

Christ Church Matters

M I C H A E L M A S T E R M 2 0 0 4

I S S U E 1 4

Editorial

Up until a few years ago, visitors to the Christ Church Senior Common Room were confronted by two sets of portraits, which I often thought of as two rather bizarre male voice choirs. They were on opposite walls, (though I have always supposed that as House men of their times, they usually expressed a pre-established harmony of political views). On the one hand were the Christ Church Prime Minister team, and on the other, some very grand-looking Viceroys of India. (There were also one or two rather less impressive photographs, including those of Alec Douglas-Home and Mr Bandaranaike). And there are plenty of portraits in Hall to remind members of the House of their amazingly energetic, authoritarian and interfering, but often heroic predecessors in the political sphere, many of them eminently Victorian.

This issue of Christ Church Matters has a political theme; it reminds us of the virtues of Peel (and of the lesser attractions of a sloganising conceptual art), and of the presence around us of a number of Christ Church alumni, who take part in the political process in ways which are rather more divergent, and whose portraits are a good deal more informal, than those mentioned above. In a world in which there is currently a great tension between the arts of political persuasion and the virtues of intellectual independence, it is good to be reminded of some of the virtues and talents of the kind of educated politician that a college like Christ Church can produce (along with one or two others, of course).

CHRISTOPHER BUTLER, *Tutor in English & Co-Editor*

The Alfred Moritz Studentship in Physics



Physics has always struck me as the most taxing and rigorous pursuit that any young person can elect to study. My father devoted much of his life to classics but he found physics, with its marriage of mathematics and philosophy, greatly appealing. It was my father who helped me trundle a trolley across Peckwater on my first day at Christ Church. It was the college that opened my eyes to life's possibilities. This Studentship is a small way of expressing thanks twice.

MICHAEL MORITZ, 1973

WE ARE DELIGHTED to report that Michael Moritz, in memory of his father Alfred Moritz, has funded a Tutorial Studentship (Fellowship) in Physics at Christ Church. This is a most generous and welcome contribution towards safeguarding a subject particularly associated with the college and a critical element of the Campaign for Christ Church. It has to be seen against a background of declining numbers reading physics in schools and universities – this year only 3.7% of A Level candidates offered the subject, down from 4.1% last year, far short of the proportion offering psychology and little more than the percentages offering sociology or media studies. It is hardly surprising therefore that very respectable university departments are being forced to close down because of a shortage of qualified applicants for student places.

Christ Church has always had a strong tradition in physics. The college recently hosted a centenary conference and associated exhibition, organized by Dr Paul Kent (1955), Emeritus Student and Tutor in Biochemistry, on the work of Robert Hooke (1638), physicist, biologist, astronomer, inventor, etc. Coming to relatively modern times, physics in Oxford in general and in Christ Church in particular was dominated in the mid-twentieth century by Viscount Lindemann (Lord Cherwell) who built up the Clarendon Laboratory as a modern physics department. Of the several distinguished German refugees whom he brought to permanent posts in Oxford, Sir Francis Simon (1945) was a major figure in low temperature research. Christ Church physicists were also active in nuclear physics, notably Dr Michael

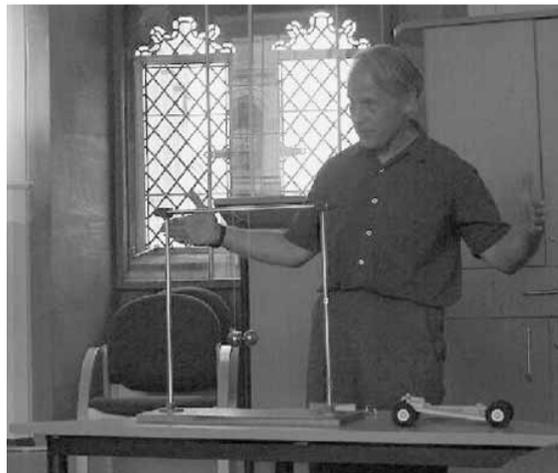
Grace (1957), who was Senior Physics Tutor 1971-1991 and Sir Francis Simon's successor as Professor of Experimental Physics, Sir Denys Wilkinson (1957) who presided over a large expansion of Oxford activities including into sub-nuclear physics.

By any standards the research and educational activities of Christ Church in recent years make it one of the leading Oxford colleges in physics, and indeed it invites comparison with the best of similar institutions world-wide. Since 1996, over 40% of Christ Church physics students have achieved firsts in their Finals examinations, compared with around 25% for the university as a whole. The great majority of the others have been in the upper second class. Around a third of our intake goes on to work for a research degree, at Oxford or elsewhere.

The reason for the high success rate in Finals is due to the commitment of the tutors to the tutorial system. Nothing compares with the intellectual challenge of having to argue a point with an expert who knows you well enough to trigger the right responses with loaded questions, and has the patience to wait for an answer. However, it helps to have excellent material to work with – and we are therefore pro-active in our attempts to attract good candidates.

Christ Church as a body is in the forefront of the drive to widen access to Oxford. It was the first to appoint its own Admissions Officer to initiate and co-ordinate activities, and the physics tutors were keen to support these activities as fully as we could. For example, the Christ Church physics tutors were responsible for organising and running the physics section of the first university-wide Sutton Trust Summer School in 1997 (for sixth-formers from

schools which would normally not send candidates to Oxford). Four of our students on this School subsequently did apply to read physics at Christ Church; all got in, three got firsts and the fourth became President of the JCR. There has been Christ Church involvement in the School ever since. Christ Church also runs day courses of lectures for schools, to de-mystify Oxford and to communicate enthusiasm; the programme



Derek Stacey, Alfred Moritz Student in Physics

(including a rocket launch in the physics section) has been featured on the BBC TV News. As a result of all this activity, the college increasingly attracts high quality candidates for physics. In recent years, we have had three applicants per place. However, their quality has been such that more than 60% of them have gained places somewhere at Oxford.

Christ Church also has a thriving graduate community. Graduates who stay on for research degrees generally remain at the college, and we also accept those who come from elsewhere. There are two other classes of graduate, however. Each year, the college appoints in open competition two Senior Scholars and four Junior Research Fellows (JRFs). The positions attract the most promising young researchers in their fields; both Senior Scholarship and JRF posts carry a full stipend if required and they are often awarded to physicists. Senior Scholarships are for those in the early years of their research, while JRFs give a few years of post-doctoral support so that a researcher can establish a reputation without the burdens of administration or excessive teaching. Many of our ex-JRFs now occupy senior

physics academic positions in universities throughout the world (several in Oxford). An example is David Deutsch, once a JRF; he is the father of quantum computing. At the moment, one of our recent Senior Scholars is working in Boulder, Colorado with the Nobel Prize winner, Carl Wieman. We have a Millard and Lee Alexander Fellow, a post-doctoral position which allows an outstanding scientist from overseas an attachment to the college; this is at present held by an astrophysicist, Dan Hooper, who has enthusiastically taken up teaching for us. We also welcome researchers on prestigious fixed-term appointments such as Royal Society Research Fellows. One such Fellow in post until this year (David Lucas) was an undergraduate at Christ Church, then a JRF, and is now a major figure in the team working in the Clarendon on quantum information processing.

This, then, is the background to Mr. Moritz' donation. Our commitment to physics is certainly rooted in a long tradition, but our concern is for the future. We express our gratitude to Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman for their help in assuring it.

Cardinal Sins

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

VERY OCCASIONALLY, usually in one of those doorstep, block-busting books sold to while away the time before one's holiday flight leaves fog-bound Gatwick, you can find a reference to a high-flyer, often a woman, who can read her company's balance sheets as though they were a novel. To most of us, though, accounts are dull, a necessary evil. But sometimes, cash books, invoices and receipts can reveal fascinating information way beyond the mere figures. One subject that is documented mainly through the long runs of ledgers in the archive is the consumption of food and drink in the college, especially in its early years.

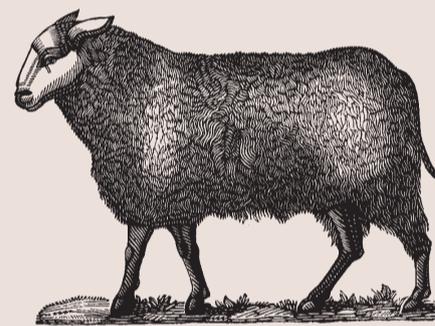
In 1793, Christ Church hosted a huge banquet in honour of the Duke of Portland's installation as Chancellor of the University. The Duke was an alumnus of the college – he had come up as William Cavendish-Bentinck, Lord Titchfield, in 1755 – and, as if to compensate for the very private installation ceremony at the family home of Bulstrode, Christ Church pulled out all the stops for an incomparable feast.

The archive contains numerous invoices and receipts from tradesmen for all sorts of provisions for the banquet including one for the carriage of a turtle from London (which reputedly was put in Mercury for a final swim before its date with the chef's cleaver), for pineapples and melons, and for pies and jellies and fruit. Extra staff were brought in, and extra furniture including mahogany tables and stools. Green baize cloth was ordered by the yard, and cutlery was hired specially for the occasion. Even the

horses, who presumably pulled the carriages of the guests, were provided with oats, hay, and straw by a Mr John Tubbs at a cost of £2 17s 6d.

As was always the case on great occasions, the bill of fare varied depending on how far up the dining hall one sat. The noblemen, for example, had turbot in a lobster sauce, followed by roast beef, lamb, duck, goose, chicken, and veal pie, with a fool to finish. The chaplains on the other hand, far lower down the pecking order, had just salmon, lamb, and peas.

But it is the records from the sixteenth century that are the richest. From the beginning of Christ Church in 1546, accounts were kept carefully and in great detail. During the 1560s and 1570s, Christ Church employed a manciple who had a passion for keeping accurate books. John Furnivall kept a detailed account of his purchases for the kitchen day in, day out. Supplies were delivered every day of the week, including Sundays and feast days; he bought eggs, butter, cream by the gallon, mutton in every conceivable joint, whole veal and pigs, chickens, geese, game birds, fruit and wine. Fish days – Wednesdays as well as Fridays – had equal variety: ling was the commonest but there was also salmon, skate, cod (both fresh and salt), haddock, eels, whiting, pickerells, oysters, and crayfish. And Furnivall's successors were no less diligent: in the first quarter of 1583/4, the kitchen took delivery of £87 worth of bread, 308 kilders of beer at 22d per kilder, £11 worth of butter, and for the Hall 62 dozen candles and 18 napkins. One hundred old lings were purchased for £9 and for the carriage of those fish another 24 shillings. But the



notable item is sheep – Christ Church must have lived on mutton for most of its 450 years: on 17 September, the manciple bought 60 at 6s 4d each from a Mr Elles and a further 16 at the bargain price of 5s 4d each from Richard Howell of Wootton. Four days later another 14 arrived. In October, 222 more were added to the stocks. Just to ring the changes, 6 bullocks were purchased in September. Christ Church had its own slaughterhouse, at least in the earliest days, and meat must have been bought on the hoof from local markets in Woodstock and Abingdon.

Occasionally we discover that the cook needed a new saucepan (8s 6d), or that a pair of lobsters was sourced to feed a visiting ambassador. The college also had a right to swans from the Thames whenever one was required on the condition that the Dean and Chapter gave seven days notice and paid five shillings per swan. Arrangements like this may explain why more luxury items are rarely included in the accounts. But perhaps the most telling entry in the annual accounts is for the barrel of beer that was purchased to assist the auditor in his labours. Perhaps the historical records and ledgers we find so interesting today were as dull to the 16th century auditor as 21st century balance sheets are to most of us.

JUDITH CURTHOYS, *Archivist*

Tourists and Duellists

OXFORD NEVER LACKS an anniversary of some sort. At the House, for instance, 2004 marks 50 years since the uncovering of the painted ceiling in the Old Library and the unveiling of the memorial tablet in the Masters' Garden [see *Christ Church Matters*, Michaelmas 2002]. And here are a couple of events whose anniversaries you may have overlooked; the first is from 120 years ago, the second surprisingly recent.

VICTORIAN FOOT SLOGGERS

On Monday 17 May 1884, a party of 300 'working men' (the need for quotation marks becomes clear later), accompanied by the Reverend W. Tuckwell, Rector of Stockton, arrived at Oxford station from Birmingham, and walked up to visit Christ Church. By today's standards the incursion sounds small beer: nearly ten times that number now tramp through the college on the busiest summer day – around 200,000 paying visitors each year.

But the Birmingham party shows, first, how popular such educational day trips had become in the decades after Thomas Cook's pioneering excursion from Leicester to a temperance demonstration in Loughborough. By the 1880s Oxford was a favourite destination, although not every party, surely, undertook such a punishing schedule as the Birmingham workers.

At the House, the party was shown round by Canon Henry Liddon. Liddon, who had come up to Christ Church in 1846 aged 16, went on to become, successively, Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis, Canon first at Salisbury, then St. Paul's, and Vice-President of Cuddesdon College; he was a frequent lecturer and preacher in Oxford, and a member of Keble College's founding council.

The Canon provided a short history of the foundation and pointed out 'the more noticeable pictures' in the Hall. The party then admired the Meadow Buildings (then less than 20 years old) before making its way up the Broad Walk to the Botanic Gardens where particular attention was paid to the *Paliurus*, native to the Jordan valley, and from which Christ's crown of thorns had been made.

Next, the party took in Magdalen and (after a rest in Addison's Walk), the High, the Bodleian Library (where they gazed with 'happily uncritical interest' at Guy Fawkes' lantern), the Martyrs' Cross in Broad Street, St. Giles' and so through St. John's garden to Keble chapel – a route devised to avoid Lamb and Flag Passage. They spent nearly two hours in the University Museum, then returned to

New College chapel for evening service, followed – no doubt to great relief – by tea at the Corn Exchange, a visit to the river and the boats and so back to the railway station.

'One and all,' says the *Oxford Chronicle*, declared the day 'the most interesting in their lives.' The paper then records two individual comments. The first was described as 'a feminine observation,' (so the party was not in fact all male): 'It must be impossible for any young man to pass through such a place without becoming pure in life and noble in mind!'

Secondly, a 'rough working man' complained, 'What a pity it is that wise and learned gentlemen, such as we have seen today, do not come among us oftener!' The observation, although abrasive was timely enough. Like Cambridge, Oxford in the early 1880s was getting into 'university extension'; Congregation had debated in 1878 the establishment of lectures and examinations in English and Welsh industrial cities – 'to sweeten the toils of commerce', Jowett urged. The first such lecture took place that September, coincidentally in Birmingham (it was on English 17th century history: some things never change).

Apart from Jowett, enthusiasts included the Houseman Arthur Acland, first secretary to the Committee of Delegates of Local Examinations, with responsibility for the university extension programme (in 1884 he moved on to become Bursar of Balliol). As with any innovation in Oxford,

from examination class lists to electric tramways, there was foot dragging and false starts. Jowett's original preference had been for a network of local colleges, rather than peripatetic lecturers; Acland tried to yoke adult education to the Co-operative movement, with mixed success.

Perhaps the 'rough working man' had missed out on those first lectures in Birmingham (perhaps all that walking had not improved his temper). More likely he was aware of the burgeoning programme and wanted it speeded up. Either way, he is worth remembering not just as a contributor to this anniversary, but as a footnote to the social history of the time.

DUEL IN THE RAIN

As my second anniversary concerns an affair of honour, with pistols, bloodstains, and a (moderately) distraught young lady, you might suppose it dated from the Regency period, at the latest. In fact the 'duel' happened just 50 years ago – 28 May, 1954. One of the principals in the affair,



Ronald Eden, was at the House, the other, Alastair Forsyth, at Keble; Robert Milne-Tyte (St. Catherine's) acted as Master of Ceremonies (or 'referee' according to one account). Forsyth claims that it was Eden, 'a practical joker and japist,' who concocted the idea.

'It was part of the wheeze that the duel should become public,' Alastair Forsyth continues, while disclaiming any part in tipping off the press. Nevertheless the duel duly featured on the front pages both of the *Oxford Mail* and the *Daily Express*. *Cherwell*, recently converted to a tabloid and not usually shy of sensation, gave it only a brief anonymous report, which looks as if it had been lifted from the local paper.

On the evening of 27 May a 'challenge' had been issued, the details of which are obscure, although the *Mail* story places Prudence Taylor, a student at Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, 'at the centre of the quarrel.' Despite heavy rain, the following afternoon the duelling party made its way onto the Broad Walk.

Challenger and challenged stood back to back then, on Milne-Tyte's command, marched fifteen paces, turned and fired their weapons – variously described as 'heavy starting pistols' and '0.45 revolvers.' Alastair Forsyth staggered forward clutching his chest, while a red stain spread over his white shirt front. 'Dramatically coughing and choking,' he recalls, he was carried off by his seconds to the rooms of Vernon Dobtcheff in Meadow Buildings.

The gratifying press coverage no doubt made up for the fact that this lurid scene was witnessed by only

'a sprinkling of passers by' (among them, Forsyth says, was Lord Cherwell – 'the Prof' – who also lodged in Meadow Buildings but, unlike Dobtcheff, kept a manservant). The *Oxford Mail* reports that others, visitors to Oxford, 'gazed in astonishment' and asked a House gatekeeper what was happening: 'Just a new way of getting rid of undergraduates instead of sending them down,' replied the 'old college servant' who is, sadly, not named.

Ms Taylor, the ostensible cause of the falling out between the two parties, failed to turn up until the duel was over, commenting calmly, 'I was against it all along and I was afraid Alastair would get hurt.' As Ronald Eden was an accomplished marksman in his native Scotland, her fears seemed not unreasonable; that Alastair Forsyth is still with us to tell the tale suggests otherwise. The trick was carried off, he explains, with the aid of one of those rubber capsules

in which lighter fuel used to be sold (whatever happened to them; did they vanish with the London Rubber Company?). The capsule was filled with red ink and stuck beneath Alastair's shirt front. As Eden fired his blank cartridge, Forsyth squeezed the capsule, with satisfyingly gory effect.

All concerned seem to have come out of the affair remarkably well. Ronnie Eden was fined, he thinks, £3 by Robert Blake, then Junior Censor. After a spell as partner in the Government stockbrokers, he returned to run the family estate, and has written a number of books on Scottish life, field sports and recipes.

Alastair Forsyth's tutor, having scolded him for his part in the charade, gave him a very large glass of sherry. The duellists were also told off by the police. Alastair says he then made a 'logical progression from Greats' into the steel industry, thence into

export finance, ending up as director of a merchant bank. Robert Milne-Tyte worked for many years as a journalist, in newspapers and the BBC. Vernon Dobtcheff, despite playing only an off-stage role in this drama, became a familiar figure on stage and screen.

The Ruskin School failed to trace Prudence Taylor, but happily she has been found, living in Norfolk. She might well prefer her time in Oxford to be remembered for her work as scenic designer and artist for several outstanding productions, notably the Experimental Theatre Club's 'Dark of the Moon' in November 1954. But who could blame the (classically educated?) *Daily Express* sub-editor who seized the opportunity of coupling her name with Ronnie Eden's family motto – *Si Sit Prudentia?*

CHRIS SLADEN, 1953

Anthony David Edwards, 1956

Anthony went up to Christ Church in 1956 following his National Service. He was ripe for the academic intellectual pursuits of undergraduate life. He enjoyed the freedom and other stimulus of college life and the magnificent backdrop of the college itself.

The whole experience helped to shape his life, life interests and life-long friendships. He graduated in PPE and joined the staff of the EIU later becoming a Consultant Development Economist. His career led to travel and he would leave home with much work-related paperwork, a wide diversity of personal reading – and some clothes!

Christ Church undoubtedly shaped his interests in architecture, the arts, gardens – when in Meadows he had access to the Masters' Garden – interests we were later to share together.

Fairly recently we both had the opportunity to meet his tutor's widow, Lady Harrod, at the home of House contemporary Harvey Brettle. Anthony reminded us of a tutorial with Sir Roy which was interrupted by a phone call. Hand over mouthpiece, Sir Roy whispered 'The Queen Mother you know'.

We shared the feeling that one of the most enduring things the House gave Anthony was life-long friendships; these later extending to his friends' wives and families. How lucky I now am to have their friendship and support.

When, having no children, we began to think about making our wills, it seemed absolutely right that the House should be a beneficiary. At the time we were both apparently very fit and it wasn't easy to think

of one's own demise. Death seemed on some very far horizon. But we were wrong; Anthony, from being an energetic 66 year old, constructing and maintaining our three acre garden and two small vineyards, became seriously ill with a rare lymphoma and he died on 17 November 2003. So we'd been right to think the unthinkable, make our wills, and know that Christ Church was a jointly agreed beneficiary. We have both enjoyed our visits to the House and the Dean's hospitality in appreciation of our future financial commitment.

I'm so glad that when Anthony was well we had already set up a Bursary by gifting shares to the college. This gift started 'The Old Grove Fund'. The fund provides financial assistance to students in need from developing countries, who wish to study or who are already studying at Christ Church. Not only did Christ Church benefit from our gift; the exchanging of shares from our portfolios to Christ Church resulted in a worthwhile refund of tax for each of us.

I can't quite think that Anthony's interest in fine wines started at the House where the beers at the Buttery or 'The Bear' were so fine. However this interest was indulged at the House Gaudies where marvellously convivial times were shared with his friends.

BETH EDWARDS

OLD GROVE FUND

Being admitted to the University of Oxford was a childhood dream and since my school days, I have always worked hard to fulfil this dream. Being here at Christ Church is one of my biggest life achievements and I am definitely trying to make the



Anthony & Beth Edwards

most of my time in Oxford, academically as well as socially.

The close-knit community and unique environment of Christ Church has helped a lot towards my personal and moral development during the three years I have been here. When I first set foot in the UK, it was initially hard to adapt to my new surroundings but I was fortunate enough to experience the friendly atmosphere of Christ Church and this has provided a smooth transition into life in England.

Studying at a top British university – demands continuous hard work and dedication and it is good to have a break at the end of the academic year. Coming from a very modest financial background and Mauritius being 12 hours flight away, the trip is rather expensive. The grant that I receive from the Old Grove Fund helps towards subsidising my air ticket to fly back home and spend some time with my family after a whole year abroad. Thanks to the financial help, I will be able to enjoy a few weeks of holidays with people very dear to me and after a well deserved rest, I will be fresh again to start my final academic year.

MARILYN SHIN KOY SIEN, 2001

Charity Bike Rides

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

When an energetic friend invited me to join a bicycle ride off the beaten track which she was co-organising to raise money for children in public care I rashly said 'Yes!'. Just as there may be unforeseen benefits from pure research, so with training for a sponsored bike ride. I learnt about distances in Oxford as I criss-crossed from Headington to Summertown, from Botley to Cowley, Jericho to Marston. I discovered afresh the glories of Iffley church, the Jesse window at Dorchester, Great and Little Miltons, the Haseleys, Cuddesdon, Chalgrove and Binsey. The most improbable ride was with Christopher [Dean Lewis] on May Bank Holiday Monday, through villages across Otmoor, with our destination as Bicester Village for the business of buying shirts.

The House Custodians were the observers of my early morning sorties and I learnt of their astonishing feats and prowess as cyclists in their younger days. Gerald Beament, at one stage, bicycled a thousand miles a month by touring, racing and commuting.

The itinerary for this ride was Swindon to Bristol and back via the Forest of Dean and Gloucester. We kept off the beaten, or rather, motorised track and averaged sixty-five miles on each of three consecutive days. There were forty of us, of every age, condition and shape. Many were involved in looking after children in care.

There was wit ("Déjà vu!" when we took a wrong turn, "No, déjà vaincu!"), and mutual encouragement as we toiled. The quirks of different riders were intriguing. One upright woman pedalled uphill faster than she came down. The first and third days were gloriously sunny but on the middle day we had eleven hours of unbroken, sheeting rain. If we had ever thought that sponsored activity was an easy way to raise money, the wet, cold and gradients of the second day proved us wrong. When what we were doing seemed utter madness we thought of the children in care for whom, statistically, the prospects are so bleak. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors we raised much more than our target sum.

RHONA LEWIS



Rhona Lewis and Gerald Beament



Jonathan Cross, Tutor in Music

IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT THE GUINNESS...

What does a 21st-century Oxford don do during the Long Vacation? Write a book and three articles for the next Research Assessment Exercise? Of course. That goes without saying. But how to cope with the stresses and strains of the researcher's life? I opted this summer for a pint of Guinness in an Irish theme pub. Rather foolishly, though, I had to cycle nearly 300 miles to get it.

Dorothy House is a hospice based in Bradford-on-Avon (just outside Bath) that cares every day for over 500 families affected by cancer, motor neurone disease and other life-threatening conditions. Each year they need £3 million to support their activities and only a third of this money comes from the NHS. The Bath to Dublin Sponsored Bike Ride was intended to boost the hospice's coffers while offering a handful of foolhardy locals the opportunity to cycle across Wales and Ireland in just four days.

Fuelled by croissants and coffee (very French, but not exactly the carbohydrate-rich food of choice of the Tour de France riders), seven Lycra-clad

individuals set off from Bradford on 20 August and, miraculously, seven of us filed together through the streets of Dublin four days later. Once over the Severn Bridge, we passed via Brecon to Fishguard, where we caught the ferry to Rosslare. (No, we didn't use pedalos.) Then only the pretty town of Arklow and the Wicklow Mountains stood in the way of us and the Fair City. Just one tumble and one puncture between us, we coped with wind, torrential rain, mad dogs, 92 miles of steep Welsh hills, a force seven swell in St. George's Channel and a Guinness-filled evening in the bar from TV's 'Ballykissangel'.

Nearly £1,500 each for Dorothy House was the result. That was perhaps the biggest challenge of all, but the tactic of promising to shave my legs to win sponsorship seemed to pay off. I'm not sure I want to go through the coming winter with bald limbs, but it was worth it just to look a bit more like Lance Armstrong. If only I could have cycled a bit more like him too.

JONATHAN CROSS, *Tutor in Music*

For further information on Dorothy House go to www.dorothyhouse.co.uk. And it's not too late to sponsor Jonathan: just go to www.justgiving.com/Bath-Dublin if you'd like to support the work of this outstanding hospice.

The Burn Law Library

I WAS AMONGST THE EARLIEST YEARS of undergraduates to benefit from the 'new' law library. When I came to read Law at Christ Church the conversion of the old Steward's Office and Treasury under Hall was recently complete, with new fittings, comfortable chairs and lighting: a space that was bright and modern (but done so sensitively to fit the new with the old 16th century vaulting) and well equipped with almost all the books that an undergraduate could need. That was in the late 1970s.

Things change. The collection grew – not only by the natural accretion that all lawyers know in their collection of books, journals and series of law reports; but also by a continuation of the policy of expansion which Edward Burn had started (on, I suspect, the day he arrived here in 1954 as he inspected the scope of holdings of the 'old' Law Library on Tom 4). The lawyers of Christ Church needed to be given the best opportunities available for study, and this means that we must have the best college law library in Oxford (and, he intended, better than many standard university library collections outside Oxford). So in the 1970s, when the Tom 4 law library could no longer hold its collection, Teddy had the vision of creating the wonderful new library under Hall. It was designed to have room for many years'

expansion of the collection. But it soon started to outgrow the space. When I first arrived, Hansard took up one whole wall of the library. By the late 1980s, the addition of some key new materials (mainly European and Commonwealth law reports and journals) had pushed Hansard into a back room (first single-banked, later double-banked on the shelving). And in the original design of the 'new' Law Library there was a set of two rooms for the Law Weekender. That had to be encroached upon for book space in the 1980s, and eventually taken over for (rather uncomfortable) use by graduates as we increased significantly the number of our graduate lawyers in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

By the late 1990s, Teddy's Law Library needed a thorough re-fit. Moreover, the continuing, natural expansion of the collection was threatened because of the extraordinary rise in costs – particularly journals and loose-leaf books. We measured the cost of Law against the cost of other subjects in the college. Law is always (and everywhere) more expensive than most other subjects in terms of its library collections. In 1976 the college spent some 20% of its total annual library budget on law books. By 1995, that figure had risen to 40%; by 2001 it was 46%. Something had to give. We undertook a review of the collection (as we do regularly). But unless

we could find funding from elsewhere, a review would turn into enforced cuts of the collection. And the refurbishing of the Law Library was not a sufficiently high priority (set against, for example, major repairs of the college fabric) for us to expect the Governing Body to find £200,000 to do the work.

We therefore turned to our old members who read law, or now work in the law. The response was marvellous. We were able to raise sufficient funds very quickly to enable the refurbishment works to go ahead on time in the Long Vacation of 2003. And the threatened cuts of the library holdings – first given a stay of execution while we sought to demonstrate to the Governing Body that we *should* be able to raise the funds to endow the collection – have now been lifted. After careful, tentative discussions with some individual old members in both the UK and the US, we formally launched the Law Appeal in December 2001. By the time we held the formal opening of the Burn Law Library in May 2004, we were over 90% of the way to our overall target of £1.2million to modernise and endow the Law Library.

The furnishing of the original space in the 1970s had not been done without the help of friends of Law at Christ Church, and in particular through the generosity of

Teddy Burn, Emeritus Student



friends of Hugh Cox (1905-1973), an outstanding American lawyer who read Law at Christ Church as a Rhodes Scholar (his rather dashing photograph is now on the wall of the newly refurbished Law Library). And the latest work (and securing the entire collection by endowment) could not have been done without our old members and benefactors.

The result is a wonderful new space under Hall. Its capacity has been extended further – both for readers (with a redevelopment of the old Law Weekenders' flat into a room equipped for graduates to work) and books (with high capacity shelving in the 'Hansard Room'). And its facilities are as they now need to be: new desks and chairs, with computer and power sockets at every desk; new lighting and heating; all accessible now by wheelchair. It is a bright and modern space, well equipped with everything that an undergraduate or graduate could need. It is the Law Library for the 21st century, but it is still Teddy's library – and it is now rightly named the Burn Law Library.

JOHN CARTWRIGHT, *Tutor in Law*

LEARNING TAKES PLACE when students are motivated and interested in the subject...but having a pleasant working environment certainly helps matters! Last year's renovation of the Christ Church Burn Law Library has brought countless benefits to the law students in college.

On a superficial level the soft lighting, new colour scheme, plush carpets and state of the art office furniture create an atmosphere more like that of a private study rather than an institutional library. The personalised swipe-card entry system helps maintain this impression and ensures that law students gain exclusive access to the facilities; the cause of envy for other undergraduates in college!

Power sockets and internet points at every desk mean that we can write essays with the law reports at our fingertips and journal articles instantly accessible online. It also goes without saying that the unrivalled 24 hour access is invaluable during the occasional essay crisis. The transformation of the Law Library has well and truly moved it into the twenty-first century.

KATHERINE COOK, BA 2002



FOUR AMERICAN FORMER PUPILS of Teddy Burn (Denny Lewis, Gregor Baer, Gregor Sohns and myself) joined an eminent delegation of lawyers and judges from the UK at the dedication of the Burn Law Library in early May. It was a splendid occasion, Teddy being in vibrant form (looking very little changed from when I first met him in October of 1957!)

The Library has been magnificently rebuilt and well equipped with the needed accoutrements of the digital age, now essential in the learning and practice of law.

The Law Appeal, the first component of the Campaign for Christ Church to get underway, has been a resounding success. Thanks to the generosity of many old members, we have raised over \$250,000 and hope for about another \$100,000 before our efforts wind up.

PETER S PAINE JR, 1957

CHRIST CHURCH LAW STUDENTS returning after the Summer Vacation 2003 were privileged to be greeted by the freshly-revamped college Law Library.

Perhaps the most noticeable improvement for the graduates has been that the former (somewhat poky) two-room graduate workspace has been turned into one large room. This has completely transformed what was once a relatively under-utilized study area into a space which is much better suited to accommodating the burgeoning number of graduates.

The renovated library also benefits from improved lighting, as well as ergonomically-designed chairs which are far more comfortable than their rickety predecessors. These new creature comforts, along with extra Ethernet connections and updated shelving, have left the graduates with no excuse not to rank amongst the most industrious in Oxford.

LISA-ANGELIQUE GOUGH, DPHIL 2000

*Bottom left: Peter S Paine, Jr., 1957; Teddy Burn and Edward Cazalet, 1956
Bottom right: Teddy and Marilyn Burn with the Dean*



'No Peel'

I QUICKLY DISCOVERED in my first year here that, as a direct consequence of being a history tutor at Christ Church, one finds oneself constantly surrounded by the very stuff to which one is constitutionally addicted. Every space in the college is resonant with historical meaning, including even the much-maligned Blue Boar, which incarnates a splendidly dated version of the architecture of the future. One could spend a lifetime enumerating these historical resonances, and Hugh Trevor-Roper's magnificent historical guide to Christ Church (readily available from the library), acts as an irreplaceable *vade mecum* to the college. Every member of the House ought to read it, not least to familiarise themselves with the prose style of the finest historical essayist since Macaulay – in fact, in my reckoning, Trevor-Roper was a much better prose stylist than Macaulay *, and his judgements were infinitely more varied!. (He was also one of the few historians to dare to use exclamation marks in his work, and one ought, accordingly, to have the confidence to deploy them occasionally in one's own writing. So, let us have another!) There are, however, two objects in Oxford as a whole that I find especially moving. The first, the Alfred Jewel in the Ashmolean, is an exquisite encapsulation of the rich culture of the Anglo-Saxon era, complete with its haunting inscription, which translates as 'Alfred had me made'. The second, rather different object (one might wish, more trendily, to call it a 'space'), is the phrase 'no peel', studded in nails on the door facing the bottom of the Hall stairs in Christ Church. If pressed, I would have to say that it is the latter of these objects, a sort of primitive installation piece, a proto-protest art work, which I find the more moving. To make sense of this claim permit me to offer to you my own slim contribution to the minor art of historical periodisation: The Trans-Equine Period of British History.

This period, which I modestly propose as a useful compromise between those proffered



by adherents of the long eighteenth century (1660-1832), and the long nineteenth century (1790-1914), comprises the years between 1702 and 1850. (These, coincidentally, are the years in which I spend most of my historical time, not least because I find them the most attractive in British history: one should always, ideally, seek to devote one's labours to the things one loves.) Why, though, the Trans-Equine Period? In 1702, William III, 'Our Great Deliverer', fell off his horse and subsequently died, an accident caused by a mole disturbing his mount: hence that great Jacobite oath to 'The Gentleman in Black Velvet', no doubt occasionally heard here under Dean Atterbury, who was later, when bishop of Rochester, stylishly banished from the kingdom for plotting with representatives of the House of Stuart.

One could spend a lifetime enumerating these historical resonances, and Hugh Trevor-Roper's magnificent historical guide to Christ Church acts as an irreplaceable *vade mecum* to the college.

In 1850, Sir Robert Peel, the greatest, indeed the only truly great Prime Minister this country has ever had, also died as a result of a fall when riding. To my mind, the greater loss is the second, and Peel was, after all, one of the no fewer than fifteen Prime Ministers to have been educated at Christ Church. (Admittedly, one of their number, the Duke of Wellington was an Honorary Student, who had never studied here – a university education would have spoiled him; his brother, however, the Marquis Wellesley, a quondam Governor-General of India, was educated here, and became a Student, albeit not – as a lovely error underneath his picture in the SCR insists – at the age of 8: intellectual precocity was never so absurdly encouraged at The House). The SCR contains prints (and latterly photographs) of all of these men, from the Earl of Bath, who held the office for two frustrating February days in 1746, to Alec Douglas-Home, who was in office for only one year between 1963 and 1964. I heartily encourage all of my undergraduates who harbour political ambitions to cultivate and develop them, since it is high time that a member of Christ Church added to our tally of Prime Ministerial talent, thereby ensuring that we don't go out with a political whimper.

As one looks across these variously impressive images, all sorts of historically edifying occupations suggest themselves, one of which is to enumerate them in strict order of merit. I find it peculiarly satisfying to conclude that the three greatest Prime Ministers in Britain's history are on those walls: Peel, Gladstone (a long way behind him, but well ahead of any challenger), and Lord Salisbury (a controversial choice, but I'm sticking with it. The nearest competitor for third place in my perhaps rather conservative pantheon is Pitt the Younger, educated, mysteriously, at Pembroke College, Cambridge).

Of course, one has other favourites, notably Lord Rosebery, who succeeded in a much more illustrious, exacting, and altogether

more glamorous task than the often dull business of heading a government: he won the Derby three times. (perhaps, then, I ought to extend my Trans-Equine Period to accommodate this glorious achievement, but 1702 to 1929, the year of Rosebery's death – which didn't involve a fall from a horse – would be stretching historical credibility).

Why, then, Peel? There is only one practical response to this question: where to begin? He was the first of the more educationally accomplished of our national leaders, being the first of two men to take a double first at Oxford: the other was John Keble, whose High Churchmanship was not to Peel's dry Evangelical taste (one can't ask everything of one's heroes!) He managed to turn the Tory Party into a party of ideals and ideas, popularising the neologism 'popularise' when urging his party to seek success at the polls. He was effectively the inventor of the modern Conservative Party; the son of a Lancashire industrialist, he had always been a sound economist, ensuring in the 1820s the creation of a strong metallic currency, and preferring the honest use of income tax to the frequently sneaky ways of indirect taxation. Above all, he dared to change his mind, not least over Ireland, losing in the process his Protestant nickname, 'Orange' Peel (he was also redheaded); he daringly and controversially endorsed state support for the Irish Catholic seminary at Maynooth in the 'Hungry '40s'. Indeed, his irreproachable commitment to intellectual and political honesty was such that he had the courage to split the Conservative Party twice, both over Ireland and over the repeal of the Corn Laws, the latter a landowner's charter that was wildly inappropriate in an age of industrial expansion. The Corn Laws had also played a baneful effect during the Irish Famine, an event which Peel, long interested in Irish affairs, grew to feel particularly strongly. He ended his parliamentary career adrift from the party he had created, surrounded by a small cadre of Peelites, but respected by the wider political nation. He had had the singular political merit of not only being able to change his mind, but also to have possessed the common decency to let the world know – eventually – when he had done so. It is this all too rare ability that has its moving, if initially critical, memorial in 'no peel.' (All historians ought to be alert to irony.)

In 1829, Peel, then the 41 year old member for Oxford University, had moved over to support for Catholic Emancipation, a proposal which, as a consistent Protestant, he had previously opposed so strongly as to resign from the cabinet of George Canning, another Christ Church educated Prime Minister, and a supporter of emancipation.

Convinced, eventually, that opposition to emancipation would be politically disastrous, and aware of a public mood which increasingly supported it, Peel agonised, and ultimately changed his mind, sagely moving to become the MP for Westbury. Peel himself introduced the act under the premiership of the Iron Duke, masterminding a controversial piece of legislation which freed Catholics from their then total exclusion from the political life of the nation. In Anglican Oxford, and especially in Christ Church, replete with a Cathedral and several quadrangles of clergy, such a decision was widely viewed as treachery of the first kind, interpreted by these self-interested parties as the beginning of the undoing of the old order in which the university and the Church had hitherto

'No peel', the earliest, simplest, and most direct example of conceptual art in the country, that speaks most redolently to me in a college that is filled with history and art.



flourished. A party of offended Christ Church men made their protest known by hammering in, in one of the most public spaces in the college, passed several times a day by most of its members, those two telling monosyllables: 'no peel.'

This artistic 'happening' (and members of Christ Church should be happy to have anticipated later examples by some one hundred and thirty odd years – how advanced even reactionaries can be!), had the unfortunate effect of ending Peel's direct association with the college. This was an astonishing failure of political imagination on the part of Christ Church, and it was an error indulged by many of its members. The college's egg cook (in those happily more leisurely days such an office existed), informed a young Gladstone, then a Student of the House, that it was a great shame that Mr Peel had so let the country down, as he had been such a kind gentleman when an undergraduate. How much less kind, how much less gentlemanly were those who nailed up 'no peel', and yet what a vivid legacy to the political passions of those divided days they have left us!

Works of art take many forms, from the Alfred Jewel on, and not the least of Peel's legacies to the nation was his own spectacular collection of paintings, predominantly Dutch and Flemish work of the seventeenth century, which is now to be seen in the National Gallery. In addition to all his other many virtues, Peel had singularly good taste. It is, however, 'no peel', the earliest, simplest, and most direct example of conceptual art in the country, that speaks most redolently to me in a college that is filled with history and art.

BRIAN YOUNG, *Tutor in Modern History*

**For an acute study of Macaulay, see The Quarrel of Macaulay and Croker: Politics and History in the Age of Reform (Oxford, 2000), the work of my immediate predecessor at Christ Church, William Thomas. I cannot recommend this book strongly enough, not only for the considered insights it offers into the political and cultural worlds of the period with which it so authoritatively deals, but also for its brilliantly effective prose style.*

Lost Old Members

CAN YOU HELP?

Are you in touch with any fellow old members of the House who are listed below?

About 15% of our old members are sadly lost to us at any given time. Of course, people move house, maybe even country, so it is not always easy to stay in touch. The Christ Church Alumni Association is for you, all old members of the House, and enables you to keep up to date with Christ Church news, events that are being organised, and gives you the

chance to keep in contact with old friends and colleagues.

We would like to be able to communicate with as many of you as possible; we hope you will feel as we do, that once you have been a member of Christ Church, you always are, and we are delighted to hear your news and see you whenever possible.

If you discover the whereabouts of anyone on the lost list, please let the Development and Alumni Office know. For every member you 'turn in' we will enter your name in a draw for a Christ Church gift. There will be 5 winners.

Simply send contact details of the lost old member you have found, along with your name, so we can enter you into the draw, to Chris Clements in the Development Office at Christ Church, or via email: christopher.clements@chch.ox.ac.uk.

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Hugh Smyth, 1952

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Michael Van de Stempel, 1952

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Richard Spector, 1959

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Claudia Fitzherbert, 1983

1980 Isobel H Walder
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 1983 Nigel G Ramsden
 1983 Adam D Sack
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 1983 Gottfried Von Bismarck
 1983 Rupert N Wates

In House

Day Schools Launched

Members of the House were well represented among participants in the college's first Day School held on 25 September. Under the title **Maritime Discovery and Exploration**, three expert guest speakers provided illustrated lectures on the theme of eighteenth century European exploration in the Pacific.

The inevitable central figure of the day was Captain James Cook whose heroic image was reassessed by Professor Glyn Williams, characterising Cook variously as 'a standard bearer of the Enlightenment' a 'respected seaman of iron perseverance' and as a man more sensitive than most about the consequences of discovery.

Professor Andrew Lambert, Laughton Professor of Naval History at King's College London, described his own participation in the replica Endeavour's re-enactment of Cook's journey inside the Great Barrier Reef and into the Timor Sea on his first voyage along Australia's east coast.

It was left to Jeremy Coote, Joint Head of Collections at this University's Pitt Rivers Museum, to bring the subject right into the heart of Christ Church. It was Jeremy Coote who had rediscovered a collection given to the House by old member Joseph Banks, who travelled on Cook's first voyage, and returned home with a staggering volume and

array of botanical specimens and artefacts, called 'artificial curiosities' in the language of the time. It is this ethnographic collection which belongs to Christ Church and which formed the theme of his talk. His lecture which, like the others, was richly illustrated with visual images also included recordings of Tahitian women beating bark cloth against the background of the ocean, just as Cook would have heard it. He concluded encouragingly that cultural attitudes to ethnography in the late twentieth century chime more closely with the enlightened views expressed by Cook and Banks, than those of the intervening colonial era.



Gaudies

The most senior cohort of old members, those who matriculated up to 1946, attended this year's summer Gaudy in late June. The oldest matriculands present were Ralph Kerslake and David Williams, both of whom came up in 1933. Professor Dick Sargent proposed the toast to the House.

The autumn Gaudy, held on 1 October, was again an all-male occasion with years 1976–1979 effectively representing the last before the admission of women, now twenty-five years ago. A wide-ranging address by Professor Michael Dobson was warmly received by members.

Gaudies in 2005 will be held on Thursday 23 June and Friday 30 September and are for 1947–1953 and 1980–1983 members respectively. Invitations are customarily sent out about three months in advance. The full Gaudy programme for the present cycle is published in the Annual Report.

Forthcoming Conferences at Christ Church


Christ Church · Oxford
SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKEND PROGRAMME
Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 April 2005

An opportunity to stay at Christ Church, Oxford, one of Oxford's premier colleges.

Choose either the
HISTORY PROGRAMME:
**An English Revolution:
The Civil War 1642–49**
— or the —
BOTANY & DISCOVERY PROGRAMME:
**A Passion for Plants:
A Garden Revolution**

Both programmes are designed to be accessible to the informed visitor and of scholarly merit; both are led by tutors and guest speakers of distinction in their fields.

**Full board accommodation
All meals in Hall, including
Gala Dinner
Social programme and
special tours**




For more information please contact:
Miss Alex Webb
Conference and Events
Administrator
The Steward's Office,
Christ Church,
Oxford OX1 1DP
Tel: 01865 276174/286848
alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk

THE TRAFALGAR BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE



**War at Sea in the
Age of Sail**

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2005

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

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

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




A New Day School
World War II – Unfinished Business
DAY SCHOOL PROGRAMME

To be held at Christ Church University of Oxford
on Saturday 19 March 2005

Offering lectures by leading historians, broadcasters and authors, the Day School will focus on those elements of World War II history which are amongst the most enduring and controversial. The event will be attended by veterans of RAF Bomber Command.

Tickets: £49 including the full lecture programme, morning refreshments, lunch and afternoon tea. Overnight accommodation is also available.

Please contact:
World War II Day School
The Steward's Office, Christ Church
Oxford OX1 1DP
Tel: 01865 276174/286848 Fax: 01865 286328
Email: conferences@chch.ox.ac.uk
www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Choir tour of the USA

THE LIST OF OVERSEAS tours undertaken by the Choir of Christ Church over the past ten years makes impressive reading, but tours to the USA are particularly exciting. Of course such a trip is a massive undertaking but the thrill and excitement of bringing the Choir of Christ Church to so many wonderful cities and performing in front of huge audiences is an inspiration to all those involved. When the Choir last visited Washington DC in 2000, the *Washington Post* referred to its singing of early music 'with superb style in an English boy-choir tradition that dates back to when the music was new', so we have quite a reputation to maintain!

In an age in which the world has become a smaller place, we are now able to share the great living tradition of the choir with international audiences, not just through CD recordings but in live performances.

Next year's tour takes in seven States. We begin in the depths of Texas, performing in Amarillo and Lubbock before moving on to Atlanta, Georgia, back to Dallas and then on to Kansas City. Knoxville, Tennessee is next on the list, followed by the magnificent city of St Louis, Missouri, and then across to Richmond, Virginia. Finally we reach Washington DC, where our visit coincides with the launch of a major exhibition of the works of the 18th-century portrait painter Gilbert Stuart at the National Gallery of Art, and then New York, a concert promoted by the American Friends of Christ Church. In both Washington DC and New York there will be special receptions for old members and friends. We will be delighted to see you at these concerts and you will find full details about them listed here. Hopefully, hearing the Choir will bring back happy memories of your time at Christ Church. For our part, we are looking forward to this tour with eager anticipation!

STEPHEN DARLINGTON, *Organist and Tutor in Music*

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR USA TOUR 2005

Thursday 31 March	St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Amarillo, Texas	Ticket information to be confirmed. For full details www.chhchoir.org in January
Friday 1 April 2000	First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas. Sponsored by the Friends of Music	Admission: Free
Sunday 3 April 1500	Spivey Hall, Morrow, Atlanta, Georgia	Tickets: \$20. http://www.spiveyhall.org
Monday 4 April 1930	St Rita's Church, Dallas, Texas	Tickets: \$20 (\$15 students and seniors). Further information: 972-934-8388 Ext.219
Wednesday 6 April 1930	Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City	Ticket information to be confirmed. For full details www.chhchoir.org in January
Thursday 7 April 1930	Church Street United Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee	Tickets: 865-521-0276 after 15 February email: jrogers@churchstreetumc.org
Friday 8 April 2000	Basilica of St Louis St Louis, Missouri	Tickets: \$25, \$15 Tel: 314-533-7662 www.stlcathedralconcerts.org
Saturday 9 April 1930	All Saints Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia	To be confirmed. For further details www.chhchoir.org in January
Sunday 10 April 1830	National Gallery of Art, Washington DC	Tickets: Entry free (doors open 1800)
Monday 11 April 1930	Church of the Heavenly Rest, 2 East 90th Street, New York, promoted by the American Friends of Christ Church, Inc.	Tickets: On sale at the door

Return of the Christ Church Commemoration Ball

ON THE 18TH JUNE 2005 Christ Church will be hosting our first commemoration ball in 15 years. The House welcomes you to join us for this celebration. The entire ball will be based on the theme of 'The Looking Glass' and we hope to reflect both the standing of the House within the university and the distinction of our alumni. In addition to the eclectic array of entertainment that is planned for the

evening, we can also offer old members a private reception and lounge area throughout the event. Dinner in hall and punting on the Cherwell are additional options for our guests. Tickets are on sale, exclusively, to current and old members of Christ Church until the middle of January 2005, after which they will also be offered to other university members. Ticket prices: Standard Ball: £100. Standard Ball and Punting: £110. Dinner and Ball:

£135. Punting, Dinner and Ball: £145. Access to the old members' area will be an additional £25. Further information can be found at www.christchurchball.com; for tickets and enquiries please contact the Christ Church Development & Alumni Office.

We look forward to seeing you there.

VICTORIA TOWNSEND, 2002, *Ball President*

THE CHRIST CHURCH COMMEMORATION BALL

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone No.

E-mail

Year of Matriculation.....

Please send me tickets to the Commemoration Ball on Saturday 18th June.

- Number of Standard Ball tickets at £100
- Number of Standard Ball and Punting tickets at £110
- Number of Dinner and Ball tickets at £135
- Number of Punting, Dinner and Ball tickets at £145
- Number of tickets above requiring access to old members' area at £25

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to the "Christ Church Ball"

Please charge my Visa Access Mastercard Switch Delta Amount £

Card Number / / / Expiry Date

Issue No. or Start Date (if Switch) Signature

**Please send completed form with a stamped addressed envelope to:
The Development and Alumni Office (College Ball), Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP**

Chris Church Association News

M I C H A E L M A S T E R M 2 0 0 4

I S S U E 1 4

Editorial

Much has happened since the last edition of Association News. I now have a bouncing seven month old, who, along with his three and a half year old sister, is a "helper" for this newsletter. The Greeks won the European Football Championships. And we know who is the American President for the next four years.

Motivated by all the coverage of the presidential elections, I thought it would be interesting to see what impact Housemen are having on politics and so I searched for old members of the House involved in this field. There are a lot. Instead of highlighting the usual three to five old members, this edition brings news of nine, involved in politics. There were many more on the database, whom I did not contact as I had already received such a positive response. There were also a few who did not want to take part in the feature (a politician shy of publicity, surely not). We have defined politics in its broadest sense and include articles from old members associated with the major political parties in the UK, including an MP, the Prime Minister's Senior Policy Adviser, and the Party Treasurer for the Liberal Democrats. We also have input from an MEP and several civil servants including the Head of the Scotland Office, the Clerk of the Parliaments

and other experienced civil servants in various departments. And we hear from one old member who was involved inside politics for many years and who is now in industry, looking after government relations for his company.

This edition we have introduced a triennial overview of events organised by Christ Church which may be of interest to old members. We will publish updated versions of the calendar in future editions of Christ Church Matters, indicating the dates of the events when they are confirmed. On 18th June, for the first time in eleven years, Christ Church will hold the Commem Ball. A small number of tickets have been allocated to old members, so if you are interested in joining in the fun, you should contact the Development Office as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. We have included news of the Boat Trip and the 1980s reunion dinner, both held in June and the City Event, held in November.

I receive a number of letters asking if people can be put in touch with old friends. You may like to know that Christ Church is building an on-line registry of old members on their website www.chch.ox.ac.uk. It is worth checking to

see if you are listed and if you are, whether your details are correct. You can do this by clicking 'Alumni', then 'Association', and then 'Members Section' and once here you can log on. You will have to register if you have not before and will need proof that you are an old member. This is achieved by way of a number, which can be found on the address label of this newsletter. If you have thrown it away, the Development Office can let you know what it is. If you have not registered before you will be asked for your email address and you will be sent an email with your username and password. A word of advice, these passwords are notoriously difficult to remember, so it is best to save the email somewhere accessible for future reference. Once you have negotiated your way into the old members' area, it is then simple to find your way to the registry.

This newsletter relies on receiving news of old members. So why not drop me a line with your thoughts or comments and I will try to include as many of them as I can in the next edition due out at the beginning of Trinity term.

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981)
fiona.holdsworth@btinternet.com

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH ON SATURDAY, 26 JUNE 2004

PRESENT (including):

Simon Offen (acting Chairman)
Pollyanna Deane (Secretary)
Robert Boyle (Treasurer)
John Harris (Steward)
Nick Alexander (Vice President)
Fiona Holdsworth, Tony Burden
John Ellison, Nick Nops

APOLOGIES:

Sue Cunningham (Development Director)

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 20th September, 2003

The minutes had been circulated in Christ Church Matters. They were approved.

2. Report on Activities

2.1 David Gillespie (the former Chairman) had resigned and has had a successful move to the South of France. The Association wished him all future happiness. The post of Chairman was therefore open for election at this meeting having been filled on an interim basis by Simon Offen.

2.2 The Year Representative Scheme had been the main focus of activity with year representatives being recruited across the years of matriculation starting in 1980 and ending in 1989. Year representatives were anticipated to form a social focus and an information gathering network. A dinner organised by the representatives was being held that evening in Christ Church. Although response had been muted, the Scheme was likely to be rolled out to other decades the following year.

2.3 The Association was holding a boat trip taking place on the Thames on the afternoon of 26th June 2004.

2.4 The Careers Scheme was in good shape thanks to the valuable support of Tony Burden, John Ellison and Jonathan Heller. Thanks were given to them and it was noted that the scheme was very well regarded within the college and indeed outside.

2.5 A small legal gathering had been held on 8 May 2004.

2.6 The Steward discussed the "Maritime Discovery and Exploration Day School" to be held at college on Saturday, 25 September and also gave information regarding the next spring and autumn weekends based on subjects such as Botany and Captain James Cook's Voyages to Tahiti (in the Spring) and, as part of the 'Conflict Series' in the autumn of 2005, there would be a five day conference on 'War at Sea in the Age of Sail'. The Steward reported that the events so far held have been very successful. In addition, he mentioned that Association members were invited to drinks at the Deanery as a special privilege if they attended these weekends.

3. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Robert Boyle, handed out the accounts for the Association for year ending June 2004. These were largely self-explanatory and showed that the Association aimed to break even on all its events.

4. The Election of Chairman and Committee Members

4.1 Nick Alexander proposed and John Harris seconded the appointment of Simon Offen as Chairman. This was unanimously passed.

4.2 Sophie Biddell, Tony Burden and John Ellison were elected or re-elected to stand for the Association Committee. (Proposed: Nick Alexander, seconded: the Chairman).

4.3 It was noted that Peter Bebb, James Ross and Jonathan Heller were due for retirement from the Committee and could not be re-elected. The Chairman thanked them for their sterling work and wished them all the best for the future.

The Chairman expressed the view that the Association was always looking for new people to drive the Association forward.

5. The Year Representative Scheme

The Chairman opened the meeting to discussion of the Year Representative Scheme. He reiterated the plans to roll the scheme out for years other than the 1980s and that all the current Year Reps would be together in November. The main reason for the scheme was to provide conduits for information.

6. AOB

It was noted that the next AGM will be held in September 2005 to coincide with the Association's Dinner in Hall.

There being no further business the meeting then closed.

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

Below is listed an overview of events organised by Christ Church which may be of interest to old members. We will publish updated versions of the calendar in future editions of *Christ Church Matters*, indicating dates when they are confirmed. *Christ Church Matters* is published twice a year, in the Michaelmas and Trinity terms. Should you want any further information on any of the events listed below, please contact the Development Office. Tel: 44 (0)1865 286325. e-mail: development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

	2005	2006	2007
First Quarter	Vacation Job Placements Assoc. Meeting Careers Evening 19th March – WWII Day School	Vacation Job Placements Assoc. Meeting Careers Evening Proposed Supper, Wine Tasting, and Waddesdon pre-opening preview	Vacation Job Placements Careers Evening
Second Quarter	7th–10th April Special Interest Weekend Civil War/Plants Christ Church Cathedral Choir US concert tour starting April 1st. Final dates, to include, receptions: 10th April – Washington DC 11th April – New York, NY 18th June – Commem. Ball 23rd June – Gaudy (47-53)	April – Special Interest Weekend Proposed Summer Event to mark the 25th Anniversary of Women's entry to the college. June – Gaudy (54-58)	April – Special Interest Weekend Proposed Summer Event – Garden Party or a Sports Day Possibly with a 1970s Evening Event June – Gaudy (59-62)
Third Quarter	July 1st – Chemists' dinner 4th – 9th Sept Conflict Series War at Sea in the Age of Nelson Proposed Arts/Media Event Committee Meeting AGM Assoc. Dinner 30th Sept Gaudy (80-83)	Committee Meeting AGM Assoc. Dinner (incl. Family Programme) Sept – Gaudy (84-87) Sept – Day School Sept – Conflict Series Conference	Proposed City Event Committee Meeting AGM Assoc. Dinner (incl. Family Programme) Sept – Conflict Series Conference Sept – Gaudy (88-90)
Fourth Quarter	Careers Evening Proposed Young Person's Event – London, 1990s Year Reps' Dinner & Meeting	Careers Evening Proposed Legal Event Year Reps' Dinner & Meeting	Careers Evening Year Reps' Dinner & Meeting

The 1980s dinner

As part of the new Year Reps scheme, a dinner was organised for those matriculating in the 1980s. The evening was run on a 1920s theme. Those intrepid souls who had survived the boat trip were easily spotted as they had an air about them of people who had recently returned victoriously from a trip to the Antarctic. One old member, Richard Marsh (1981) mused:

“We didn't quite manage to pack out hall, but at least the McKenna room was heaving (well OK, swaying gently) as the 1980s generation came back home to the House for a reunion dinner. From far and wide we came: Korea in one instance; California in another, which made my own minor pilgrimage from just the other side of Banbury seem a little grudging. Others had been less stinting, including by getting into the 1920s mood, which gave a suitably leisured and decadent theme to the evening. Welcome to the Brideshead generation: and if you had a ground-floor room in Peck that night, probably just as well to keep the window closed.”

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981)

City Event

The biennial Christ Church Association City reception was held on November 3 by courtesy of Hamish Ritchie (1961) at Marsh & McClellan's offices beside the Tower. A record attendance of around 125 alumni who matriculated between 1948 and 1998 enjoyed a lively evening of reunions and City networking which was still going strong, framed by a magnificent view of the Pool of London and Tower Bridge, at well past 9pm. The college was well represented and the Dean, Christopher Lewis, spoke for a few minutes emphasising the likely drift to self-sufficiency by the major universities, the even-handedness of the college admissions systems which focuses exclusively on merit and potential, and the stringent financial climate enforced on the higher educational system. Every effort was made to invite alumni with past and present City connections but if you were not included and would like to be invited to the next event, please let the Development Office know (development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk).

ROBERT BOYLE (1966)

The Boat Trip

This year's Summer Event was designed specifically to ensure it rained. After an Association meeting and the AGM in the morning, one hundred intrepid voyagers gathered picnics from Hall and dashed for the Salter Bros. jetty at Folly Bridge.

Sitting, huddled together for warmth and shelter under cloth awnings, like 19th century emigrants leaving for America, we watched the rain engulf all around in what was turning out to be a perfect storm.

Occasionally the covers became water logged and deposited a gallon or two of freezing water on a hapless sandwich-munching soul below. Adults grimaced, children roared with laughter.

Gradually the mood lightened. Was it the ever closer proximity of the Promised Land? Was it the excellent Oxford Jazz Quartet, keyboard and all, who could have graced the Titanic, and possibly did! More likely it was due to the cold red wine, which through some mystery of chemistry still managed to warm chilly fingers, toes and noses.

By the time the boat turned, somewhere beyond the Radley Boat House, and started the return leg, the company was almost euphoric! Never mind what hardships might be lying in wait when we docked – dinner for the 1980s decade faced some – we would at last be back on dry land.

Next year's Summer Event is rumoured to be a one day conference for medics on “The effect of Oxford's climate on the Incidence of Pneumonia and Bronchial Infection.”

SIMON OFFEN (1986)



In this issue we hear from nine members involved in politics, as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

Paul Hayter (1961)

Christ Church had an unexpectedly large influence on my career. For a start it was a fellow undergraduate who suggested my working in a place whose attractions had never crossed my mind. Secondly, the House of Lords is one of the few non-academic institutions for which a history degree is a positive qualification. Coupled with that, political theory comes to life when applied to everyday work.

I started as a clerk in the House of Lords a week after going down from Oxford; five weeks later my first paid holiday began. I remained on the bottom rung of the Parliament Office for four years, so small was the office. But that was in 1964, only six years after the Life Peerages Act 1958, and the renaissance of the Lords was only just beginning. The average daily attendance of Members then was about 100 and we were 12 clerks in the senior administrative structure, among a total staff of about 100. Now the

average daily attendance is 385 (out of a membership of 710) and the number of clerks has risen to 34 out of a total staff of 450. And I have risen to the position of Clerk of the Parliaments – employer of all those staff, chief executive, Corporate Officer of the House, chief procedural adviser, Registrar of the House in its judicial capacity, and the person responsible for the text (but not the content!) of Acts of Parliament – in fact a general panjandrum. Almost uniquely I have to combine the occasional use of Norman French with being accountable for expenditure of £80m per year.

Until I reached management levels, much of my work was as a Committee clerk, including 10 fascinating years with the Science and Technology Committee, investigating subjects such as hazardous waste disposal, remote sensing of the earth from space, global warming, and science policy. For this the Oxford history school was an excellent training. As an

undergraduate, I was given a subject to research each week, seven days to do it in and an essay to write at the end, with a tutor to satisfy. As a clerk, I was given a subject each year, with nine months of evidence taking to research it in, a report of 50-100 pages to write and a Committee to satisfy (including several Fellows of the Royal Society); and then the “essay” was published.

In 1964 it was not unusual to contemplate a lifetime’s career in Parliament. Now that I have completed 40 years there, the habit of long service remains common but is no longer standard. Provided that one is willing to change with the House – and change it certainly has, for the better – long service is valuable because we are the constitutional memory of Parliament. We have procedural knowledge, and experience of how Parliament works; on



to this have to be grafted management skills and political sensitivity.

We are not civil servants but servants of Parliament. This carries with it an obligation to forswear party politics since we have to be acceptable to Government and Opposition equally. But in return we get a lot of the excitement of politics, without the danger of being out of a job at a moment’s notice. I shall also be younger than the average age of the House until the day I retire, which has its attractions.

...Then



Giles Chichester MEP (1965)

election as President of the Boat Club in my second year and President of the Nondescripts Dining Club in my third year (I only won that one because there were two

very strong candidates who cancelled each other out to let me in as the compromise choice – a useful lesson). I also stood for President of the JCR and to my astonishment came within a very few votes of winning in the second round. I confess to not doing any canvassing whereas I think my opponent took it much more seriously and clearly wanted to win more than I did – another useful lesson.

I believe I became motivated about politics and being a Conservative by the Wilson Labour government of the 1960s. He made deception, trickery and weasel words into an art form, making me profoundly hostile towards Labour and the Left. The distinction between left and right was much

clearer then as there was no Blair equivalent to muddy the waters and the Liberals were nice but dotty rather than today’s all things to all people but covertly lefty lot. Later on I figured out some positive reasons why I was Conservative, which could be regarded as risky by those who believe that a thinking Tory is an oxymoron!

Anyway family matters to do with my father and our small map publishing business took hold of me after completing my time at the House (how I enjoyed it all and what a shock it was to move into the world of work with only two weeks holiday a year!) so that my pursuit of politics only started in earnest after I had learnt about running a business, done some sailing and got married at the tender age of 33. Some people get into politics and progress their careers effortlessly. Not me. I had to work long and hard on the voluntary side as well as research (which I much enjoyed) several dozen constituencies in pursuit of my ambition to be an

MP at the heart of politics in Westminster.

Instead of which I ended up getting selected as a Euro candidate for Devon where my family roots go back over 600 years even if I was born abroad (in London!). I suppose the big difference between my initial perceptions and the reality of being a parliamentarian was that I half believed all the claptrap of what an easy life MEPs lead so the reality of the sheer volume of work in constituency and committee was a bit surprising but very satisfying.

I found the variety of subjects covered in committee very interesting, almost like going back to University but more relevant perhaps. I found one has more flexibility and freedom to pursue issues than I had expected. And I found I belonged to the same institution as Danny “the red” Cohn-Bendit the great revolutionary of the 60s, and now very much a Green. It’s a funny old world!

David Heathcoat-Amory (1967)

Politics is a profession for which no evident training or qualification is required. So my degree in PPE was an admirable start. I had gone up to Christ Church to read science but switched to PPE after a year.

On graduating, I trained in accountancy and then worked in industry for ten years. Later, as a Treasury minister I was surrounded by brilliant civil servants with impossibly good degrees, but my qualification as a Chartered Accountant meant I could hold my own where commerce was concerned.

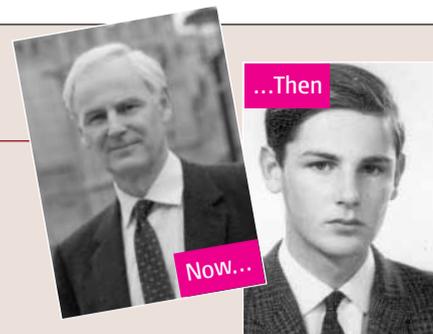
In 1983 I plunged into politics, arriving in the House of Commons in the middle

of the Thatcherite revolution. How did my Oxford days help? Perhaps two experiences were of use.

Boxing is not far removed from the procedures of the House of Commons. Robert Nairac, later to be killed by the IRA, got a team together for the 1968 varsity match. I boxed at welter weight and took a beating, but the following year I defeated the Cambridge captain in Oxford Town Hall. I got vociferous support from some boisterous members of the House. Nothing in politics, however daunting, can compare with the terror of getting into the boxing ring against an unknown opponent.

The other activity was University politics. In the late 1960s the Union was highly politicised, with the Viet Nam war going on and a Labour government under Harold Wilson criticised by the Left (some things don't change). The Union was a good place to learn the rudiments of public speaking, though I never stood for office.

Elections to the Oxford University Conservative Association were just as competitive. Some of the electoral practices were borrowed from the 18th Century, including patronage, shady alliances and college block votes. Elections were often followed by enquiries into



alleged malpractice and promises of reform. I served a term as President after a relatively clean election.

I have now done 21 years as an MP and will be standing again in the next election. My overriding aim is to keep Britain self-governing. This means halting the drive towards an EU state, and in particular rejecting the proposed European Constitution. If I can help achieve that then it will all have been worthwhile.

David Crawley (1969)

I always thought I would go into politics or the civil service so reading Modern History at Christ Church seemed sensible and, anyway, I loved history. The House was a place where it was easy to imagine running the country – after all thirteen Prime Ministers had studied there and done just that. The trouble was it gave a rather inflated view of where a new graduate might start in the world of Government. The House benefited from visits by terribly important people – like ex Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home who came to evensong and drinks one Sunday – and the level of political discussion was always very high.

The reality was a bit different: I joined the Scottish Office (having just missed the Foreign Office – my tutor, the legendary Charles Stuart, said Scotland was the next best thing!). My first job was concerned with the reform of the feudal tenure, and while history seemed relevant, high politics it was not! But from then my career took me through some of the most fascinating bits of late 20th century history – the end of the Wilson Government which I saw at first hand as a private secretary, the creation and collapse of the first attempt at devolution in the UK in the 1970s and the early days of our membership of the European community when I played a key role in the design of the Common Fisheries Policy. In the early Thatcher years I worked for the Department of Energy and was involved in Britoil, one of the first privatisations.

Some high politics came when I worked with Malcolm Rifkind as his Principal Private Secretary in the late 80s and again



as Counsellor at the UK Representation to the European Communities in the early 90s. I generally remember the less formal meetings with politicians – such as the time I delivered some briefing early one morning during the UK Presidency of 1992 to a Michael Howard regally dressed in red silk pyjamas; or the dinner at 2 am in Brussels with John Gummer spent discussing the future of the Church of England over excellent claret.

I have also had a facility for landing in the middle of real crises: from teachers strikes to the disaster at Lockerbie where I spent one of the worst nights of my life. And the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001 when I was in charge in Scotland.

History at Christ Church has surprised me by its relevance. I was involved in drawing up the legislation on Scottish devolution in 1997 and referred more than once to Costin and Watson on the Law and Working of the Constitution – a set text for my degree. An understanding of recent constitutional change was a key reason why I took on my present job as Head of the Scotland Office. The House – and what I learnt there about history and much more has been an important anchor in my life and will remain so.

Reg Clark (1976)

I think I can safely say that my time at Christ Church had absolutely no effect whatsoever on my subsequent involvement in politics.

I arrived at the House as a shy 18 year old, ostensibly interested in politics and debate, and actually did join the Union in first week. A short acquaintance with that institution however led me to conclude swiftly that the Brinkburn Comprehensive School, Hartlepool* debating society had not equipped me for such heights of self-confident oratory – I was having enough problems making myself understood generally – and I therefore threw myself into college and university rugby, Vincents Club and the varied cultural life provided by the Bear Inn.

I harbour absolutely no regrets – my time at the House was one of tremendous fun and camaraderie. Highlights were a couple of appearances against Cambridge at Twickenham, winning once, becoming President of Vincents and last but not least winning rugby Cuppers with my closest college friends as rank outsiders in 1979. I made friendships which I treasure and value to this day and even managed a second in Modern History in the midst of all this – to the slight surprise of my tutors who had not seen as much of me as they might have done.

Politics for me came later and not in the classic Christ Church manner. Unlike one of my political heroes, Gladstone, and many of the other twelve House Prime Ministers, it was not a case of prominence at the Union, a safe seat at a young age and early ministerial glory. Rather than being Chancellor of the Exchequer in my

late thirties, I was Chairman of the Kew Ward Liberal Democrats.

I wouldn't dream of boring you with the reasons for doing this, but it is a slightly infectious business, and you can get the bug. I subsequently stood somewhat quixotically for parliament in the 1997 General Election in my home town and have ended up somehow or other as Party Treasurer.

Like all of the political roles I have occupied, this is an unpaid honorary position which nevertheless takes up an inordinate amount of time. It consists first and foremost of fundraising to fight elections. In the wake of recent legislation on transparency of political funding it is very challenging but strangely enjoyable. All of this remains, however, in third place behind family and working life in terms of priorities and I would wish that to remain the case. Like any sane person involved in it, I have a love/hate relationship with party politics and maintaining a sense of balance and perspective is essential.

Anyone from the House involved in politics who does not become Prime Minister moreover must self-evidently count as a failure. I am only glad that as an undergraduate I found better things to do!

* Sadly no longer in existence, but a school well represented at the college in the 70s and 80s.



Andrew Adonis (1981)

I spent two years at the House as a graduate student from 1986 to 1988. A generous scholarship tempted me to move from Nuffield, against the advice of my social science colleagues at Nuffield who saw Christ Church as a quaint relic of Oxford medievalism. As I half shared this view, I was a bit apprehensive, although as a regular worshipper at the Cathedral, and a onetime student of Jack McManners – spending happy hours in his Tom Quad canonry as the wonderful stories of pre-revolutionary France unfolded – the quaint side had its appeal. My thesis was on the Victorian House of Lords, so there was a certain aptness in writing it at the college where a good slice of the Victorian peerage had been educated.

The academic bonus was greater than I had expected. My rooms were in Canterbury, above the Picture Gallery and facing those of Colin Matthew, then editor of the Gladstone diaries. Colin's rooms had been Gladstone's own, and at the slightest excuse I would drop by to discuss the Grand Old Man. Colin was all encouragement –

fortuitously he was also to be my D.Phil examiner! – and this alone would have made Christ Church worthwhile. Gladstone remains the colossus of modern British government, his legacy all about as I work away in Westminster and Whitehall.

Soon after arriving at the House I was elected to Oxford City Council. It could not have been more convenient. The Town Hall was two minutes from my rooms. I used to slip back during the inconsequential bits of the interminable meeting of the Council and its committees, even scheduling tutorials for what looked set to be dead periods. Sometimes the timing went awry and I would be summoned back in mid flow, taking my tutees with me.

I still look back on my four years on Oxford City Council – particularly its planning committee, where huge stakes would be fought over week by week between developers and conservationists – as my formative apprenticeship in the reality of politics and government, much

more useful than the student politics on which I wasted too much time as an undergraduate. But the Council was not particularly popular in Christ Church. The day after my election Dean Heaton took me aside and asked, gravely, if I could do anything about the 'dreadful black CND flag' which the ruling Labour party was flying from the roof of the Town Hall, blighting the skyline of Tom Quad. Alas, that was beyond my powers.

My most vivid and abiding memories of the House are of the Cathedral. For the rather more significant New Boy of 1986 was Professor Rowan Williams. I listened – awe and perplexity evenly matched – to most of the sermons Rowan delivered while I was at Christ Church, and would try to be at least within earshot of him when on High Table if he was dining (senior scholars were allowed to dine on High Table twice a week).

I have never heard the voice of Christian socialism so eloquent and compelling, yet reasonable. Memories of the sermons and



conversation flooded back when, a few months ago, Rowan delivered a brilliant lecture on the proper role of religion within school education in the State Dining Room of No. 10. The ghost of Gladstone was almost visibly hovering: a professor of the House, now Archbishop of Canterbury, lecturing to the Prime Minister and an assemblage of national leaders at No 10 on the continuing role of the state church within the education system.

Andrew Adonis went on from Christ Church to become a Fellow of Nuffield College. He then spent seven years at the Financial Times before joining Tony Blair's staff in 1998. He is now the Prime Minister's Senior Policy Advisor, having served as Head of the Downing Street Policy Unit 2001-03.

...Then



Richard Marsh (1981)

Politics never did it for me at Oxford. Well, not unless the definition of "doing it" encompasses stimulating a fight or flight reflex so strong that the only alternative to a glittering student career cut short by a charge of GBH was to take myself off to the upper reaches of the Isis and mope around like the Scholar Gypsy. Like many a callow undergrad I joined the Union, only to discover that going there risked exposure to the kind of serial hack against which, two decades on, modern science has still failed to find a vaccine. As to Christ Church JCR politics, I gave up on

that after attending my first hustings meeting where the contest was between a man who saw capturing the post of treasurer as an important first step on the road to a Marxist-Leninist society and another whose major policy position was, as I recall, to send a large chocolate cake to Arthur Scargill.

With such a formative experience behind me, it is perhaps surprising that, after leaving Oxford, I should have gravitated towards politics. Like most things in my life, it wasn't particularly planned. After Christ Church I went to the City

University School of Journalism in London, with the hope of becoming a different sort of hack. Then it was that the brilliant possibilities opened up of getting back at the politicians by mocking them in print. It never happened. Instead, my naive ambition of first "getting the inside story" by going to work in the Conservative Research Department led to capture by a system from where it took me the best part of a decade to escape. After the Research Department I became the "special" (ie political) adviser at the Department of the Environment and then to two Secretaries of State for Health. I left in 1995 to become a lobbyist (despised word), cannily ahead of the gathering Armageddon that awaited the Conservative Government and which was duly enacted two years later.

What did I learn? Mainly that, although grown up politicians can be, and often are, every bit as gruesome as the manqué types I encountered at Oxford, most politicians in public office navigate according to a strong sense of what is for the public good. They may be wrong – sometimes horribly, frighteningly wrong –

but in my experience politicians rarely act in bad faith. Ministers, Members of Parliament, not to mention spin doctors and special advisers, are every bit as entitled to resist our stereotypical image of them as are football fans, librarians and, for that matter (in Gordon Brown's eyes at least), Oxford itself.

It is a disconcerting feeling now that my contemporaries have ascended to high political office. Several of those I worked with in the Research Department are now in the Shadow Cabinet no less (stop tittering). Andrew Adonis, a Christ Church contemporary is today head policy honcho for Tony Blair. Lodged in the strange nether world of "public affairs", I can view them with a degree of detachment, knowing that the view one gets of politicians from the outside in is just as distorted as the view they get of us from the inside out.

After spending five years in public affairs consultancy, Richard Marsh is today Director of External Affairs for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Michael Cooper (1983)

I came up to Christ Church to read Modern History having spent a few months as a research assistant to an MP. What struck me was that most MPs have relatively little power on the national stage, even (perhaps particularly) if their party is in power. Speaking out against the party line is the exception rather than the rule and MPs are spending more time on constituency matters and less time at Westminster. Governments too, however big their majority in Parliament, also struggle to exercise influence in the face of global economic and security issues.



People, whether famous or humble, are the cornerstone of history and I have always appreciated biographies and obituaries. Three cheers for the new edition of the DNB! However, my special and further subjects were in economic and social rather than political history. Politics neither constitutes the story of great men (and women) nor operates in a vacuum, but must respond to the developments and pressures of the time: the Black Death, the invention of printing, the growth of overseas trade, the coming of the railways, global warming.

On leaving Christ Church I qualified as a chartered accountant and worked in the City during that great financial bubble of the late 1980s. However, a continuing interest in the political process led me, like many other members of the House, to join the Civil Service where I have now spent more than ten years. The challenge and variety have been fascinating. Still in my twenties I was taking a leading role in setting up a new Government agency with 1,200 staff. Since then I have helped both to create and to abolish a Government department. My experiences have ranged

from the sublime (private tour of the Vatican) to the ridiculous (private tour of Glasgow municipal abattoir).

How did an historical education at Christ Church help prepare me for a career in the City and the public service? How does an understanding of, say, the life of St Frideswide (whose feast day falls on my birthday) or the Restoration of 1660 help one, other than in asking the Archbishop of Canterbury to give greater prominence to the former and the Prime Minister to declare a public holiday on Oak Apple Day. Most obviously, history teaches skills in absorbing and analysing conflicting information before reaching a considered judgement. It provides an understanding of the evolution of current institutions and political conditions and a protection against the misuse of history to 'prove' spurious points. It gives some appreciation of what binds us together and what separates us. Above all, for me, it underlines the importance of narrative. By this I mean not a succession of dates, but the way we all make sense of the world and convey that understanding to others. Any good politician knows that. What's your story?

Robert Wilton (1991)

Things have changed a bit, in the relationship between Christ Church and politics, since House men made up the Prime Ministers for more than half of the nineteenth century. The nation's politicians and administrators happily now come from a much wider background, and Christ Church men and women happily now go on to a much wider range of careers – as I found to my interest when catching up with so many contemporaries at Gaudy last autumn.

But the House has its fair share and probably more of ambitious people – dinner conversation in Hall could be as earnest, and opinionated, and probably as impotent, as when Charles I's assembly was there three hundred and fifty years ago – and a number still gravitate to the running of the country.

To clear up any misunderstanding: I'm not in politics. Quite the opposite, you might say; I'm a civil servant. After a year's tutoring history and politics around Oxford, I joined the Ministry of Defence. I did various jobs there, and then moved to a post at the Cabinet Office, before my current secondment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. To suggest that

this is the first quarter of a "career" probably overstates the coherence of my ambition and of civil service personnel management. But the civil service framework has enabled me to move through a variety of stimulating and very enjoyable posts, with a sense of being near centres of real influence. Early uncertainties – "am I the only one of my contemporaries without an impressive pupillage or a ludicrously lucrative management consultancy?" – have given way to a stronger sense of being in a structure where I can make the best of myself and enjoy myself along the way. I hope to be able to continue to find such interesting work (though seniority actually tends to move you away from the interesting stuff).

Being at Christ Church was likewise about finding one's place in a society. I don't know that I ever exactly did so, but I did a lot of enjoyable things and met some good people along the way. (I've bumped into a few of them in various corners of Whitehall.) I didn't go up to the House or read History to help a career. If you want the careers fair answer, I would say that the capacity to absorb, process and present information critically and effectively has been consistently

useful. (If that lot doesn't sound, to those who know, like one of my essays then let's say that I'm learning, at least.) More generally, a flexibility of mind – perhaps nourished in week-by-week changes of historical period and tutor idiosyncrasy – has been invaluable. A familiarity with nineteenth century British politics hasn't been entirely wasted either (nor indeed Tudor administration or even the fall of Byzantium).

It was diverting, at college, to look around one's contemporaries and wonder which of them would be the prominent public figures in twenty or thirty years. I don't know any MPs yet; but I know a handful of local councillors and more than a handful of people making successful careers in a range of fields who could yet turn to Westminster. Limited engagement with the Oxford Union, if nothing else, convinced me that I was not cut out for the pressure and vulnerability of place-



Letters

When we came to the Association Dinner last September and stayed in the college, a brochure in the room told us about the possibilities of private dining, receptions in one of the gardens, tea in Hall, and guided tours of The House. With a wedding anniversary coming up we decided on a lunch and tour – for a variety of our friends, some of whom had never visited Oxford.

This was a great success, and I would recommend other members to try something similar.

Alexandra Webb in the Steward's Office made all the arrangements. She told us that private dining in the McKenna Room is available for lunch or dinner, in term Monday to Friday, and in vacations subject to availability – for up to 47 people. As we are of an age to have many retired friends, we were able to choose a Friday lunch in termtime on a pleasant June day. Two disabled guests were able to park in the college, and were impressed that the custodian at Tom Gate expected them and was helpful. Drinks in the buttery were followed by an excellent lunch. Then most of the 26 guests joined us for a tour led by Stuart Fleming, whose name badge introduces him as Assistant to the Head Custodian. An entertaining tour included gardens that we never penetrated as junior members, and anecdotes that now include Harry Potter as well as Alice in Wonderland and Charles 1st.

We ended up talking to our friends on the crowded terrace of the Head of the River hotel by Folly Bridge. Altogether a pleasant occasion.

Regards, DAVID HAWGOOD (1956)

seeking. In any case, civil servants know from where the country is really run. But who can say who might loom over the Ministerial table in ten years' time, last seen arguing something trivial over the long tables in Hall?

Forthcoming Events

Notices

2004

12 November –
27 February 2005

CHRIST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY – 'MASTERCOPIES'

Contact: 01865 276 172
picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk
Christ Church Picture Gallery possesses a number of copies (both painted and drawn) after famous works of art. This exhibition celebrates the copy, and attempts to rescue it from its ill-deserved reputation for not being "the original".



18 December

MUSIC AT OXFORD CONCERT

8pm, Christ Church Cathedral. Box Office: 08700 7500659
www.musicatoxford.com

23-24 December

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS (CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE)

7.30am/3pm, Christ Church Cathedral. Entry by ticket only.
Contact: Cathedral Secretary, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. OX1 1DP Tel: 01865 276155

2005

9 January

FAMILY PROGRAMME – LUNCH IN HALL FOR FAMILIES OF SECOND YEARS

Christ Church, 12.00-14.30
Contact: Emma Turnbull, Development Officer Tel: 01865 286 598.
emma.turnbull@chch.ox.ac.uk

5 March – 12 June

CHRIST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY – 'THE ARTIST'S PAGE'

Contact: 01865 276 172 picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk
The exhibition will bring together some outstanding sheets of sketches and studies from the Picture Gallery's permanent collection. These 'doodles' by famous artists such as Tintoretto, Palma di Giovane, Inigo Jones and others allow the viewer to catch a glimpse into the artist's search for the ideal form.

19 March

DAY SCHOOL: WORLD WAR II – 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS'

Contact: Alex Webb, Conference and Events Administrator
Tel: 01865 276 174 conferences@chch.ox.ac.uk

19 March

MUSIC AT OXFORD CONCERT

8pm, Christ Church Cathedral. Box Office: 08700 7500659
www.musicatoxford.com

30 March–12 April

CHOIR TOUR OF THE USA

Info: <http://www.chchchoir.org/>
Visiting Amarillo, Lubbock, Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas, Knoxville, St. Louis, Richmond, Washington DC and New York.

7-10 April

SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKENDS

Members of the House will receive discounted rates.
Contact: Alex Webb, Conference and Events Administrator
01865 276 174 alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk
1) The Civil War 1640-44 Weekend examining the causes and events of the English Civil War, led by military historian and author Robin Neillands.
2) A passion for plants Weekend celebrating the plant hunters of the 18th Century whose explorations gave us today's garden plants, led by botanist and plant historian Dr Toby Musgrave.

18 June

CHRIST CHURCH COMMEMORATION BALL

Christ Church, 9pm till 6am. www.christchurchball.com
Contact: Chris Clements, Development and Alumni Relations Assistant Tel: 01865 286847
christopher.clements@chch.ox.ac.uk

1 July

THE CELEBRATION OF CHEMISTRY DINNER

Contact: Margaret Molloy, Development Secretary Tel: 01865 286325

4-9 September

TRAFALGAR BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

Members of the House will receive discounted rates.
Contact: Alex Webb, Conference and Events Administrator
01865 276 174 waratsea@chch.ox.ac.uk

30 September

GAUDY (1980-1983 MATRICULANDS) CHRIST CHURCH

Contact: John Harris, Steward 01865 276 174

THESPS REUNITED?

Next year, 2005, will see 50th and 65th anniversaries of Christ Church Dramatic Society productions of T S Eliot's verse drama, *Murder in the Cathedral* – in 1940 in the Cloisters, in 1955 on tour in ('West') Germany; it will be just 70 years since the first production of the play (in Canterbury, unsurprisingly).

Chris Sladen, an avid anniversary-watcher, would be pleased to hear from Housemen (and others) involved with either of those productions, or other Dramatic Society tours of Germany in the 1950s. He may be contacted at: 3 Campbells Close, Woodstock OX20 1PF; c.sladen@btopenworld.com.

DINI BRONZE

Daniele Dini, who completed his D.Phil. at Christ Church recently, has been awarded the 2004 Tribology Bronze Medal by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The medal is awarded annually by the Institution to a promising young researcher working in the field of Tribology (friction, lubrication, and wear). Dr Dini has worked with his supervisors Professor David Nowell (Senior Engineering Tutor at Christ Church) and Professor David Hills to develop methods for predicting the fretting fatigue performance of contacting components. Fretting fatigue takes place when contacting components are subjected to vibration and Daniele's work, sponsored by Rolls-Royce plc and the DTI, is directed towards the attachment of compressor and fan blades in aircraft engines. It will find application in the next generation of engines being designed by Rolls-Royce for the Boeing 7E7 'Dreamliner' aircraft.



WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Filming recently took place in Christ Church for a two-hour documentary entitled 'Who wrote the Bible?'. Dr. Jill Middlemas, Fellow of Keble College was interviewed in the Upper Library by the programme's presenter, Dr Robert Beckford, a leading theologian and academic. Dr Beckford is the Director of the Centre for Black Theology at Birmingham University, has a regular radio show on BBC West Midlands and has presented documentaries for BBC2 and Channel 4. "Who wrote the Bible?" will be broadcast by Channel 4 at 7pm towards the end of advent.

CELEBRATION OF CHEMISTRY DINNER

July 1st 2005

All Christ Church chemists please hold July 1st 2005 for a special dinner to celebrate chemistry at the House with tutors past and present. Invitations will be sent out in the New Year. For further information please contact Mrs Margaret Molloy on +44 (0) 1865 286325 or margaret.molloy@chch.ox.ac.uk.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Development and Alumni Office is pleased to welcome two new members of staff. Mrs Emma Turnbull is a graduate of Keble and joined the House as Development Officer from St Paul's Cathedral Foundation, where she worked on a £40m campaign to clean and restore the cathedral inside and out. Emma will be primarily responsible for the Annual Fund, and for creating a legacy programme. We are also delighted to have on board Mr Chris Clements as Development and Alumni Relations Assistant. Chris is a graduate of St Peter's and comes to us from St Anne's Development Office. Chris is responsible for administration of gifts, maintaining accurate information on the database, and assisting with publications and events.

CONTACTS AND OPENING HOURS:

Picture Gallery:

1 April – 30 September
Mon-Sat 10.30am–5.00pm
Sun 2.00pm–5.00pm

1 Oct – 31 March

Mon-Sat 10.30am–1.00pm
2.00pm–4.30 pm

For further information please contact:
Christ Church Picture Gallery,
Christ Church,
Oxford, OX1 1DP
Tel: 01865 276172
Fax: 01865 202 429
Email: picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk

Chaplain:
Revd Ralph Williamson
Tel: 01865 276236
Steward's Office:
Tel: 01865 276174
Cathedral Office:
Tel: 01865 276154