should have taken (perhaps he did) – is by Rob, as is that of the Pococke tree on the back cover. The techniques and chemistry used is closely related to that announced by Talbot in January 1839. The tree – the inspiration for Lewis Carroll’s Jabberwocky tree – brings the story of Christ Church and photography full circle.
Figures 1, 2, 5 and 8 are printed by permission of the National Museum of Science and Media in Bradford and anybody wanting to use images commercially should contact the museum’s Science & Society Picture Library www.scienceandsociety.co.uk/.

Figure 9 is from the British Library Talbot Collection and printed by permission © British Library.

The back cover photograph and Figure 10 are copyright © 2018 by Robert Douglas whose work can be seen at http://www.papershadowsandlight.com/

Other photographs by the author © 2017 & 2018 Simon Murison-Bowie.
Oxford and Cambridge have extraordinary significance in our national life. My new book on universities begins by trying to explain how this has happened. Europe’s first dozen universities emerged around the twelfth century. England had two of them of course – if you squeeze in Cambridge, founded in 1209. Universities kept on being created across the continent of Europe so that by 1500 France had 18, Italy 12, and Spain 10. Most major European cities had a university by 1700. Even Scotland had four by this point. But England was different. It was to be over six hundred years after Cambridge before we got another university – with the creation in quick succession of UCL and King’s College which were then placed under the University of London in a new federal structure. That duopoly was obtained by a ruthless policy of suppressing the creation of other universities – for example forbidding Oxbridge graduates from teaching anywhere else.

As a result England had a single nation-wide higher education system in which you had to study far away from home. There was no nationwide school-leaving exam bringing an entitlement to study at your local university; instead there was a separate system of applying for admission to university. There was however growth in demand for higher education which peaked in the seventeenth century at a level it was not to reach again until the twentieth. Oxbridge met this demand by the creation of new colleges. So other countries had new universities whereas we had new Oxbridge colleges. Even that activity slumped after the Civil War which was attributed to the turbulent effects of too many young people going to university. Hence the pub quiz question: which Oxford College was newest for longest? Answer: Wadham founded in 1610 whereas the next wholly new college, Keble, was created in 1870.

This system has some extraordinary advantages – Oxbridge has the prestige to protect not only their own autonomy but act as a model protecting the autonomy of other universities too. But it can also be tempting for the elite universities to look down on others and join the edusceptics arguing too many go to university and assume that the rest are bad universities. They may have different missions and take different types of students but that does not make them bad universities.

But once again we are seeing the rise of the “edusceptics” who think too many people go to university. Before the Robbins Report of 1963 about 5% of young people in England went
to university – now we are close to 50% of under-30s going to university. Kingsley Amis, the original edusceptic, argued at the time that “More means worse”. But the evidence was against him then and it still is. Research for Robbins showed that students from the local authorities sending more young people to university did as well at university as those from areas sending very few.

University changes people for the better – boosting their cognitive skills and their life time health and well-being. Just about every argument which you hear for the benefits of early years education applies just as much to higher education. Some of these benefits of a university education are economic as captured in the rather coy remark of Dean Gaisford of Christ Church that “the study of ancient tongues...not only refines the intellect and elevates above the common herd, but also leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument.”

It is this tendency for graduates to earn more than non-graduates which means that it is reasonable to expect graduates (not students) to pay for the cost of their higher education if they can afford to do so by paying through PAYE an extra 9% on their earnings above a high threshold.

In the final part of my book I identify trends which are shaping the future of higher education. Universities are becoming more global institutions with greater flows of students and academics: it is crucial that Brexit does not jeopardise this. Technology is changing the way we teach and learn and the analysis of big data from interaction with online teaching materials is transforming our understanding of how we learn.

Looking back I realise what an extraordinary privilege it was to have studied at Christ Church. I graduated with my degree in PPE forty years ago. I have been doing PPE ever since and still learning. I still see friends I made at Christ Church. And when I come back I think the College is more open, more purposeful, more meritocratic, more outward-looking than the one I remember. Our successors can be proud of what they have done.

David Willetts studied PPE at Christ Church 1975-78. His book A University Education is published by Oxford University Press.
On this occasion we hear from two such members: Melanie Beer (2009), who moved from researching Hepatitis C to be a Product Researcher at Facebook; and Chris Noon (2004), who left behind his research on Greek rhetoric for a career at cloud storage company Dropbox. In both their cases, the influence of a few years at Oxford and Christ Church have significantly shaped their career paths, even if the work they did here is not directly applicable to what they do now.

Elsewhere, our book reviews include volumes spanning cricket and phenomenology (not in the same book), alongside a trio of works on a religious theme. Among the latter is Reasonable Radical, a collection of the writings of one Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church. We are incredibly fortunate to have so well regarded a scholar and thinker as our Head of House, and this latest book would be an excellent addition to all of our shelves.

The first few months of this year have seen an intense media focus on the role of technology companies in the world. Issues range from interference in elections, to the abuse of our personal data (notably by the nefariously-named Cambridge Analytica), to the ongoing battle over the very concept of truth itself in the form of ‘fake news’, and much else besides. Where the world goes Christ Church must eventually follow, so in this edition our regular career-based feature focuses on technology.

Following the arrival of Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee as a Research Student in 2017, Christ Church accepted its first cohort of undergraduates reading Computer Science. Of course, a degree in that field is not a pre-requisite for working in tech, and for decades members of The House have refused to let seemingly-irrelevant subjects hold them back from careers with the technology companies that shape the modern world.

generally great fun place is the incomparable Buttery. Ah! The Buttery – home of rugby drinks, Loder’s warm-ups, pre-dinner gatherings, wine-buying, whisky quaffing, and place of great companionship and community.

The best little bar on earth – nestled above the mysterious college cellars and before the awe-inspiring Hall. The Buttery: I miss you so.

And to the Manager of the Buttery: a prince amongst men, hero to Members and peer (in the minds of many) of Deans, Canons and Censors. Very soon, our latest Buttery Manager – Peter Keddie – retires from the Buttery after 30 years of service. What a man and what a contribution to The House and to generations of Members!

Many Members know and remember Peter and many of us owe him our thanks for his unstinting loyalty and welcome. I recall nights with Peter sampling the then handsome range

Peter Keddie

By Jasper Reid (1991, English)

When Members think about their time at The House, what are their favourite, most memorable places? Was it their rooms? The Master’s Garden? The Library? Possibly the Hall or the Common Rooms? Perhaps memories depend upon the seasons: frost in Tom Quad or spring in the meadows.

For some of us, the single best all-seasons, any day, most memorable, amusing, warmest and
of malts persuading myself this was at least as educational as the essay due the next morning.

At Rugby Drinks, Peter would look on benignly from behind the bar as we sang our bawdy and out-of-tune songs. Peter was there for Members every night, every term and on later returns for Gaudies and reunions. When I remember Christ Church, I remember Peter.

This then is to celebrate Peter’s service and to wish him a happy retirement back in Scotland and back home. Thank you Peter!

We are organising a leaving present for Peter and perhaps some Members may wish to make a modest contribution. Please give online here, https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/alumni/support using the single gifts to the College tab, choosing “Other” and referencing “Peter Keddie.”

Some members may also want to send their own best wishes or memories. If we have enough submissions, we can make a book for Peter which might serve to amuse him on those cold Scottish nights. If you would like to do so please email me at jasper.reid@immassociates.com and Simon Offen (to whom any questions may be addressed: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk) and I shall organise all matters.

PETER KEDDIE:
An appreciation based on an interview by Simon Offen (1986)

“I was a bit of a rolling stone really!” admitted Peter of his early days. He was travelling in Europe, living on and off in London, had long hair and a beard, and "got bored easily.” He hadn’t held down a job for any length of time, but when turned down for the job as Buttery Manager when first applying to John Harris’ advertisement in the Glasgow Evening Times, he was very disappointed. He had been awestruck when attending interview, and really wanted the post.

Fortunately for Christ Church the first appointment left after 4 weeks, Peter was called for a second interview, and explained: “Mr Harris took a chance on me.” He moved to Oxford and the stone stopped rolling. It was 21st July, 1988.

Suddenly Peter had a role which he loved. The daily routine was enough to give him structure, but always different enough so he didn’t get bored. He worked hard, even being on his own preparing for gaudies for 300, and sleeping on a Buttery bench some nights when he had a late night and early start. He developed a way to do things, and woe betide anyone who thought they knew better! He says he was very fortunate in the people he worked with (he particularly mentions Andy Hedges, the Hall Manager); the fact he liked learning about the wines, beers and drinks; the fact that the paperwork was not so onerous then; and that he was in a bar job which gave him Christmas and Easter off to visit home! Mr Harris helped by sending him on courses, and was “firm but fair.”

Most especially though Peter talks of the family he had at Christ Church: the staff in Hall and the kitchen, and the students who played such an important part in his life. The best part of his job has been meeting the characters amongst the students.

He has seen some changes in the 30 years he has been at the House. In his earlier years the students seemed to enjoy themselves more he feels. They “worked hard and played hard.” They weren’t so focussed on themselves, and didn’t take themselves so seriously. Christ Church was more relaxed, and friendlier. But Peter says he has changed too, he has grown up in the job, from being one of the lads, to becoming teetotal and practically a member of the establishment! In part he sees this as a result of all the H&S and paperwork that the modern world requires. This is now the worst part of his job, and “you have to try harder now to make friends.”

Peter is retiring to Ayr, 40 minutes from home in Glasgow, near his Mother, and near the sea. It’s the right time to go he believes, as he plans to get a camper van, cycle some, perhaps take up golf more seriously, tend the allotment, and play his “squeeze box” more. Those who remember him playing the same tune all the way back from Cambridge to Oxford after a bibulous staff sports day at Trinity may raise their eyebrows. But everyone will want to raise a glass to Peter on his retirement, and thank him for 30 years of devotion to the House.
Events

The Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group 220 Dinner, 16 March 2018.
Many generations of Christ Church Chemists returned to the House to celebrate Richard Wayne’s 80th Birthday and Tony Cheetham’s and Martin Grossel’s 70th Birthdays.

Young Alumni AI Discussion, 1 March 2018.
With thanks to James Wise (2004), and Demos, some 100 alumni and guests gathered at Balderton Capital’s offices for drinks and an informal discussion on the future of AI.

Board of Benefactors’ Reception, 6 March 2018.
This year’s reception was held in the magnificent Hall and cloisters of Merchant Taylors’ in London. To mark his retirement, Stephen Darlington conducted the choir for a brief concert, and Clive Driskill-Smith played the wonderful organ.

Members who matriculated between 1958 and 1960 were invited back for a special Anniversary Dinner in Hall.
Matriculands from 1968 and 1978 enjoyed drinks and dinner as they were welcomed back to the House for their Anniversary Reunion.

Christ Church in the USA, April 2018.
The Choir performed in NYC, DC, and Chicago, and numerous other events occurred on both East and West coasts, including the University reunion in San Francisco.

A Roman Visit, 16-18 May 2018.
The University European Reunion took place in Rome, with Members and Friends of Christ Church enjoying events including a guided walk of the old City, a museum tour, and dinner.

Christ Church Cathedral Choir at St John’s Smith Square, 25 May 2018.
The Cathedral Choir joined forces with The Lanyer Ensemble and Oxford Baroque to perform the European premiere of Howard Goodall’s (1976) Invictus: A Passion, alongside Handel’s Foundling Hospital Anthem in a concert broadcast on Classic FM.
CAREER FOCUS: TECHNOLOGY

Two Old Members reflect on careers in technology since leaving Christ Church.

"My scientific training was the very basis of most skills needed to make this career change possible."

MELANIE BEER (2009)

After growing up and studying in Germany, I came to Oxford in 2009 to read for a DPhil in Biochemistry. During those 4 years, I actively participated in the typical Oxford student life; served on the GCR committee, coxed and rowed with the Boat Club, and spent many hours in the lab trying to shed light onto how Hepatitis C Virus interacts with the lipid metabolism of a host cell. I left Oxford for a postdoctoral position at Stanford, where I continued to study mechanisms of action of potential, new antiviral drugs.

Living and working in the heart of Silicon Valley opened up a completely new and unexpected world for me. Technology is everywhere and people live and breathe it every minute. My way to work was lined with headquarters of ground-breaking companies: Tesla, Skype, Hewlett Packard.

While biological research is fascinating, I realised that I wanted to work in an area where I could see the impact of my work in a shorter time frame. My scientific training was the very basis of most skills needed to make this career change possible. I taught myself how to code and got a job in data analytics in San Francisco. This may sound easy and straightforward but was the hardest thing I had ever done to this point in my life. Not just the pure acquisition of knowledge and skills, but getting people to take a chance on me with no previous experience in the field.

"This path from ancient history to machine learning was not a totally straightforward one, and I owe Christ Church a great deal for helping me make the transition."

CHRIS NOON (2004)

I came up to The House in 2004 to read Classical Archæology and Ancient History. I liked it so much that I then read for an MPhil in Greek and Roman History, and went on to become a Lecturer in Ancient History and Classical Languages at St Anne’s and Brasenose.

This career change would have been unimaginable in Europe, and was still hard in Silicon Valley, the place of at-will-employment and huge demand for people.

Today, I’m working at Facebook as a product researcher; my tools have changed but the scientific method I apply every day is still the same.

My time at the House had the most profound influence on my life. The friendships I built, the worlds that opened up which I never thought possible. I met my now husband during the last year of our DPhils through the Boat Club. We were colleagues at Stanford and are now at Facebook together. Our daughter was born into the future-focused tech world but we very much hope she will one day be able to experience the timeless virtues and values of an Oxford education which, no matter what she decides to read, will teach her that this doesn’t limit what she will be able to achieve, and where life will take her.
Colleges. During that time, I spent a number of summers participating in an excavation in the Sangro Valley in Italy’s Abruzzo region. This meant days spent trying to dig holes in soil of a near-concrete consistency in temperatures of over 40ºC (and, in later years, watching people dig those holes while I offered constructive criticism), and evenings eating phenomenal local delicacies, accompanied by local wines of varying qualities.

Around mid-2013, I decided to leave academia and pursue a different sort of challenge, so, after acquainting myself with the types of work people do outside the Oxford Bubble (spoiler alert: it’s not just banker, lawyer, and consultant!), I decided to join Dropbox, which was at that time a small San Francisco-based tech startup that was looking to open a European headquarters in Dublin. In the nearly five years since then, Dropbox has grown to over five times the size it was when I joined (and the Dublin office to almost 30x), and is now a public company. I have had a number of interesting roles in that time, and currently run Data Science for our Outbound Sales teams: that is to say, I help our sales people follow a data-driven sales methodology so that they can identify the most promising sales opportunities.

This path from ancient history to machine learning was not a totally straightforward one, and I owe Christ Church a great deal for helping me make the transition. While it would be a bridge too far to claim that there was a substantial toolbox of skills I could transfer between the two professions, I did spend many years talking to hundreds of extremely interesting people with diverse passions and backgrounds, which helped me realise that there are all sorts of career paths out there, and that one doesn’t always have to have the ideal profile for a role in order to apply for it. The routine of two essays and translations a week helped me realise that it is possible to build an (approximate) expertise in an area in a relatively short time. And, perhaps most importantly, I was able to build confidence – and even hard skills – from the numerous opportunities afforded me along the way: I founded the Oxford Cocktail Society, served as a number of JCR and GCR officers (Bar Rep, Food Rep, Master of the Punts), was Honorary Secretary of the Christ Church Society (otherwise known as Mr Loder’s Club), and am still Secretary of the Apollo University Lodge, the Masonic Lodge affiliated with the University, which is celebrating its bicentenary next year.

In short, The House set me up for the unusual career path I have had so far, and helped me have a jolly good time while doing so.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Thanks to Museum Director, Dr Timothy Potts (1985), Old Members and representatives from Christ Church Development Office enjoyed a reception at the John Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, on Tuesday 10 April 2018. Dr David Hine was captured on camera during the visit ... but what is he saying? ►

Suggestions may be emailed to simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk with the best entry receiving a bottle of the House Port.
Eleanor Sanger, College Communication Officer, talks about Christ Church’s inspirational female scientists.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science falls on February 11th each year. It was established by the United Nations in an attempt to combat the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and to ‘recognise the critical role women and girls play in science and technology communities’.

To celebrate this day, and recognise the successes of our own women in science, we published features on our blog (www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog), inviting guest posts from some of our female academics to give students and potential applicants an insight into their amazing achievements and what made them want to continue studying science.

These days, we have a strong female contingent amongst our research staff – over half of both our Junior Research Fellows (JRFs) and Postdoctoral Research Fellows engaged in research into areas of science are women. And this comes just forty years after Christ Church welcomed its first female tutor, Professor Judith Pallot (a geographer) in 1978.

Our first female students matriculated in 1980, with students who identify as female now making up roughly half of the student body. They’re amongst the cohorts of thirteen science courses covering a wide variety of areas, from Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics, to Engineering Science, Biochemistry and Psychology.

Former students have also gone on to notable careers in science. Just one such alumna is Professor Clare Grey FRS, who received a BA in 1987 followed by a DPhil in Chemistry in 1991, and is now a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

In the year since the last International Day of Women and Girls in Science, our female scientists have gone above and beyond in displaying the ‘critical role’ that they play in the field of science and technology, amassing an impressive collection of awards, achievements and discoveries in the process. Dr Jena Meinecke won awards from the Institute of Physics’ Women in Physics Group and Oxford’s Mathematical, Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences division; Dr Kerri Donaldson Hanna was awarded a Winton Capital Prize by the Royal Astronomical Society; Dr Patricia Lockwood was awarded the Frith Prize by the Experimental Psychology Society and the ESCAN 2018 Young Scientist Award; Dr Sam Giles was awarded a 2017 Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship by the Royal Society, had an article published in ‘Nature’, and was awarded a 2017 L’Oréal-UNESCO International Rising Talent Fellowship; and doctoral student Vanessa Restrepo-Schild led a team at Oxford in the development of a ground-breaking synthetic retina.

In addition to their prizes and publications, it is equally fascinating and awe-inspiring to take a look at our scientists’ ‘everyday’ achievements – the research that lies behind these successes, and the day-to-day work that means our female scientists are making their own mark in a field that has traditionally been male-dominated. This was demonstrated in our guest blog posts, contributed by Dr Sam Giles, Dr Kerri Donaldson Hanna, Dr Brianna Heazlewood and Dr Leah Morabito.
Dr Sam Giles uses an innovative technique called computing tomography (CT scanning), which uses x-rays to build up a three-dimensional picture of the internal features of both living and extinct animals. Her work has led to new discoveries about some of the earliest animals with jaws, as well as the evolution of a group of fishes that includes half of all living vertebrates.

Dr Kerri Donaldson Hanna investigates the types of rocks and minerals that make up planetary bodies that do not have atmospheres, such as the Moon, Mercury and asteroids. Studying these bodies gives us an insight into how our Solar System formed and evolved, but also tells us important things about what has happened to Earth throughout its history.

Dr Brianna Heazlewood is a chemist researching how reactions occur, trying to understand more about the reaction process through studying reactions at very low temperatures. She does this through employing techniques including laser cooling, ion trapping, electrostatic guiding, buffer-gas cooling, and Stark deceleration.

Dr Leah Morabito carries out research into galaxies and black holes. Her main research goal is to answer fundamental questions on how super-massive black holes co-evolve with the galaxies in which they reside. She does this through using low-frequency radio observations coupled with multi-wavelength data – she has pioneered data calibration techniques to make the highest resolution image below 100MHz.

Although women have only been part of Christ Church’s academic history for a relatively short amount of time, the way forward looks to be in good hands. Our next generation of young researchers are proving inspirational not only through their words of encouragement to potential female scientists, but also through their many achievements in a wide variety of different fields. We look forward to hearing of the successes of our current students, as well as those of students who are not yet at Christ Church, all of whom are being inspired by other women in science, and now feel that science can be for them.

You can read all of the blog posts in full on our College Life blog – www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/category/college-life
When I first knew I would be travelling to New Zealand for a month, I had a very fixed and doubtless predictable impression of the country in mind: nostalgia brought me images of Hobbiton’s rolling hills, Peter Jackson, and the darkness of Mordor. Though I saw deep waters and snow-peaked mountains, all of which I readily semi-mythologised, the reality of my visit was just as striking. Christchurch was to be my home for September. The South Island city has been in a state of architectural and social disrepair since the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, but knowing this still did not quite prepare me for the strange city I was about to explore.

Setting down in New Zealand, the conclusion to a purgatorial overnight stay-up in Abu Dhabi airport and a myriad of weary-eyed, in-flight films, the nighttime cold reminded me a little of back home. It settled me as I was helped to my accommodation. Waking, I decided to get a feel for Christchurch. Scanning the map, I looked for the relative centre and set off from the University of Canterbury; retrospectively, my planning was somewhat lacking. My long journey was met with little, white-picket, American houses, shopping centres, cars, car dealerships, few pedestrians, and antique shops. It had been about two hours, and there was no city centre in sight. The words of Tolkien came to mind: “not all those who wander are lost”. I was. About three hours into my walk, I stepped into a charity shop and ended up in conversation with three elderly women. I explained I had come to better understand the affects of natural disasters, and I couldn’t have asked for more loquacious interviewees: I was quickly told, simultaneously from three different angles, that the city has never been the same since the earthquakes, the broken cathedral, the old “heart of the city”; stands out like a sore thumb, and that all three still worried about new quakes. It was not all gloom, however: they began remembering old gigs they had attended in Christchurch, in theatres now gone, winning me over with Scottish performers. My homework was to listen to Lulu. They seemed to symbolise the nostalgic side of Christchurch: a sense that suffering has been endured and things would never be as they were; but they were also kind and ready to help strangers.

Later, my work took me to a number of local businesses and initiatives. For most, the years following the earthquakes were directed to reforming imaginative spaces for the community; spaces to foster community and individual identity. Reimagining a city is no simple task, but it was made more difficult due to the original disconnectedness between public and government. Many felt that, though governmental bodies appeared to positively receive the public’s thoughts, their suggestions were displaced to allow a bureaucratic, industry-focused agenda. Though the relationship between public and government has recently appeared to become more workable, initially, post-quake action was much more difficult. Faced with a government reluctant to listen, abandoning faith in the possibility of effective aid is easy, but the people of Christchurch did not: they made changes themselves. When silt and rubble covered gardens, roads, and pavements, the Student Volunteer Army rallied to undo the damage. When well-loved social hubs were destroyed, Smash Palace, a mobile pub in a bus, roared into action. When the signature of Christchurch
And so my Antipodean journey ended, with new friends and new drive. Unquestionably we live in an imperfect world, struck by suffering and sadness; we can see it clearly when we look locally as well as internationally. Yet one lesson prevails: the call to love and community is paramount. Tolkien’s words, again, feel relevant: “The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”

might have been the rows of empty, fenced-off, building sites, guerrilla gardeners planted herbs and flowers, for all to use and enjoy. These people are ready to scrutinise governmental practice, but not at the expense of action. They are a reminder of the genuine power of people when motivated by love. In the face of adversity, they constantly push for a better community, even when the odds appear against them. My initial impression of Christchurch as a city of nostalgia could not have been further from the truth, but I was bang-on in recognising their kindness.

Below: Port Hills, Christchurch
Above: Art display, University of Canterbury, Christchurch
Right: Smash Palace street art, Central City, Christchurch

Below: Messages of remembrance and encouragement, Cathedral Square, Christchurch
The greatest success this year was to have seven students representing Oxford in the Cancer Research UK Boat Races. Claas Mertens, Will Cahill, and Benedict Aldous rowed for OUBC, Sara Kushma was in the six seat for OUWBC. Anna Murgatroyd stroked Osiris, and Alexander Wythe, and Nicholas Elkington rowed in Isis. The House also had Dan Hameiri-Bowen stroke the lightweights, and Naomi Holland in the Women’s lightweight coxed four. The Society took a hospitality box at Craven Cottage, and many alumni members watched from the terrace there, enjoying the day if not the results!

The Club enjoyed great participation throughout the year. Two women’s crews and three men’s crews entered the 4’s Head of the River and performed respectably and learnt a lot in difficult conditions.

In the Christ Church Regatta both WA and WB rowed well but were knocked out on day two. MC were knocked out by two A crews and MB by an A and B crew. MA, on the other hand were undefeated until the semi-final when the eventual winners, Wolfson, got the better of them. However, with no rest, MA then beat Magdalen A to come third overall.

Torpids was reduced to two days because of terrible weather, which was a shame as in addition to two men’s crews, for the first time since 1999 three women’s boats qualified. W1 narrowly avoided being bumped by Hertford on Day 1, and were caught by Pembroke W1 on Day 2, dropping from third to fourth. A strong W2 might have been on for blades but only rowed once when they easily caught Magdalen W2. W3 was justifiably proud to be the only third boat on the river, but were bumped on the only day they could race.

M1 seemed un-phased by the conditions and bumped both Hertford M1 and St. Catz M1 moving from sixth to fourth in division one. M2 only raced once and were bumped by Keble M2.

A slightly changed W1 entered WeHoR and put in a great performance completing the course in 22:24, finishing 136/300 boats. The M1 crew lined up at the Eights Head with over 300 other crews from around Europe. The men did superbly over the 6.7 km course, finishing 73rd overall, and were the fastest Oxford College.

Summer Eights saw four men’s crews and three women’s crews qualify; the most for some years. W1 were hopeful of great things but two enforced changes just a week before racing (broken ribs and an emergency appendix op.) hindered them and they were bumped by the Wolfson crew, finishing fourth on the river. W2 rowed very well throughout, although they went down two places. W3 sported magnificent propeller hats, showed great energy, and achieved two bumps, a row over, but were then bumped themselves.

M1 faced difficulties with academic conflicts and with two very strong boats in Keble and Oriel. They slipped two spaces from first to third. M2 had a very solid campaign, rowing over twice before bumping twice. M2 is now the second M2 on the river. M3 had a tough four days, and M4, the infamous Beer Boat, though coming close to a bump on day 3, finished at the foot of the divisions.

The season ended with a ChChBC Women’s VIII coming second at Reading regatta, and a group of men training hard for Henley but unfortunately not qualifying.

Before the Boat Club dinner, in glorious weather, an Eight was named after Joseph von Maltzahn, the first Kellogg rower to row for the House, and an international oarsman. We are both grateful for, and proud of, the link with Kellogg.
Book reviews

Reasonable Radical? Reading the Writings of Martyn Percy

Edited by Ian Markham and Joshua Daniel

The Dean of Christ Church holds a unique position in the world, as at the same time head of a largely secular college and of an Anglican Cathedral. The paradoxes of this position are well represented by Martyn Percy, the present Dean, who is both a social scientist – arguably the most irreligious of academic disciplines – and a theologian – considered by some in our University to be a defender of obsolete superstition.

This book, a fascinating survey of Dean Percy’s thought, originates from a conference at the Virginia Theological Seminary in 2016, where a number of major scholars in various disciplines met to explore his work. It includes both their contributions and Percy’s responses, and also extracts from his writings that show the impressive range of his concerns. The individual essays give thoughtful accounts of how the social and cognitive sciences approach the study of Christian churches. The extracts from Percy’s work are an outstanding example of modern Anglican thought, both about a Christian faith which is tolerant of diversity and committed to the objectivity of moral values, and the possible future of the Anglican Communion, a communion of churches sensitive to tradition yet open to change.

Percy has been concerned with the church as a social institution – not what it professes to believe but what its structures and actions, its music and its modes of organisation, reveal. This can be a sobering, as well as an insightful, approach. As a theologian he seeks to show how this flawed and complex institution still has social importance, as upholding the importance of a commitment to moral values in this ambiguous world of chance and time, a commitment which seeks to promote fairness, equality of respect, and tolerance of diverse ways of human flourishing.

Though Percy has been concerned mainly with the Anglican Church, what he says applies also to institutions like Christ Church, which often fall prey to the prejudices of past and present, yet also stand for the unchanging ideals of knowledge, understanding, and discriminative judgment.

As a social scientist, he may note with dispassion our peculiarities and ambiguities and idiosyncrasies. As a theologian, he may view us with trust, hope, and maybe even with affectionate regard – the traditional ‘theological virtues’ which do not lose their importance even in a predominantly secular age.

Reviewed by Professor Keith Ward.

Paper Cuts: A Memoir

Stephen Bernard

‘I have a small line of red dots on the back of my left hand, where the needle goes in. I have had hundreds of ketamine injections, more than anyone else, perhaps. The needle goes in, and the truth comes out. Sometimes I am a child again. Sometimes I have the innocence of a child, but I am not innocent. I know too much. I have known too much.’

With Paper Cuts, Stephen Bernard boldly tests the bounds of what a memoir can achieve. Living through the trauma of childhood abuse and mental illness, he writes to escape and confront, to accuse and explain.

Each morning when he wakes, Stephen Bernard must literally reconstruct his self: every night he writes himself a letter to be read the next day. The fractured, intensely personal narrative of Paper Cuts follows a single day in his life as he navigates a course through the effects of mania, medication and memories. The result is painful, unique and inspiring.

Dr Stephen Bernard (1995) read English at Christ Church.
This book is an introduction to French phenomenology in the post 1945 period. While many of phenomenology’s greatest thinkers – Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre and Merleau-Ponty – wrote before this period, Steven DeLay introduces and assesses the creative and important turn phenomenology took after these figures. He presents a clear and rigorous introduction to the work of relatively unfamiliar and underexplored philosophers, including Jean-Louis Chrétien, Michel Henry, Jean-Yves Lacoste, Jean-Luc Marion and others.

Steven DeLay (2013) took a DPhil in Philosophy at Christ Church.

This analysis of the Qur’an in a hundred pages (actually 98 including the index) primarily consists of quotations from the text structured thematically so as to make it more approachable to the first-time reader.

It covers every aspect of life and death, hell and heaven, the relationship of men and women, the treatment of children, and attitudes to crimes. At the core are rules for living, family life, commerce, the attitude to worldly wealth, marriage, adultery, divorce, slavery, clothing, and the rules for retribution and killing.

Amédée Turner QC (1949) read English at Christ Church. He went on to work as a Patent Attorney, and served for fifteen years as a Member of the European Parliament.

St Paul encourages Christians to be Ambassadors for Christ. As an example of a contemporary Ambassador, look no further than ‘Shout it from the Housetops’!

Christians have the one thing that can change lives. I hope that this new book by John Wright will embolden us all to ‘Shout it from the Housetops’.

John Wright (1934) read PPE at Christ Church.
In 1880 the British Empire was at its peak of stability. No other people – not Rome, nor Spain nor Russia – had spread their power so substantially over all five continents. And yet within less than a century, the vast imperial system had crumbled, leaving the Commonwealth as the mere ghost of its predecessor.

In this ground-breaking new study, David Nicholson asks if this decline was inevitable, or – had Britain’s rulers taken different decisions, encouraged trends or sought to prevent them – whether the strength and cohesion of the Empire could have been maintained. He examines, in particular, a series of turning points which he believes to have been crucial to this process, including the failure to deal with Irish Home Rule; over-extension in Africa; and the inability to reach an accommodation with Germany before the First World War.

Nicholson traces the real damage done by the 1939-45 War, leading to the final collapse of British power in India, then the Middle East and finally in Africa, as well as the weakening of links with the ‘Old Commonwealth’. He asks, provocatively, whether if the Empire had not failed Britain would have been so attracted by membership of the European Community.

David Nicholson (1962) read Modern History at Christ Church. He has spent his career in or on the edge of politics, but describes himself as a historian manqué. He worked for ten years at the Conservative Research Department, and for another ten was MP for Taunton until the 1997 landslide Tory defeat. He co-edited the Leo Amery Diaries Vol I (Hutchinson, 1980), Vol II The Empire at Bay (1988), and contributed a number of entries to The International Encyclopedia of Military History (Routledge, 2006, two volumes).

Compleat Cricket is a richly illustrated account of those last two rounds, eight days of intense battling to score runs, take wickets and hold catches. It contains a light-hearted discussion of the relative merits of slow and fast cricket, blast and block cricket, but it chiefly aims to tell a story that shows off the excitement, tension and drama of slow cricket to perfection.

Tim Cawkwell (1966) read Classics at Christ Church. He writes about the cinema, travel, and cricket.
Deborah Bestwick MBE, talks about Random Selfies, a new theatre production for children at the heart of an inquiry into youth loneliness.

BELONG is a UK wide programme led by the Co-op Foundation supporting young people to beat loneliness through cooperative action. Bringing together artists, academics and young people the project is underpinned by research carried out by Manchester Metropolitan University and a survey conducted by ICM, a specialist social research company. They were supported by 42nd Street, a youth engagement organisation who trained young people to act as youth researchers. Evidence was gathered from 2001 16-25 year olds and they engaged 133 young people in in-depth conversations. Alongside this the Co-op Foundation commissioned Ovalhouse to make a piece of theatre as an artistic intervention with and for children approaching a crucial point in their lives: secondary school transition.

The statistical starting point was a powerful impetus, identifying loneliness as a silent problem amongst children and young people.● 65% believe that loneliness is a problem for people their age
● Less than 19% feel that youth loneliness taken seriously
● Only 9% think that young people feel confident talking about loneliness.

However dramatic they may be, statistics do not make good theatre and so Ovalhouse commissioned playwright Mike Kenny. A specialist writer for children and young people, he won an Olivier Award for his spectacular production of the Railway Children performed at King’s Cross and Waterloo Stations, and was listed as one of the Top Ten Living Playwrights by the Independent on Sunday. Embarking on our own research, Mike Kenny and Ovalhouse Head of Theatre, Owen Calvert-Lyons, and Art Therapist Deba Salim took themselves into neighbouring Reay Primary School. They wanted to create a play which would shine a light into what lay behind the academic findings, to unlock

RANDOM SELFIES
Research, innovation and theatre at OVALHOUSE

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the problem for young people: to transform the language of the study documents into an emotional and accessible experience for child audiences.

This R&D stage was largely conducted through imagery in which children expressed narratives and feelings through drawings. How could they talk about loneliness when only 9% feel confident to do so?

The drawings created another powerful aspect for the production. Whilst we knew that social media and life lived through phones could add to isolation as much as they enabled young people to keep in touch, the profound images created by the children enabled us to add a digital aspect to the show – a beautiful digitally animated set in which images cried and melted, and a cartoon that poignantly told the story of Loretta’s new refugee friend, a visual journey of the characters feelings and discoveries, inspired directly from the children.

And so Random Selfies was written. The story of Loretta struggling with friendships and belonging at a time when her big sister had left home. Feeling adrift and left out as other children’s lives flash up on her phone, Loretta struggles to cope with this upheaval, particularly because she worries that her problems aren’t important enough.

Eventually, Loretta invents a story which she thinks will carry more weight: she tells the other children that her sister has cancer. And in doing so, puts her closest relationships in jeopardy.

We wanted the play to be a starting point for young audiences to be able to explore their own feelings and as a catalyst for discussion and debate amongst themselves. The production was sold as an integrated package with an accompanying workshop led by the Ovalhouse Learning and Participation Team. The material produced by young people in these workshops showed a ready understanding of Loretta and her world, and a compassionate, emotionally complex response.

“Children opened up after that session and started to share about how they felt in themselves.”

“The Ovalhouse team came in and were fantastic from the start, got the children really engaged and keen for the rest of the show and produced really great work with them.”

Did this process make great theatre? Random Selfies was invited to perform in a festival exploring innovative use of digital technology at the International Techtopia Festival, it has been nominated for an Off-west End Award for Best Young People’s Production, and it was sold-out at Ovalhouse. Not bad for our first commission in our new strand of family programming in preparation for our new theatre in Brixton!

And what will happen next?

Having been through the process of creating this play, Owen Calvert-Lyons, who directed it, said “Perhaps at times our adult experience is itself a barrier to understanding and supporting children. Children understand how big these problems feel. Perhaps, in order to help solve children’s problems, we need to support children to help children.” In response the Co-op have commissioned Ovalhouse to work with our young associates, artists and the children to create a digital project across schools, enabling young people who feel out of step or lonely to reach each other and share through a series of light installations! Watch this space! ■
The one which concerns us here is a design for an altar (with the Adoration of the Magi and the Annunciation) on one side and several black chalk studies for elevations on the other, but, due to its conservational state, this work was far less captivating than the others. It had a large repaired tear (torn during Michelangelo’s time, maybe even by the master himself) and it had been glued and stuck down on different matts and papers in varying attempts to preserve the drawing. While the preservation and presentation methods over the centuries allow us to reconstruct parts of its history, they had also damaged it. The different papers and glues with their distinct movement properties were creating opposing forces on the sheet which had led to folds and creases in the paper, making it difficult to read the drawing. However, removing it from its surrounds would also mean removing parts of its visible history. An inscription on the first matt – ‘Buonaroti’ – is from Michelangelo’s great nephew, who might also have repaired the large tear. Another paper matt was added by the Italian biographer, historian and collector, Filippo Baldinucci (1624-1697), who also drew a double-lined ink frame around it, while placing the name of the artist proudly underneath – ‘Di Michelangelo Buonarroti’.

These visible marks of the drawing’s provenance are crucial for verifying its authenticity and one prefers to keep them. One does not simply detach a Michelangelo drawing from evidence about its history. It was therefore left in its state and placed in a deeper mount to protect the now almost 20mm high creases from being pressed down. However, if historic marks become damaging, curators and conservators start discussing how to save the work of art, while preserving the integrity of its history. Talking to colleagues and friends it soon became clear that we had to act, as the different layers of glues and varying orientations of the papers were continuing to transmit their different forces on the drawing, creating a paper landscape with hills and valleys. The drawing needed to be ‘freed’ from its historic surrounds, flattened and cleaned of some of its surface dirt.

While this seemed a simple and obvious decision, we knew that the execution might not be. Firstly, it was not clear how the whole construction was put together and what method would be the best and least invasive to dissolve the centuries-old glues. And secondly, we did not know if there were hidden consequences which would only reveal themselves during the process. How would the repair on the large tear react on the loosened sheet, for example?

The fact that the Metropolitan Museum wanted the drawing for their Michelangelo exhibition allowed us to engage the help of two of their leading experts – Carmen Bambach, the curator of the...
exhibition, and Marjorie Shelly, the chief paper conservator, who also carried out the work. We brought the drawing to New York, where it spent months in the conservation studio, while we constantly remained in touch discussing processes and progress. It all turned out well and the methods and result of Marjorie Shelly’s work have been captured in a small film (see https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery), in which a complex issue and process were made to look so simple. The drawing has been transformed not only for the exhibition, but also for us and the future. I want to express our deep-felt thanks to Carmen and Marjorie for their expertise and time, which was given so freely. It was a wonderful experience of scholarly collaboration.
Both Blue Boar Quad and the Picture Gallery were designed by Powell and Moya, and opened by the Visitor on 2nd May 1968, fifty years ago this year.

Opinion is still deeply divided as to the merits of the design of Blue Boar, but as a Grade II* Building it could not be demolished, as some called for, and the defects seem to have been resolved by the renewal of the building in 2007-9, overseen by Purcell Miller Tritton architects. (See: *The Stones of Christ Church* by Judith Curthoys, P.210-15)

The Picture Gallery, made possible by a generous gift of £50k by Charles Forte, is certainly a success as a gallery, but has also been beset by structural problems, needing extensive works in 1998. It requires a major renovation in the next five years or so, plans for which will no doubt be shared with members before long!

Readers might like to reacquaint themselves with the chapter on Twentieth-Century Architecture by Belinda Jack in *Christ Church: A Portrait of the House*, edited by Christopher Butler, which admirably describes the buildings, and includes this explanation by Powell:
“We might feel that a love affair with such pervading beauty (the University, one of the greatest and most consistent monuments to Medieval and Renaissance architecture) must inhibit today’s architect when he is called upon to interfere with something so fragile and vulnerable … yet this may not be so. Sympathy with the scale and character of a beautiful and historic scene must act as an inspiration, yet it properly narrows the range of the architect’s decisions. In the end surroundings and client’s needs seem to act upon one another to tell him what the inevitable design must be.”
FEATURE

GHOSTS

THAT NEVER HAUNTED CHRIST CHURCH

By Dr Allan Chapman

At a reception following the Christmas Eve Carol Service in Christ Church Cathedral in 2017, as we sipped our mulled wine and exchanged stories in front of the drawing room fire, a friend suggested ‘Why not write a book of Christ Church ghost stories, the proceeds going to charity?’ What a good idea, thought I! This is the result. If you enjoy this story, and would like to see more, please let the Development Office know and the collection might be able to be published.

THE HAUNTED BOG-HOUSE

It was a dark and stormy night in the early eighteenth century, and young Mr Francis Bayley, an undergraduate of Christ Church, felt that it would be wise to visit the privy, or Bog-House, before turning in for the night. The ‘Bog-House’1, one might add, was an old term for what was also called ‘The House of Office’, ‘Privy’, or in modern parlance, the toilet, in the pre-water-closet days.

Now at that time, sanitation was very basic by modern standards, and even in an institution as grand as Christ Church, facilities consisted of no more than a deep brick-lined pit with an oak board with a hole in it secured above the six- or eight-foot drop below. Then at intervals, and as circumstances demanded, workmen would come with shovels and buckets to dig out and ‘cleanse’ the privy, and dump its contents on to a dunghill or on to the fields.

These Bog-Houses were arranged in blocks, roofed-in, and with doors. Generally speaking, lighting was not provided, so that a person was advised to take his own candle or lantern – which would also help to light his way between the staircase where he lived and the Bog-House block itself.

Such was the night that the candle in Mr Bayley’s lantern had blown out, and it was by touch along the familiar walls that he eventually found a cubicle. Now it had long been suggested that the seat boards of the Bog-Houses frequented by Mr Bayley were too narrow and lacked a proper back support. Thus it happened that, in the dark, the poor young gentleman leaned back too far, lost his balance, and fell backwards off the seat and down into the dark void below. It must have been already quite full – the summer vacation was generally deemed a good time to empty and ‘cleanse’ College Bog-Houses – and Mr Bayley somersaulted downwards head first.

After struggling for some minutes, and badly dazed from a sharp blow to the head from the wall, the poor young man groaned, struggled feebly, and finally asphyxiated. A fellow student visiting the same Bog-House block an hour afterwards said that he heard groaning and choking noises, but put them down to some drunkards staggering back from their revels in the Bear Tavern just across Blue Boar Lane. It was only next morning, in the full light of day, that Mr Bayley’s body was seen, fished out, washed, and given Christian burial. Proper seat boards and backs were fitted thereafter.

But soon after Mr Bayley had been laid to rest in the Cathedral burial ground, where deceased members of College were interred, strange sounds were heard at night in the vicinity of the Bog-House block. There were chilling groans, sounds of splashing, and choking noises, like those of a man slowly drowning in a frightful mire. The eerie sounds alarmed people, and before long the block was demolished, and a new one built some distance away.

Yet, Mr Bayley, it is said, is still to be heard on dark and stormy nights. So should you chance to be on the north side of Christ Church, near to the wall, on such a night, and happen to hear sepulchral groans and gurgles seemingly rising up through the ground near the place where that long-filled-in Bog-House and its pit once stood, then stop and say a prayer for the soul of poor Francis Bayley. Requiescat In Pace. ☠

The difficulty in writing about what one reads for pleasure is that the question implies reading for pleasure is different from reading for work, which is not a distinction that I think works for me. Both realms have their fair share of enjoyment, and both also have the opposite. And one of the genuine pleasures of an academic career – of academic freedom – is having the choice about what to read, indeed also about what to research and what to write about. Viewed in that light, it would be odd not to read for pleasure in my work.

Perhaps there are also expectations that reading for pleasure implies reading books, and that books read for pleasure are taken from the fiction shelves. Oh dear. While I love the look and feel of books, and browsing in bookshops – who doesn’t? – the reality is that articles, papers and shorter pieces online are all ahead of books in my ranking of time spent reading. And, truth being told, I hardly read fiction at all.

So, I have chosen four books that I am glad to have read, and inspired me. There is a common theme, concerned with seeing the world in a different way. The pleasure here runs quite deep and it comes from a feeling a sense of insight.

Let’s start with one chapter in a classic text. I am not an economist, though I draw on economic insight from time to time. The one piece of writing that stands out for me, ahead of any other, is Keynes’ analysis of the pricing behaviour of stock markets (Chapter 12 of the General Theory). It is beautifully written, with extraordinary theoretical insight; a prize-winning essay in both English and Economics! So much has been written since on this topic, but not with the same brilliance, the same capacity to explain. (As an aside, the supervisor of my PhD supervisor was himself supervised by Keynes; if only this intellectual ‘family tree’ had a little genetic content to it!)

My second choice is also a sort of general theory, though this time of the institutional structure of society. I had never imagined that such a theorisation was possible, and so I found Searle’s argument at once audacious and remarkable. The book is not an easy read; Searle is a distinguished philosopher, I am not. But it repays persistence. A paper of mine applies Searle’s theory to a requirement in international accounting standards to report market prices for certain types of asset, and to do so by estimation when the assets are not actively traded on markets. Viewed through Searle’s lens, this requirement is incoherent. ‘The short reason is the impossibility of a ‘faithfully representation’ of something that does not exist to be represented. For the (much) longer reason, you need to read the book!’ (A second aside is that Searle taught philosophy at Christ Church, in the 1950s, an experience that he describes with great fondness and pride, coupled with a fair dose of incredulity at the nature of the institution … a fertile ground, perhaps, for trying to make sense of the social world?)

My final two choices fall more obviously under the umbrella of reading for pleasure. They both concern the natural world, its wonder and its vulnerability to the social forces that do it harm. My current research is concerned with corporate accountability for environmental impact (degradation of ‘natural capital’), a hugely consequential issue for us all yet one that corporations, consumers, investors and governments alike are failing to address adequately. What I like about both George Monbiot’s Feral and John Muir’s Our National Parks is that they convey personal, sincere, informed and persuasive ‘wake-up calls’ about how much nature matters, how unique and precious it is; they convey a deep love of nature, and an understanding of much it matters for humanity. I find accounts such as these inspiring, a call to action.

Their articulation of this topic is better than mine. Let me finish with a few words from John Muir, a Scotsman who played a pioneering role in establishing national parks, first in the western United States and then indirectly throughout the rest of the world.

*Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilised people are beginning to find out that … wildness in a necessity … useful not only as foundations of timber and irrigating rivers, but as foundations of life. Awakening from the stupefying effects of the vice of over-industry and the deadly apathy of luxury, they are trying as best they can to mix and enrich their own little ongoings with those of Nature, and to get rid of rust and disease.*


Richard Barker, Professor of Accounting at Said Business School and Tutor in Management at Christ Church
The Life and Science of Dr PAUL KENT 1923-2017
An event to celebrate over 50 years of biochemistry at Christ Church

On the afternoon of Saturday 1st September a special event will be held to honour the memory of Dr Paul Kent, who passed away last year. Paul Kent was a devoted and inspiring tutor in chemistry and biochemistry for many years, and a much respected Senior Member and colleague in Christ Church for nearly six decades.

Paul Kent was the tutor in biochemistry at Christ Church following the introduction of the Final Honours School of Biochemistry in 1950. From 1956 he was Dr Lee’s Reader in Chemistry, and so had wide teaching responsibilities for chemists, biochemists and other students of the natural sciences including biology, medicine and forestry. As well as teaching cohorts of undergraduates, Paul Kent took a special interest in graduate students in college, and secured their position in the hierarchy of The House, and was instrumental in the establishment of the GCR, and even arranged a special table for them in Hall. Former graduate and undergraduate students alike had a great loyalty to Paul Kent, who remained a friend and source of advice for many of them after graduation.

The reputation of The House as a formative preparation for statesmen and politicians is well-known. Less well-known, particularly outside college, is our heritage of creative scientists, especially in the natural sciences, extending over more than 300 years. Paul Kent identified with this great tradition of scientific discovery at Christ Church, and was keen to bring it to the attention of a wider audience both inside and outside college. He achieved this through lectures, and he organised a special symposium on Christ Church’s Robert Hooke, “The English Leonardo”. Paul Kent’s account of science at Christ Church is summarised in his little red book entitled “Some Scientists in the Life of Christ Church, Oxford”, published in 2001. But more than a chronicler of science, Paul Kent has himself become part of the great scientific heritage at The House.

The symposium will focus largely on biochemistry, past, present and future in the context of The House. The talks will be given by distinguished speakers from Paul’s former colleagues and research collaborators, and will cover a range of topics in biochemistry, the history of science and Paul’s other interests. It is intended that the talks will be suitable for a general audience. The programme for the afternoon symposium is given below, and it will be followed by a wine reception; for those who wish to stay on there will be a symposium dinner in Hall. This event is being promoted by the Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group and organised through the Christ Church Development Office. Further details of the symposium and registration details are available via the websites www.chchchem.org.uk and www.chchsymposium.eventbrite.co.uk.

It is intended to publish a commemorative booklet for the symposium which will carry summaries of the lectures given together with contributed articles on various aspects of Dr Paul Kent’s rich and varied life in science and academia. We invite further contributions to this publication from Paul’s former friends, colleagues and students who may wish to record their memories or some aspect of Paul’s life.

PROGRAMME OF SYMPOSIUM

13.30–14.00 Registration: Sir Michael Dummett
Lecture Theatre, Christ Church

14.00–14.05 Welcome: Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy
(Dean of Christ Church)

Session 1 Chairman: Dr Martin Grossel
(Christ Church)

14.05–14.35 Professor Raymond Dwek
(Department of Biochemistry, Oxford):
“The changing face of biochemistry from the 1950s to the present”

14.35–14.55 Professor Emeritus A David Buckingham
(Department of Chemistry, Cambridge): “1955–1965, ten years of the County Pair at Christ Church, Kent and Buckingham”

14.55–15.20 Dr Allan Chapman (Wadham):
“The emergence of biochemistry as a subject from the natural sciences of the 18th and 19th centuries”

15.20–15.40 Professor Mishtooni Bose
(Christ Church): “Paul Kent at Christ Church, the Graduate Common Room”

15.40–16.10 Tea

Session 2 Chairman: Professor David Dunmur
(Christ Church)

16.10–16.40 Professor Emeritus David Smith
(Department of Pharmacology, Oxford):
“Homocysteine, B Vitamins and the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease”

16.40–17.00 Judith Curthoys (Christ Church):
“Christ Church Archives and scientists at Christ Church”

17.00–17.30 Professor Mark Sansom
(Department of Biochemistry, Oxford):
“Modern images of biochemistry”

17.30–18.00 Professor Freda Stevenson
(Department of Immunology, Southampton):
“How sugars can convert normal cells to lymphoid cancers”

18.00–18.15 Concluding Remarks: Professor Simon Newstead
(Christ Church):
“The future for biochemistry at Christ Church”

18.15–19.00 Reception Blue Boar Quad
ON SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER, Shakespeare's Globe will be visiting Oxford for a one-off performance, which will take place in Christ Church dining hall. They will be reading *The Queen's Arcadia*, a Jacobean comedy written by Oxford alumnus Samuel Daniel to entertain Queen Anne of Denmark in Christ Church hall while her husband, King James I, was on a tour of the Bodleian Library. Daniel had a keen sense of humour and a lyrical wit which the Queen much enjoyed, and this September’s event will be a rare opportunity to hear the comedy performed in its original venue.

MORE ABOUT THE PLAY:
Outside influences are beginning to corrupt Arcadia and its well-behaved inhabitants. Colax, who grew up in Arcadia but left it behind, has returned with cruel intentions and his new accomplice, Techne the dressmaker. They set about disrupting the love stories of shepherds and nymphs, snaring their victims through a combination of jealousy, suspicion, and tragic fashion sense. Meanwhile, the upsurge in fighting is helping Lincus the lawyer, and Doctor Alcon has set about inspiring a new and profitable addiction: smoking. Where will it all end?

THE TRADITION OF READ NOT DEAD AT SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE:
September’s reading of *The Queen’s Arcadia* is a special performance celebrating the history of theatre at Christ Church. The College was a leading centre for drama in the seventeenth century and Samuel Daniel is an intriguing figure who bridged the worlds of academe and court life. Through their project Read Not Dead, the Globe are bringing to life the forgotten gems of Shakespearean England to give audiences insights into the wide range of works produced in Renaissance theatres. Each performance combines the expertise of the Globe and university academics working together, creating a unique experience for audiences who are watching live research in action.

Patrick Spottiswoode (Director, Globe Education, Shakespeare's Globe) says: “Read Not Dead was initiated by Globe Education in 1995 with the aim of staging performances with scripts of all the plays performed between 1567-1642 that have survived in print. To date over 250 plays have been staged by professional casts at Shakespeare’s Globe, Gray’s Inn, at the Wilderness Festival and at Penshurst among other venues. Traditionally, the actors gather together on a Sunday morning and present the play as a script-in-hand performance before the public in the afternoon. This autumn we are looking forward to staging Daniel’s comedy for Queen Anne in the play’s original venue at Christ Church.”

TIMES AND PRICES:
- 12-1.00pm lecture given by Dr Elizabeth Sandis (The Shakespeare Institute), introducing the play and its historical context – TICKETS £5.00
- 2.00pm Shakespeare’s Globe perform *The Queen’s Arcadia* in Christ Church Hall, Oxford – TICKETS £25.00
- 7.30pm Dinner in Christ Church Hall – TICKETS £30.00

Tickets for the lecture, the playreading, and dinner are available from the Globe website at: www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on-2018/read-not-dead-the-queens-arcadia

We are grateful to The Leverhulme Trust for their support of this project, which is part-funded by a postdoctoral research grant awarded to Dr Elizabeth Sandis (The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham).
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1 September
DR PAUL KENT SYMPOSIUM
Christ Church

15-16 September
OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND
Christ Church

15 September
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION AGM
Christ Church

15 September
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION DINNER & DRAMA
Christ Church

16 September
1546 LUNCH
Christ Church

28 September
GAUDY Pre 1960
Christ Church

30 September
FAMILY PROGRAMME TEA
Christ Church

NOVEMBER

25 November
FAMILY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION
Christ Church

DECEMBER

6 December
VARSITY RUGBY MATCH
Twickenham

10 December
ST JOHN’S SMITH SQUARE CONCERT
London

Further details are available at: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/all/alumni-and-development

Unless otherwise stated, please contact the Development Office for bookings and queries
+44 (0)1865 286325
development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
"The Pococke Plane Tree" Created by modern-day calotypist, Rob Douglas, using techniques employed by William Henry Fox Talbot in the 1840s. © 2018 (see article on page 15)