150 years ago, in 1859, a 19 year-old from Reading heard that Dean Liddell needed a footman. William Francis, who had been working as a ‘sweater’, or scout’s boy, at Winchester College for the previous four years, where he had heard wondrous tales of Oxford, applied for the post. He was accepted, and began a long and eventful career at Christ Church.

After four years as the Dean’s footman, and having toyed very briefly with a career as a warder at Winchester Gaol, Francis became an Under-porter. One of his duties was to toll the 101 every night at 9.05pm, and another was to rise at 5am every morning during the spring and summer to scythe the grass in Tom Quad.

In 1867, Francis was made canons’ verifier and Library Keeper (as well as continuing all his duties as under porter), and later he was appointed Dean’s Verger, the first of only four men to hold the post in the twentieth century.

Francis was at Christ Church throughout the changes to the constitution in 1867 and the restoration of the cathedral in the 1870s. Dean Duppa’s screens, fitted in the 1630s, were

Archivist, Judith Curthoys, highlights one of the characters who appears in her new book on ‘The King’s Cathedral’.

The editors of CCM 43 are Simon Offen and Ingrid Heggli.

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

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For a man who had received only very basic education in the three ‘r’s, Francis was an astonishing man. He had a talent for music, and had been offered a place in the choir at Winchester cathedral. Francis was also an accomplished draughtsman, having drawings exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and took to the new art of photography. Some of his photographs of Christ Church survive in the archive and were used to enliven S.A. Warner’s 1924 history of the cathedral, but he also took pictures on his tours around Europe some of which were in the company of Archdeacon Clerke and his family. He was still travelling, photographing, and keeping an account of all that he did and saw, until he was well into his 80s.

During his time at Christ Church, Francis met with royalty including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. In 1925, when King George V and Queen Mary came to visit the House as part of the quarter-centenary celebrations, Francis was introduced to the monarch and recounted that he had known the King’s father as an undergraduate and remembered the visit of Queen Victoria to Oxford in 1860.

Francis remained at the House until 1934 when he was finally persuaded to retire after seventy years in post. On 3 January 1938, he died, aged 97, and Christ Church mourned the passing of not just a long-serving member of staff but a man who had made Christ Church – both college and cathedral, its members, and its history his own. Asked for the secret of his long life and continuing good health, Francis acknowledged his good fortune in possessing an excellent constitution but recommended moderation in all things and ‘perpetual motion’; by continued activity, he said, there was no time to rust!
Dr Patricia Lockwood, Junior Research Fellow in Psychology, is the lead author on a paper published in *Nature Communications* with the paper ‘Neural mechanisms for learning self and other ownership’. Dr Lockwood has also been awarded the Association for Psychological Science (APS)’s Rising Star designation, which recognises outstanding psychological scientists in the early stages of their careers.

Dr James Allison, Career Development Fellow in Astrophysics, has published two papers in *Nature*, and one as lead author in *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. The paper covers research by Dr Allison and his colleagues, in which they observed very cold gas clouds that are likely to fuel massive black holes.

Dr Gabrielle Watson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Law, has been elected to the first Visiting Fellowship in Law at the newly-instituted Cambridge Centre for Criminal Justice, following a nomination from Professor Nicola Padfield QC, the Centre Director and Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Junior Research Fellow Dr Robin Thompson has been carrying out research into the spread of infectious diseases via air travel that could have ground-breaking consequences for our understanding of pandemics.

Dr Sam Giles, Junior Research Fellow in Earth Sciences, is part of a group of UK scientists who have proposed an inquiry on equality and diversity in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) which will be taken up by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee. The Committee hopes to launch an inquiry within the next twelve months.

Dr Becky Smethurst, Junior Research Fellow in Physics, discussed the new image of a black hole at the centre of galaxy M87, released on 10th April, on Channel 4 news and BBC Radio Oxford.

Dr Brianna Headlewood, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Chemistry, featured in an article in *Chemistry World* focussing on the use of ultracold chemistry to gain insight on the reaction process.

Dr Kerri Donaldson Hanna, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Physics at Christ Church and UK Space Agency Aurora Research Fellow, was interviewed on BBC Sky at Night Magazine’s podcast, Radio Astronomy, where she spoke about her work on NASA’s OSIRIS-REx mission. The mission has involved sending a spacecraft to the asteroid Bennu to bring back samples to be analysed on Earth.

Dr Leah Morabito, Millard and Lee Alexander Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Galaxy Evolution, is among an international team of astronomers who released data from a major new radio sky survey which has revealed hundreds of thousands of previously undetected galaxies, shedding light on many research areas including the physics of black holes and how clusters of galaxies evolve. The team of more than 200 astronomers from 18 countries published the first phase of the survey at unprecedented sensitivity using the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope.
Christ Church women join forces in new initiative

**During Michaelmas Term a new initiative for women of the SCR** was started by Dr Leah Morabito, Millard and Lee Alexander Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Astrophysics at Christ Church.

As part of the initiative, a high table dinner was held at Christ Church for women members of the SCR, including women academics at every stage of their careers, from JRFs, Postdoctoral Research Fellows and affiliated senior researchers, to lecturers, Official Students and Canons.

Dr Morabito said, ‘As Christ Church’s female academics are scattered throughout the college and various departments, it can be difficult to meet all of them. That is why I decided to invite all of the women in the SCR to sign in for dinner on the same night, to give us a chance to meet each other. It is important to remember that even in male dominated career fields like Physics and Theology, we still have amazing and successful women colleagues at Christ Church. Our secondary goal was to dominate the high table for an evening to set an example for the younger students.’

‘Overall, the dinner was really successful, with 18 women in attendance! We made up approximately half of the high table guests that night. The overall feedback from the women in the SCR was hugely positive – both before the event (I was overwhelmed with emails!) and during. Everyone who came had an excellent time, and personally I can say that it was lovely to meet so many wonderful colleagues who just happen to be women!’

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**Professor Sam Howison, Tutor in Applied Mathematics**, has been appointed as interim head of Oxford’s MPLS (Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences) Division, consisting of all of the natural and physical science departments at Oxford, including Begbroke Science Park. Professor Howison took up the post on 1st April.

**Professor Richard Rutherford, Tutor in Greek and Latin Literature**, has recently published a new book on Book 18 of Homer’s *Iliad*, published as part of the Cambridge Latin and Greek Classics series. As well as presenting the text of Book 18, it also contains an extensive introduction, covering the themes, style and legacy of the book, as well as a line-by-line commentary.

**Professor Jason Davis, Senior Subject Tutor in Chemistry**, has been awarded a £1.3 million grant, in collaboration with Osler Diagnostics, a company spun out of Professor Davis’ lab in the Department of Chemistry, by Innovate UK to develop a point of care diagnostic test for cardiac disease. The research and the diagnostic tests that they are developing, have the potential for far-reaching impact in the wider field of medical diagnostics.
Hilary Term Faith and Politics Lecture: What keeps countries poor?

The Lecture, one in a series covering issues that are pertinent to today, was held on Friday 1st February, on the subject of what keeps countries poor.

The speakers were Nick Lea, Deputy Chief Economist to the UK Department for International Development (DFID), speaking on the future of global poverty and inequality, and Dr Johanna Koehler, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Christ Church and Researcher and Programme Manager of the Water Programme at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, on the progress towards rural water sustainability in Africa.

Nick presented a brief history of income, including the global economic shock, of the last 40 years, and explained the reasons for economies developing at different rates. He ended by explaining some of the work being carried out by DFID to try and help countries to escape from these traps.

Johanna discussed her work on rural water sustainability in Africa. Sustainable Development Goals currently in place aim to achieve sufficient, safe and equitable drinking water services for all by 2030, but financial and management challenges make this difficult. She then explained models used to solve these issues, involving risk pooling, facilitated through smart monitoring, using digital rather than analogue verification of the performance of rural water infrastructure.

Vigil held for Christchurch, New Zealand

A vigil was held in Peckwater Quad on Friday 22nd March, following the attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, to provide a time to stand in solidarity with the Muslim community of Christchurch, to mourn those who lost their lives, remember their families and friends, and to show our support for the wider community of Christchurch.

The vigil was organised by the Chaplain Rev Clare Hayns, and Alannah Jeune, a resident of Christchurch and a former graduate at the House. They said, ‘Christchurch is a city that has already suffered so much, but the people have proved time and again that strength and resilience come through unity. In the wake of these horrific attacks on the Mosques in Christchurch, it is more important now than ever, to stand together in unity and show that actions born of hate, intolerance and bigotry will fail to incite violence.’

A New Zealand flag was flown at half-mast on the flagpole in Peckwater Quad, and participants gathered around it for the vigil. The New Zealand national anthem was sung, and later in the vigil there was also a Maori waiata sung as a blessing. Following two minutes of silence, participants were invited to lay a single flower at the foot of the flagpole as an act of remembrance.

Stephen Darlington MBE

Stephen Darlington, the former Organist, was made an MBE for services to music in the New Year’s Honours. Stephen retired in July last year after 33 years in post.

The Sub Dean, Canon Edmund Newey, said: ‘I was delighted to hear that Stephen was to be honoured in this fitting way. He made an extraordinary contribution to our music and worship here in the Cathedral over more than three decades, and is greatly respected for his work around the world. We are all delighted to see this recognition in the 2019 New Year’s Honours. Our congratulations to him.’

Stephen said: ‘It’s been a lovely surprise to get an honour for doing a job I have found so rewarding for all these years.’ He retains his relationship with the Cathedral as a Lay Canon Emeritus.
Dr Betty Raman presented with Young Investigator Award by the British Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance

Congratulations to Dr Betty Raman, currently undertaking a DPhil in Cardiovascular Medicine at Christ Church (2015-2019), who has been awarded this prestigious Young Investigator Award.

The national award is open to all scientists and cardiologists undertaking research in cardiovascular disease using Magnetic Resonance Imaging, and Dr Raman was presented with the award for her DPhil work, which was supervised by Dr Stefan Neubauer, a fellow of Christ Church, Dr Masliza Mahmod and Professor Hugh Watkins.

Dr Raman’s research relates to Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or HCM, the most common genetic heart disorder, affecting 1 in 500 people and forming the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young adults and athletes. Dr Raman said, ‘Being able to accurately identify individuals at risk of sudden death is a challenge because many patients are often asymptomatic and unaware of how advanced their disease is. However, technological improvements in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) have allowed us to examine the heart in great detail, enhancing our knowledge of factors that contribute to risks in the disease.’

Victory for the JCR in the first Christ Church pancake races!

Fierce rivalries were fought out between students, staff and academics, as teams from across the House battled it out in some of the most competitive pancake races ever seen. We were honoured to have the High Sherriff present to start each race and to hand out the prizes, with wooden spoons for the losing side bestowed by the Senior Censor.

Surviving dropped pancakes, failed flips, and at one point even a broken frying pan, two teams from the JCR were left to fight it out in a nail biting final, which saw JCR 1 win the top prize.

During the race, pancakes were available for sale in the JCR café, with proceeds from this as well as from collections at the event going towards a Christ Church team entering the Bilbao Night Marathon to raise funds for Action Against Hunger, a global humanitarian organisation that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger.

Christ Church hosts 2nd residential for pupils from our East Anglia link region

A group of 55 Year 12 pupils and teachers from our link region of Norfolk stayed at Christ Church, to give them the opportunity to experience life in an Oxford college and find out more about the admissions process, personal statements, admissions tests and interviews, plus the opportunity to ask current undergraduates questions about their time in Oxford.

Stephanie Hale, Access and Outreach Officer reported, ‘the residential has been a great success in helping, applicants make informed, independent decisions about course and college choice, and that they have the chance to experience what Oxford is like as an undergraduate.’

Day 2 was full of informative talks and workshops on subjects including the admissions process, personal statements, admissions tests and interviews, plus the opportunity to ask current undergraduates questions about their time in Oxford.

Stephanie Hale, Access and Outreach Officer reported, ‘the residential has been a great success in helping, applicants make informed, independent decisions about course and college choice, and that they have the chance to experience what Oxford is like as an undergraduate.’

The first day involved a welcome talk from the Tutor for Admissions, a tour of Christ Church, dinner in Hall, followed by the option of a quiz in the JCR or a film in the Sir Michael Dummett Lecture Theatre.

Stephanie Hale, Access and Outreach Officer reported, ‘the residential has been a great success in helping, applicants make informed, independent decisions about course and college choice, and that they have the chance to experience what Oxford is like as an undergraduate.’
Clifton Hughes (PPP, 1964), returns to the House to help his friend and contemporary, Martin Renshaw, install a temporary organ.

Last year the organ builder Martin Renshaw was asked to provide and install a temporary organ in the Cathedral while the main organ was out of use during building work. “You’ll be able to stay in College and dine in Hall” they said, invitingly. “You mean, as I did when I was here 50 years ago?” said Martin, admitting his ‘previous’ once he had signed the contract...

Martin came up in 1964 to read English. I was his room-mate in Peckwater Quad, arriving to read Music but quickly changing to PPP. Even then Martin had the organ bug. We were off during most weekends and vacations playing or listening to organs, and increasingly moving them to new homes from churches that were closing. They ranged from a small one-manual organ for the Parish Church in Ruckinge, on the edge of the Romney Marsh in Kent, through to a massive four-manual instrument for Gresham’s School, Holt, Norfolk.

The organ we brought to Christ Church this year was built in 1918 and came from a closed Methodist church at Billy Row, near Durham, where it had been made by the family firm of Nelson & Co. On the way it spent some time in Martin’s and his colleagues’ workshops for essential repairs before arriving in Oxford on January 6th. The pipes and other parts were spread out in the side chapels on the north side of the (original) quire of the Cathedral, which was closed to visitors for the week, though inconveniently open for morning service and evensong (organ builders like/have to work long hours). We quickly put the basic framework on the strong plinth that had been prepared, and added the major items: the wind reservoir in the base of the frame and the wind-chests, on which the pipes stand, on the top of the frame. For these heavy items our small team were very grateful to have the help of the friendly gang working to put protective boxes round the monuments in the nave.

The lower keyboard controls the pipes towards the front of the organ, while the upper one is connected to the rear wind-chest, which sits within the swell box, a stout wooden enclosure that completely surrounds the pipes and has shutters that can be opened and closed via a pedal to contain the sound or let it escape. There’s a further keyboard of 30 notes played by the feet, whose large pipes are arrayed along the sides of the organ.

The 628 pipes in the instrument had been individually wrapped for transport, and were now unwrapped, checked and passed up to a brave soul standing eight feet in the air (me) to insert in the correct holes in the tops of the chests. Meanwhile other members of our team were reaching into the bowels of the organ to connect the various rods and levers that link the keyboards to the pipes. There are 122 keys in all, plus the 30 pedals, each linked to the wind-chests in three or four stages, each stage adjusted by leather buttons mounted on screwed rods – several buttons per key. This tedious and repetitive work eventually allows the organist to play with keys that move the same distance and with similar pressure, however big or small the pipes, and however many pipes are blown at once.

The wind supply for all this comes from an electric blower housed in an external box, and there are numerous tubes, large and small, that carry the wind round the organ. It may surprise readers to hear that the wind pressure is so low that it could only raise a column of water about three inches up a pipe – about the same as the suction that you put on a drinking straw. The volume of sound from the organ arises from the sheer quantity of air that blows
through each pipe. You might have played a recorder; imagine now how much puff you’d need if its mouth were 1 to 6 inches across or even bigger, as many are in this organ.

After a week of assembling, adjusting, fixing escapes of air from ageing joints, and finally tuning, the external casework was put on, concealing the evidence of our labours, and the organ now sweetly, loudly, or subtly as required, provides the music for Cathedral services. Having been originally destined to be installed for about six months, it now seems that it will provide the accompaniment for the choir for another three months beyond this, while work continues in the nave.

And what was it like being back in residence? It was fun! We had all been back for Gaudies and other events over the years, but it was good being part of the normal daily routine of the college, joining the queues for cafeteria meals (everything was served in our day), and hearing the buzz of conversation, much of it unexpectedly high-pitched (the college was all-male in our day). Much is the same – the timeless buildings, the chimes from nearby Merton and from Tom at 5 past 9, undergraduates in gowns; some is of our modern age – door passes, carpets, heating, en-suite, Internet connection. I was invited into our old third-floor room; it no longer has a hook on the wall and a coiled rope as a fire escape – what wimps modern undergraduates are!

Our team included Peter Horne, a contemporary who was then at Trinity, Chris Blackman, a Cambridge mathematician, and Martin’s partner, Dr Vicki Harding PhD, a former London physiotherapist, so we were academically well qualified!

A stream of inquisitive people called by to see how the work was progressing and to peer at the internals of the organ. The word had got around that Martin and I were House alumni and the questioning would turn to what it was like being back. The answer was inevitably “Just the same, only different.”

Martín Renshaw’s current books

ABC of a medieval church
ISBN 9780956710253;

John Marsh – A most elegant & beautiful instrument The Organ
ISBN 9780956710246.

These are available from At the Sign of the Pipe (see Internet).

The ABC book is reflected in the lecture: ‘Unsung Lives of Medieval Churches’, by Martín Renshaw and Dr Victoria Harding, which can be found on Youtube.
Christ Church, Oxford, is delighted to announce that it is to adopt the girls’ choir, Frideswide Voices, as a permanent part of the choral foundation of the College and Cathedral.

Frideswide Voices was established in 2014 as the first choir in Oxford for girls of chorister age (7-14) to sing the Anglican liturgy in college chapels and the Cathedral. For the past three years the choir has sung termly residencies at Christ Church, New College and Magdalen.

From September 2019 the girls, who are drawn from more than 25 different schools across the city and county, will gather in Christ Church twice a week to rehearse and receive tuition in singing and a wider musical education. They will sing Evensong in the Cathedral once a week.

The formal adoption of the girls’ choir means there will now be four choirs singing in the Cathedral, each with its distinct identity. As well as the long-established Cathedral Choir, founded in 1525 and made up of boy choristers and a mix of Academical and Lay Clerks, the Cathedral Singers sing around 100 services a year, and the College choir sings regularly during term-time.

This significant initiative is an important part of the college’s commitment to reaching out to all parts of the community, and towards improving equality of access to the opportunities provided by Christ Church.

Steven Grahl, the Organist, commented: “I am delighted that Frideswide Voices will become part of the Joint Foundation at Christ Church. In the first 5 years of its existence, the choir has achieved a great deal, and I salute the work of the Trustees, the Choir Committee, and of dedicated and talented Music Staff. In particular, I should like to laud the achievements of the singers, and am very pleased that these choristers will find a permanent home at Christ Church. I look forward to all that they will contribute in the furtherance of our educative aims, and to their important contribution to our musical life.”

Will Dawes, the current Director of Frideswide Voices, said: “I am absolutely thrilled that Christ Church will be adopting Frideswide Voices and delighted that the girls can now proudly describe themselves as cathedral choristers. It’s a tremendously exciting move by Christ Church and a wonderful opportunity for the girls and their families.”

Potential girl choristers are auditioned in early May of school year 2. Christ Church will hold several “Be a Chorister” taster sessions (for both boys and girls) early in 2020. For information about joining the girls’ choir, contact: choir@frideswidevoices.co.uk.

Helen Smee will be taking up the part-time position as Director of Frideswide Voices of Christ Church.

Both posts will play an important role within Christ Church’s access initiatives. The Sub Organist will take the lead in developing a new outreach programme, designed to inform and engage potential students of the organ.

The Director of Frideswide Voices will build on existing foundations to ensure the choir continues to attract choristers from a wide range of schools across the area, bringing girls from families with no previous connection with Oxford University into Christ Church.

Two New Key Musical Appointments for Christ Church

Two first-class musicians will be joining Christ Church Cathedral.

Benjamin Sheen, Associate Organist at St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, is to become the new Sub-Organist, beginning in January 2020. A former Organ Scholar of Christ Church, he also holds a degree from the Juilliard School, is a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and the 2011 recipient of the Worshipful Company of Musicians’ Silver Medal.
2019 has been a busy and exciting year for the GCR. The community remains diverse and welcoming, with plenty of opportunities for intellectual growth and camaraderie. The elected officers have worked tirelessly to make the GCR such a place where any member can feel welcomed and at home.

Events such as the annual James Trickey 5km/10km race in Trinity term hailed many of our common room members as participants (below), including the overall 10km victor. In February, our Arts officers organised and hosted a fantastic Arts Week which consisted of fascinating talks and thought-provoking exhibitions and workshops. There was dancing, comedy, poetry, drawing, music, theatre, and even jazz and chocolate. Panels by art historians, professional and student alike, brought all college communities together in a marvellous and unforgettable way. Highlights included a talk by Daria Khan of Mimosa House and a talk by renowned photographer Tim Walker.

Our Environment and Ethics Officer also organised a wonderful programme of events over the past year. In Michaelmas, we had an event for calculating carbon footprints, encouraged participation in the Oxford SU Veggie pledge which focused on the environmental benefits of lower meat and animal products consumption, and the college won 50 tubs of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream with our participation in the Student Switch Off climate quiz. In Hilary, we organised recycling facilities and a Marine Conservation stall along with the steward and staff members. In Trinity, a major highlight was two garden tours with the Christ Church Head Gardener John James, which was followed by an afternoon tea in Hall. There is so much to learn about the college gardens that are often taken for granted. During the Summer Eights race, Christ Church spearheaded a major initiative called ‘Race Not Waste’ during which we organised a volunteering event and other activities such as picking up litter to support the Marine Conservation stall. Looking forward, during the summer there will be a picnic, a giant jenga and croquet event in the Masters Garden to celebrate being outdoors in the beautiful surroundings of Christ Church.

In terms of social gatherings, Black Tie has been a major success thanks to our tireless Food & Dining officer. We have made good use of the college bar, the Undercroft, for post-Black Tie bops, post-Guest and Exchange dinner Port & Cheese, wine tastings, and gin tastings. In Trinity, we had a delicious and successful chocolate tasting in the GCR by Linden Chocolate Lab, a small Oxford local business. Bar exchanges with other colleges such as Oriel and St John’s have encouraged both intra- and inter-college friendships. We have made good use of the GCR with SCR/GCR talks, where members from each common room have given interesting debriefs on a particularly beloved part of their research. Finally, as a mark of our sincere appreciation to the staff, the GCR and JCR jointly organised the Annual Staff Picnic, which has become a beloved tradition.

It is truly an honour to study at Christ Church. Not only is academic pursuit fulfilling and exciting, but the wholesome friendships I have formed have shaped me both spiritually and intellectually. I consider myself beyond fortunate for the opportunity to be a member of this magnificent House. I am certain that 2019-2020 will be yet another extraordinary year for the GCR.
Without doubt, the academic year 2018-19 has been a busy and exciting one for all the members of the Christ Church JCR. The many and varied talents of our assembled members, in both academic and extra-curricular spheres, have been put to full use, while the college community remains strong, diverse and welcoming.

All of the elected officers of the JCR have been actively applying themselves to their roles, introducing fresh initiatives and organising entertaining events. As ever, the JCR has raised a large amount of money for RAG and external charities. Events such as the James Trickey run in Trinity, where lots of students pushed through the heat to complete 5km and 10km races in impressive times, and the Harry Potter themed formal in Michaelmas, were very successful in this regard. JCR members have also taken part in other money raising initiatives. A group of students were sponsored to grow their facial hair for “Movember,” drawing attention to rising rates of male suicide and mental health problems. More than £2000 was raised for the charity by them overall, the fourth highest total of any Oxford college during the month of November, and two of the students taking part finished in the top 15 of Movember student fundraisers nationwide.

Another group, being sponsored to run the Bilbao Marathon in 2019 for the RAG charities, have hosted open mic nights and bake sales. These have naturally gone down very well with their peers.

The culture of sporting excellence at the college continues to be fostered by the enthusiastic efforts of our sports captains. At the same time, the continued promotion of a greater number of sports teams geared towards beginners has increased the proportion of students involved in college sport. Participation in the mixed ability...
Netball and Hockey teams, in particular, is exceptionally high, in the case of both male and female students. Special mention in the area of sporting achievement should go to the Men’s 1st and 2nd XI Football teams, and the Men’s 1st Rugby XV, who all reached the finals of their respective Cuppers and Cuppers bowl tournaments. Just as impressive as the performances of these teams on the pitch has been the support given to them by their fellow students. The sight of well over 150 House supporters at Iffley Road for the football 1st team final, most wearing the latest must-have item of stash, the Christ Church puffer jacket, was a resounding exemplification of the vitality of the college community.

Our Arts Rep took full advantage of a generous disbursement grant from Governing Body to organise a rich and interesting programme of events for the newly established Arts Week. Highlights of the week included talks given by well-established artistic figures, such as Tim Walker and Alice Oswald, and an enlightening, behind the scenes tour of our very own Picture Gallery. The success of the Christ Church Arts Week, both this year and last, will hopefully cement it as an annual tradition for many years to come. Student involvement in the arts also remains high. The revitalised Christ Church Music Society stages high quality weekly evening recitals in the Cathedral; and junior members were involved in a wide variety of Edinburgh Fringe events over the summer vacation, ranging from singing, to comedy, to acting.

As ever, the tireless dedication of the Welfare team to the wellbeing of all JCR members is inspiring, and very gratefully received. The popularity of the weekly “Late Night Tea Break,” an opportunity for students to take a break from their essay crises over tea and snacks remains, predictably, high. In conjunction with the Sports Rep, the Welfare team also organised the second “Welfare Sports Day” in Trinity term. Initiatives such as these demonstrate that the Welfare team is just as committed to looking after the physical wellbeing of students as they are our mental health. We are so grateful for the work they do for all members of the JCR.

The JCR’s commitment to diversity and inclusivity remains strong, as demonstrated by the introduction of an Inreach officer at the beginning of Michaelmas, to sit on the JCR committee. This officer will complement the work done by our Access officers by representing the particular socio-economic concerns of first generation, low income, working class and state comprehensive educated students. Already, tutorial and exam workshops have been organised by the current incumbent, helping students from historically under-represented backgrounds to adjust more smoothly to Oxford life. Our LGBTQ+ Officer continued the good work of their predecessor by hosting an inter-college Unity Dinner in the McKenna Room, and celebrating LGBTQ+ History month by flying the LGBTQ+ flag for the duration of February. Following a proposal submitted to college authorities by the former JCR Secretary, a college committee has been set up for the purpose of diversifying the visual environment at Christ Church, with the eventual intention being to introduce portraits of distinguished old members from minority backgrounds at various locations around college.

Studying at Christ Church is a truly unique experience. I find it humbling that I am able to call many of its intelligent and talented students my friends; I consider myself extremely fortunate to be given the opportunity to debate a subject I love with experts in the field in my weekly tutorials. I am absolutely certain that just as many exciting events and magnificent achievements will define the academic year 2019-20 for the JCR. The support of college staff and alumni in all of our endeavours continues to be thoroughly appreciated by us all.
Last February we launched Christ Church Horizons, our first access and outreach sustained contact programme.

Through the programme, we aim to broaden pupils’ academic experience, enable them to explore beyond the school curriculum, and support them in developing the skills they need both to apply to, and to flourish at university. We want to encourage pupils to aim high, and hope to dispel myths about higher education and Oxford.

Last year 35 Year 12 pupils from target state schools and colleges in Barnet took part in Horizons, consisting of six sessions made up of academic workshops, study skills and information sessions in Barnet, followed by a ‘graduation day’ at Christ Church.

We’re delighted to have had both a record number of Oxford applications and a record number of offers for pupils from our Barnet link schools in this UCAS cycle. 25 made applications to Oxbridge, and this resulted in 10 receiving offers. We are particularly pleased that, if they meet and accept their offers, we will have three first-year students from our Barnet link schools at Christ Church in 2019.

The programme is also intended to help improve pupils’ perceptions of university, and of their own abilities. Before taking part in the programme 42% of the pupils felt that they would fit in at Oxford, and this rose to over 80% by the end of Horizons. Similarly, at the start only 38% of the pupils thought they could make a competitive application, and this rose to 81% after.

By the end of the programme, all pupils felt that they knew how to develop their understanding of subjects on their own, and that they would fit in at Oxford.

One of the pupils on the programme said, ‘I believe these sessions are a really good idea as it gives a chance to those who have limited knowledge about universities to really understand the process’. Another commented, ‘before I came on the programme I thought Oxford was way out of my reach, but the programme made me rethink. Now I am seriously considering applying to Oxford University.’

There are exciting plans for the future development of the Horizons programme. We plan to double our Year 12 programme in 2020, to include two separate strands: one for humanities and one for sciences. We also hope to expand Christ Church Horizons to more schools and other year groups: to Year 10 pupils in 2019 with the aim of raising aspirations earlier on, and to Year 13s in the next academic year, when we will be offering more specific guidance about the application process.

All in all, this is a really exciting time for Access and Outreach at Christ Church – I’m looking forward to seeing what the future holds!

You can read the full Horizons report on the Christ Church website.
SUMMER BURSARIES PROVIDE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS

In 2018 we started offering summer bursaries to our undergraduates, with the aim of helping them to explore career development opportunities during the long vacation. We are delighted that a number of students took up these bursaries last summer, resulting in them being able to engage in a range of fascinating projects.

Students experienced a wide variety of placements and other forms of career development across the world. Some undertook internships in the Warsaw newsroom of Thomas Reuters, with the Global Policy Institute, with an MP in London, and the Oxford Centre for Emotions and Affective Neuroscience, whilst others were involved in laboratory placements, such as at the Institute of Biochemistry of the Romanian Academy, working on a pharmaceutical chemistry project in a group at the University of Perm, and a laboratory placement at the National Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana. Another student took summer courses at LSE, while others accomplished projects as diverse as going on tour to Bangkok with the Oxford University Jazz Orchestra, participating in a research expedition to the Marquesas archipelago in French Polynesia, and volunteering at migrant camps in Calais.

Worth up to £2000 for an eight-week placement, the bursaries can be used to fund living costs whilst undertaking projects such as unpaid or low-paying summer internships, laboratory placements and research projects, or short professionally-oriented courses that help students to make the transition from undergraduate study to graduate-level jobs.

The bursaries are available to current UK/EU students of Christ Church, including those in their final year who wish to undertake projects during the vacation following their final exams, with a household income of below £43,000 (incomes below £66,000 are also considered in some circumstances).

Last year 24 awards were made, to 22 students undertaking 23 separate activities. 8 of the bursaries were awarded for internships or volunteer work with professional experience, 6 for summer courses with a career development aspect, and 3 for various other plans. 7 of the bursaries were awarded for activities in the UK, whilst 16 took place abroad.
On a cold November day in 2018, the Library was treated to a rather unexpected and exciting surprise: a set of previously unknown Victorian photographs. These surfaced from the pages of volume 13 of *Mémoires de l’Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques de l’Institut de France* (1860), during the process of preventive conservation and cleaning of a series of books in the basement.

There are in all eleven prints, of which five are single copies. The remaining photos constitute a group of three full-size portraits, of which each has one correct and one under-exposed print. The photographs appear to be shot during a single session. The subjects are a number of servants working in what seems to be a grand household. Seven photos are of different people standing in front of the same doorway, one is taken in a well-equipped kitchen and one is of a man in a top hat with a house in the background.

The quality of the pictures is not particularly impressive, both in terms of composition and photographic technique. They are attempts, works in progress, originating from the camera of someone immersed into photography for personal pleasure, rather than the work of a commercial photographer. At first glance, it seems that there is not much we can say about these pictures. There is no scribble on the back of any of the prints mentioning the date,
where the photos were taken, or who the people in the images were. As to who the photographer was, there is no obvious clue. However, the act of scrutinising this intriguing small repository points to a few interesting facts.

Firstly, the manner in which the people in the photos are dressed suggests the set dates from sometime during the second half of the nineteenth-century. The type of photographic paper used backs this assumption as well.

Photography came before the public in 1839. Like all new inventions of significance, despite various restrictions, this novel medium soon found its conceptual framework and became immensely popular by the 1850s. Also, the perfection of the collodion developing process made the whole enterprise a great deal easier and more affordable. Almost overnight, a new occupation was born. If in 1841 photography was not recorded as a profession, in 1851 the census for Great Britain included 51 photographers. Ten years later, in 1861, the number increased to 2,584. By then, photography ceased being an exclusive pastime for the rich. Photographers were swamped with orders.

Returning to our recently discovered cache of Victorian pictures, one thing is striking. They do not seem to be the work of a mainstream professional, but their poor quality reveals something important. They are clearly exercises in composition and photographic technique. They are tentative, almost playful, suggesting an amateur photographer familiar with the location and perhaps with the people as well. Who might that be?... It is impossible to know for
The house in St Aldates.

Sure, but an unexpected discovery makes it somewhat possible to venture a guess.

Despite the blandness of the background, one particular photograph reveals the likely location where the set was shot. The building behind the man in the top hat is none other than that of Christ Church, across the road from the main site, next to Christ Church Cathedral School, on St Aldates.

So, whoever he was, the photographer appears to have been rather at home at Christ Church. Also, given how relaxed everybody in the pictures looks (no typical Victorian formality), it might be possible that the people and the photographer knew each other. Consequently, one may ask, could perhaps the mystery photographer have been someone in college, someone who, during the second half of the nineteenth-century, showed an interest in pursuing the newly invented medium of photography?

There was, of course, Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll). Sadly, the recently discovered set does not show any of the features present in his photos. However, there were other people linked to Christ Church who, during the Victorian era, dabbed in photography. From Dodgson’s extensive diaries, we know that one of them was his friend Reginald Southey (1835-99). In these diaries Southey’s name appears again and again as a passionate and accomplished amateur photographer, prone to experiment. The latter, who took up photography around 1853 (possibly through Hugh Welch Diamond, first secretary of the London Photographic Society), is credited with having encouraged and assisted Dodgson’s first steps in photography.

This does not mean that the author of the recently discovered Victorian photos was Southey. But whoever was behind the lens of the camera, and all those whose pictures were taken, doubtlessly had a Christ Church connection. This connection needs to be explored further. Who knows what surprises it might reveal.
LEONARDO 500

Jacqueline Thalmann (Curator of the Picture Gallery) marks the 500th anniversary of Leonardo’s death.

“In the normal course of events many men and women are born with various remarkable qualities and talents; but occasionally, in a way that transcends nature, a single person is marvellously endowed by heaven with beauty, grace and talent in such abundance that he leaves other men far behind.”

Giorgio Vasari (1511–1574) on Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

On the 2nd May 1519 Leonardo da Vinci died in the Chateau Clos Luce in Amboise - according to legend in the arms of the French King Francois I. No other artist, in fact no other celebrated figure in history, has received the praise and unadulterated veneration that Leonardo did/does. Neither Shakespeare nor Mozart nor Einstein has reached the broad and wide appeal and scope of Leonardo. Other anniversaries celebrated this year – 500 years since Tintoretto’s birth, 200 years since Ruskin’s birth, 350 since Rembrandt’s death – do not have the same prominence. The only other event of equal status commemorated in 2019 is the moon landing of 1969. ‘One giant leap for mankind’ is a remark that can easily be used for many of Leonardo’s ground-breaking inventions and observations.

The 500th anniversary of his death is a good reason to draw attention to the Picture Gallery’s Leonardo and Leonardo-related drawings and paintings. We have an unusually large and cerebral collection of items related to the artist. It was compiled by General John Guise (1682-1765), Christ Church’s unequalled art-benefactor and a pioneer in collecting Leonardo’s works in Britain1. His purchases are varied and range from the iconic Grotesque Head to one of the least attractive painted copies of the Madonna of the Yarnwinder. It also includes a sheet of designs for armour, some geometric

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puzzles and a small pen and ink sketch of a sleeve, a drawing that at first site seems unassuming, but its delicate proficiency becomes evident at a closer look. While ‘the sleeve’ has always been identified as by Leonardo’s hand, the important connection to his earliest surviving painting, the Annunciation in the Uffizi in Florence, could only be made after that painting had been rediscovered in 1867. The drawing shows how Leonardo, with the simple material of pen and ink, can depict the slightest differentiation of cloths in this one sleeve. He clads Gabriel, the Angel of the Annunciation, in heavenly garments, whose otherworldly properties, their draperies and folds, he imagines and visualises. In spiritual and emotional contrast to this angelic sketch is another drawing in pen and ink in our collection: an allegorical sheet depicting the haggard and nude figure of envy riding on death – a skeletal crouching beast loaded with armoury. Thankfully, Leonardo explains the meaning of his drawing in the accompanying text:

“This Envy [...] is made with a mask upon her face of fair appearance. She is made wounded in the eye by palm and olive. She is made wounded in the ear by laurel and myrtle, to signify that victory and truth offend her. She is made with many lightnings issuing forth from her, to denote her evil speaking. She is made lean and wizened because she is ever wasting in perpetual desire. She is made with a fiery serpent gnawing at her heart. [...]”

This is just a short excerpt from the whole text giving an exquisite example of Leonardo’s ideas and imagination. The passage is written in his famed mirror handwriting. Its neatness and clarity can easily dispel Dan-Brown-fuelled conspiracy theories. While Leonardo was ambidextrous, it was well-known that he preferred to use his left hand. He seemed to have found it easier to write in reverse, not in order to conceal his thoughts, but because it was quicker for him and to prevent smudging the ink or charcoal. If Leonardo had wished to guard and conceal his secrets he would have had no difficulty in devising something more sophisticated.

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Sadly, it is no secret that four drawings by Leonardo and his school, showing complicated ornamental knot patterns (above), went missing from Christ Church in the 1960s; we assume they were stolen before the collection moved to the current purpose-built gallery in 1968. The drawings are intriguing designs of geometric patterns and interlacing knots which preoccupied Leonardo throughout his life. General Guise acquired them from the collection of the Venetian artist and writer Carlo Ridolfi (1594-1658). The four sheets are important pieces of a puzzle that would help to explain Leonardo’s use and experiments of these versatile forms as well as shed more light on Leonardo’s visits to Venice. The absence of the sheets has created a rip in the collection that needs to be repaired. I therefore want to draw attention to the loss, as the time is ripe for the drawings to resurface, to be returned to Christ Church and reunited with the other drawings from the collection. If anyone stumbles across anything resembling them, please let us know and do not be tempted by a website (the internet is full of curious things) where someone offers $1,000,000 for the missing Oxford knots. This is disconcerting, as the drawings were illegally removed from the collection and should be returned to us.

One of the main purposes of our art collection (and in this year particularly the drawings by Leonardo and his school) is to teach, enhance knowledge and understanding and advance research. We therefore decided to accept a large number of loan requests and to contribute in this way to many of the major exhibitions commemorating the 500th anniversary of Leonardo’s death. These collaborations with national and international institutions foster a borderless scholarly exchange, strengthen our relationships within a wide community of academics as well as allow us to reach a larger and wider international audience. Works from Christ Church Picture Gallery will be in exhibitions in Florence, Venice, London, Milan and Paris – in the true spirit of Leonardo.

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Top left: Study of a sleeve (JBS 16)  
Left: Two allegories of Envy. With two inscriptions by Leonardo’s hand (JBS 17r)
The poet John Philips (1676-1709) may not be well-known or widely read today, but his poetry was hugely popular and influential in the eighteenth century. He was also an important Christ Church poet, and made frequent allusions to the college and fellow Members in his writing.

Philips was born in Bampton, Oxfordshire, and went to school at Winchester. He matriculated at Christ Church in 1697 and stayed for ten years, studying natural history, although he never took a degree. While at college he wrote his first major poem: a parody of Milton called *The Splendid Shilling*, about the financial hardships of being a student poet.

At Christ Church Philips also began his most famous work, *Cyder*, published in 1708. This two-book poem, based on Virgil’s *Georgics*, describes the process of cider-making in Herefordshire, where the Philips family had an estate. *Cyder* instructs its readers how to grow apple trees and turn those apples into delicious cider. Samuel Johnson called it ‘at once a book of entertainment and of science.’ It even contains advice on how to avoid getting too drunk on your cider:

> When thy Heart
> Dilates with fervent Joys, and eager Soul
> Prompts to pursue the sparkling Glass, be sure
> ‘Tis time to shun it: if thou wilt prolong
> Dire Compotation, forthwith Reason quits
> Her Empire to Confusion, and Misrule,
> And vain Debates[.]

Having been an undergraduate for a decade, Philips no doubt wrote from experience.

The influence of *Cyder* was far-reaching. It was the first ‘English georgic’, and started a vogue for descriptive, didactic poems in imitation of Virgil’s *Georgics*. Like Philips’ earlier *Splendid Shilling*, *Cyder* was written in Miltonic blank verse, instead of the more fashionable rhyming couplets, and it played an important role in popularising this poetic form. Its detailed descriptions of trees, fruit, weather, and soil, as well as its ethical injunction to ‘shew Compassion to thy Plants’, also had a significant effect on the development of nature poetry in the eighteenth century. Its influence can even be seen in Romantic poems like Keats’s ‘To Autumn’.

*Above: An engraving of John Philips in the Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure.*
But *Cyder* wasn’t only a nature poem: it was a Christ Church poem, and a political one. It was dedicated to two of Philips’ college friends, John Mostyn and Simon Harcourt. Mostyn and Harcourt, like Philips himself and many of their Christ Church circle, were from prominent Tory Royalist families. Christ Church had been a centre of Stuart loyalty since Charles I kept his court in the college during the Civil War. After James II was deposed in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, Henry Aldrich became Dean of Christ Church and the college continued to foster Tory opposition to William III.

In *Cyder* Philips describes the University of Oxford as ‘great Nurse of Arts, / And Men, from whence conspicuous Patriots spring’, but clearly he is eulogising Christ Church in particular:

> The Muses’ fairest Seat,  
> Where Aldrich reigns, and from his endless Store  
> Of universal Knowledge still supplies  
> His noble Care…

Philips slips into *Cyder* multiple references to Members of Christ Church who were notable high church Tories. Many of them were Jacobite sympathisers, loyal to the exiled Stuart line. Here, for example, the poem compliments Viscount Weymouth (matriculated 1657), who was famous for welcoming to his home nonjurors (those who refused to swear the oath of allegiance to William and Mary and their successors):

> Who can refuse a Tributary Verse  
> To Weymouth, firmest Friend of slighted Worth  
> In evil Days? whose hospitable Gate,  
> Unbarr’d to All, invites a numerous Train  
> Of daily Guests…?

Nevertheless, *Cyder* was embraced by readers across the political spectrum. But not everyone appreciated Philips’ efforts. The poet John Gay published a parody called ‘Wine’, in which he mocked ‘the Oxonian Bard’ for choosing such a weak drink as cider for his subject.

In 1709 a poem appeared called ‘Milton’s Sublimity Asserted: in a Poem Occasion’d by a late Celebrated Piece Entituled, Cyder, a Poem’. The anonymous poet, clearly a supporter of the Whigs rather than the Tories, resented Philips’ attempt to imitate Milton and Virgil. In the preface he complained that Philips was being idolised in an Oxford college that was supposed to be a religious institution: ‘we find some Persons have so far Apostatiz’d to Worship him… even in C—st’s C—ch’. The poem itself takes an indelicate turn: it ends by imagining that Milton’s ghost might return to murder Philips in vengeance, and that poor Philips must lie awake in terror, ‘of Urine not retentive’.

But Philips had already died, from consumption and asthma, in February 1709. He was buried in Hereford Cathedral, and a year later a monument was raised to his memory in Poet’s Corner in Westminster Abbey. The epitaph, which compares Philips to Milton and Chaucer, was composed by Robert Freind – another Christ Church man and headmaster of Westminster School. Of all the poets that Christ Church has produced, Philips may not be the most celebrated today, but he is the one who was most closely associated with the House by his readers, enemies, and friends!
Christ Church is unique amongst the older colleges and universities in Britain in being both a college and a cathedral. That is part of its attraction. Though quintessentially Anglican, its invaluable history by Judith Curthoys is justly titled The Cardinal’s College, remembered not only in Wolsey’s Great Hall, but symbolized by the cardinal’s hat and tassel. Then of course successive monarchs (and Patrons) since Elizabeth I have glori ed in the papal title given to Henry VIII, Fidei Defensor, despite being for a period, as a commemorative medallion in my family’s possession of King George III struck at the time of the Act of Union in 1801 put it, ‘SUPREMUM CAPUT IN TERRA ECCLESIAE ANGLICANAE ET HIBERNICAE’.

For a junior member coming up to Christ Church in 1966 from in part an Irish or Anglo-Irish background, what was immediately striking were the many reminders on the walls of college men, who as bishops or statesmen had a leading influence on Irish life and politics. Some were of Irish birth or extraction, but many of them were not. This article concentrates on the churchmen and philosophers, a future one on the statesmen. Judith Curthoys has calculated that between 1660 and 1800 some 6% of Christ Church’s intake came from Ireland. There are Irish clergy to this day, who passed through Christ Church, but this article can only sketch in a few highlights.

Pride of place goes to George Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, who retired to Oxford in 1752, and who ‘fell on sleep’ in the Deanery in January 1753. His fine monument adorns the nave of the Cathedral. Locke, Berkeley and Hume were the founding fathers of empirical philosophy in PPE. Berkeley’s famous maxim ‘Esse ist percipi’ is certainly the guiding principle of most politicians. He is honoured as a pioneer of American university education (‘Westward the course of empire takes its way’). In Ireland, he was honoured by Eamon de Valera for his interest in economic questions in The Querist and advocacy of greater self-sufficiency.
coinage, it allowed the Dean of St. Patrick’s and literary genius Jonathan Swift to grandstand then and ever after as an Irish patriot, Boulter championed the English interest, and they were on opposite sides.

Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh (1767-94), like Boulter an Englishman, is remembered both in Canterbury Quad and the city of Armagh for his architectural munificence. In Armagh elegantly laid out, he left a library and a magnificent palace, which in December 1999 hosted the first meeting of the North-South Ministerial Council under the Good Friday Agreement. Disestablished Church of Ireland bishops have long since vacated their palaces, many now occupied by public authorities.

In the late 18th century, Archbishop Agar, first of Cashel, then of Dublin, Irish-born but a brilliant scholar at Christ Church, was an active parliamentarian and a formidable defender of church interests, and is the subject of a 600-page biography by Anthony Malcolmson, former Keeper of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. He credits Agar with reminding by indirect channels George III of his coronation oath to block the half-promised Catholic emancipation. Agar’s successor in Dublin, Euseby Cleaver, former Bishop of Ferns, where he was under acute strain during the mainly Wexford-based 1798 rebellion, unfortunately went mad. His portrait is also in the Great Hall.

The bishops were part of the so-called Protestant Ascendancy, which was initially a boast, when it first gained currency in 1787, something that Christ Church-educated statesmen were forced to dismantle in the 19th century, the subject of the next article.

The Wesley brothers, John, the inspirational preacher and the practical Charles, the prolific hymn writer, paid numerous visits to Ireland, and founded there a small, modest, but well respected, Methodist tradition.

as well as his disposition towards greater tolerance and inclusion. He asked, ‘whether a scheme for the welfare of this nation should not take in the whole inhabitants, and whether it be not a vain attempt to project the flourishing of the Protestant part of the population to the exclusion of the Catholics? He was withering about young gentlemen ‘of better fortunes than understanding’, who boasted membership of Hellfire Clubs in London or Dublin, but who did not apprehend that ‘their whole figure, their political existence is owing to certain vulgar prejudices, in favour of birth, title or fortune, which add nothing of real worth to mind or body, and yet cause the most worthless person to be respected’.

John Locke, though not of Irish extraction, has been of lasting influence. He was not only the philosopher of the Glorious Revolution, but also at the origin of the principle of consent.

In the 18th century, it was mandatory for the Archbishop of Armagh, the Primate of All-Ireland, to be an Englishman at birth. Hugh Boulter, a favoured chaplain of George I, was Dean of Christ Church from 1719 to 1724, before being made Archbishop of Armagh. His correspondence is a principal sources of political history in early 18th century Ireland, as he was one of the lords justices appointed during absences of the Lord Lieutenant. Though he helped defuse the Wood’s halfpence row, where royal patronage licensed production of a devalued
On most occasions over the centuries that headline would have heralded success on the river but in this context it describes a nail-bitingly close finish to the Inter College Golf Tournament for alumni, held at Frilford Heath Golf Club on 12 April 2019.

The tournament has been running since 1997 but the House has only competed since 2006 when Robert Seward gathered together a team for the ages to push our golfing credentials. Since then, in the 14 years in which we have competed we can now boast the most successful record of any college, having won the event 3 times and come second or third on a further 6 occasions. Only Univ have more triumphs, with 4, and the ChCh team now have this mark firmly in their sights, having taken the silverware this year by a single point from Oriel.

This focus on results should not hide the fact that the event is really all about fun. Over 150 competitors turn out each year, usually in teams of 10, and play across the blue and the red courses at Frilford, playing with Alumni from other colleges and generations. The field this year comprised players who had matriculated in every decade since the 1960s and the atmosphere in the clubhouse over lunch is one of friendly rivalry and more often than not, shared frustration at the tribulations of golf.

This year’s ChCh team ranged in handicaps from 5 to 20. Strong performances from James Philpott (37 points), Philip Butler (36) and David Mayhew (32) were the bedrock of the victory, with firm support from Paul Rivers, John Steers and Mike Abbott to complete the six scores that counted. Lionel Godfrey, Philip Hunt and Tim Oakes had, in their own words, forgettable days but it’s a team event and at the dinner in University College on the Friday night they celebrated lustily alongside the other team members who attended. This included John Clennett who had withdrawn from the golf late in the day owing to injury.

A very satisfactory day all round therefore and the college now goes on to represent Oxford against the winners of the equivalent Cambridge event in the Autumn, where yet more silverware could be won. □
Events

**The C H Stuart Dinner, 11 February 2019.**
Thanks to the generosity of William Wells, 1976, the dinner was held at the Travellers’ Club, London, for members who support the History Tutorial Fund.

**Family Programme lunch, 9 March 2019.**
Members of the Family Programme enjoyed a lunch in Hall and were treated to viewing some of the library’s oldest books in the Upper Library with Dr Cristina Neagu, Keeper of Special Collections, before picking up their daughters or sons at the end of term.

**Dinner in Hall for recent leavers, 2 March 2019.**
With thanks to the generosity of the alumni who matched the 2018 Leavers Gift, recent leavers were invited back to enjoy a dinner in Hall on the Saturday of Torpids.

**USA: NYC, 3-8 March 2019.**
The Director of Development, Mark Coote, and Christopher Williams (1977) at the New York Sports Dinner on 6 April at the New York Athletics Club.

**Reception at the Hong Kong Club, 19 March 2019.**
The Director of Development, Mark Coote, spoke at the inaugural meeting of the Hong Kong Friends of Christ Church at the Hong Kong Club.
The Director of Development, Mark Coote, and Simon Offen visited Tokyo for the Oxford University Meeting Minds Weekend. Courtesy of Old Member Koji Fusa (1984), Old Members were treated to a dinner at the restaurant Kikunoi Akasaka, and a visit to the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Old Members were invited for a Sports Gaudy in Hall. Members of the 1979 Rugby Cuppers team returned to celebrate the anniversary of their victory.

The 2019 Boat Race, 7 April 2019.
Old members were treated to a lunch and drinks reception in a private lounge at Craven Cottage to watch the Boat Races.

Matriculands from 1969 and 1979 and their guests returned for a drinks reception in the Upper Library and dinner in Hall.
North America Visit, 8-17 April 2019.
The Director of Development, Mark Coote, and Simon Offen visited Toronto, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. They held an exclusive dinner in the Capitol, Washington DC, thanks to Friend of Christ Church Mr Sergio Gor.

Mark Coote, and Simon Offen visited the North East and Scotland, with receptions in York, Newcastle, Rhu na Haven (below), thanks to Marcus Humphrey (1957), and Hopetoun House at which the Senior Censor, Prof. Brian Young spoke.

Matriculands from 1960-1965 returned for their Gaudy in Hall preceded by a talk by Dr Joshua Bennett.

Computer Science Reception, 2 May 2019.
Sir Tim Berners-Lee spoke at a Computer Science Event at XTX Markets in London.

Syon House, 13 May 2019.
The Trustees of the Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust hosted a performance in the Great Hall at Syon House by the Christ Church Cathedral Choir & the English Concert. The guests enjoyed a champagne reception in the Inner Courtyard, and dinner in the State Dining Room following the concert.
The book was commissioned, underwritten, and published by the American Philosophical Society as volume 271 of its Memoirs. The oldest learned society in the United States, APS was founded by Benjamin Franklin, in 1743, in emulation of Britain’s Royal Society.

English joiner John Head (1688-1754) immigrated to Philadelphia in 1717 and became one of its most successful artisans and merchants. However, his prominence had been lost to history until Jay’s serendipitous discovery of the significance of his account book at the society’s library.

Head’s account book is of great historical significance as the earliest and most complete to have survived from any cabinetmaker working in British North America or in Great Britain. Thousands of transactions over a thirty-five period (1718-1753) record the goods and services by which Head, and the hundreds of tradesmen with whom he did business, sought to barter their way to prosperity in the New World. The microcosmic level of detail in the John Head account book fills the documentary void in the lives of Colonial America’s middling classes, giving voice to the historically inarticulate, those often overlooked in more traditional studies.

The present volume, the culmination of nearly twenty years of research, serves as an essential reference work on 18th-century Philadelphia, its furniture and material culture, as well as an intimate and detailed social history of the interactions among that era’s most talented artisans and successful merchants.

An authority on the crafts and commerce of Colonial Philadelphia, Jay is a native of that city. He studied history at the University of Pennsylvania and Christ Church. In February, for his present publication, the University of Oxford selected Jay as North American-based Alumni Author.

Jay’s writings and lectures on social history have restored to the historical record many early craftsmen, artists and merchants whose accomplishments had been obscured by the passage of time. In addition to articles on John Head’s account book and furniture, his publications include: "Rococo & Classicism in Proprietary Philadelphia: The Origins of the "Penn Family Chairs"; “All in the Family: Joseph Richardson’s Earliest Silver”; “Simon Edgell (1687–1742) ‘To a Puter Dish’ and Grander Transactions of a London-trained Pewterer in Philadelphia”; “Simon Edgell, Unalloyed”; Barnard Eaglesfield: A Prominent Philadelphia Cabinetmaker Revealed”; “Beyond expectation, beautiful, graceful and superb, Inlaid Miniature Chests of the Philadelphia Circus, ca. 1793”; “Francis Martin Drexel (1792-1863), Artist Turned Financier”; and “A Clock for the Rooms: The Horological Legacy of the Library Company of Philadelphia.”
Recent finalist Elle Besse led magical ‘Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland’ tours to children (and adults!) who were thrilled to follow in the footsteps of these literary characters, and their parents and grandparents who studied here. Meanwhile, panel discussions on Open Books, Open Minds, and Open Doors facilitated fruitful discussion on how the student experience at Christ Church has changed over time. Panellists included the Librarian, Steven Archer; Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in English, Professor Mishtooni Bose; Millard and Lee Alexander Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Leah Morabito; Schools Liaison Officer, Ana Hastoy; JCR President, Joseph Grehan-Bradley; and Diana-Gabriela Oprea, first-year Chemistry undergraduate. Hearing students, researchers, staff, and alumni debate the merits of the tutorial system as a collegiate, rather than departmental, structure, the centrality of the library despite technological advances, and how to provide the best student welfare support, was an extraordinary experience.

The event continued with refreshments on the Freind Terrace and a BBQ with Pimm’s down at the Boathouse. Whilst we didn’t make Head of the River, with M1 finishing 4th and W1 finishing 5th, the atmosphere at the river was exceptional, with many generations of Christ Church cheering on the teams together.

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On June 1st, the Saturday of Summer VIIIIs, we were delighted to welcome members of TOM, our new regular giving society, to the first TOM event at Christ Church. Alumni arrived with friends and family to a sunny and beautiful day at the House, which was full of rowers and their supporters.

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**Grace Holland** (Development Officer)

All alumni are encouraged to visit Christ Church with their guests. Please contact the Development Office for more details and a copy of the Harry Potter/Alice in Wonderland tour.
Whilst the first gardening records here date from 1860 when Richard William Banks inherited the estate and moved to Ridgebourne there are earlier records of the family competing fiercely at local flower shows. RW Banks planted a number of exotic trees in the Ridgebourne Garden and surrounding parkland, most notably a huge Greek Fir *Abies cephalonica* to mark the birth of his son William Hartland Banks in 1867—a prescient act since WH Banks went on to create the gardens and collection of trees at Hergest Croft. Not far away is another Greek Fir planted to mark the birth of his great grandson Edward in 1967, Edward is now the 5th generation of the family to own the gardens. When RW Banks died in 1891 and WH Banks inherited the estate, his mother Emily Rosa firmly stayed put at Ridgebourne, and when he married Dorothy in 1894 he moved quarter of a mile west and built Hergest Croft; they started gardening before he built the house and Dorothy’s letters mention planting new bulbs for their “winter sleep” – their descendants have naturalised and still grace the garden today.

William and Dorothy started with a garden in the style of William Robinson including such late Victorian necessities such as a double grass tennis court and a yew hedged Croquet Lawn. However in 1901 they became fascinated by the new arrival of plants from China collected by Ernest “Chinese” Wilson and during the first decade of the twentieth century seem to have bought almost every “exotic plant” offered by Veitch culminating in purchases at Veitch’s Nurseries closing down sale in 1913. William became part of the growing group of gardeners interested in these plants, including the Williams family at Caerhays in Cornwall and the Clarkes at Borde Hill and many plants were exchanged between them. So Hergest Croft contains one of the most extensive collections of early introductions of Western Chinese plants in Britain. Perhaps the most spectacular are the two largest Pocket Handkerchief trees, *Davidia involucrate*.

After William’s death in 1931 there was a pause in gardening activities extended by the Second World War until Richard Alford Banks (Dick) returned to live here in 1952 to find a rather overgrown garden. From 1960 onwards he greatly extended the range of plants. From the late 1970s onwards Western China reopened to collectors such as Roy Lancaster and Chris Brickell many of whom were friends of the family. Since 1980 Lawrence and Elizabeth Banks have continued to expand the collection which now contains a huge range of trees from all over the temperate world planted with the advantage of Elizabeth’s professional expertise as a Landscape Architect.
The archive is unusual in that it contains the papers of a professional family not a landowning one. The Banks family were lawyers and bankers in Kington Herefordshire during the whole of the 19th century. Whilst the majority of the papers are of local interest including the management of the Radnorshire Elections, some touch on the wider world. Amongst friends, relations and clients were James Watt whose papers not only cover his interests in a newly acquired country estate but matters relating to coal mining and railways (but not steam engines!) and George Cornewall Lewis (educated at Christ Church) who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1855 and was regarded as a likely future Prime Minister before his untimely death in 1863. There is also correspondence relating to families into which they married including the Alfords a leading ecclesiastical family involved in Christian Socialism and women’s and worker’s education. Dorothy Alford who married William Hartland Banks and her sister Margaret were early “Girton Girls” in the 1880s; Dorothy passed out with a first class non degree in the Natural Sciences Tripos whilst Margaret was first in the Class list in the Classical Tripos.

Outside their professional lives the family had a great interest in the Natural world and antiquarian matters Richard William Banks collaborated closely with Roderick Murchison on the exploration of the Silurian system Geology; his extensive collection of fossils and minerals remain in the Archive and have recently been catalogued. He wrote many articles for Learned Journals such as Archaeologia Cambrensis and the Woolhope Club on both geology and antiquarian matters. Dorothy assembled a large collection of shells including an unusual selection from the Andaman Island which we believe resulted from an expedition to the penal settlement there with her uncle Sir Charles Lyell who was Home Secretary in the Indian Government.

William Hartland Banks was a keen and skilled photographer and his albums include pictures of local, national and international interest including early photographs of Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks in the USA and a voyage down the Nile. A large number of architectural studies include both Oxford and Cambridge and many churches and Cathedrals. His original cameras, lenses and other equipment remain in the archive.

This is only a small part of what we hold and the old photographic studio is a rare example of a collection of nineteenth century culture including a more than somewhat eclectic Library.
As I walked beneath Tom Tower in the Autumn of 1963 I was anxious. I knew nothing of Oxford. I had only travelled as far south as Oxford twice, and one of those trips was to sit the entrance exams some months before. I felt as if the expectations of the whole Yorkshire school community weighed me down. My father, who was a clerk in the office of the local woollen mill, was wonderfully excited and proud. I was the first student from my grammar school to The House.

I was lucky to be there. My English teacher was Paddy Rogers. He was as excited as I was at this opportunity. Noticing and harnessing my enthusiastic passion for literature and my devouring of books, he had encouraged me to read a dozen carefully chosen textbooks, before I came down for the examination. Paddy Rogers surely came from the gods, and the gods were with me then. He had encouraged me to read a then new German author, Wolfgang Clemen, and set me mugging up, among others, key evidence about The Development of Shakespeare’s Imagery. My gods then blessed me, in the entrance exams, with a question on the growth from simile to metaphor in Shakespeare’s later plays ... in the subsequent interview, cross-questioned by my future tutor Jim Stewart, I had every precise quote from King Lear exactly in place.

At that time Christ Church looked, for its freshmen intake, in the same direction as it always had. Recruited to the 1963 intake were a large proportion from the same few schools: no less than thirty-nine young men were successful from Westminster, thirty-five from Eton, twenty-one from Charterhouse, nineteen from Harrow ....

Harrow? Hew Parves-Jones was from Harrow. It was not long before we became friends. What a poised, assured man he seemed at first. How gauche I thought myself. We took to each other at once, a bizarre symbiosis of extreme opposites. I had never met anyone with a double-barrelled name. He thought Lumb was my first name. He was as confused by my accent as I was by his:

Check the reading list David, It’s in the back yah.

In the back? That was out of the back door, in my world. Back? Book! The word is Book, Hew! He loved to greet me, in supposed mimicry, Nah then lad, a phrase I never used. I told him, the word is yes, not yah. In the next three years, the word Yah echoed forever across Peckwater Quad.

Let me continue my House student intake list. In addition to the extraordinary total of 95 public school boys I have totalled so far, were a further 15 from St Edwards’, 10 from Ampleforth ....

Now, far down the freshmen intake, came: Portsmouth Grammar School 10 ... and finally my world and myself: Ermysted’s Grammar School Skipton 1: that was me.

It took me a while to readjust. For a whole term we Grammar school boys, including Howard Belton and I, formed a resolute Northern Enclave, set against the posh boys out there. We drank beer, made counter-snobbish remarks in ostentatiously Northern accents, and stayed behind our barricades. Alan Bennett said it for us:
It was the first time I had come across public schoolboys and I was appalled. They were loud, self-confident and all seemed to know one another. Seated at long refectory tables beneath the mellow portraits of old Tudor grandees, we neat, timorous grammar-school boys were the interlopers; these slobs, as they seemed to me, the party in possession.

I was slow to realise that this carapace of self-assurance may have masked deeper social issues. As a public school friend later put it:

Most of us privately educated boys were sent away to prep school at eight years old and then went on to boarding public schools. To survive in such institutions (where the only time a boy had any privacy was in bed at night - though sometimes not even there) it was essential to appear invulnerable. Otherwise one would be bullied and exploited. This defensive, self-confident façade would often stick to us through life, through marriage, children, and jobs that were not always the fine ones that had once been predicted for us, and would leave deep dents over the years.

Perhaps Bennett’s description of public school self-confidence confuses the mask with the person.

Strange differences became even stranger affinities before long. I shared tutorials with Tim Jeal, and discovered I had read stuff he’d never heard of. But the confidence and fluency of his arguments! He was already writing fiction (a first novel was accepted for publication before he left the House). I had published modest poetry. We shared a wonder of our respective, influential fathers. Tim’s one day became the subject of his memoir *Swimming with My Father*.

We struggled with Anglo-Saxon literature. Together we spent time with the kind of contemporary literature the bizarre Oxford syllabus at that time denied us; the English syllabus ended with 1902. *The Waste Land* was far too contemporary to be studied. We read far more from later literature than from the syllabus.

I became comfortable in the presence of those I had thought to represent an impossibly urbane elite. Gradually, I began to see my prejudices as misconceptions.

I remember a lofty, gubernatorial Peter Quin, more self-assured even than Tim. Peter and I stood against each other for JCR President, and somehow I won. He was far more generous in defeat that I would have been. As the President of the Junior Common Room in the third year I was the only undergraduate still given a room in college, and that was the quite palatial President’s Room. Among my peers this conferred a certain dubious status: my bedroom window had a secret mechanism whereby it could be pivoted open onto the street, allowing anyone I chose to slide in and out at night. At that time the college gates were locked at 11 o’clock, and after that the only way to get back after a late poker, curry or pub session was to use one of several secret entries. How juvenile it seems now; but at the time the window had a certain glamour and resulted in many broken nights, in return for a dubious popularity. As a social leveller, that bedroom window did a marvellous job for me.

Chris McIntosh brought together and nourished a student writers’ group with the pretentious name of The Anonymous Society of Writers. We prepared and read out our literary efforts, increasingly and ludicrously self-confident. I recall an admirably polished sonnet from Fred Turner, who always seemed to me a professor in waiting long before I was proved right. Barney Powell, whose father’s life was to me wonderfully and impossibly exotic, wrote miraculously complex, fluent, expansive prose. The Anonymous Society still meets, some 56 years later.

Over our nine terms, many of my closest college friends were from the public schools. I spent holidays at Hew’s father’s pub on Exmoor. Hew stayed, during one vacation, with my family in Yorkshire, where my father and Hew stared at each other in puzzled confusion. We skied together in Scotland. He told me about the fissures of his family background, lack of maternal love and what he saw as banishment to Harrow. I spent a bizarre weekend with Chris Rane’s crazy, extravagant mother outside Dublin; he too was a refugee from a disjointed, unhappy, broken family. My own home and family circumstances seemed banal, but comforting, by comparison.

We all said goodbye or perhaps forgot to, in a welter of final exams. I kept in touch with many, chose to drop a few. I had been changed and charged by my friendships, as was everyone.

It was a while before I went south again; I reconnected with my Northern roots, reabsorbed my Northern vowels. Memories faded. I retained my grudging respect for the posh boys. Then a few years after Oxford, Tim phoned and came to visit. I lived in a top-floor flat in a particularly scruffy part of Wakefield. We chatted comfortably and he left. I often wondered what might have been his impressions.

A few years later I had a son. I called my son Tim.
I was standing in the room where Charles Darwin first spoke to an audience about the theory of evolution when it was revealed that the meticulous collection of pinned insects in front of me was created by the very same man. It was my first week at Oxford. The sense of humble awe and excitement that accompanied me in that perennial room has remained with me during my three years in Oxford.

The insatiable curiosity of a scientist has driven me to undertake research in far flung countries, from tackling conservation issues at Princeton University, to catching birds in eastern Australia, and engaging with biodiversity policy in Brussels. It is Christ Church’s generosity and support that has enabled me to explore these avenues of research, providing me with an opportunity to lay down the foundations that will guide my future career at the interface of research and applied biology. The privilege and research freedom that Christ Church have afforded me has provided me with the experience necessary to continue my research career at the University of Cambridge, during which I will further explore the anthropogenic footprint on the natural world.

Leading scientific research on one of world’s most remote islands in French Polynesia has greatly shaped my understanding of sustainable and collaborative conservation. Today, it feels more important than ever to look at environmental change. Protecting vulnerable island birds is critical in the face of expanding anthropogenic pressures. Staggeringly, more species of eastern Polynesian land birds have become extinct since the arrival of humans than currently survive on the islands. It was an absolute privilege to receive scientific and financial support from great institutions, such as the Scientific Exploration Society and Christ Church, to work with international scientists and local islanders. This allowed me to develop a simple methodology that will help monitor the critically endangered bird populations for years to come, so that local conservation agencies may maintain an oversight of their unique bird populations, in particular the ultramarine lorikeet and iphis monarch. Our talented cameraman, Ben Cherry, is currently producing a beautiful short film that highlights the unique cultural and natural beauty of Ua Huka. I strongly believe that an engagement with the sciences outside of the academic sphere is integral to foster an alliance between humans and the natural world.

Within college, my roles as tortoise representative (arguably the most important role in college) and arts representative have given me exciting and valuable experiences of working with people across college and University. A particular highlight includes organising Christ Church Arts Week 2019 (the first arts week in a number of years), a weeklong celebration of the arts within college for which I curated 28 events. Some specially memorable moments include a poetry reading by Alice Oswald, the natural history drawing class with Fine Art tutor Sarah Simblet and her restored horse skeleton in the Upper Library, a life drawing and monoprinting class with fine art tutor Peter Rhoades, and a college wide exhibition created by the Christ Church Ruskin students.

I cannot thank my peers, tutors, Christ Church staff, and all those that helped me have three wonderful years here enough!
Summer Eights 2019 showed the strength and depth of the Christ Church Boat Club as we continue to build for the future. There are more students rowing than for some time and we had five Men's, and three Women's Boats compete. The momentum coming out of the Easter training camp in Italy was exciting to see with a really strong commitment to training and building each crew. We are very grateful to all those Members who helped with the costs of the camp, and generally in helping to fund the Club.

M1 fought it out at the top of the division and went down one place, holding 4th position against strong opposition in Oriel, Keble, and Pembroke. M2 remain second to Oriel amongst 2nd Boats, and M3 were very unlucky not to win blades with bumps in the first three days, but a flurry of klaxons stopping the final day’s racing. M4 put in a strong day three performance which meant they ended up dropping two places. Finally M5/the Beer Boat was made up of coaches, and athletes who were unable to commit to a full term’s training, but keen to get out and race for Christ Church. Sickness prevented them racing the first two days, but strong performances on Friday and Saturday produced bumps each day.

W1 were let down by three crew members only weeks before racing, but congratulations to the final line up of enthusiastic, determined and committed women who all worked exceptionally well together, producing a very gutsy weeks racing ending up down one place at 5th on the River. W2 had a very exciting weeks racing with some tough row overs, exciting bumps, and on the final day ended up with a triple over bump! W3, similarly to M3, were on for blades but suffered on the final day from the Klaxon ending the race.

The strength in depth across the Club is promising, but we still have to find that ruthless edge at the top level in order to be the fastest boats on the river.

After Eights we moved with a small group into some summer racing, and a Men’s IV working towards Henley Royal Qualifiers. Unfortunately the competition was immense and we didn’t make it. However, the summer racing and external events have been a great learning experience for the college rowers and have left the group with an exciting buzz in preparation for the forthcoming season, including competing at the Head of the Charles, Boston, in October.

Boat Races

Congratulations to Anna Murgatroyd (Geography and the Environment), who was in the 2 seat of OUWBC’s Blue Boat; Benedict Aldous (Engineering), who was in the 5 seat of Isis; Nick Elkington (Physics), who rowed in the 2 seat for Isis; and Naomi Holland (Physics), who is currently the President of OUWLRC, and rowed in the 5 seat of the Blue Boat.

M1 and W1 carb loading!
Readers of Christ Church Matters will know that Ovalhouse is building a new theatre, and that we will be moving from our home in Kennington to a wonderful new building in Brixton. Watch out for the next issue to hear of our plans for the opening in Autumn 2020.

Meanwhile, true to the philosophy and ethos of Ovalhouse this transition is an opportunity to place young people at the centre of decision-making and to learn powerful new skills, develop their creativity and build a place both for and by them. A space over which young people feel ownership and within which they are connected with young people across London and in Lambeth in particular.

In the spirit of their youth-led programming, while the theatre is between two spaces Ovalhouse is keen that young people still have a space of their own - stamped, owned and built by young people. In the footsteps of our established youth led process, young people will work with visionary educational architectural practice MATT+FIONA to learn the skills of design and construction. They will embrace innovation and creativity to build a temporary making and performance space for young people.

This exciting project is a further engagement in our partnership with the Co-operative Foundation in their national research project into loneliness amongst young people. This is a far reaching research study, which is informing a cross party government commission on the well-being of young people and to learn more about the growing problem of child loneliness.

At the heart of the project will be 20 young people suffering from or at risk of loneliness at local schools, identified by our partnership with the Lambeth Schools Cluster Network. The young people will all be aged 11-14, in the transition stage between primary and secondary school and potentially facing the challenges of changing friendship groups that can come with that transition.

It is the Ovalhouse philosophy that people of all ages come to understand each other, to listen and question, debate and form community, by being creative together, and making something. We do this through drama and facilitating people to create their own theatre, we have supported a project that enabled cross generational storytelling through baking bread, and hosted post-

LET’S BUILD!

AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT IN WHICH OVALHOUSE SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE TO DESIGN AND BUILD THEIR OWN THEATRE.

Deborah Bestwick MBE Director, Ovalhouse
show discussions between people of wildly different beliefs and experiences.

This is perhaps our most ambitious project of this kind yet!

Whilst young people experiencing loneliness or at risk of it make new friends by taking part, they tackle the wider picture by creating a place for their own community to come together.

Peer to peer learning and support will be a key part of this project. The Core Group of 11-14 year olds will also include two or three young practitioners who are part of the Ovalhouse’ Young Associates programme, acting as mentors to the younger members, and learning cross-transferable skills from MATT+FIONA

Firstly, working with the architects and the Ovalhouse Young Associates the group will be explore what it is that they want from the new temporary performance space. The process will kick off with visits to interesting venues and theatres to analyse what they think works well and inspires them, and what they would like to improve and build on.

This will provide the brief for their own structure. All the existing Ovalhouse young people’s groups will be invited to contribute to to ensure the space works for as many groups as possible in preparation for the eventual Youth Festival.

MATT+FIONA will design and develop a pedagogical approach for designing the performance space, with Ovalhouse staff running simple model making workshops with the other key young people’s groups. A larger-scale paper build will follow with MATT+FIONA giving the skills to the Core Group.

Out of all this work MATT+FIONA will develop the young people’s collective design into the plans for a buildable structure.

During 3 exciting days in the Easter holiday in 2020 all the young people in the project will see their design come to fruition, as built by the professionals assisted by volunteers from the older participants the new temporary theatre is constructed – right next door to the permanent new theatre!

The temporary theatre will accommodate between 40 and 80 people, depending on how much money we raise. It will be weather proof through the summer and early autumn of 2020 – and who knows what performance and celebration, dialogue and debate will be created within its walls?

With core funding for the project generously provided by the Co-Op Foundation, we are bidding to be part of the Mayor’s Crowdfunding initiative to raise the rest of the money. While you wait for the new theatre to open, do sign up to our mailing list to come and see the equally fantastic temporary theatre built by young people. You will be very welcome.

To support the Let’s Build Project you can donate here https://www.spacehive.com/letsbuild

To join our mailing list e mail: Deborah.bestwick@ovalhouse.com

http://mattandfiona.org/
God & Progress
Religion and History in British Intellectual Culture, 1845-1914

Dr Joshua Bennett (Walter Dingwall JRF, 2007)

The book pursues the interplay between two major themes in C19th western thought: history and religion. Anyone who has paused to contemplate a church of the Gothic Revival, or the voluptuous contours of a Pre-Raphaelite painting, will see that the European past, and the question of Christianity’s cultural authority, alike preoccupied the Victorians. Historians of ideas have traditionally glided over these problems. Seeking signs of modernisation and change, they like to position the impact of natural science, the rise of democracy, and the expansion of the state as the crucial milestones on the map of C19th thinking. They are not wrong to do so, but as well as unleashing the technological and political forces that have shaped our own culture and predicament, the C19th was also an autonomous period.

Where our own society has been shaped by the far-reaching secularisation of politics and morals, the Victorian period was marked, in an equal and opposite way, by the legacies of the evangelical revival. To the same extent that our own age ignores and sometimes actively seeks to erase history, the C19th – conscious of its radical break with the world before the French Revolution – looked for certainty and guidance in the past. Hence it was that, in seeking to explain and define the ‘progress’ towards individual freedom and scientific knowledge which they saw in their own time, nineteenth-century intellectuals energetically studied the history of religion. The book accordingly examines Victorians’ perceptions of the early church, the middle ages, the Reformation, and the religious Enlightenment. These were periods which, contemporaries believed, had forged and purified the Christianity which, they assumed, lay at the foundations of C19th improvement. A counter-culture of secular intellectuals simultaneously came to identify historical progress not with providence, but with the retreat of metaphysics and the dissolution of religious authority. Such voices became increasingly vocal over the course of the century. But they never quite matched the institutional and public heft of the more conventional, religiously-apologetic, yet today not notably unremembered figures who dominated the ancient universities, dissenting academies, and the higher journalism. Whether western civilisation was progressing towards a religious, or towards a secular future, still appeared to be an open question in 1914.

The book is, at heart, a study of the reasons why cultural orthodoxies become attractive, maintain their power, and later begin to fade and give way to new ones. It does not pretend to offer facile ‘lessons of history’ to the present day. It does, however, presume that there is inherently a humane and sceptical value to attempting to understand ideas and assumptions other than one’s own. This is a presumption which, though it is as integral to rational discourse as it is to historical comprehension, today appears to be notably fragile in our own public sphere.

Encounters with Albion
Britain and the British in Texts by Jewish Refugees from Nazism

Dr Tony Grenville, (Modern Languages, 1962)

While much has been written about British attitudes to the Jews who fled to this country after 1933 to escape the Nazis, little attention has been paid to the ways in which those refugees perceived and depicted their (often somewhat reluctant) hosts. From their impressions on arrival, through the tumultuous events of World War II and mass internment, and on into the long period of integration after 1945, Anthony Grenville’s study traces the development of refugee responses to their new homeland. Drawing on a wide range of novels, autobiographies, memoirs, diaries and letters by Jewish refugees (one of them by a House man, Walter Eberstadt), he recreates the course of a complex and sometimes fraught relationship, but one that ultimately arrived at a largely settled resolution.
Going beyond observations on the refugees’ perennial struggles with British food, British emotional aloofness and the British weather, *Encounters with Albion* explores questions of identity and agency: what sort of communal identity were the refugees able to develop in their new homeland, to what extent did they do so freely and to what extent did they have an identity imposed on them?

**The Princess who Hid in a Tree**

*The Princess who Hid in a Tree* by Jackie Holderness (Cathedral Education Officer) Illustrated by Alan Marks March 2019

The legend of a resourceful Anglo-Saxon princess and a wicked king re-told for today’s young children. Stunning illustrations by Carnegie Medal-winning artist Alan Marks. This story is about a brave and kind Anglo-Saxon princess called Frideswide who lived in Oxford a long time ago and just happened to be brilliant at climbing very tall trees. Her talent came in useful one day when a wicked king tried to kidnap her. How did she and her friends escape, and what happened to the king and his soldiers? With stunning illustrations by award-winning artist Alan Marks, Saint Frideswide’s legend is retold for young children as a tale of adventure, courage in the face of danger, friendship, and kindness, with a few surprises along the way. The church Frideswide founded in Oxford was on the site of what is now Christ Church, and her medieval shrine can still be seen inside the Cathedral. This beautiful picture book is sure to be treasured by any child who loves tales of adventure. It will appeal to children learning about the Anglo-Saxons, to readers who like feisty heroines and to visitors to Oxford, as a meaningful souvenir of their visit.

**The Golden Thread**

*The Golden Thread* by Kassia St Clair (History, 2009)

When we talk of lives hanging by a thread, being interwoven, or part of the social fabric, we are part of a tradition that stretches back many thousands of years. Fabric has allowed us to achieve extraordinary things and survive in unlikely places. *The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History* shows you how – and why. With a cast that includes Chinese empresses, Richard the Lionheart and Bing Crosby, Kassia St Clair takes us on the run with escaped slaves, climbing the slopes of Everest and moonwalking with astronauts. Running like a bright line through history, *The Golden Thread* offers an unforgettable adventure through our past, present and future.

**Offer to all Simon Barrow’s followers**

Simon Barrow’s latest publication ‘*Humanity at Work: Poems in Business*’ brings his concept of the Employer Brand approach to people management into the world of poetry. The issues of leadership and employment remain absolutely central. He writes about organisations, brands, people and management thinking – memorable behaviours and incidents which many will recognise but seldom read about. The poems blend reality with advice – above all the warning that business problems, even tragedies, are so often the result of failure to understand feelings, attitudes, relationships and the behaviours which result. Some leaders realise too late that ‘the soft stuff is the hard bit’.

You can purchase a pre-launch copy for £10 + P&P her: [www.sbaemployerbrand.com/books/offer](http://www.sbaemployerbrand.com/books/offer)

‘*Humanity at Work*’ will be launched later this year at a price of £15. For advance information, please email eugenie@simonbarrow.org.uk
Cult of a Dark Hero

Stuart Flinders (Modern History, 1979)

Cult of a Dark Hero tells the story of John Nicholson, an Irish soldier who through determination, ruthlessness and hard work rose up the ranks to become a hero to British and Indian soldiers alike, and even an Indian God beatified by a small sect who referred to John Nicholson as ‘Nikal Seyn’.

John Nicholson was the leader of the British assault that recovered Delhi at the turning-point of the Indian rebellion in 1857. A ruthless and merciless man, Nicholson was known as “The Lion of the Punjab” for these qualities as well as his fearlessness and fearsome courage. Historians have called him an ‘imperial psychopath’ and a ‘homosexual bully’, journalist and broadcaster Stuart Flinders here brings to light the story of John Nicholson to show the remarkable tale of a remarkable man during the British Imperial rule. Flinders, using previously unpublished material, such as diaries of contemporaries as well as personal letters, puts together the character of the ruthless, loyal, courageous, and merciless man. Flinders above all discusses the Nikal Seyni cult, formed in his honour and which unbelievably continued into the 21st century.

Praise for Cult of a Dark Hero

"John Nicholson was one of the great heroes of Victorian Britain. The book follows his extraordinary career in India...He developed a reputation as a man of unusual presence, of extraordinary courage, and as a remarkable leader who was utterly ruthless in dealing with opposition.” - Francis Robinson, Professor of the History of South Asia, Royal Holloway, University of London

Stuart Flinders has been a journalist and broadcaster for thirty-five years. He has appeared as a correspondent on many BBC programmes and has been a presenter on BBC News and Radio 4’s You and Yours. He is now a reporter based at MediaCity in Salford and regular presenter of live concerts on Radio 3. He is the holder of a Royal Television Society Broadcaster of the Year award. He studied Modern History at the University of Oxford.

Fayke Newes

Derek Taylor (Modern History, 1965)

Schools need to do more to protect our children – and ultimately our democracy – against the flood of ‘fake news’ on social media, according to international journalist and historian Derek Taylor.

In his latest book, Fayke Newes: The Media vs the Mighty, From Henry VIII to Donald Trump, Taylor advocates adding a new course to the schools’ curriculum: ‘News reliability’, in which students should be taught:

- The role of responsible news media in a democracy, to hold governments to account.
- Which internet sites or posts – such as those of TV channels with a legal obligation to be impartial, or of reputable fact-checker organisations, or leading newspapers or news agencies – have a better reputation for accuracy and fairness.
- Examples of fake news online, and what to notice about the author’s claims and writing style which should make us wary.
- How to recognise the difference between factual reporting and opinion, and to be suspicious of sites which muddle the two.

Exploring our past and asking questions of our future, Fayke Newes is a timely, fascinating look at the relationship between our governments and our journalists. Neither of whom, it seems, have always told the truth.

Derek J. Taylor studied law and history at Oxford, before joining ITN as an on-screen reporter. He reported five wars, and spent seven months in Iran during the Islamic revolution (a time and place portrayed in the film Argo). In his later career, he worked for the BBC, then The Associated Press of America as Chief Executive of their TV division, and now lives in the Cotswolds with his wife, Maggie. He is the author of Magna Carta in 20 Places (2015) and Who Do the English Think They Are? (2017).
A HUNDRED YEARS OF LEE PROFESSORS IN PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY:
THE OXFORD SCIENCE REVOLUTION THAT STARTED AT CHRIST CHURCH

David Dunmur, (Chemistry, 1959)

In 1919 two Professorships were established in the University through Christ Church’s Lee Trust, set up following a bequest from Matthew Lee* in 1755. These appointments were remarkable in bringing star researchers from outside the bounds of Oxford to key positions in physics and chemistry. The two positions were filled respectively by Frederick Lindemann, a temporary technical assistant from the Royal Aircraft Factory, Farnborough, and Frederick Soddy, who held a chair of chemistry at the University of Aberdeen. Lindemann and Soddy left their marks on Oxford, but in very different ways. They had both trained as physical chemists, and they shared some personal characteristics such as obduracy, arrogance and intolerance, but in other respects they were at opposite ends of the spectrum of social and political beliefs. Lindemann and Soddy were appointed as Dr Lee’s Professors, attached as Professorial Fellows to Wadham and Exeter respectively. Under the terms of the Lee Trust, both Lindemann and Soddy were Students of Christ Church, and Lindemann lived in Meadow Building until his death in 1957. Their personal achievements were substantial. Soddy, while at Christ Church, was the first Oxford Professor to receive a Nobel Prize, while Lindemann was made a Baron and shortly before his death became the first Viscount Cherwell. Their stories as Christ Church’s first Lee professors of physics and chemistry are epic tales of two powerful individuals: Lindemann, “The Prof”, according to Auden the rudest man in Oxford, and Soddy, known descriptively as “Professor Porcupine”.

Lindemann was appointed as Professor of Experimental Philosophy (physics), having spent the war years as a researcher at the RAF station, Farnborough. He had taken his PhD in 1910 at the Institute of Physical Chemistry in Berlin, where his supervisor was “the father of physical chemistry” Walter Nernst, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. Lindemann remained as a researcher in Nernst’s laboratory until the outbreak of war in 1914. Nernst’s lab was a world centre for physical science, and many legendary scientists visited at various times. Lindemann was always on hand to meet and greet the famous, and in 1911 Nernst organised the first Solvay Conference on Physics in Brussels, which attracted some of the most distinguished scientists of all time. Lindemann was there with his cousin Maurice de Broglie, also from Nernst’s lab, as joint secretaries to the conference. It was the conference photograph from this meeting that secured Lindemann’s scientific future.

The Dr Lee’s Professor appointed in chemistry was Frederick Soddy, acknowledged as the co-discoverer with Ernest Rutherford of nuclear disintegration. They had worked together at McGill University, Montreal, during the years 1901 to 1903, and their joint papers from this time established nuclear fission, the transmutation of elements and the beginnings of nuclear physics. Following his time in Canada, Soddy had positions at University College London with Sir William Ramsey, the discoverer of argon, and then at Glasgow and Aberdeen...
Universities, but he had a desire to return to his alma mater, Oxford (Merton). The new Dr Lee’s position was for a specialist in physical and inorganic chemistry, and his appointment was no doubt helped by the support of his former collaborators, Rutherford and Ramsey. There might also have been whispers in the Senior Common Rooms that Soddy, credited with the discovery of isotopes, was in line for a Nobel Prize, duly awarded in 1921.

It was expected that the new Lee Professors would set up research programmes as well as give their required series of lectures, but a lack of radioactive materials and suitable equipment meant that Soddy struggled to continue his radiochemical researches. In fact no experimental work of significance was published by Soddy after his appointment at Oxford, and he devoted himself to a reorganisation of the undergraduate teaching programme.
Lindemann, like Soddy, did not do any serious scientific research after his appointment, but he was an effective laboratory director, and he built up the research base of the Clarendon Lab by appointing a number of talented physicists. Albert Einstein commented that his friend Lindemann was an amateur: he had some good ideas, but lacked the capacity to follow them through. In fact from the 1920s, Lindemann developed an alternative career in politics, and became a close advisor to Winston Churchill. Through the 1930s, Lindemann’s political influence increased, though he failed to get selected as the University’s MP. His position as the key scientific influence during WWII was firmly established when Churchill became First Lord of the Admiralty and then Prime Minister in the wartime coalition and Lindemann was his principal scientific adviser.

What were these two combative scientific colleagues like as individuals? Most comments recorded about Lindemann or Lord Cherwell were critical, and one of Lindemann’s few friends in Christ Church and his biographer, Sir Roy Harrod, commented that Lindemann was one to bear grudges and on occasions was motivated by malice. Yet Lindemann flourished in high society and was a close companion to Churchill throughout his later life. In college, Lindemann rarely dined on High Table since he had a curious diet and never drank alcohol, but he often appeared in the Senior Common Room where according to the author’s tutor, he could be a charming and attentive presence.

By contrast, after his resignation from the Lee Professorship in 1937, Soddy became something of a recluse, moving out of Oxford society to a small house in Enstone. One chemistry student who in 1934 met Soddy in the teaching laboratory was the future Lord (Frederick) Dainton, who decades later would become the fourth Dr Lee’s Professor of Chemistry. Dainton recalls a warm and friendly encounter with “Professor Porcupine” and applies the description of the Greek/Roman playwright Terence (~ 200BC) “Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto” – I am human and nothing human alienates me.

Quite exceptionally, Soddy received no honours to mark his Nobel Prize, nor did he receive any awards for his scientific discoveries that had changed the course of human development. Soddy had disappointed by failing to create a new radiochemistry research school in Oxford, but the significance of his work with Rutherford achieved huge prominence during the 1930s. Soddy’s developing interests in sociology and economics undoubtedly alienated some of his scientific and other colleagues, but this in no way detracted from his heroic position in science.

This article is in part based on a lecture given by the author at a symposium on “Christ Church, Chemistry and the World Wars” on 17th March 2017. The author thanks Judith Curthoys, the Archivist Christ Church, for assistance and support, and acknowledges the help of archive staff at Nuffield College Library and the Weston Library.

Dr Matthew Lee (1695-1755) studied medicine at Christ Church and after a successful career left the bulk of his estate to the college. For further details of the Lee Trust see <http://rpw.chem.ox.ac.uk/Lee_Readers/>
Since 1882 the Preamble to the Christ Church statutes has included these words:

"In 1525 Cardinal Wolsey obtained by letters patent permission to found a College on a magnificent scale, and the first stone of Cardinal College was laid on 17th July 1525. All the revenues of this Foundation fell to King Henry the Eighth on Wolsey’s attainder in 1529.”

This is a bit of a puzzle because Wolsey was certainly not attainted in the usual sense of being convicted of treason or felony or being condemned to death by an Act of Attainder. But in fact the Preamble is perfectly correct.

1. My bold

This is the sequence of events. Wolsey fell from power after the fiasco of the Blackfriars trial of Henry VIII’s nullity suit against Katherine of Aragon. The King took the first step against him on 9th October 1529 when the Attorney General indicted him in the Court of King’s Bench for praemunire contrary to the great Statute of Praemunire of 1392. The 1392 Act was the most important of a series of statutes of Edward III and Richard II denying the Papacy’s claims to appoint to ecclesiastical positions in England. Its purpose was to prevent dissatisfied litigants appealing to the Curia in Rome. It forbade such appeals “in the court of Rome, or elsewhere”. By the late 15th century that “elsewhere” was being applied by lawyers to all non-royal courts anywhere, including English church courts, which made it a formidable weapon in the hands of Henry VIII and his henchmen.
The gist of the indictment was that Wolsey as Papal Legate had set up a legatine – and therefore papal - court in England.

On 17th October 1529 Wolsey was dismissed as Lord Chancellor. On 20th October 1529 there was a second indictment for praemunire. He confessed on 22nd October 1529 and on 24th October 1529 formally submitted himself to the King's mercy. On 30th October 1529 he was sentenced by the King's Bench. The sentence was that he was out of the King's protection; his lands and goods were forfeited to the King and his person might be committed to custody.

Meanwhile a new Parliament assembled on 3rd November 1529. The new Lord Chancellor, Thomas More, delivered a fierce denunciation of Wolsey. On 1st December 1529 a petition containing forty four articles was presented to the King accusing Wolsey of many crimes. They could have formed the basis of an impeachment or a Bill of Attainder. However Wolsey’s former secretary, Thomas Cromwell, persuaded the Commons to do nothing2, possibly with the King’s connivance because the latter still had some regard for Wolsey. At any rate nothing came of the forty four articles.

The King pardoned Wolsey on 17th February 1530. On the same date - no doubt as a quid pro quo and to make it easier for the King to show a good title to the forfeited properties - the Cardinal and the King executed an indenture.3 The indenture recited the Cardinal’s conviction under the Statute of Præmunire, the forfeitures incurred and the King’s subsequent pardon and restoration to him of the Archbishopric of York, with £6,374 3s. 7½d. [an enormous sum] in goods and money. In consideration thereof the Cardinal granted the King all temporal or secular annuities, fees, etc. belonging to him otherwise than as Archbishop of York.

The King eventually decided that he wanted Wolsey dead. On 4th November 1530 Wolsey was arrested on a charge of treason. While travelling to London to face trial he died in Leicester Abbey on 29th November 1530.

Plainly there was no attainder in the sense of a conviction for treason or felony or an Act of Attainder. However there can be no doubt that throughout the 16th and early 17th Century everyone regarded a conviction for praemunire as a form of attainder.

Mr. Speaker Audley (subsequently More’s successor, first as Lord Keeper and then as Lord Chancellor) certainly regarded Wolsey’s conviction as an attainder and did so at the time. Diarmaid MacCulloch quotes a letter to Thomas Cromwell dated 29th December 1529:4

> “And over this, he [Audley] said to me that the King’s Grace would take all the monasteries suppressed, by the reason of the attainder of my Lord Cardinal, for the forfeiture of him had relation from the first time of his offence, and so that all is in the King’s Grace, and that His Grace lawfully might set all the farms [leases] belonging to the said monasteries at his pleasure.”

The next piece of evidence comes from 1529 and is a Private Act (21 Henry VIII, c. 25, traditionally cited as Private Act c. 4). This...
statute was enacted to save the rights of beneficiaries where the Cardinal had been among the trustees: The long title says it all; 

“An Acte that no person or persons shall susteyne any prejudice by meanes of the attaynder of the Lord Cardinall, by meanes that the said Cardinall was seased in theire landes to divers uses”.

This statute was enacted within three months of Wolsey’s conviction for praemunire. It is conclusive evidence that everyone – including the King and Parliament – regarded the conviction as an attainder.

Edward Hall was a lawyer and an MP in 1529. He writes this about Wolsey’s fall in The Union of the Two Noble and Illustre Families of Lancastre and Yorke (commonly called Hall’s Chronicle and first published in 1548):

“You have heard under the last year [1529] how the cardinal of York [Wolsey] was attainted in praemunire, and despite that the king had given him the bishoprics of York and Winchester, with great possessions, and had licensed him to live in his diocese of York. Being thus in his diocese, grudging his fall and not remembering the kindness the King showed to him, he wrote to the court of Rome and to several other princes letters reproaching the king, and as much as he was able stirred them to revenge his case against the King and his realm ...”

George Cavendish was Wolsey’s gentleman usher. Between 1554 and 1558 he wrote a biography of Wolsey in which he says that the indenture dated 17th February 1530 was “thought necessary” because of doubts about the King’s title to the properties “which came to him by reason of my lord’s attainer in the premunire”.

The next piece of evidence is another statutory provision, namely section 21 of the Supremacy of the Crown Act 1562 (5 Eliz 1, ch 1). Its purpose was to resolve the doubt whether anyone could kill a man convicted of a praemunire without being punished. The answer was “No”. The section is explicit that a conviction for praemunire was a form of attainder.

The last witness is Sir Edward Coke. He said this in Calvin’s case, decided in 1608:

“By the statute of 25 Edw. 3. cap. 22. [The First Statute of Provisors 1351] a man attainted in a Praemunire, is by expresse words out of the King’s protection generally; and yet this extendeth onely to legal protection, as it appeareth by Littleton, fol. 43. for the Parliament could not take away that protection which the Law of Nature giveth unto him; and therefore, notwithstanding that Statute, the King may protect and pardon him. And though by that Statute it was further enacted, That it should be done with him as with an enemy, by which words any man might have slain such a person (as it is holden in 24 Hen. 8. tit. Coron. Br. 197.) until the statute made anno 5 Eliz. cap. 1. yet the King might protect and pardon him.”

Coke says much the same in his commentary on Littleton, published in 1628 (see at 190a):
“The judgement in a Praemunire is that the Defendant shall be from thenceforth out of the king’s protection, and his Lands and Tenements, goods and chattels forfeited to the king, & that his body shall remaine in prison at the Kings pleasure. So odious was this offence of Praemunire, that a man who was attained of the same, might have beene slaine by any man without danger of Law, because it was provided by Law, that a man might do to him as to the Kings enemy, and any man may lawfully kill an enemy. But Queene Elizabeth and her Parliament, liking not the extreme and inhumane rigor of the Law in that point, did provide that it should not be lawfull for any person to slay any person in any manner attainted in or upon any Praemunire, &c.”

At Co Litt 391a he also says:

“Attainder of heresy, or praemunire, worketh no corruption of blood, nor heresy, forfeiture of lands”

It is very striking that Coke repeatedly and explicitly writes of offenders being “attainted” of, in or upon a praemunire and of “attainer” for praemunire.

Elsewhere in the commentary on Littleton Coke explains that the difference between conviction and attainder is that there is a conviction on verdict (i.e. by a jury), confession (i.e. a plea of guilty), recrancy (i.e. a plea of guilty in a trial by battle), outlawry and conviction on verdict (i.e. by a jury), confession (i.e. a plea of guilty), the difference between conviction and attainder is that there is a sentence of death. As Coke explains (Co Litt 130a):

“So as he that is out of the protection of the King cannot be aided or protected by the Kings Law, or the Kings Writ, Rex tuetur legem, & lex tuetur jus. Besides, men attainted in a Praemunire every person that is attained of high treason, petit treason or felony, is disabled to bring any action, for he is Extra legem positus, and is accounted in Law Civiliiter mortuus.”

This was all the more severe because of the ferocious provisions of the First Statute of Provisors 1351; offenders “shall be out of the King’s protection; and that a man may do with them as of enemies of our sovereign lord the King and his realm”. As I’ve said, Coke thought this meant that anyone could kill a man convicted of a praemunire, at any rate until the repeal of “this extreme and inhuman rigour” by section 21 of the Supremacy of the Crown Act 1562.

How did the attainer of Wolsey affect his college in Oxford? The answer is very badly. Building works stopped immediately with only three sides of the great quadrangle, including the Hall, having been completed. The King took his time before deciding what to do next. On 8th November 1529 the Imperial Ambassador, Chapuys, wrote to Charles V:

“Now it is rumoured that the King has very lately issued orders for all priests and ecclesiastics appointed by the Cardinal to quit the place [Cardinal’s College] forthwith, as part of it is to be demolished, were it for no other purpose than that of removing the Cardinal’s escutcheon, which will be no easy work, as there is hardly a stone from the top of the building to the very foundations where his blazoned armorial is not sculptured. As to the revenues of the college itself, it is to be presumed that, if the King only listens to the advice of his Privy Council, he will keep them for himself…”

For once Chapuys was ill-informed. The King did not evict the dean and chapter or demolish the buildings. But he did take the college’s money. The 1529 statute mentioned earlier, which protected beneficiaries where Wolsey had been a trustee, did not apply to the college; at the end of the statute came this threatening proviso:

“PROVYDED always that this Acte or anything therin conteyned is anywise extende not to the advantage of any College or Colleges, nor yet to the advantage of any body corporate that have capacite to take any lands or tenementes in possession or use to theym and to their Successours into Mortmayne.”

In May 1530 the King announced that his Council had showed him that none of its lands were assured to the college except by his suffrance. On 22nd August 1530 the Dean, John Higdon, reported to Wolsey that the college had no protection in common law but that he had had an interview with the King, who had declared:

“Surely we purpose to have an honorable college there, but not so great and of such magnificence as my Lord Cardinal intended to have… We will that ye continue as ye have done till Michaelmas next coming and then wholly to receive your rents.”

In the year 1530 the total receipts (including a loan of £345) came to nearly £1,600, mostly from monastic lands, but the outgoings were considerably more. So the college did not “wholly” receive its rents. Before Wolsey’s fall they had been about £1,800 pa.

5. Most of what follows is taken from the Victoria County History.
6. British History Online, Spain: November 1529, 1-30
Henry eventually decided to found a college of his own. By April 1531 he addresses the chapter as “the Dean and Canons of the King’s College, Oxford, late Cardinal’s College”. He made occasional payments to the chapter but it was not until 18th July 1532 that he issued letters patent for the foundation of “King Henry VIII College”. It was to consist of a dean, 12 secular canons, 8 priests, clerk, choristers and twelve “honest paupers”. It had no educational purpose. It was indeed “not so great and of such magnificence as my Lord Cardinal intended to have”. He had intended 177 academic appointments, 23 servants, and 5 administrative posts.

The college was by no means out of the woods. Dean Higdon died on 20th December 1533. On the same day Croke, one of the canons, wrote to Cromwell to complain of bitter poverty; without Cromwell’s help many of them would be hungry this Christmas. As the Victoria County History says, it “was perhaps the nadir of the college”.

Things did not improve. In 1535 the income of King Henry VIII College was down to £457.8

The King eventually decided to re-found the college on much more ambitious lines. Dean Oliver formally surrendered all the college’s possessions to the Crown on 20th May 1545. The “members of the college, again turned adrift upon the world, were relieved by small yearly pensions assigned them by the King, to continue until some better provision could be made for them”.

On 4th November 1546 the King established his new college by letters patent to “Ecclesia Christi Cathedralis Oxon: ex fundatione Regis Henrici Octavi”. Other letters patent followed in December 1546 setting out the lands worth about £2,200 pa with which the king endowed his new college. Interestingly these estates came more from properties of the former Oseney Abbey than from the now scattered lands of Cardinal College.

The Victoria County History tells us that the letters patent nominated a Dean and eight canons and that “there were to be

100 students with provision both of censors and readers for their instruction and discipline and of choristers and singing men to accompany their devotions”. Only one of the canons of King Henry VIII College was re-appointed in 1546.

There was one loose end. As the Preamble to the College’s statutes states:

“King Henry the Eighth died [on 28th January 1547] within a few weeks of its foundation without having signed any Statutes for the House. The King's draft Statutes formed the basis on which the House was governed without material alteration for more than three hundred years, until Ordinances were drawn up for Christ Church by the first Oxford University Commission in 1858 in exercise of powers conferred by the Oxford Act 1854. These were replaced by The Christ Church, Oxford, Act 1867. The Statutes then conferred were modified by successive Commissions in 1882 ...”

Which brings us back to where we started.
# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER**

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| 14 September  | **BOARD OF BENEFACTORS GAUDY**  
Christ Church                                         |
| 16 September  | **TALK BY TIM BOUVERIE (2006) ON HIS NEW BOOK: APPEASING HITLER**  
| 20 - 22 September | **OXFORD MEETING MINDS WEEKEND**                                      |

**OCTOBER**

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| 4 October     | **GAUDY 1966-1970**  
Christ Church                                         |
| 6 October     | **FAMILY PROGRAMME TEA**  
Christ Church                                         |
| 12 October    | **FAMILY DAY AT THE BOAT HOUSE**  
Christ Church                                         |

**DECEMBER**

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| 1 December    | **FAMILY ADVENT RECEPTION**  
Christ Church                                         |
| 10 December   | **ST JOHN’S SMITH SQUARE RECEPTION AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
London                                                  |
| 12 December   | **VARISTY RUGBY MATCH**  
Twickenham                                              |

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**Members and Friends of Christ Church might like to save the dates of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May, 2020, for a wonderful Christ Church visit to Herefordshire.**

**SATURDAY 9TH MAY:**

- **10am:** Visit to Hereford Cathedral to see the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library.
- **2pm:** Visit to Hergest Gardens, owned by the Banks Family, many of whom are members of Christ Church. The gardens are spectacular, and there is also a rare family archive to explore. (Please see the articles in this edition of CCM.)
- **6pm:** Drinks reception in the gardens.

**SUNDAY 10TH MAY:**

- **10am:** Orchestral Eucharist at Hereford Cathedral (provisional).
  You are welcome to return to Hergest to explore the gardens and/or archive further.

[http://www.hergest.co.uk/](http://www.hergest.co.uk/)

**Booking will open in October.**

Please register your interest with Ingrid.heggli@chch.ox.ac.uk

Accommodation and meals will not be included.
Savills is delighted to sponsor Christ Church Boat Club

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Christ Church
Development and Alumni Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP
United Kingdom · +44 (0)1865-286325

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