FORTHCOMING EVENTS
IN 2019

Please contact the Development Office for bookings and queries:
+44 (0)1865 286325 | development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/all/alumni-and-development

JANUARY

23 January – BOAT CLUB RECEPTION – Thames Rowing Club, Putney

29 January – JUNIOR MEMBERS’ DRINKS RECEPTION AND TALK
Christ Church

FEBRUARY

9 February – MILLENNIAL CHEMISTS’ LUNCH – Christ Church

11 February – 8th CHARLES STUART DINNER – The Travellers Club, London

12 & 18 February – REUNION LUNCHES (pre-1960) AT HIGH TABLE
– Christ Church

27 February – 2 March – TORPIDS – Christ Church

MARCH

2 March – DINNER IN HALL FOR RECENT LEAVERS – Christ Church

3 – 8 March – CHRIST CHURCH VISIT TO THE USA: NEW YORK

9 March – FAMILY PROGRAMME LUNCH – Christ Church

17 – 25 March – CHRIST CHURCH VISIT TO HONG KONG & TOKYO

28 March – RUGBY & OTHER SPORTS GAUDY – Christ Church

APRIL

5 April – 1969 & 1979 REUNION DINNER IN HALL – Christ Church

7 April – BOAT RACES – London

7 – 18 April – CHRIST CHURCH VISIT TO THE USA: CHICAGO, TORONTO, WASHINGTON DC, SAN FRANCISCO & LOS ANGELES

30 April – JAY STIEFEL TALK ‘THE CABINETMAKER’S ACCOUNT’
– Christ Church

MAY

29 May – 1 June – SUMMER EIGHTS – Christ Church

JUNE

28 June – SUMMER GAUDY (1960-65) – Christ Church
Quite recently, Emma and I had a young undergraduate living with us for around a year. Her family are close friends of ours, and she came to stay in the midst of an unexpected family bereavement. It was a couple of weeks before Christmas, and we were shopping for provisions in the Covered Market. “So how many days is a typical life?” she suddenly piped up. We did the sums, and worked out that if you live to just beyond eighty, you’ll hit the 30,000 mark. So, a bit more than your biblically-allotted three-score-years-and-ten.

But 30,000 sounded like a rather small number to me. “How many days have I lived?” I asked. “20,000”, she replied. I mused on the remaining 10,000 left; and wondered to myself how two-thirds had already passed.

“What about you?” I asked. She paused. “I have clocked up 7,000; so about another 23,000 to go” she announced, quietly aware of the passing of the day. “Do you know”, she suddenly said, “the first 2,000 of my 7,000 – I barely remember them”.

It was a conversation that has stayed with me. It is a reminder of the finite nature of life; that time is precious. And as another academic year is now well underway, I reflect on the fact that three years of study at Oxford amounts to a little over 1,000 of those precious 30,000 days. Indeed, in relation to term-time itself, one barely gets past 600 days. Not that long at all. It is a sobering thought.

So, it is worth pausing and asking the obvious question: what shall I do next with the extraordinary gift of the days that lie ahead? And why is it that these 600-1,000 days are some of the most important within our lives?

Membership of the House is for a lifetime. Ours is a home of learning, not just a place that one passes through.

The core values of this House are naturally rooted in scholarship and intellectual development. But our learning also includes other lessons: in hospitality, inclusiveness, hopefulness, generosity and kindness. Our formation as citizens of character is probably just as important as our education - and perhaps the later careers we go on to develop.

I hope that as you read this latest edition of Christ Church Matters, you will continue to appreciate that our endeavour at the House is about the education of the whole person. Alongside the excellence of our tutors and the subjects they teach, there is much more being taught, and to be learnt. Those days – less than a 1,000 of them – are some of the most important for our time, and for future generations. I sincerely hope you will continue to help, support and encourage us as we do all we can in our time for the House - and for the ages to come.

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy

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Around the beginning of the eighteenth century, travels within the British Isles, purely for pleasure, became increasingly popular. Celia Fiennes, for example, made journeys throughout the land, often alone and on horseback. She encouraged others to ‘spend some of their tyme in Journeys to visit their native Land, and be curious to inform themselves and make observations of the pleasant prospects, good buildings, different produces and manufactures of each place’. She saw every cathedral in the country, except Rochester, and came to Oxford at least once. Christ Church evidently did not impress, and receives barely a mention. A little later, in the 1720s, Daniel Defoe followed in her footsteps, and wrote that the ‘cathedral is lofty, but by no means deserves particular attention’. Other parts of college received much more admiration, especially the vault over the Hall stairs.

The New Library, once it was open in the 1770s, was somewhere all discerning tourists wanted to visit. With the glorious room upstairs full of books, manuscripts, coins, and other artefacts to satisfy the serious academic, and downstairs lined from floor to ceiling with the paintings and drawings given by General John Guise just a decade before, Christ Church soon had to employ a tour guide. Mrs Showwell (who actually existed!) took interested parties through the collections much in the manner of Pride and Prejudice’s Mrs Reynolds, the house-keeper at Pemberley. Tourists were not always popular; Thomas Vere Bayne, who was Dean Liddell’s right-hand man, complained that the library was meant to be a place of study, not a showcase.

Up until the later nineteenth century, tourists could come in free of charge – after all the cathedral is meant to be a public place. In 1881, though, the Governing Body decided it was time to start charging, and boards were put up at all the gates with entry fees. To visit the Hall cost 2d (somewhere between £4 and £6 today); to see Great Tom was the same again, but if you wanted to toll the bell, that was only permitted between the hours of 2pm and 5pm when the Library was open, presumably so that men could escape the racket. But this may not have worked as the Library was open too; it cost 3d per person for groups of up to four people, and 2d per person for every additional guest. Special rates could be negotiated for large parties and school groups. It all sounds terribly modern!

By the 1970s, however, tourism was becoming a problem. In just two months - April and May 1976, 16,000 visitors had come in to see the Hall, all coming in through Tom Gate. At some point, the admission fee had been dropped for parties with fewer than ten people and guides were getting clever splitting their groups outside and reconvening once inside. Meadow Gate was made the visitor entrance, with a kiosk, and a flat rate of 30p per person (around £4). And custodians first appeared in the quads.
By the 1970s, however, tourism was becoming a problem. In just two months - April and May 1976, 16,000 visitors had come in to see the Hall, all coming in through Tom Gate.

Tourism remains a significant issue today. Huge numbers of visitors – individual and groups, from around the world – pay to see the ‘Hogwarts’ dining hall and the Cathedral, and to walk through Tom and Peckwater Quads (over 400,000 in 2017). Some stop by to look at the paintings and drawings in the Picture Gallery. The numbers continue to rise and the problems now are both to manage the logistics and to provide an ‘experience’ which justifies the admission charge. Under construction (Nov. 2018) is an extended version of the old thatched barn on the Meadow. There will be a ticket office, which will allow timed entry, and the shop will be relocated from the Chapter House. There will also be room for an Interpretation area so we may better serve our visitors and the local community.

On occasions we may look enviously at other colleges that can just close their gates, but visitors have been coming to St Frideswide’s priory and to Christ Church since the eighth century.
Canon Professor Carol Harrison elected as a Fellow of the British Academy

Professor Harrison is a theologian who specialises in early Christianity. She came to Oxford in 1979 to read theology, remained at Oxford to undertake postgraduate research, studied for two years at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, and completed her D.Phil. in 1988. Since January 2015, she has been Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Christ Church and the University of Oxford, and is the first woman and first lay person to hold this appointment. Carol is a Canon of Christ Church, and also an honorary fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Her recent work has focussed on listening, music and sound in early Christianity. She is a world-renowned expert on the life and work of St Augustine.

Academic and Research News

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Carissa Véliz

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Carissa Véliz was the lead author on a paper in Nature Energy, entitled ‘Protecting data privacy is key to a smart energy future’. Nature Energy is a monthly journal publishing the best research on energy, from its generation and distribution to the impacts energy technologies and policies have on societies.

Recognition of Distinction 2018: Christ Church Fellows become Professors

Congratulations to Christ Church Official Students Brian Young (top left) and Simon Dadson (top right), who have both had the title of full professor conferred upon them in this year’s Recognition of Distinction Awards. Brian Young becomes Professor of History, and Simon Dadson becomes Professor of Hydrology.

The first Francesco Palla Memorial Prize

Christ Church Physics achieved a double in the Astrophysics aspects of the final year of the Physics course. The first Francesco Palla Memorial Prize was awarded to Timothy Davies for the best exam performance, and Joseph Ortiz was awarded the University prize for the best 4th year project in Astrophysics.

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Tim completed his Masters in Physics at Christ Church, graduating with First Class honours. His 4th year project, supervised by Professor Andrew Bunker, used the KMOS instrument on the Very Large Telescope in Chile to study star formation in galaxies at redshift ~1.

Tim has a strong interest in the crossovers between physics and music technology and works as a free-lance recording and mixing engineer. During his 2nd year at Christ Church he built a programme that recreates the acoustics of any space, given a set of measurements from it. This is known as a convolution reverb, and has applications across the field of music recording. The project won the Christ Church Collie Physics prize in 2016.

Tim hopes to pursue a career in audio technology and is currently working as a musician and recording engineer.

The fund requires doubling to an endowment target of £10,000 in order to provide an annual prize in perpetuity. Various events are planned for 2019 in an attempt to achieve this target.

Christ Church welcomes Madame Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia

Madame Geingos was in Oxford to give a keynote address at the Oxford Africa Conference on May 18th at the Blavatnik School of Government. She was invited to visit Christ Church and dine at High Table by Christ Church DPhil Candidate in Engineering Science Andreas Elombo, also from Namibia, as a means of welcoming her to Oxford. Andreas was joined by his fellow Namibian, Ndjodi Ndeunyema, DPhil Candidate in Law at Linacre College, in welcoming the Namibian delegation.

Olivia Grant presented with Scientific Exploration Society Rivers Foundation Award

Undergraduate Olivia Grant, who last year was in her third year studying Biological Sciences, was also made an honorary member of the society. She was presented with the award at the SES Explorer Awards 2018 (above), held on Tuesday 22nd May at the City and Guilds Building in London.

The Scientific Exploration Society (SES) was founded in 1969 by Colonel John Blashford-Snell and colleagues, to initiate a worldwide programme of scientific expeditions for the exploration of remote regions of the earth, focusing on scientific research, conservation, education and community aid projects, particularly in under-resourced environments.
Glove Ceremony and Court Sermon take place at Christ Church

On Tuesday 9th October 2018 the Glove Ceremony took place in the Drawing Room of the Deanery at Christ Church, as part of a series of events to mark the beginning of the legal year in Oxford.

The ceremony follows the High Sheriff’s Law Lecture, held in the University’s Examination Schools, and involves representatives of both the Judiciary and the University. This year’s lecture was given by Michael Beloff QC, who spoke on the law and sport.

The ceremony is thought to date back to at least the sixteenth century, when it has been suggested that a pair of white gloves was presented to the visiting High Court Judge if there were no crimes for him to try. White gloves are now presented by a representative of the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the University and by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the City (below), in the presence of members of the local Judiciary, the High Sheriff, Heads of Houses, members of the City Council, and other guests.

A Blue Plaque for Andrea Angel

On 14th July 2018 a group of about 30 people gathered outside 15 Banbury Road, Oxford, for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque in honour of the career and heroism of Andrea Angel who died in the Silvertown Explosion of 1917. He and his family had lived here from 1905 while Angel was a Chemistry Lecturer at Christ Church and manager of the college’s laboratory. After some introductory comments by Professor Robert Evans (Chair of Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board), Martin Grossel gave a summary of Angel’s career and the events leading up to his heroism and death at the Brunner-Mond factory in Silvertown, East London. Duncan Rabagliati then spoke on behalf Angel’s family, followed by Councillor Gill Sanders, Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council. Also in attendance were the Dean and Sir Hugo Brunner (the grandson of one of the factory owners).
Naomi Holland competes at European Universities Games

Christ Church graduate student Naomi Holland was among a team of 7 rowers representing the University of Oxford – and Great Britain – at the European Universities Games 2018 in Coimbra this July.

The European Universities Games is a multisport event involving 4000 athletes from European universities, taking place every two years and hosted in a different European city each time.

Naomi, studying for a DPhil in Physics, joined Somerville College student Amanda Thomas, studying for an MPhil in Linguistics, rowing in the Women’s Lightweight Double Sculls. They qualified to represent Oxford and Great Britain at the Games after finishing fourth in a very competitive field in the Lightweight Double Sculls at the British Universities rowing championships (BUCS) in May, and travelled to Coimbra as part of a British Universities squad of 106 rowers and 18 coaches from 13 universities.

Alumna Sophie Power completes Ultra Trail de Mont Blanc

Christ Church alumna Sophie Power (2000), who spoke at the 2017 Moritz-Heyman Society event, made headlines on completing the 105-mile marathon the Ultra Trail de Mont Blanc only three months after giving birth.

To enter her latest ultra, the Ultra Trail de Mont Blanc (UTMB), she had to earn points by completing other ultras. Sophie had previously earned a place in the 2015 race, but had to give it up because she was 6 months pregnant with her first child. Unable to defer her place, she had to re-earn the points for the 2018 UTMB, and having been offered a second spot, didn’t want to miss out.

Alumna Chloe Brooks racing in 2019 Marathon des Sables

Christ Church alumna Chloe Brooks (2012) will be running in the 2019 Marathon des Sables, a 7-day 156-mile race through the Sahara Desert, raising money for the charity Hope for Children.

Chloe said, ‘Living in Sudan for a year made me fall in love with the desert and made me want to take on this particular challenge. I have worked in global health and international development, but wanted to do something more. I am inspired by the work of Hope for Children and wanted to support them by raising money as part of my participation in Marathon des Sables 2019.’

To support Chloe’s sponsorship campaign, visit her fundraising page: https://mds2019.everydayhero.com/uk/chloe-s-desert-dash-1
Even irregular churchgoers have their favourite hymns. Of those we sing in the Cathedral the one that most reliably occasions enthusiastic comment after Evensong is John Ellerton’s wonderful evening hymn, ‘The day thou gavest’. Educated at our sister institution, Trinity College, Cambridge, Ellerton was ordained in 1850 and served an obscure and faithful parochial ministry for forty-three years. His fame comes only from his hymns, which include another much-loved evening hymn ‘Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise’, but it is ‘The day thou gavest’ that is most inseparably linked to his name:

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o’er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren ’neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth’s proud empires, pass away;  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

Part of the hymn’s appeal undoubtedly comes from its tune. The melody of ‘St Clement’ is simple: it makes no excessive demands on the vocal cords of the weary attender at Evensong, bestowing a calm order on the day’s events with its steady three beat rhythm.

It is in the poetry, though, that the hymn’s real attraction is to be found. It takes its inspiration from Psalm 113:3: ‘From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord’s name is to be praised; charting a course not just from morning to night, but from Genesis – God bringing light and darkness into being (Genesis 1:3-4) to Revelation – every creature on heaven and earth ‘owning God’s sway’ (Revelation 5:13). As such, it works beautifully as a funeral hymn, tracing the way in which the life of an individual can be seen as a microcosm of life in its widest sense: each a gift, held in being by God.

The first and last verses are grounded in worship, so the hymn meets us where we are at Evensong and gently returns us to the same context; but the central verses take us on a spiritual flight into inner space, showing us the world in its entirety, and our brothers and sisters in every continent and island continuing the same work of praise.

Sometimes people ask me to explain the enduring – and indeed growing – popularity of Evensong. To do so is a bit like seeking to elucidate the appeal of a favourite tree or the beauty of the dawn light picking out the top of Tom Tower – familiar, but newly ravishing each time we see them. But the answer, surely, must have something to do with the grace Evensong gives us, like Ellerton’s hymn, to see the disorder of our lives transfigured by the blessing of God.

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Richard Murray, Headmaster, describes how pupils and staff marked the recent celebrations of Remembrance at the Cathedral School.

There were many ways in which we marked the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of the First World War at the Cathedral School, but for me, the aspect of our celebrations which made the most impact was a matter of names. Let me explain.

Every year, the pupils and staff of the School collect in the playground at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, to read out the names and honour the dead of the School who have died in the two World Wars. Despite the fact that some of our pupils are only three, there is complete silence; the solemnity of the occasion affects everyone there. Hearing these names read out by very young boys in voices not yet broken, is the most moving part of the ceremony.

This has always been a good thing to do, yet there has been something missing. We have used the initials of the former pupils rather than their Christian names, which we did not know.

Thus, I am delighted that in time for the Armistice Centenary, our Head of History, David Cotterill, worked with three scholarship boys to find out everything they could about the former pupils, with the intention of transforming them from names into people. They were in touch with senior schools whose records are generally better than ours, made contact with the War Graves Commission to find out where they are buried, and did a huge amount of other research. As a consequence a beautiful booklet has been produced about the brief lives of these eight young men.

The ‘Lost Boys’ booklet also revealed some interesting facts. As befits a boy from a chorister school, one of those who died, Herbert Wright, had on his gravestone the epitaph “He hath put a new song in my mouth.” I also learnt that the Armistice Day celebrations at Christ Church were cancelled because the organist and many of the choristers were suffering from Spanish influenza, one of the first signs of the devastating epidemic which subsequently killed at least 50 million people, more people than died in the War itself. Throughout the period of the conflict, William Walton, the great composer, was a boy at the School and a chorister at the Cathedral though he was too young to serve. He went on to write the great Festival Te Deum which concluded the Coronation of our Visitor, Her Majesty the Queen.

As the boys left the Cathedral following the service of Remembrance, they were handed a copy of the booklet, a fitting testament to their heroic predecessors but also a symbol of the fact that, as pupils of the School, they stand in a very long tradition stretching back to the foundation of the College. It is both a privilege and a responsibility.
Stephanie Hale, Access and Outreach Officer, provides an update on initiatives in Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as other recent developments at the House.

Access and Outreach at Christ Church is going from strength to strength, and this year has been our best — and busiest — yet. Alongside the Horizons programme, which will be discussed in a later issue, we have developed a highly-structured programme which engages our eastern link regions of Norfolk and Suffolk. Since March 2018, we have also worked beyond our link regions in collaboration with St Peter’s: my home as an undergraduate, and Oxford’s link College for Merseyside. Thanks to the establishment of the Christ Church Access Hub and our partnership with St Peter’s, collaboration has been a major aspect of our Access work this year, as we support many different partners working tirelessly to widen access and participation at Oxford.

Developing our engagement in Norfolk and Suffolk has been a key priority. I regularly visit schools in East Anglia, and work closely with the Norfolk Higher Education Scheme and other county-wide collaborative programmes. Christ Church also hosted both residential and non-residential visits for prospective applicants from Norfolk and Suffolk — and many other areas of the UK. In Trinity term, 50 students and teachers from seven schools in Norfolk visited Christ Church for three days as part of a pilot residential programme. The applicants really enjoyed their time in Oxford, and many of them have applied to the University this year. In their feedback, applicants mentioned how important it had been for them to meet friendly undergraduates and experience the College’s welcoming atmosphere, and their teachers valued the Teachers’ Workshop that we provided.

Due to its success, we will be expanding the residential programme to include more schools from across both Norfolk and Suffolk. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped, including our dedicated Student Ambassadors and the Norfolk Higher Education Scheme.

In the last edition of CCM, Prof. Jennifer Yee, Tutor for Admissions, outlined a series of new access initiatives at Christ Church, one of which was the Christ Church Access Hub. I am pleased to report that during the last academic year, the Hub supported a number of organisations within the University and beyond, including the charities In2Science and Debate Mate, and the Oxford First-Generation Students Campaign. Our partner organisations are given a grant to support their work, and are invited to use College facilities free of charge for events they wish to hold here. Working collaboratively in this way has really helped to maximise the College’s impact and extend its reach.

Whilst there have been many new additions to College outreach this year, a number of well-established activities have retained their place in our wider programme of events. One notable example is our annual ‘Women in PPE Day’, held this year on 29th May. 50 young women from across the UK were invited to attend lectures by Prof. Edward Keene (Politics), Dr Sophie Archer (Philosophy), and Dr Jacinta Pires (Economics). Participants were also able to enjoy lunch in hall and a tour of College from current female undergraduates, and the study day remains a highly impactful way of attracting bright female ‘PPEists’ from all backgrounds.

It is impossible to condense all of our outreach work into one article, and there have been many other activities this year. If you would like more information about the College’s access programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at admissions@chch.ox.ac.uk.

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THE ‘WETTON WORKSHOP’

Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics & Director of the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys

Once every three years Oxford Astrophysics hosts a ‘Wetton Workshop’ aimed at stimulating interaction between different sub-disciplines of Astrophysics. This year the workshop, held on 19-21 June, was organised by Professor Chris Lintott on the topic of ‘Planning for Surprises - Data Driven Discovery in the era of Large Data’. The three day workshop aimed to explore how, as astronomical datasets grow ever larger, new thinking and new tools will be built to ensure we get the best from them. The workshop brought together researchers from the fields of exo-planet detection, cosmology, galaxy evolution, the structure of the Milky Way, stellar astrophysics & transient astronomy to explore the tools and techniques that will enable us to uncover the surprises in modern surveys. The keynote speaker at the workshop was Professor David Hogg from New York University who also gave the third Wetton Lecture on the subject of ‘How do we find planets around other stars’.

This occasion was combined with the opening of a radio telescope on the roof of the Denys Wilkinson Building. This project, led by Dr. Angela Taylor and Wetton Scholar Alex Pollack, provides a two telescope interferometer for use in undergraduate projects. In recognition of the generous funding they provided the telescope is named ‘The Roswitha Wetton Telescope’ and joins the 60cm optical telescope, the ‘Philip Wetton Telescope’, on the roof!

Above – Professor David Hogg delivering the third Wetton Lecture: ‘How do we find planets around other stars?’

I left Christ Church 11 years ago. I came away with some wonderful friends, memories, a great knowledge of Russian and Polish and a thirst to go out in the world to make my mark. I would never have imagined spending the last 11 years in Asia but as I look back I wouldn’t change the experience for a thing and I have Christ Church to thank for so much.

I’m not sure I’ve been successful enough to call myself a businessman but certainly since graduating I have focused on working in the private sector. My journey into business started when I was in my Final year and I realized that I hadn’t pursued an internship longer than 4 weeks, intentionally so I must admit. I had put this off as long as possible preferring to spend summers at home on Exmoor or perhaps on a train speeding through Eastern Europe with a guide book under my arm. One such summer I travelled with a friend from Istanbul to Urumqi in China, a great journey by land, sea, and air through the ‘Stans. That first visit to China planted the seed of imagination and I returned to Oxford feeling like I had to go further into China. Like my study of Russia and Russian, the rewards kept coming as I delved deeper into the culture.

Faced with the realities of employment, or lack of it, after Finals I spent a few months at Lazard in the investment banking division. That was followed by a full time employment offer from them to start the following year. But pre-finals I had applied to the MBA at Tsinghua University, Beijing. I also applied to Stanford and Columbia to study Russian but the course I really wanted to go on was the two-year journey into China. The program is taught in English and has a well-established network of exchange universities around the world, plus it would afford me the chance to learn Mandarin. I was thrilled to be accepted and in August of 2007 I found myself, age 22, sitting in a classroom in Beijing learning about Microeconomics, the youngest in my class and the first Brit in the history of the programme.

3 years later in 2010 I went to work at Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong for their Asian Investment Banking team, and spent the next 4 years there. It was a fairly brutal experience but one which taught me a lot and made me work extremely hard, both of which I’m grateful for. This year I left banking.

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I wonder how I ended up in an apartment in Hong Kong, looking out over the harbor, married to a wonderful Brazilian woman, far from family but never far from friends. I remember my first inclinations to entrepreneurship came when I was a teenager.
and I opened my first business banking account aged 16 or 17 to manage the finances of school theatrical productions. During my year abroad I tried to cook up various trading schemes between Russia and the UK, one of which prompted my mother to fly to Moscow in a state of panic. But all throughout those times, I felt constantly held back by a lack of any fundamental business skills. I had stopped mathematics at the age of 15 and I don’t think I had ever used a spreadsheet.

Now, at 33, I have my own advisory business MJA. I work closely with two partners in New York and London sharing a pipeline of deals that we work on, mainly M&A projects where there is an Asian angle. We look at technology, consumer, and property deals. It’s been a challenging first year going it alone and getting married added a sense of economic urgency to life, but I have never been happier.

Being free from an employer has opened up opportunities in other areas too. I have ventured into the world of Fitness opening two fitness clubs in Manila, Philippines, and one in Singapore called Platinum Fitness. While both are very different markets they are united by the growing trend in keeping fit. I only wish I could be a better role model for our members! I did run a marathon in North Korea a few years ago but that was more as a tourist than a serious runner.

Hong Kong, for anyone who is thinking about it, is a very friendly place. There is very little red tape when it comes to immigration, finance and business. The Law is largely based on English Law and the language of the workplace is still predominately English. It is a very transient place, people come and go and even if we do stay I don’t think I can ever call it home. But as a base it’s one of the best there is.

Being asked to write for Christ Church Matters is a particular honour because quite frankly it does matter to me a lot. If ever I failed to be the model student or citizen of the college, I am grateful for the opportunity to support the college as an Alumnus and offer whatever advice I may to current or past students. On summer days, I think of the beautiful lawns or the meadow and I miss it.
I built *When Women Win* all through my chemotherapy, and at the end of Season 1 it was the number one podcast on iTunes Middle East. People are listening to the show in 129 countries, that’s more countries than McDonald’s is in! Listeners send me messages from all over the world on Instagram and LinkedIn to tell me how inspired and empowered the podcast makes them feel. So how did it all start?

The power of role models is undeniable, from Roger Bannister’s four-minute mile galvanising thousands of runners, to young women in today’s corporations looking at their senior leadership team to gauge whether they have a chance of getting the top job one day. You can’t be what you can’t see.

As I reflect, I can point to many ways that my time at Christ Church supported and informed my journey, from my sense of belonging to a warm and welcoming community to the hard analytical skills that my Engineering tutors instilled in me. But the biggest gift that Christ Church has given me is a realisation that I am significant – that what I feel counts, that what I want matters. And so my path has become guided more and more by my values.

After leaving Christ Church, I embarked on a 17-year journey into the corporate world. I started at McKinsey’s London office where over half my intake were engineers – we solved problems and danced badly. I then changed tracks entirely to help the Government of Dubai attract foreign direct investment. My final corporate job was a 13-year stretch at General Electric (GE).

I could not imagine ever leaving this world. In fact, during my first performance self-appraisal at GE I actually wrote that my long-term career objective was “to grow old with GE.”

So why did I choose to leave? I’d had a terrific run, and I especially enjoyed my 11 years in aviation finance... I’d done the first ever aircraft lease in Libyan history. I’d done GE Capital’s first ever deals in the Congo and Senegal. A customer in Turkey had put my name on the side of an aircraft! I’d built strong relationships all over the world, learnt a ton of hard and soft skills, had meaningful impact on the world – and I’d stumbled across a passion which has grown to be my life’s mission, helping women shine.

During my time at GE, I was asked to co-lead the GE women’s network for Middle East, North Africa and Turkey – and it turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, developing me personally and professionally. I realised that one must not project one’s own experience on everyone else and that the spectrum of gender discrimination was a broad one. I started to educate myself, reading all the books and research papers I could find. I was shocked by the scale of the problem: how unconscious bias pervades everything we do and how it disproportionately affects women; how the systems and processes within corporations penalise women for the same behaviour that men get rewarded for; and how women earn less for doing the same work. I became a vocal advocate for women in the workplace.

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In 2015 I was asked to be president of the local chapter of Ellevate, a global business women’s network. Through my work at the GE Women’s network and Ellevate Dubai, I realised that all professionals, male and female need several things to thrive – and one of the most critical factors is role models. I noticed that junior women were not getting access to senior women, because they are few and far between and often travelling. You’re not just a role model because you’re senior – you’re a role model when you inspire people, educate them, and impart tools to help others improve their lives. So, I decided to create a highly accessible platform, a podcast, that on the one hand highlights incredible women at the top of their game, and on the other gives women (and men) all over the world access to these role models to learn from.

When Women Win was launched in October 2017 and two weeks later I left the corporate world, aged 38. Within one month I was diagnosed with cancer and was told I needed to do six months of chemotherapy. I was stunned.

I had many choices to make, and one of them was: do I continue the podcast or do I just drop it after six weeks? It would have been easier to let it go, but the incredible feedback I got on the early episodes inspired me to stay the course. I was doing chemotherapy every two weeks: the first week I was flat in pain, but the second week I was full of energy so I’d run around doing everything I needed to do and record two episodes of When Women Win, because I was determined to keep it a weekly show. These incredible women I interviewed gave me so much energy and unknowingly supported me through my journey. They joined my ‘tribe’, as I like to call it.

A few weeks ago I had my follow-up scan and I was declared cancer-free. I’m doubling down on When Women Win and my mission to bring role models to listeners around the world. I was thrilled to learn of Christ Church’s interest in this area and of the creation of a women’s network at the House – I hope to support this important work and would encourage all readers who can offer mentorships, sponsorships or internships to do so too. And do get involved in the Women’s 40th anniversary weekend in September 2020.

Rana can be found on Instagram @rananawas and more details about When Women Win can be found at www.whenwomenwinpodcast.com
Charles L. Dodgson, better known to the world as the author Lewis Carroll, was also an early pioneering photographer in the new black art using the wet collodion method. This was invented, without licence, in 1851. Black art was a good description – the chemicals used in the process stained fingers black. Dodgson’s curiosity was aroused when he saw the photographic work of Reginald Southey who was studying medicine at Christ Church. Southey had a camera from at least 1853. Dodgson watched and learnt until he was ready to purchase his own camera in May 1856, and with Southey’s help he went to London and bought the Ottewill 1853 folding camera. Southey assisted Dodgson’s first attempts, and even gave him some of his photographic chemicals to get started. The whole process of preparing the glass-plate with appropriate chemicals, exposing the plate, and developing the image, could take as long as 30 minutes for each photograph. This was not a cheap pastime, but Dodgson had just been appointed Lecturer in Mathematics at Christ Church, and could afford the outlay. He wrote in his Diary at the end of the year: “I hope to make progress in Photography in the Easter Vacation: it is my one recreation, and I think should be done well.”

In time, Dodgson perfected the art and continued taking photographs until 1880. His opus of photographs is estimated at three thousand images taken over a period of 25 years, but no more than a third of these have survived today. His photographs are highly prized and command high prices when they come up for auction, especially his photographs of children.

In an age of great child-mortality, friends would sometimes ask Dodgson to photograph their child in case the worst happened. The child tended to be young (below the age of 2) and often a nude study was requested. Very few of these photographs survive today. In Dodgson’s case, only two have come to light, and they are of the eldest son in a family. The Victorians saw children as innocent beings, and some even imagined them to be close to angels, unsullied by worldly matters. Dodgson may have shared these views, following the path taken by other leading art-photographers such as Oscar Rejlander, Julia Margaret Cameron, Henry Peach Robinson, and Lady Clementina Hawarden. The children were always chaperoned and no more than 1% of his total output were photographs of this kind. More often he preferred children dressed up in dramatic costumes.
Very few nude studies by Dodgson have come onto the market, but from time to time a photograph unknown to the world emerges, causing great excitement and interest. There were no more than 30 produced, based on entries in Dodgson’s Diaries. Up until now six were known – two in private hands and four at the Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia, USA. Another nude study has just emerged from an Oxford family, where it has remained for several generations. It was offered to the Treasurer of Christ Church and I was asked to give a valuation. Such high quality photographs of children command a five-figure sum. My estimate was accepted by the family of the sitter, and with the generous help of Chris Forman (1983, PPE) the photograph was purchased.

The image shows Annie Henderson aged 8, and is already listed in the Catalogue Raisonné (2015). Dodgson’s diary entry for 18 July 1879 says: “Mrs. Henderson brought Annie and Frances. I had warned Mrs. Henderson that I thought the children so nervous I would not even ask for ‘bare feet,’ and was agreeably surprised to find they were ready for any amount of undress, and seemed delighted at being allowed to run about naked. It is a great privilege to have a model as Annie to take; a very pretty face, and a good figure…” This indicates that the request for a nude study had probably come from Mrs. Henderson. We know that two or three pictures of the Henderson children were taken at this time. This one I estimated had Dodgson’s image number IN-2604, although this number (or any other number) does not appear on the print. Another image of the two girls shows them as ‘shipwrecked maidens’ (possibly IN-2605). This is now at the Rosenbach Museum. Both images have been over-painted by Mrs Lydia Bond of Southsea whom Dodgson employed as a photographic colourist, making them small unique works of art that could be displayed to admiring visitors. Dodgson probably kept a print for himself, but his Executor (his brother, Wilfred) was instructed to destroy them at his death so that they did not fall into the wrong hands. Wilfred carried out these instructions. Only the family had the image, and it is from family sources that these kind of photographs have come to light.

The coloured photograph shows Annie resting on the grassy bank of a small stream, reading a book underneath a tree. It is a rural setting painted by Mrs Bond, and very little of the original photograph remains except the image of Annie. There is an inscription on the verso (above) which states in Dodgson’s hand “Annie Henderson, Rev. P. Henderson, Wadham College, Oxford” to which Annie has added at a later date “Taken of me by Rev. C. L. Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) in 1878 at Christ Church. Painted on photograph for him. Annie G. Ruxton, June 8, 1927.” Her father, Patrick Arkley Wright Henderson (1841-1922), MA Balliol, fellow and later Warden of Wadham College, was one of the first married tutors in Oxford when the rules governing the celibacy of tutors were relaxed. Annie was writing after marrying Mr Ruxton and clearly made a small error in the date the photograph was taken.

This photograph of Annie is very rare indeed. The four images at the Rosenbach Museum show three photographs of the Kitchin family (Beatrice and Evelyn) and one picture of the Henderson daughters. All are coloured. The two depicting Bertram Rogers and Benjamin Brodie, both the eldest sons of Oxford professors, are not coloured, and the latter, which was sold at auction in June 1983, is not located. There are five other known nude studies, none of which have come to light. Dodgson’s photographic opus was catalogued by him but unfortunately the catalogue is now lost. A reconstruction was made in 2015.

Nothing concentrates the mind as wonderfully as the approach of an ending. As I enter the final weeks of my term as a senator, and with my future political trajectory uncharted, I have found myself increasingly thinking about these last six years, about hopes, aspirations, dreams realised and dashed. Why not put these thoughts to paper, particularly since each senator is expected to make a ‘farewell speech’, his/her last speech in parliament? What would I say in my farewell address?

I would start by saying that politics certainly is a strange trade. For impact on lives, for recognition and achievement there are few grander stages. When parliament discusses an issue, the nation listens. Far-reaching decisions are sometimes taken in the stuffy rooms in which standing committees meet. Laws made by legislators today will govern the lives of future generations of citizens. A life in politics is one pregnant with possibilities.

But politics can also be frustrating and unforgiving. Debates can be interminable and meetings unproductive. The public gaze is relentless, criticism and abuse widespread and searing. It is a public profession that can be incredibly lonely.

There is little room in today’s politics for a private self-effacing individual. Chances of advancement vary in direct proportion to visibility. The demands placed on our personal space and time are unprecedented. No thought or action, genuine and well intentioned though it may be, is of any political utility unless it is simultaneously converted into a photo opportunity, tweeted about or posted on Facebook.

The downside of this relentless public gaze is that all of us are playing to the galleries all the time. There is little space available for sensible discussion. A moderate, nuanced position just doesn’t sell in the media bazaar. There is no room for admission of mistakes or the occasional doffing of one’s hat for a policy or action of the opposing party. Unpopular opinions are seldom voiced, no matter how strongly held they may be. Even though most of us are flawed individuals, there is constant pressure to come across as the embodiment of the perfect human being.

I would tell my colleagues that the self-projection required to succeed in politics appears to me at odds with the personal modesty I associate with my religion. That in an era of perhaps unprecedented levels of political polarisation, I find it difficult to justify the invective and slander that all too often pass for political oratory these days. Also, that I still struggle to reconcile the demands of modern electoral politics with the Islamic view that discourages the pursuit of power and authority if divine assistance in the discharge of that authority is sought.

In today’s politics, the destination is far more important than the journey. If to do ‘good’ requires authority, then all is justified in the pursuit of that power. But is it? Is there nothing that is sacred? Is this not why we are where we are as a country? And the reason why the
word politician has become a pejorative term? Edmund Burke was “in a constant struggle to reconcile his aspirations with his ideals, his desire for social status and public recognition with his insistence on personal accountability and independence of mind and action”. Many of us fight this same battle on a daily basis. And it seems that, more and more, aspirations can be realised only by burying ideals.

Political parties would certainly find a mention in my farewell speech. We are required to toe the party line because a party can only be effective if its members act in a coordinated manner. But the decision-making process in almost all our political parties is one that is far from participatory. Admittedly, most of us parliamentarians have been the beneficiary of this decision-making process at some time or another. On other occasions, however, our obligation to our party, our responsibility to our electors and the call of our conscience are often pulling us apart in very different directions. It is a tension that is acutely felt.

Edmund Burke was an exceptional writer of prose and an outstanding orator, but his independence of mind was not a recipe for electoral success. In his view, his judgment, “a trust from providence”, should not be sacrificed to the opinions of his voters because that would “betray rather than serve them”. His electors did not agree with him and he lost his seat. A similar stand today would be equally doomed.

I would tell my colleagues that the lack of compunction with which many of us change parties is evidence that political parties are not serving their intended purpose. Political parties are essential to give effect to the popular mandate and they will attract and retain committed individuals only if those individuals believe they have a voice in formulating party policies, and a path to rise within the party based more on ability and less on sycophancy. Otherwise parties will simply be factions — unable to sustain themselves in the wilderness of opposition politics.

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No farewell speech would be complete without a melancholy reference to the ever-elusive notion of a supreme parliament. Parliament should be sovereign because decisions impacting the lives of the people should be taken by those whom the people can hold to account, who operate in the public gaze and under public scrutiny.

It is sad that we are still having debates in parliament on the trichotomy of state institutions. But it is not the usual trichotomy — the Pakistani trichotomy refers to the civilian versus the military versus the judiciary. The three are engaged in a game for public acclaim, but a game being played without agreement on the rules. Unsurprisingly chaos, futility and lack of forward progress are often the result.

Ultimately it is the civilian legislative and executive branches that must take a large part of the blame for failing to establish the primacy of parliament and for ceding space in areas of governance and policymaking. Our failure to agree on even the most basic ground rules has led to the present situation where all and sundry have declared open season on parliament.

Ernest, in The Admirable Crichton by J. M. Barrie says “I am not young enough to know everything”. What does the future hold for Pakistan? Is it bright, or God forbid, a diminished one? I, for one, do not know. What I do know is that if we are to become a great nation we need a clean break with the past. Accept past mistakes and look forward. Be forgiving, magnanimous. And, most importantly let fresh eyes look at our challenges. Give the youth of this country a chance. They can make Pakistan great. There is much today to be dismayed about, but the best and brightest amongst us have talent more than abundant enough to surmount even the most serious of challenges. Politics must serve as their call to action.
The time is the late 1950s. The charge is 2/6d each term. That is twelve and a halfpence. But this is not a story about inflation. This sum was added to everyone’s battels to fund, with about £200 a year, a picture collection for the JCR. The idea was to have a small committee, two people from each year, who were interested in contemporary pictures and who would choose something, once a year, to hang on the walls of the JCR. The works of art would, over the years, show what young people thought was the best of the art market in each year that was affordable with this subscription; more for a picture than any single undergraduate was able to contemplate. Over time, and with luck, and when the Committee had a good eye, it might prove an interesting collection.

And it began to work. By the time I was Chairman of the little committee my predecessors had bought important pictures by Prunella Clough, by Peter Lanyon, and by Keith Vaughan. Pictures that, were they still in the JCR, would be worth tens of thousands of pounds. When, in 1961, it came to my turn, we chose a maquette (small sculpture), ‘Birdman’, by Elisabeth Frink and an abstract, ‘Orange Painting 1961’, by Joe Tilson (still alive and now a distinguished RA). That was when the trouble started.

We had proposed to pay £108 for the Frink and £90 for the Tilson but this was subject to the full JCR membership approving. They didn’t. I still have the book that we put on the JCR table for support or dissent. I entitled it ‘The Art Book’ and some wag immediately added an ‘F’ to that title. It attracted some 90 responses, very few supportive, mostly vituperative. Max Mosley was among the politest when he described our proposed purchases as “absurd acquisitions”. David Dimbleby was Chairman of the JCR and called a meeting specifically to discuss the matter in the light of what people repeatedly described in the book as “a public outcry”.

It was a lively meeting, with very guarded approval for the Elisabeth Frink ‘Birdman’, which was described in the book as “hideous, grotesque and obviously the product of a birdbrain.” The ‘Orange Painting 1961’ was dismissed by a clear majority and I was asked to send it back and not to pay £90 for it. Unfortunately, before I could do this, some enraged member threw a cup of tea at it. That rather changed things. I could hardly return damaged goods and so I sent it back, via the gallery, to Joe Tilson, who painted out the damage. We paid up and the two 1961 acquisitions were added to our increasingly valuable and interesting collection.

But this was not the end of the story. The Art Committee had always assumed that the collection and the rationale for it were safe. But undergraduates only last three years and the torch was not handed on properly. The only senior member of the House who kept an eye on the scheme was Sir Roy Harrod who, in old age, died in 1978 and, unsurprisingly, did not hand on this sinecure to any other other don. The undergraduate committee must have forgotten the original intention and by the late 1970s (I think) tried to sell the Keith Vaughan for some £15,000 at Christie’s. This was stopped just in time, but by now the collection was too large for the walls of the JCR and the not unreasonable proposal was to lend the works of art to any undergraduate who lived in college and who wanted to display them. Too trustingly, an inadequate record was kept as to who had borrowed what. The end of the story was that the whole lot disappeared. The conclusion must be that someone realised the value of the collection and stole it. It is the reason that this article in Christ Church Matters cannot be properly illustrated.

Jacqueline Thalmann, the curator of the Christ Church Picture Gallery, took an interest in this story, although the House is not responsible for what was an undergraduate idea and scheme. But she feels that this record, and the Art Book, should be in the archives and so I have deposited the book with her for safe keeping.
pedagogical achievements of our graduates rarely achieve mention in the press, or indeed in CCM, but they are no less important for that; perhaps more so. Here three such alumni share their experiences of teaching and how their careers have been influenced by their time at The House.

One of the alumni authors whose work is reviewed in this edition is also a teacher, in this instance applying his many years’ experience of teaching 1066 to a book on the subject. In amongst the other reviews is a book whose subject will no doubt be of interest to many a reader of CCM: Vintage Port. Christ Church was generous enough to allow the author access to its wine records, so it is in part an oenophilic history of The House, and it can only be hoped that these were accompanied by a healthy ration of the subject matter.

One of the great virtues of a Christ Church experience is its variety: no two students’ (or Students’) experiences are the same. Some spend their time messing about in boats, others treading the boards or hacking their way through the Union. But what unites all – or at least the majority – of our experiences is education. We have all been to tutorials, lecture(s), labs or classes, and gone on to sit exams and submit dissertations, with varying degrees of success.

For some those three or four years of more or less intensive education are just not enough, and they go on to teach in schools. Most news we hear of alumni focuses on those who pursue more glamorous – or lucrative at any rate – careers: the lawyers, bankers, consultants, etc., among us. The

We were delighted to receive these replies to CCM41’s caption competition. Paul Castle (1981) has been adjudged the winner and will receive a bottle of House Port.

“Interesting... Are you sure that ‘David Hine, PPE’ is an anagram of ‘A Divine Hippo’?”

“Balance a nude on my molars? Pah – you should see what I can do in the pink!”

Paul Castle (1981)

The Hippopotamus is Taweret. She is clearly telling him off.

“So you’re just an Ordinary Student? Where I come from I’m a Goddess!”

Simon Freebairn-Smith (1955)

“No, I’m sorry.....I don’t think you will get a double first.”

Anthony de Vere (1951)

“Both a hippo and made out of stone; and yet amazingly, still not as thick as the PPEists...”

Kes Samir Daood (2013)

“A hippo, eh? You’d look good in Mercury...”

Richard Brown (1992)
Events

Engineers Barbecue,
9 June 2018.
Some 60 Engineers and family enjoyed a barbecue on the terrace of the Freind room to mark David Nowell’s departure after 30 years at the House, and Malcolm McCulloch’s 25th anniversary as a tutor.

Summer Gaudy,
22 June 2018.
At the Summer Gaudy we welcomed back matriculands from 2009-2011.

Stephen Darlington
Leaving events
On Friday 29 June there was a concert and celebration dinner. Held in the Church of St John the Evangelist, it was a musical celebration of W.H. Auden and Christ Church called: ‘Adventure, Art and Peace’. Then on Saturday 7 July a celebratory Evensong was held in the Cathedral followed by a barbecue.

Christ Church Cathedral Choir,
3 August 2018.
The Choir performed at the Igreja de Se Cathedral, Macau, during their tour of China. Guests enjoyed a reception after their performance.
Christ Church Association Event, 15 September 2018. Members and friends enjoyed a visit from Shakespeare’s Globe for a one-off performance of The Queen’s Arcadia, a Jacobean comedy written by Oxford alumnus Samuel Daniel to entertain Queen Anne of Denmark in Christ Church dining hall.


Moritz-Heyman Society Reception, 10 October. Members of the Moritz-Heyman Society were treated to a reception at Hogan Lovells International LLP at which Judge Victoria McCloud (1987, Experimental Psychology) spoke.

MP Tom Tugendhat’s Parliamentary Forum in the Palace of Westminster, 29 October. Sir Tim Berners Lee spoke on the topic: How the UK can lead the world in Computer Science. Professors Mike Wooldridge, Head of Oxford Computer Science, and Roger Davies, Head of Astrophysics, joined him.

United States National Archives visit, October. The Director of Development, Mark Coote, Simon Offen and Aileen Thomson visited the USA in October, holding events in New York, Washington and Boston, including a wonderful visit to the National Archives, thanks to old member Mark Bradley (1978, Modern History).
Fifty years ago this past autumn, I arrived at The House from New Zealand matriculating as Christopher Tatton organ scholar. For my first northern hemisphere Christmas, a fellow Houseman, Steve Wilmer (1968), invited me to his family home in New York. He took me to the MET to experience my first international opera performance, Bellini’s ‘La sonnambula’, with Joan Sutherland and Jon Alexander. I returned to Oxford successfully seduced by the opera house and lost to the church.

For some 33 years, I managed the opera careers of some wonderful singers, conductors and stage directors and attended another 2,500 opera performances, before retiring and inventing a new genre with which to address a ubiquitous problem among opera audiences, namely the detailed understanding of an opera’s story.

Narropera (narrated opera) was invented in 2013 for the eponymous Christchurch and its earthquake trauma. It was first introduced to The House at the Benefactors’ Gaudy of 2017 with a performance in The Upper Library of Mozart’s ‘Così fan tutte’. This year, for the September Gaudy, The Narropera Trio (one singer, one violinist, one continuo pianist doubling as narrator) returned with its ‘Don Giovanni’. Come next year, and for the Gaudy of my contemporaries and myself on 4th October 2019, a performance of ‘Le nozze di Figaro’ will complete the trilogy of da Ponte/Mozart narroperas for The House.

Narropera is a continuous, 75-minute synthesis of the arts of storytelling, musical arrangement, dramatic singing and chamber music. A German critic has succinctly defined narropera as ‘Eine Märchenstunde für Erwachsene wobei sich Gespräch und Musik die Waage halten.’

Most recently, the Narropera Trio’s 79th performance (Don Giovanni), on 27th October, also had a delightful Christ Church connection, being given in the turquoise ballroom of Walcot House in Shropshire, the property of fellow Houseman, Robin Parish (1968).
This appreciation of Peggy Chadwick was written to celebrate her 100th birthday on 17 October 2018. It was obviously not intended as an obituary but was written before Peggy died on 22 December 2018.

“Peggy has been a great figure in Christ Church for more than half her life. She came from Dublin but spent her girlhood in Wimbledon. Her (evangelical) church there was Emmanuel, of which my son-in-law happens now to be Minister. Characteristic of her interest in others is that she was present, aged 94, at his ‘licensing’. After the service a middle-aged man came up to her, and she greeted him with the breath-taking words, ‘I knew your great grandfather!’.

Bedford College, London, where Peggy read Geography, was evacuated to Cambridge during the war; that is how she met Henry, who accompanied her singing. She always maintained that she had married her accompanist! Her utter devotion to Henry throughout a long marriage expressed itself in many ways, not least in her reading everything he wrote, sermons included, to ensure its clarity. But she also had a deep understanding of his work and his mind. Thus, after Henry’s death, when she discovered an unpublished typescript on Augustine of Hippo – under a carpet she said – she recognised at once its outstanding interest and importance, and got this masterpiece published as a book by OUP.

Peggy is a brilliant public speaker. At Henry’s funeral (2009) she gave an address as affectionate as it was unsentimental, with a witty passage about how Henry knew from where and at what price he had obtained his books, this book for x shillings from some back yard in Cambridge, that book from an Antiquariat in Cologne for y marks, and so on.

At the unveiling of a memorial to the two great brothers, Henry and Owen, in Westminster Abbey, she spoke movingly and without a note on how, although the two brothers had worked in similar, sometimes overlapping, fields, and had both received the highest honours, there had never been the slightest jealousy between them, but only respect and affection. On a lighter note, when in 2001 Henry gave a witty Common Room talk on twenty years in Tom Quad, Peggy interjected an amusing interlude on how she had come to determine what the Dalai Lama and his entourage of 12 Buddhist monks should be given to eat when they visited the Deanery.

One might think, from Peggy’s speaking, with its sometimes severe tone, its clear diction, and its staccato delivery, that she would be too critical. Not a bit of it! She does not mince her words, but she never speaks to wound. And she is very generous in her judgments - of people she has known, the great and the not so great, and not least of sermons. Underneath everything and often hidden from view, she is the soul of imaginative kindness. After my wife Caroline’s first hip operation, knowing that I no longer drove, she collected us from the hospital and drove us home. Countless others can tell of similar experiences of her.

Peggy always takes a benign interest in Christ Church. The whole of Christ Church will wish her, with her still unclouded mind and with the loving support of her daughters, yet more happy and life-enhancing times to come.”
The death of Paul Kent in 2017 just a few days before his 94th birthday occasioned much sadness, but also prompted reminiscences of a greatly respected Senior Member of The House. Paul Kent came to Oxford in 1951 as a biochemist from Birmingham via Princeton. His first lodging was at Jesus, but he soon found a welcoming home in Christ Church as a tutor in chemistry and biochemistry, and his association with The House lasted for more than six decades. The Memorial Symposium, held in College on 1st September 2018, was an opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Kent for his numerous contributions to science and academic life. The symposium was opened by The Dean and over ninety participants attended a packed afternoon of lectures from distinguished former colleagues of Paul, many staying on for a celebratory dinner in Hall to mark the occasion.

Paul Kent was appointed in 1955 to one of two advertised lectureships in chemistry at Christ Church: the other appointment went to David Buckingham, who had just completed his PhD at Cambridge. At the symposium David gave a vivid account of life in the Senior Common Room in the 1950s, where Paul and David were known as ‘the County Pair’. Another personal portrait of Paul and recollections of life as a student in Christ Church during the 1960s were presented by David Neuberger, one-time chemistry tutee of Paul and recently retired President of the Supreme Court. He was a most welcome participant in the Symposium, en-route to a legal engagement in Hong Kong.

Paul’s position as tutor in both chemistry and biochemistry brought him into contact with a variety of undergraduates in The House, from those studying forestry to students of medicine. Biochemistry is the chemistry of living things, and an understanding of it gives humankind a chance to regulate the life-cycles of animals and plants. Above all, we seek to eliminate or at least ameliorate disease, and two lectures in the symposium from Paul’s former students gave glimpses of biochemical research in action.
The 1950s was an important time for Oxford biochemistry, since the subject had only been introduced as a Final Honours School in 1952. Over subsequent decades, the subject expanded hugely in depth and breadth, and Raymond Dwek, college tutor in chemistry and biochemistry from 1966 to 1975, with Kathryn Scott (present college lecturer in biochemistry), gave a masterly account of the changing face of biochemistry from the 1950s to the present. How biochemistry at Oxford developed into one of the largest and most successful Departments in the country was engagingly described by the present Head of Department, Mark Sansom, tutor in biochemistry at Christ Church from 1991 to 2011.

Although biochemistry is a relatively modern subject, its roots go back as far as the first natural scientist ever, as exuberantly explained by Allan Chapman in his presentation on ‘Biochemistry and history: from Aristotle to Paul Kent’. Allan Chapman also revealed some of Christ Church’s own biochemical pioneers dating from the 17th Century, though these were not always as celebrated as they should have been. Our Archivist, Judith Curthoys explained in her talk that it was not until the 18th Century that scientific endeavours began to be recorded in the Archives: most notably with the creation of the Lee Trust from the legacy of Matthew Lee in 1755. The Lee Foundation continues to support science across the University, and Paul Kent was the Dr Lee’s Reader in chemistry for 16 years.

Biochemistry is the chemistry of living things, and an understanding of it gives humankind a chance to regulate the life-cycles of animals and plants. Above all, we seek to eliminate or at least ameliorate disease, and two lectures in the symposium from Paul’s former students gave glimpses of biochemical research in action. David Smith, in a dramatic presentation, focussed on the challenge of dementia, which if not curable may be containable. An ever present concern these days is cancer, and Freda Stevenson told us how the early studies of Paul on sugars and glycoproteins are contributing to our understanding of cancer and its prevention and cure.

In an afternoon largely devoted to science, it was not possible to explore all the academic and intellectual interests of Dr Kent. His important contribution to life in Christ Church, the foundation of the Graduate Common Room, was acclaimed by Mishthooni Bose, a former Tutor for Graduates. The GCR at The House is now a firmly established social facility, but it wasn’t always like that. In his later years in retirement, Paul Kent was often to be seen in Christ Church, either performing his duties as Censor for Degrees, or involved with other affairs of college. Today we still have the pleasure of seeing Paul daily as we pass his portrait in the GCR.

The biochemical heritage of Christ Church is now carried forward by Simon Newstead, the current tutor for biochemistry together with Kathryn Scott, the College lecturer in biochemistry. Simon closed the programme of lectures by outlining the present and future opportunities for students of biochemistry, and highlighting some recent successes of biochemistry graduates from The House.

The Paul Kent Memorial Symposium was conceived and promoted by the Christ Church Chemists’ Affinity Group and organised through the Development Office. A booklet containing abstracts of the lectures presented at the symposium and articles on other aspects of the life of Paul Kent has been produced, and is available from the Symposium Coordinator David Dunmur: d.dunmur@tiscali.co.uk.
CAREER FOCUS: TEACHING

Three Old Members reflect on careers in teaching since leaving Christ Church.

After five years at Christ Church studying Ancient History, I chose to pursue a career in teaching in 2014. Since then, I have taught History and Religious Studies and taken on leadership positions as PSHE Coordinator and Housemistress.

In many ways Christ Church influenced my decision to enter the profession. Although I treasured my academic experience, the achievement I am most proud of during my time as a student was my work with the Outreach scheme. From my first year I volunteered every admissions interview week, gave college tours and taught in local secondary schools, helping students revise for GCSEs and adapting my undergraduate thesis topic into gladiator workshops. These experiences gave me the challenge of making history come alive for young people and a sense of purpose that I was making a meaningful impact, which I was searching for in my ideal career.

Christ Church also provided invaluable preparation for teaching. Outstanding teaching requires that same blend of academic ability, independence, time management, flexibility and resilience necessary for a successful Oxford degree. Having to become an expert on a previously alien topic in a week then hold your own in a tutorial is a crucial transferable skill for teaching, particularly in your early years when you are trying to stay one step ahead of your students. As I was immediately thrown into teaching predominantly modern history after five years living in the ancient world, the essay crisis experience gave me the ability to tackle the Cold War with confidence.

Equally, I could apply what I learned from the process of researching and writing a dissertation when I took on the role of coursework supervisor and was seeking to develop the independent learning habits of my students. At a time when STEM subjects are often favoured in education, my experience of arguing into the early hours about the merits of history with friends studying the sciences has shaped me into a passionate advocate of the humanities to students and colleagues.

Teaching allows me to continue learning about my subject on a daily basis whilst sharing that passion and inspiring the next generation. There are so many different aspects to the role that go beyond the classroom and from day one it offers immediate responsibility, leadership and challenge. I would recommend it to anyone who wants an exciting and rewarding career that really makes a difference to young people’s lives.

On leaving Oxford I had little sense of what I should do but most of the more traditional exit routes didn’t really appeal to me. A visit to the alternative careers fair had not really inspired me and so it was by chance I struck up a conversation with a young man in Covent Garden raising money for the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). I started as a volunteer and then in a bid to make myself more useful I returned...
to Oxford to ask help from an old tutor. I wanted to know if there was any evidence of a link between high levels of man-made toxins (such as PCBs) and immune suppression in marine mammals as there had been large scale die offs of dolphins in the North Sea. He put me in touch with Dr Jonathan Gordon who was developing acoustic methods for whale research and to cut a long story short I ended up working for him. The next decade (1991 to 2002) I spent working on three Whale research vessels, with one of the highlights being assisting the BBC Natural History Unit with their filming of the first Blue Planet series.

I had met my wife in the Galapagos during these escapades and by 2000 we had a son called Jonah. This complicated life at sea so we settled back in the UK and I re-trained as a secondary school Science Teacher. This was really out of desperation rather than any calling and at first I felt very unsure about it. But these last 16 years have been wonderful. I have worked at our local comprehensive school and it has educated all four of our children. Not only has it re-kindled my enthusiasm for Science and learning but it has also given me a sense of community that I think I had always lacked.

Each year I bring a coach load of keen Science students to Oxford and the highlight is a tour of The House, (the Harry Potter connection helps!). It is still a challenge to persuade even my most able students that Oxford is within their reach, but the tours of Christ Church given by current students have always been brilliant at dispelling myths and encouraging them to entertain the idea.

In recent years my teaching timetable has been reduced as I have taken over my father’s Boat Yard, but I still teach an Astronomy Class and this is always the highlight of my week.

Since leaving Christ Church in 2011 I have taught Classics in three boarding schools. My original plan after graduating had been to stay on to do a Master’s, but after deciding teaching was what I found most attractive about academia, I jumped ship. It was already September, and I had missed the beginning of the autumn term, but it transpires that plenty of schools look for teachers to start in January, and are often desperate. I applied to three and ended up at the idyllic Oundle School in rural Northamptonshire on a two-term contract; now I had my foot in the door, and before very long I had a second and permanent post lined up for September, at Wellington College in Berkshire.

Wellington is the national memorial to the great Duke, a boyhood hero of mine thanks to the Sharpe novels, so I had applied for the job with great enthusiasm; this was only slightly dimmed when in my interview the Second Master described its host community of Crowthorne as ‘possibly the most disappointing village in England’.

In my first year I found myself often working hours more commonly associated with investment banking, but as I got the knack of lesson planning, built up a bank of teaching resources, and learnt to say ‘no’ to some of the career advancement opportunities suggested from on high, things became much more manageable. I ended up spending four enormously enjoyable years there, contributing on fronts as varied as UCAS and the CCF, and learnt much from the energetic headmaster Anthony Seldon, my colleagues, and the pupils alike.

So far I had resisted the pull of London, into which so many of my friends had been tractor-beamed straight after finals, but I decided in 2016 to make a move to Westminster School, where I teach now. I find that plenty of people have heard of Westminster, but do not realise it is a boarding school; it is true that only a quarter of the pupils board, but the school has maintained most of the essential features of boarding school life, including the lessons on Saturday which permit more time for extra-curricular pursuits during the week. It is a wonderful and quirky school, an oasis in the heart of London, and its extremely high academic standards and culture of ‘loyal dissent’ make it a very stimulating environment in which to teach.

So much that I loved about my time at Christ Church carries through to my career in teaching. The social aspect of college life and the sense of community that was fostered...
NEW ZEALAND

The House has maintained its historic links with Christchurch and we report here on three areas where your support would be both welcome, and would make a great difference.

In 1847 John Robert Godley, a member of Christ Church, Oxford, and a brilliant young colonial reformer, joined with Edward Gibbon Wakefield, the doyen of 19th century colonial reform, to set-up the Canterbury Association. It arranged for 3,500 settlers (‘Canterbury Pilgrims’) to sail to New Zealand to found a model colonial settlement to be called Canterbury after the Archdiocese, and whose capital was to be called Christchurch after Christ Church, Oxford. At the heart of the new settlement was the cathedral, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who did much work in Christ Church and Oxford; Canterbury College, now the University; and Christ’s College, a public school. Half the management committee of the Canterbury Association were Christ Church graduates.

1. REBUILDING THE CATHEDRAL:

Following the awful earthquakes in Christchurch in 2011 and 2012, Members of the House, Friends, and worshippers in the Cathedral raised nearly £60k for Christchurch Cathedral, and Oxford University also took in over forty Canterbury students to help. However there was indecision as to whether to rebuild or replace the Cathedral until December 2017 when it was finally decided that rebuilding was both possible and desirable.

Canterbury’s supreme icon will be restored with a mix of Church, local and national government funds. These pledges, along with the Church’s insurance proceeds of nearly $42m, amount to just over $90m of the estimated $104m cost. A major fundraising project is underway to find the extra money, and a generous UK donor will match any funds that we Christ Church Matters readers help to raise.

2. THE EDWARD GIBBON WAKEFIELD NEW ZEALAND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was set up in 2011 at the instigation of Haydn Rawstron (1968), the Wakefield Trust and Christ Church; partly to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the GCR’s founding in 2010, and partly to help further Christchurch and Canterbury University, and strengthen and perpetuate the historical bonds with Christchurch in the aftermath of the earthquakes.
Miss Alannah Jeune, the Edward Gibbon Wakefield New Zealand Graduate Scholar 2017-18

I arrived at Oxford in September 2017 not knowing what to expect, but very excited to take on new challenges. Christ Church was a very different environment to anything I had ever experienced and I spent my first week just soaking up all the incredible sights.

I found the collegiate lifestyle very beneficial – it was so easy to meet other graduate students and discover interests in common, especially music where I joined the Oxford University Philharmonia as a trumpeter, and became a member of the College Choir.

I feel privileged to have had this year at Christ Church. I was able to access every book I wanted to read from the Bodleian, I attended seminars given by leading historians, and I have lived, worked and socialised in a College whose surroundings which had seemed so imposing and awe-inspiring at first, have become familiar and full of friendly faces.

I am incredibly grateful to the Wakefield Trust for this opportunity of a lifetime.

Funds are held both in New Zealand and Oxford, but currently there is insufficient to enable a scholar to attend Oxford each year. Our aim is to increase the endowment by another £250k so that scholars like Alannah (see feature) may be chosen annually. Your support would be greatly welcomed, and the Wakefield Trust has generously made available some matching funds to encourage you!

3. ‘THE OXFORDS’

Twenty years ago, Dr Stephen Darlington and Haydn Rawstron set up an outreach initiative, known as ‘THE OXFORDS’, whereby each year a small group of choirmen from the Cathedral Choir visit Christchurch to present a series of public recitals, teach singing at Christ’s College, and sing in the regular choral services with the Christchurch Cathedral Choir and with the chapel choir at Christ’s College where they are hosted for the annual four-week-long trips.

This Christ Church-inspired OXFORDS’ project is now part of the Cathedral Music Trust endowment, and in order to ensure its viability needs to raise further funds to produce an annual sum of c. £15k.

If you are interested in supporting any of these Christchurch, New Zealand projects please contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

The stunning 2007 Limited Edition publication – Godley Gifts – from which the picture below is taken, is a fascinating three-volume set, in a beautifully crafted presentation box, containing the story ‘Seadrift’, a selection of Watercolours, and a collection of essays by David McPhail, all relating to the founding of Christchurch, New Zealand. www.godleygifts.co.nz
The 2018/19 season started very well, despite the disappointment of not being picked to compete at the Head of the Charles. The returning seniors, although a small group, quickly gained momentum in pre-season training with some good scores and technical development. A strong group of Freshers joined them, and training focused on the Fours Head of the River in London with three men’s fours, and one women’s four.

All three men’s crews raced in the Academic Challenge category and performed creditably in classic testing tideway conditions. The first boat finished mid-field, a great improvement on last year’s results. The crews all learnt what needs to be worked on and integrated the new recruits into the squad. The Women started number 429, and quickly overtook two boats before hitting the harsh wind conditions at Hammersmith Bridge. However, they kept the boat together and were able to overtake one more crew right at the finish, gaining valuable racing experience.

After Fours Head, the squad started working in eights in preparation for the Nephthys regatta run by the Oxford University lightweights, in Week 6 of Michaelmas. Nephthys is a side-by-side knockout regatta, held over two days. Day One is for seniors, Day Two for novices, with points being accumulated by both to count towards the overall result.

Our senior Men’s Eight won their division by beating both Magdalen and New College. The senior women made the final by beating Keble but narrowly lost to St Catz. M4+ was knocked out by Corpus Christi but put up a strong fight and M1x won by a large margin against Teddy Hall. At the end of an exciting and positive first day Christ Church topped the rankings with a 10-point lead for the trophy.

The next day it was the novices’ turn; being the first time they had ever done any racing nerves were high. However, with the seniors supporting, and with their dedicated attitude and commitment to training, they kept their cool and performed incredibly well: The Men’s A boat beat Keble, St Catz, Balliol, and Teddy Hall, and the Women’s A boat beat Wolfson, St Antony’s, New College, and St John’s to have both novice boats in the final. Unfortunately both narrowly lost, but with the B boats also making it to the semi-finals the novices gained another 10 points resulting in Christ Church winning the Nephthys regatta overall and being awarded the Victor Ludorum trophy.

In the Christ Church Regatta, the Women’s boat made it through to the fourth round after two very dominant performances, before falling to University, and the Men’s crew performed impressively, ultimately losing to St Catz in the final.

The Men’s B boat started well against Linacre, and only lost to St Antony’s A crew as a seat came off the slide. The loss was frustrating but the crew could hold their heads high. The Women’s B boat lost to St Hugh’s, after a race full of clashes, by just the length of the bow ball, the closest race in the whole day. The C squad had a great term training and racing but...
unfortunately had to race as a friendly crew due to academic clashes.

The novice campaign proved immensely successful with an incredibly enthusiastic group attending additional land training sessions alongside the seniors. This motivation and dedication to improvement translated into powerful performances in Nephthys and the Christ Church Regatta and bodes well for Torpids and Summer Eights.

Michaelmas term concentrates on the recruitment and training of novices, but the seniors are able to get some race training with the Isis Winter League races. A mixture of boats entered including a M8+, W4+ and five single scullers who were preparing for Scullers head. The performances were encouraging with the Men’s 8+ the fastest boat on the water and winning overall. The Women’s 4+ came second overall and the scullers also had successful races.

Christmas VIII’s wrapped up an enjoyable and successful term, with the whole Club coming together for a day of fun and festive racing, integrating the novices and seniors as the crews competed on the basis of water performance (side by side and bumps style), erg performance, fancy dress, a special skill on the water and, most importantly, a sense of humour! One crew’s preparation included publishing a training video and a video of support from people and rowers from across the world!

The serious side of Christmas VIII’s is that it marks the novices’ integration into the senior squad, encouraging them to pursue rowing further as they rub shoulders with the seniors and realise all the effort, hard work and dedication is worth it. All novices have 2k tested with some impressive results, many more are rowing than in recent years, and despite the Christmas break a large number are staying on and training throughout the vacation.

ChChBC continues to thrive thanks to the support of its alumni Boat Club members.
If you rowed, but are not a paid up member of the Club, please contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

Annual membership gifts of £5-£10 a month are invaluable to the Club.

Numbers rowing are pleasingly high and the new endowment is helping to support coaching at all levels.

However, there is a need for extra support for which your kind help is requested:

- A new VIII for the women (a match fund is operating thanks to a generous US donor so your £1 is worth £2!)
- New Boat House racking for which £8.5k is needed.
- A number of students require assistance with the cost of the Easter training camp. Help to ensure that crews are complete would be much appreciated.

Thank you.

Savills is delighted to sponsor Christ Church Boat Club

We are at the forefront of commercial, residential and rural property in Oxford
savills.co.uk/oxford
After hearing so much about Saakshar School Appeal from Fr. Ralph Williamson, former Chaplain of Christ Church, during my undergraduate years of 2012 – 2015, it was a real pleasure to finally be able to visit two Saakshar centres in Delhi in August 2018.

Saakshar, meaning ‘literate’ in Hindi, lives up to its aim of helping children from four of Delhi’s slums take their first tentative steps into education through morning classes for tiny tots and continued support for older children during the afternoon. Yet, Saakshar also goes far beyond what we, as undergraduates giving to Saakshar through the JCR’s annual charity budget, could have imagined. In addition to simply providing clean and warm classrooms with exciting activities to engage the children in learning and prepare them for mainstream school, the small number of staff at Saakshar tirelessly advocate for the children through home visits to help parents understand the need to educate their children, and providing emotional, as well as academic, support to its teenagers, particularly young women, as they prepare for a world which might not yet learned to embrace working women and continuing education.

It was this love and dedication, offered by the small number of Saakshar staff, that was tangible in the two Saakshar centres I had the privilege of visiting. The children were full of laughter and joy as they showed off their academic books and dance routines, and the warm welcome given to me by Asher and Preeti, who manage the day-to-day running of the four centres in India was only a reflection of the generous love and compassion Saakshar offers to the children in its care. Saakshar is more than a school – it is a place where children and young people are valued, and their hopes and dreams can be taken seriously. For many of us lucky enough to have had a Christ Church education, we have always had people affirming our potential to succeed. Saakshar reminded me of the need for us, as Alumni, to pass this gift on to children and young people who need it most.
Archbishop Benson’s Humming Top

Adrian Leak (1957)

Following the success of Adrian’s first collection, Nebuchadnezzar’s Marmalade Pot, his new book comprises sixty brief essays adapted from articles, some previously published in the Church Times.

Caroline Chartres (Church Times) writes:

Archbishop Benson’s Humming Top propels us from Greek hats to gardens, via compassion fatigue and hunting parsons to the songbirds of Istanbul. Underpinning and uniting these wide-ranging reflections is the conviction that God is to be found in stillness and silence, and that we need to be able to listen if we are to hear the still, small voice.

Adrian Leak has created a box of delights: quirky and thoughtful, with plenty of still centres, to be dipped into and savoured: nourishment for the soul, with no damage to the waistline.

The Christian Year in Painting

John S. Dixon (1959)

In this beautiful production by Art/Books, John Dixon follows in painting the principal periods and feasts of the Christian year, from Advent, through Christmas, the Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost to All Saints’ Day. Close discussions of thirty-three major paintings are supported by over 200 additional colour illustrations offering details of those paintings and many related works. The book should appeal both to practising Christians, and non-Christian art-lovers for whom a Christian perspective will help an appreciation of the artist’s intentions in the work’s original context.

After taking a degree in Law from Christ Church, John Dixon lived in Venice for five years with his wife Margaret, née McDonald (St Anne’s, 1959). He subsequently took a higher degree in English Literature at the University of Sheffield. From 1973 to 1983 he was a lecturer in English at Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds (now Leeds Trinity University), and Deputy Principal of the College 1983-1991. After re-locating to London, John was, for twelve years, an Associate Lecturer with the Open University from which he also acquired a BA Honours in the field of his other great enthusiasm, Art History.

The Mythical Battle: Hastings 1066

Ashley Hern (1996)

As a secondary school history teacher in England since the turn of the millennium, the Battle of Hastings has haunted my classroom for nearly two decades. It was only after I looked seriously at the sources that I realised how many of the popular conceptions that exist about the battle, often perpetuated by naïve teachers, are based on flimsy epistemological foundations. Our surviving information was produced by a deeply polarised society: a sustained Norman literary project justifying the Duke of Normandy’s dubious claim to the throne (‘a dodgy dossier’ for those who appreciate arcane analogies) and English writers across three generations whose reactions evolved from denial to apology until reaching an accommodation with the past.

Studying history for so long has led me to reflect on how the subject is really a dialogue between the past and the present and I look at how this has shaped changing perceptions of the battle across the centuries, right up until recent events (Brexit et al.). The book looks at some of the
key issues from a fresh perspective, such as the relative strengths of the Norman and English forces, how ‘English’ the army that fought at Battle actually was and what we can know for sure about Harold’s fate. There is also an up-to-date analysis of the recent controversies over the actual location of the battle and whether Battle Abbey is the appropriate site for its memorial.

Venus as a Bear
Vahni Capildeo (1991)

Venus as a Bear is recipient of the Poetry Book Society Summer Choice Award this year. This highly anticipated new book follows Measures of Expatriation, which won the 2016 Forward Prize for Best Collection, the 2016 Poetry Book Society Choice Award, and was shortlisted for the 2016 T.S. Eliot Prize.

This new book collects poems on animals, art, language, the sea, thinghood, metaphor, description, and dance. We have feelings for creatures, objects and places, but where do these affinities come from? For Capildeo answers are formed at their own pace, in various settings: farms, museums, while hearing of Africa and the Romans in Scotland, of Guyana and Shakespeare, while standing over-the-boots deep in a freezing sea off the coast of Wales. Many of the poems respond to real places, objects and people, as investigations, meditations, or dedications. They dwell on bodies and dwell in the body, inviting ardent, open forms of reading, in the spirit of their composition.

Vahni Capildeo’s multilingual, cross-genre writing is grounded in time experienced through place. Her DPhil in Old Norse literature and translation theory, her travels, and her Indian diaspora/Caribbean background deepen the voices in the landscapes that inspire her. She has published six books and four pamphlets of poetry. She has worked in academia; in culture for development, with Commonwealth Writers; and as an Oxford English Dictionary lexicographer. Capildeo held the Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellowship and the Harper-Wood Studentship at Cambridge. She is currently a Douglas Caster Cultural Fellow at the University of Leeds.

Vampire Princess
Rosemary Johns (1999)

Held prisoner, Violet never anticipated her long-lost mother would be the poisonous Queen of Angel World. Or that she’d be forced to rule as a corrupted princess or risk a perilous escape.

When a harem boy angel draws Violet into the dark court’s twisted sports, she’s thrown into deadly trials that even her monstrous powers may not be able to overcome. If she refuses, both the snarky angel and geek vampire she loves will be enslaved to a powerful cult.

No matter what she chooses, she’ll be facing the dangers of Angel World on the eve of war…

A History of the Athonite Commonwealth
Graham Speake (1967)

This book examines the part played by monks of Mount Athos in the diffusion of Orthodox monasticism throughout Eastern Europe and beyond. It focuses on the lives of outstanding holy men in the history of Orthodoxy who have been drawn to the Mountain, have absorbed the spirit of its wisdom and its prayer, and have returned to the outside world,
inspired to spread the results of their labours and learning.

In a remarkable demonstration of what may be termed ‘soft power’ in action, these men have carried the image of Athos to all corners of the Balkan peninsula, to Ukraine, to the very far north of Russia, across Siberia and the Bering Strait into North America, and most recently (when traditional routes were closed to them by the curtain of communism) to the West. Their dynamic witness is the greatest gift of Athos to a world thirsting for spiritual guidance.

Death of the Artist

Nicola McCartney (2007)

There exists a series of contemporary artists who continually defy the traditional role of the artist/author, including Art & Language, Guerrilla Girls, Bob and Roberta Smith, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd and Lucky PDF. In Death of the Artist, Nicola McCartney explores their work and uses previously unpublished interviews to provoke a vital and nuanced discussion about contemporary artistic authorship. How do emerging artists navigate intellectual property or work collectively and share the recognition? How might a pseudonym aid ‘artivism’?

Most strikingly, she demonstrates how an alternative identity can challenge the art market and is symptomatic of greater cultural and political rebellion. As such, this book exposes the art world’s financially incentivised infrastructures, but also examines how they might be reshaped from within. In an age of cuts to arts funding and forced self-promotion, this offers an important analysis of the pressing need for the artistic community to construct new ways to reinvent itself and incite fresh responses to its work.

Port Vintages

Julian Wiseman

In 2010 Christ Church allowed me to look at its old wine records, for a book on Vintage Port – it is the King of Wines, and of it Christ Church drank well. (The book is now for sale at www.PortVintages.com.)

Indeed, Christ Church is mentioned a lot, including in Burmester 1927; Croft 1945; Gonzalez Byass 1920; Graham 1916 and 1983; Quinta do Noval 1931 (claimed to be the best Port of the twentieth century); and Offley 1912. Another vintage of the top few of the twentieth century was 1945, the best of that being Croft, which was served at dinner on 11 October 1967. This was to commemorate the centenary of ‘The Christ Church (Oxford) Act’ 1867, which determined the joint governance of the College and the Cathedral. The menu includes a detailed history of the controversy, with the delicious detail ‘there was tactical advice from two former Students in politics, G. Ward Hunt, the fattest British politician of the century’. The dinner comprised ‘Sercial Madeira’ with ‘Turtle Soup’; ‘Corton Charlemagne 1959’ with ‘Lobster Thermidor’; ‘Gevrey Chambertin 1955’ with ‘Roast Grouse’; ’Krug 1955’ with ‘Crème Brûlée’; nothing to drink with ‘Croûte Diane’; and both ‘Croft 1945’ and ‘Hine 1938’ with ‘Coffee’.

Christ Church has another set of records, not the subject of my research, but which could be fascinating. There are Day Books detailing drinking, with names of Students. Is it true that Port Preserves but Sherry Shrivels? (My only evidence for the latter being the alliteration.) The consumption data could be matched with Students’ longevity (separating military deaths from those of natural of causes), to reveal the health properties of different types of alcohol.

So, thank you to Christ Church for allowing me to use these records. And for allowing me to encourage members interested in Vintage Port to buy the book at www.PortVintages.com.
While I knew vaguely from reading this very publication that the college had a philanthropic connection to Ovalhouse, until June this year I hadn’t given it much thought beyond the regular editorial slot that provided an unexpected break from Boat Club news, obituaries and features on the various achievements of the college’s alumni.

I did, however, know about planning permission for a new theatre to be built on Brixton’s Coldharbour Lane that would encompass the former housing co-operative ‘Carlton Mansions’ – a now dilapidated Victorian Mansion block the radical past of which lingers in the CND mural ‘Nuclear Dawn’ that covers its east side.

For the final project of my master’s at King’s College London, I had catalogued the history of Carlton Mansions through patchy records of scrawled minutes and increasingly desperate petitions donated to Lambeth Archives after the final tenants were evicted by the council in 2014. My view of the ‘theatre project’ from this angle was sceptical, the long-standing tenants of Carlton Mansions had been evicted in favour of a glossy capital project and with it, the predictable onslaught of gentrification at the end of the Victoria Line continued.

Fast forward to June this year, I’m back in a sun-drenched Tom Quad for my first gaudy, the wine is flowing, and everyone has seemingly reverted to their undergraduate selves.

It was here, through a conversation with a friend who knew about my work and had sat next to Ovalhouse enthusiast and former College Chaplin Ralph Williamson at dinner, where the connections between Christ Church, Ovalhouse and Coldharbour Lane were drawn. I wanted to know more and saw this serendipitous connection as a good way to get involved in the project. Perhaps I could find a way to ensure that the history of the Ovalhouse’s new location was written into its purpose.

Once my hangover had subsided, and with the help of Ralph, I set up a meeting with the Director, Deborah Bestwick. Not long after my arrival at the current and longstanding home of Ovalhouse (in the shadow of the cricket ground with which it shares a name) my prior scepticism quickly faded. This now slightly rough-around-the-edges building was a hub of activity, and Deborah seemed to know everyone that came through its doors. The space is not only a theatre but a real ‘centre’ for those that use it, whether they are young associates honing their creative practice or elders from the Windrush generation who are part of Stockwell Good Neighbours, the charity that makes Ovalhouse its base.

Deborah spoke with enthusiasm about the ambitious Brixton build, she explained how she has a good relationship with many of the former tenants of Carlton Mansions, despite the difficult circumstances through which they left the building (this was also confirmed to me by a tenant I know well myself). Learning more
about the history of the theatre, this didn’t surprise me. Since the sixties, Ovalhouse has played a key role in the development of the community and experimental theatre movements and has offered platforms for feminist, Black, disabled and LGBTQI+ theatre-makers. At one point it even served as the location for meetings of the South London Black Panthers.

Christ Church’s place in this story adds another layer to the mix. As many of you will know, it is through the generosity and time of past members that Ovalhouse was conceived, first as a mission to support the poor of Poplar in the 1890s, followed by its incarnation as ‘Christ Church [social] Clubs’, for boys, girls and grandfathers (yes really) of Lambeth, and finally its present-day identity as an inclusive theatre. The involvement of members has varied through the course of its history. In the 1930s many took an active role, organising debates, sports competitions and a yearly camp to which the Prince of Wales would occasionally make an appearance. Financial support has remained a constant, although unfortunately, the mid-century preference for organising an annual Red Hat Ball fundraiser has waned.

As I write, Deborah and the Ovalhouse Board are preparing to sign all the documents that will trigger the start of the building of the new theatre. Ovalhouse’s upcoming move to Brixton offers us a chance to refocus and determine how we might best support this unlikely South London legacy today. Over the next year, I’m aiming to catalogue Ovalhouse’s largely untouched archive. While looking backwards may seem misguided when the theatre is entering a new phase, I believe the values of its rich history offer a useful lens through which to carve out future programming and priorities. Knowing not all of you will share my enthusiasm for dusty boxes of paper, I urge you to think about how you could get involved and support Ovalhouse’s next phase, whether you sign up to the fundraising campaign, become a regular audience member or use any royal connections to replace those youth camps with drama and theatre for the young people of South London.

To donate to our Capital Campaign or our Projects, please visit here www.ovalhouse.com/support. Reference Christ Church to be part of the appeal that will name a studio in the new building!

Or send a cheque to Ovalhouse Capital Campaign, c/o Deborah Bestwick, Ovalhouse, 52-54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW.

THANK YOU!
GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Pledges and cash gifts over the last year amounted to £2,583,439.62 of which £1,903,603.56 was in support of endowment projects with gifts totalling £679,836.06 towards expendable projects.

The achievements of the last financial year in Development terms rely entirely upon the generosity of our Members and supporters. This generous and unstinting support enables us to build upon the core values of the House and make a difference in so many areas of activity. This supplement provides a taste of some of those activities and the impact donations of all size continue to make.

We are delighted that donor participation over the last financial year has risen by 15% on the previous year, and to those who have actively engaged, and whose names are acknowledged at the end of this report, we owe considerable and heartfelt thanks.

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Director of Development

Sandra Harrison
PA to the Director

Ingrid Heggli
Alumni Relations Officer (maternity cover)

Kari Hodson
Database Manager (on maternity leave)

Grace Holland
Development Officer

Tom Lowen
Database & Gifts Officer (maternity cover)

Rory Moules
Development Intern

Simon Offen (1986)
Deputy DD, Association VP

Dr Anna Port (2002)
Alumni Relations Officer (on maternity leave)

Aileen Thomson
Development Executive
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS & THEMES

LAUNCHING CONNECT – OUTREACH, ACCESS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

One of our highlights in the last year has been to deliver the £2.8m target for the student bursary support endowment. This achievement, made possible by more than 3000 individual donations, ensures continuity for student bursary support, a key element of our development work.

This success has enabled us to launch a much broader fund, which we are calling CONNECT, which will extend student support further and also embrace programmes dedicated to outreach and access. Readers will see from our top funds diagram the wide level of donor support this area is inviting, so we are committing to three particular projects. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge or a gift towards IntoUniversity, Target Oxbridge, or Horizons.

IntoUniversity is an award-winning national charity which provides local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. Christ Church has partnered with IntoUniversity South East at their centre in Blackbird Leys, where 42% of children live below the poverty line. IU provides a permanent physical presence in the community to work to normalise aspirations to higher educational achievement amongst children between the ages of 7 and 19. Last year, 1400 children benefitted from their service, and over 75% Year 13s continued to higher education.

Target Oxbridge is a very effective UK-wide initiative that works with promising pupils of African and Caribbean heritage in UK state schools, to support them in aspiring to and applying to Oxford and Cambridge. The various strands of the programme focus on intellectual, cultural and social development irrespective of personal or economic barriers and include mentoring from a BME Oxford graduate, advice on making a strong application, and a tailored series of critical theory discussions, seminars, Oxbridge-style tutorials, interview practice and revision workshops. In 2018, 35 students received offers from Oxbridge Colleges.

In 2017-18 Christ Church began a sustained contact programme, ‘Horizons’, with Year 12 students in five Target-One schools in our Barnet link area. The programme seeks to broaden the pupils’ academic experience, to enable them to explore beyond the school curriculum, and to support them in developing the skills they need both to make strong university applications, and to thrive at university. We want to dispel myths about Oxford, and Christ Church, and to encourage pupils to aim high. The pre-programme evaluation confirmed that state school pupils felt they would fit in at Oxford less than they would at university in general, and even less at Christ Church. By the end of the programme over 80% of respondents agreed that people like them went to Oxford and to Christ Church (a rise from 42% and 35% respectively). In the next two years, we will look to extend the programme to include year 10 and year 13 students.

For more information about, and to support, the CONNECT programme please contact Aileen Thomson at aileen.thomson@chch.ox.ac.uk

Left: Pupils at Hammersmith Secondary School.
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

SUPPORT FOR THE MUSIC TRUST

Professor Stephen Darlington (above left) took his curtain call after 33 years of leading the Cathedral Choir, and we congratulate him on being awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours. It was an appropriate moment to promote the important work of the Cathedral Music Trust. The Choir of Christ Church was founded nearly 500 years ago and serves uniquely both the college and the entire Oxford diocese. It remains one of the jewels of the House and the Trust was established in 2013 to ensure the survival and success of the choir. We were delighted to be able to complete funding for the Stephen Darlington Organ Scholarship Endowment (whose first recipient is now in college) and endow two choristerships, thanks to the very generous support of Mrs Ann Ronus.

As the baton passes – effortlessly – to Professor Steven Grahl (above right), the major aim of the Trust is to give children from all walks of life the opportunity to be a chorister, so the concentration is to endow the remaining choristerships.

There are many ways you can help support the choir. For further information please contact rory.moules@chch.ox.ac.uk

NADER RAUFAT (2015, MEDICINE)

“The Chris Ellis Bursary has helped considerably with my costs for this year.

In 2016, the Egyptian government floated our currency so that the GBP:EGP exchange rate doubled, practically doubling my tuition fees and living costs. Having the Chris Ellis Bursary helped keep my costs for this year down, which meant I could study and play a full role within College without major financial concerns. Next year I’m staying at Christ Church to continue my clinical studies and act as a Warden. I’d like to thank all of the donors to this fund for their generosity to the House.”
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

SECURING THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

The tutorial system remains pivotal to the esteem and reputation of the University. So many Members attest to the value of tutorials, and cite the experience as being at the core of what they have gone on to achieve in later life.

For the House, the support and preservation of the tutorial system ranks as one of our highest priorities. Since 2008, 14 posts have been fully or partially endowed, including PPE, Geography and Chemistry; the ultimate aim is to endow all 34 remaining posts. A gift to the Tutorial Fund of any size will allow us not only to secure our tutorial teams permanently, but also to act quickly to secure a post in jeopardy.

We were very pleased for the Dean to be able to announce at Paul Kent’s Memorial Service last February that the Paul Kent Tutorial Fund at Christ Church had been successfully endowed. Thanks are owed to many alumni and friends who contributed to the fund, but we would like to note the generosity of Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky and Anthony Hamilton especially.

In the last year we received strong support in favour of the tutorial system but more remains to be done.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM, FROM TWO LOGIC STUDENTS IN THEIR FIRST YEAR

“For many students, the Logic course at Oxford is alien and intimidating. Indeed, I found the set reading for most weeks to be consistently challenging and at times confusing. This is precisely why the small-group teaching sessions organised by Christ Church were so helpful in addressing the difficulties I faced with the problem sheets and in ensuring I learnt the course rigorously and comprehensively. That Christ Church provided a researcher with a strong background in logic to teach the course was crucial to the quality of teaching. We received a clarity of instruction that facilitated a deeper, error-free understanding of the material.”

Jarnail Atwal, 1st year PPE

“Logic classes are genuinely one of the highlights of my week. We get more opportunities to have a go at questions and to explain how we reached the answers. We also have ample time to ask any questions and I always leave the logic classes having had any problems solved. It provides such clarity in my understanding.”

Jennifer Hwang, 1st Year PPE

LEADING COMPUTER SCIENCE

As readers of Christ Church Matters will know from previous editions, the House is leading the way in the expansion of Computer Science for undergraduates across the collegiate University.

Under Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, as Senior Research Fellow, and Yarin Gal, an Associate Professor and expert in Machine Learning, we are creating a ‘centre of excellence’ as a model for other colleges to follow suit. It represents the first expansion of Computer Science at Oxford since the 1980s. Numbers are necessarily small at this point in the plan but ambitions are to build to an eventual University cohort of 100 Computer Science students a year.

The Development Office is leading on the funding for this key enterprise, looking to Members and potential corporate partners for philanthropic donations towards scholarships.

Making it happen:
Delivering the initial Christ Church-led programme will cost £380k per annum or £1.9M over the first five-year period (or £9.9M to endow in perpetuity). Individual costings are set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Cost per annum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Associate Professors</td>
<td>£80k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Junior Researchers</td>
<td>£120k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Graduate Scholarships</td>
<td>£100k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Bursaries</td>
<td>£30k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer equipment, travel, workshops</td>
<td>£50k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; interdisciplinary initiatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on helping support this development please contact Mark Coote, mark.coote@chch.ox.ac.uk or Simon Offen, simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
CELEBRATING PECKWATER

Anyone who has returned to the House over the last year or so can’t fail to have noticed the renovation work underway on Peck.

This has been – continues to be – a major project and our undergraduates, and their tutors, are already benefiting from, and enjoying, the upgraded facilities that this modernisation has provided.

We were asked in Development to raise £3M towards the project and to date we are two thirds of the way there, with generous lead support from the Oppenheimer family who have incentivised us with matched-funding support.

We are now preparing for the final phase of renovation; Peck 1, 2 and 9, and with it a final push to raise funds towards our target.

It’s not too late to make a contribution towards this magnificent refurbishment. There are room naming opportunities (£25,000, which can be paid in instalments) or indeed staircase naming opportunities (£150,000, but achievable if individuals wish to group together). But any amount, however modest, will help us towards the major renovation.

JOSEPH GREHAN-BRADLEY, JCR PRESIDENT

“I am lucky enough to live in a shared set in Peck with one of my good friends this year. The room is such a characterful one. Its wood panelling and high ceilings are physical reminders of Christ Church’s heritage and traditions, making it an inspiring place in which to work. As well as retaining these historic and distinctive features, very good Wi-Fi connection and plugs dotted around the room suit my needs as a modern student, who uses the internet as often as the library. On another level, it is a very spacious and comfortable place in which to socialise. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it has become a popular venue for parties and tea breaks amongst my group of friends!

I feel privileged to be living in such a quirky and unique room, and I feel indebted to college’s generous alumni, without the support of whom this opportunity would not have been available to me.”
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

FLYING OUR FLAG IN AMERICA

We saw much of our American Friends this last year and their combined generosity saw donations rise beyond $1M over the financial year.

We held our first ever American Board of Benefactors dinner in New York in the autumn of 2017, with the irrepressible (Lord) Michael Dobbs as our speaker.

Professor Stephen Darlington made a farewell tour to the States as director of the Cathedral Choir, with performances in New York, Washington DC, Charlotte and Chicago, whilst there were simultaneous gatherings of Members and friends in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

We are grateful to all our Members who acted as gracious and welcoming hosts during our visits with special thanks, of course, to our Trustees of the American Friends of Christ Church, under the leadership of Peter Paine Jnr, who fly our flag in the States 24/7.

1546 LEGACY SOCIETY

Every September we welcome back Members who have expressly informed us of their intention to remember the House in their will. And every year we pick on the cohort of Members destined to return to their Gaudy and remind them of the opportunity to do so! We owe considerable thanks to William (Bill) Rathbone and Chris Rocker for helping to drive this important initiative.

Legacies do make a considerable difference and we always encourage Members to let us know so we can thank them now. Thank you to the 17 Members who notified us last year of their bequests, which brings the membership of the 1546 Society to a merry band of 219.

For further information on leaving a bequest to the House please contact Simon Offen at simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

Left: The Cathedral Choir at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, La Grange, IL.
Right: View from Getty Director Tim Pott’s balcony. The perfect place for our Los Angeles reception!

THANK YOU
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2017-2018
DONORS TO THE HOUSE August 2017 – July 2018

We are particularly grateful to all donors to the House over the last year, for their gifts and for helping make a difference. Although great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list, please accept our apologies if any error has occurred. Please notify the Development Office so that we can amend our records.

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A happy New Year to all our Members and friends, and thank you to everyone who has supported the House during 2017/18. Many Members maintain their commitment through giving, and that funding continues to make a considerable difference to the House. But thank you to all those who also give their time, as volunteers, and those who support through attending and supporting events. Your engagement with Christ Church is a tangible demonstration of the life-long association we invite all Members to enjoy.

Donor participation this last year has increased by 15%, something about which we are extremely pleased. All donations, of whatever size, help our efforts and those who have committed to give regularly make a particular difference as it allows us to plan our projects with the knowledge that they can be funded!

Last, but by no means least, a huge thank you to our 11 new members of the Board of Benefactors and all those who have notified us of legacy bequests.

Please let us know when you next come to visit the House.

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Allan Chapman has had a life-long fascination for ghost stories, his imagination fired from a childhood spent in a tiny, initially gas-lit cottage in Lancashire. However, apart from the story of the revival of Anne Greene, a well-documented event from 1650, and the recent ‘Ghosts that might well haunt Christ Church’, all the tales in this book are a curious mixture of genuine historical fact, legend, and fiction. For while many of the ghosts in these tales may not have haunted Christ Church – or at least not in the way described – the historical setting which they haunted is largely true. The names of real historical figures and Christ Church buildings all intermix to form an entertaining combination of fact and fiction. Over the centuries, Christ Church has displayed three notable features: the Cathedral Church, with its Canons and clerical dons; a rich and glorious musical tradition; and great distinction in scientific and medical research. They all appear, in various guises, in these ghost stories. Clergymen, choristers, organists, chemists, scientists, heroic College porters, inventors, animals, and anatomists are all there. Yet whether a tale be heart-warming, grisly, or downright horrific, each resolves into its own positive ending. For Christ Church has never been a bleak or negative place, preferring good fellowship to angst and misery; and so with its ghosts. For at the end of the day, peace comes to all.

So read on, and prepare to be affrighted, amused, and delighted!

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ALLAN CHAPMAN is an historian of science and medicine. He lectures in the Faculty of History at Oxford University, is a Member of Wadham College and an Associate Member of Christ Church Senior Common Room, Oxford. He is the author of twelve books on the history of science, including:

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