

Christ Church Matters

TRINITY TERM 2006

ISSUE 17

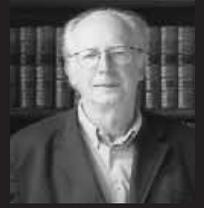
Editorial

I have just been working on the nearly final text for *Christ Church, Oxford: A Portrait of the House*, and so probably now know a good deal more than I did, but still less than I should, about Christ Church and its extraordinary history. Although we now see ourselves as an equal part of the federation of colleges that makes up the university, we have been really rather different from other colleges, in some instances behaving more like a city-state than an academic institution.

Charles I got in to the book surprisingly late, Burton and 19th century reform are still to come, and I still fear that I and my co-editors (Brian Young and Judith Curthoys, with Fiona Holdsworth managing us) may have missed something really obvious. No doubt you will let us know of our shortcomings - publication is scheduled for November-December.

It has been particularly amusing to read through the many submitted memoirs for the volume, which reveal amongst much else that pre- and post-war Christ Church

undergraduates lived in amazingly different academic and social worlds. Over 120 readers of *Christ Church Matters* sent in material, hardly ever less than a 1,000 words, and often over 5,000. Thirty-odd have survived into the volume, often much mangled and shortened by me, plus one or two longer memoirs, leaving lots to print here in times to come. I hope that the result will be often funny, occasionally moving, and stir up further memories in the book's readers.



Christopher Butler

And of course there are going to be lots of pictures. We have found and made far more than we can print. How many Tom towers can you have? And not from the usual angle? Which estate map? Where is the gargoyle with the moustache? Is there a photograph of Buckland with one of the many animals he ate? And so on. It's not usual for a professor, perpetually nagged on by the threat of the RAE to produce 'academic', peer-reviewed work, to make a book of this kind. But it has been very pleasurable for me, and I hope that the result will be enjoyed by its readers.

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

Buried Treasurer

MY APPOINTMENT came as a big surprise. The House had [for one of the few times in its history] entrusted its treasure to a Cambridge man (Pembroke, History MA, 1975-78)! I had not entirely hidden the fact that two nieces, Henrietta Hughes (née Lawrie, 1987) and Caroline Swain (née Williams, 1990), and one nephew, Duncan Williams (1992), were Housepeople, but I was nonetheless invited to come over to the Dark (blue) Side.

As I have quickly discovered, the role is extremely varied, though the big picture responsibilities are clear. First, I am in overall charge of the income and expenditure of the College, Chapter and Cathedral School. We currently operate at around break-even, but remorseless cost inflation will put increasing pressure on our constrained sources of income. Second, I manage the College's endowment from which we derive half of our income and which we are working hard to increase. Third, I oversee the repair and maintenance of our magnificent buildings and gardens to ensure that they can continue to be used and enjoyed both today and by subsequent generations.

In addition, many other sometimes smaller, but no less important, tasks fall onto my desk. These include working with the City Council on its development plans for Oxford's West End where we are significant landowners,



James Lawrie

"I manage the College's endowment from which we derive half of our income and which we are working hard to increase."

liaising with the archaeologists, who have been busy in Tom Quad as we install new utilities, and monitoring support to the clergy who benefit from Dr South's trust. The College has been extremely supportive as I ascend a perpendicular learning curve. So far I have only found one true source of power – the issue of parking permits – and even that has to be exercised with extreme care!

Prior to coming to Christ Church, I spent 27 years in corporate finance in the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and The Netherlands, which taught me a little of the cut and thrust of politics and money, of which I am sure Oxford has much more to teach me! I am also Hon Treasurer of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) where I came to appreciate the qualities of Hugh Richardson, my immediate predecessor at Christ Church and a fellow VSO trustee, from whose insight and hard work I am now deriving much benefit at the House.

With two children at the Dragon School before my appointment and with my wife now working at Mansfield College, we already feel quite well ensconced in Oxford and I look forward to the challenges that Christ Church and Oxford have for us in the months and years to come.

JAMES LAWRIE, *Treasurer*

Notes from the Deanery

WE EXIST HERE for the pursuit of truth. But I have been trawling through the biographies of the 44 Deans while writing a piece for *Christ Church, Oxford: A Portrait of the House*. One (John Massey) had to escape out of the Deanery drawing room window before dawn on 30th November 1688. Another (Charles Hall) left debts which today, on a rough calculation, would amount to £4million and his successor spent much of his time on the racecourse.

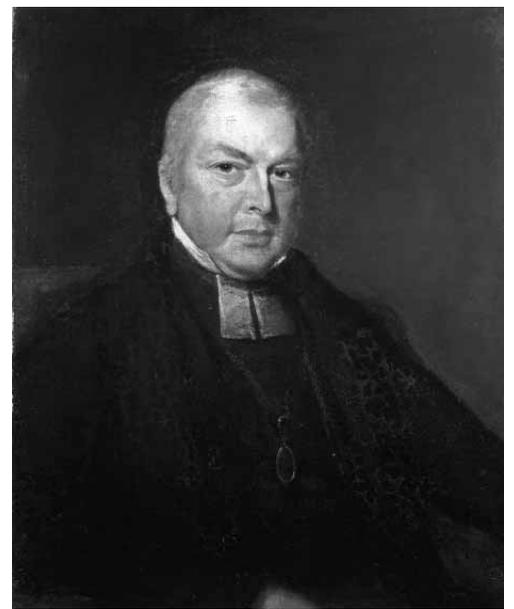
Our lives seem more pedestrian than theirs when I look at my diary and our concerns. The round of teaching and research does not make many waves, yet it is what we are here for and hard enough work to absorb us. On other fronts, we have been digging up the past to install new utilities in Tom Quad, discovering skeletons and roads from pre-Cardinal times. The Cathedral would like to have glass doors so that it does not look shut when it is in fact welcoming.

Much time is spent on Blue Boar's future and we have collectively become enthusiasts for its

renovation. It is a handsome building which is liked by almost all who live there: a few steps to stop water, add a proper roof, and insert a lecture theatre will renew a site of great use to the House.

Governance has exercised the whole university and we have now had two papers, both coloured green. Life has gone quiet in preparation for a white one. There has been extensive discussion on external and internal representation on the university's top body (short of Congregation) and on its links to an academic board. Much work is still to be done on the relationship between the different parts of the federation which is Oxford, not least with the Colleges.

Our washing is ever done in public. Admissions have made news, created out of a report whose most centralist possibility was assumed to be imminent. Christ Church has responded, firmly favouring admissions done by college tutors, yet with some modifications of the current system, all of them already the practice in some subjects. We are alternately found guilty of attempted



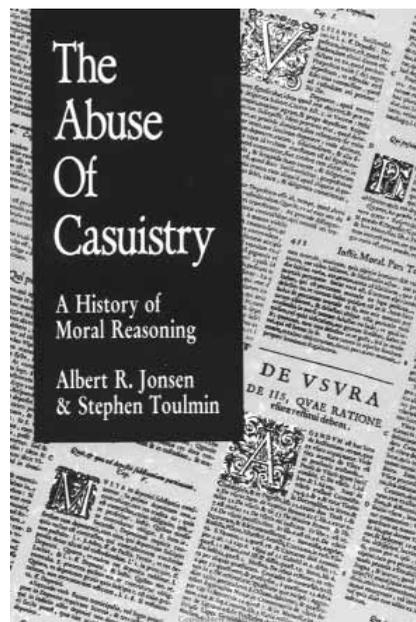
Dean Charles Hall

social engineering on the one hand, or of educating an elite on the other. The best counter to either of these dangers is tutors who are themselves selecting the people considered to have most academic merit and potential, judged on a wide range of criteria. A centralised system would be more open to manipulation.

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER LEWIS,
Dean of Christ Church

Casuistry

ON 12th OCTOBER 1982 I tremulously entered Senior Common Room for my first evening at High Table. I came as a Temporary Member for the academic year 1982-1983, visiting from the University of California, San Francisco. Dean E. W. Heaton greeted me and asked what I intended to do during my year at Oxford. I told him I would read in the Bodleian in preparation for a book on the history of casuistry. He responded, "Splendid!" (in the United States, the response would have been a puzzled, "What?"). He then said, "Of course, you have come here because of Krailsheimer" and turned to summon a gentleman from across the room. As he moved toward us, I searched my memory for that name and, fortunately, by the time he reached us, I had realized that his name was on the cover of the only book I had brought to Oxford, a much underlined Penguin copy of Pascal's *Provincial Letters*, edited by Alban Krailsheimer. In fact, my presence at Christ Church was



quite inadvertent. I was not there because Alban Krailsheimer was there but because an Anglo-American friend, an old member of Balliol, had introduced me to David Pears when I was wondering how to locate myself at Oxford. David submitted my name to the Governing Body and I arrived without any realisation that the House would be such a treasure trove.

Krailsheimer graciously guided me through Pascal's savage critique of Jesuitical casuistry. I also was blessed by the patronage of the two leading Anglican casuists: Bishop Robert

"the abuse of casuistry is properly directed, not against all casuistry, but only against its abuse."

Sanderson, Regius Professor of Divinity and Canon of the 5th Stall in the mid-17th century, and Kenneth Kirk, Regius Professor in the 1930s and 40s, Bishop of Oxford and author of *Conscience and Its Problems - An Introduction to Casuistry* (1937). I occasionally visited his sepulchre in the Chancel of the Cathedral when I was struggling with a knotty casuistical problem. I was delighted that each morning ancient Catholic and Anglican Casuistical manuals were delivered to my desk in the Duke Humphrey Library. At High Table one evening, I expressed my amazement that these rare books were so readily available. Professor Mason casually commented, "Jonsen, these are not rare books. They were bought when they were published." Several years later Stephen Toulmin (*ex altero loco*) and I co-authored *The Abuse of Casuistry - A History of Moral Reasoning*, in which the fruits of my Oxford research were displayed. I suggested the title, which is a fragment of a line from Bishop Kirk: "the abuse of casuistry is properly directed, not against all casuistry, but only against its abuse." That was the least I could do to thank the House for sheltering a wandering American casuist.

ALBERT R. JONSEN,
Professor Emeritus of Ethics in Medicine,
University of Washington

End of a Royal Dream

PHILIP BROWN (1944)



End of a Royal Dream is a wonderful combination of personal and national history. Philip Brown starts from his own experiences

as an undergraduate at Christ Church, and explores from there the story of Charles I and the English Civil War. He looks at the Civil War from many angles including the weaponry, the battles, and the life of the Court in Oxford. He uses the architecture of all sorts of buildings which have connections with the War, archival material, stories, art, and his own imagination and discoveries, to bring to life an exciting and important part of British history.

The book is wonderfully illustrated with his own photographs, archival material, works of art, and drawings and paintings by his talented wife, Gounil. As an introduction to the first Civil War, and as a 'how to' for historical

research, *End of a Royal Dream* is a great read; a unique approach to a big topic. It was a privilege to be a very small part of the project.

JUDITH CURTHOYS, *Archivist*

This limited edition book was published in December 2005 by ICON PRESS.

To order your signed and numbered copy, please contact Sarah Thomas in the Development and Alumni Office on +44 1865 286598

ISBN 1 873812 25 6, price £18 (plus £2 p&p). £1 from each copy sold will be donated to Christ Church.

Cardinal Sins

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

IN JULY 1642, King Charles I moved into the Deanery. He brought with him his courtiers and his military advisers, as well as his complete entourage of servants and household staff. Henrietta Maria, Charles' wife, lodged at Merton College, and new gates were knocked through the boundary walls of Corpus Christi College to allow the King easy, and private, access to his wife's quarters.

Surprisingly, though, the King and Court's presence at Christ Church is barely recorded in the archive. No accounts, no minutes, and little correspondence. Only the Cathedral register, and those few pieces of correspondence, give any clues at all. From these, though, we can see that College, Cathedral, and Court were trying to live and work together. Courtiers, soldiers and canons were marrying, having families, and dying. Students, when not occupied in digging the military defences around the city, or drilling in the quads, were still working for degrees on, much to their dismay, reduced rations. Even though Christ Church had opened its doors to Charles, we still lost our plate to the royal coffers, and were expected to contribute 'loans' to the war effort.

After four long years the King departed, already aware that he had lost the war, but determinedly battling on. The arriving Parliamentarians soon began to clear out all those who had shown loyalty to the Crown. Even the Christ



Dean John Owen

Church almsmen who had fought for the King were ousted from their places, their rooms reoccupied by soldiers and sailors of the Parliamentary forces. Some students were sent overseas on special missions for Cromwell, and two letters survive in the archive signed 'Oliver P', giving leave from studies and ensuring that their stipends were paid in their absence.

The Chapter minutes tell of all the replacements, including the installation of a new Dean. Samuel Fell had been imprisoned by Parliament, and died the day after the execution of Charles I, apparently of a broken heart. Mrs Fell, refusing to vacate her home, was evicted from the Deanery in the most undignified of manners when two of the more Puritanical canons carried the indomitable lady out into the quadrangle in her armchair.

Apart from a change in personnel, the obvious changes were in the Cathedral; the organ and the 'idoltrous' windows portraying Bible stories were removed and destroyed.

These beautiful painted windows, by the Dutch van Linge brothers, had only been installed 30 years before. Only the 'Jonah' window survived showing the prophet contemplating Nineveh. Perhaps the subject matter, a sinner re-thinking his ways, was considered appropriate.

Student numbers began to increase, and business continued as normal, thanks to the second of the

The Oxford Crown, 1644.

Courtesy of the Ashmolean Museum.



Commonwealth Deans, John

Owen. A flamboyant

man, in appearance much more Cavalier than Roundhead, Owen saw the value of a softly, softly approach. John Fell, the son of the unfortunate Samuel, Richard Allestree (Regius Professor of Divinity, who left us his library for his successors), and John Dolben, once a Major in the Royalist army, continued to hold Anglican services just down the road in Merton Street, right under the nose of the Dean, evidently with his tacit agreement. The deanery of John Owen ensured that Christ Church did not suffer too much from the exigencies of the Commonwealth.

At the Restoration, Christ Church returned to its pre-Rebellion days almost overnight. In fact, so little really needed to be done that the first priority was to re-instate the canons' table in the dining hall. John Fell was installed as Dean in 1660; ejected members, including the almsmen, were given back their places; records began to be kept exactly as they had been before 1642; governance and education continued almost as if nothing had happened. Even Wolsey's building plan, abandoned in 1529, was picked up where it left off. Unfortunately, the Cathedral windows were gone for good – or were they? Bits of glass were found back in the nineteenth century and were placed, almost for safe-keeping, in the upper windows of the north transept clerestory, and then more were found very recently. Enough, perhaps, to put together a whole picture, if only we could find the space.

JUDITH CURTHOYS, *Archivist*

A most notable restoration

A RESTORATION PROGRAMME for the Cathedral Spire was implemented in 2005 following recommendations put forward in the decennial survey report. The report highlighted deterioration of the masonry on the faces of the spire and upper section of the tower which was causing fragments of masonry to fall onto the nave, choir and transept roofs below. The restoration work was carried out by Axtell Perry Symm Masonry Ltd under the direction of Robert Montgomery, the Cathedral Architect.

The erection of the scaffolding, to the full height of the spire, commenced in March 2005 and took six weeks to complete. The detailed inspection which followed identified further areas of stonework which required restoration. This was due mainly to the rusting of the Victorian ironwork which had caused cracking in the surrounding masonry.

Detailed drawings for the work were prepared by the Architect to identify the areas of stonework to be replaced. The size, shape and detail of each stone was then taken by the masons and replacement stones were cut and prepared in their workshops to match the existing. The decayed stonework was cut out and the new stone built in. This process took ten months to complete and included treatment and weather protection for the ironwork. The stone used in the restoration was Bath Stoke Ground.



The 1862 engraving by R.J. King

The restoration process has been carried out many times in the 800-year history of the spire. Four previous restorations are documented in the College archives commencing with works undertaken by John Hudson in 1835. However, there are indications that many more had been undertaken prior to this. The work by Hudson included replacement of the pinnacles at the base of the spire and the finial and weathervane at the top. He also inserted the continuous iron bars around the base of the tower to strengthen the masonry and restrict the movement in the structure being caused by the ringing of the bells. It is these iron bars which have caused problems with the surrounding stonework and have required extensive restoration as part of the present works.

The most notable restoration was carried out by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1870 when major works were undertaken both internally and externally. Part of this work was the removal of the bells from the Cathedral tower

and their installation in the 'meat safe' on the top of the Wolsey tower. This removed the structural problems caused by the ringing of the bells but retained other problems for future generations.

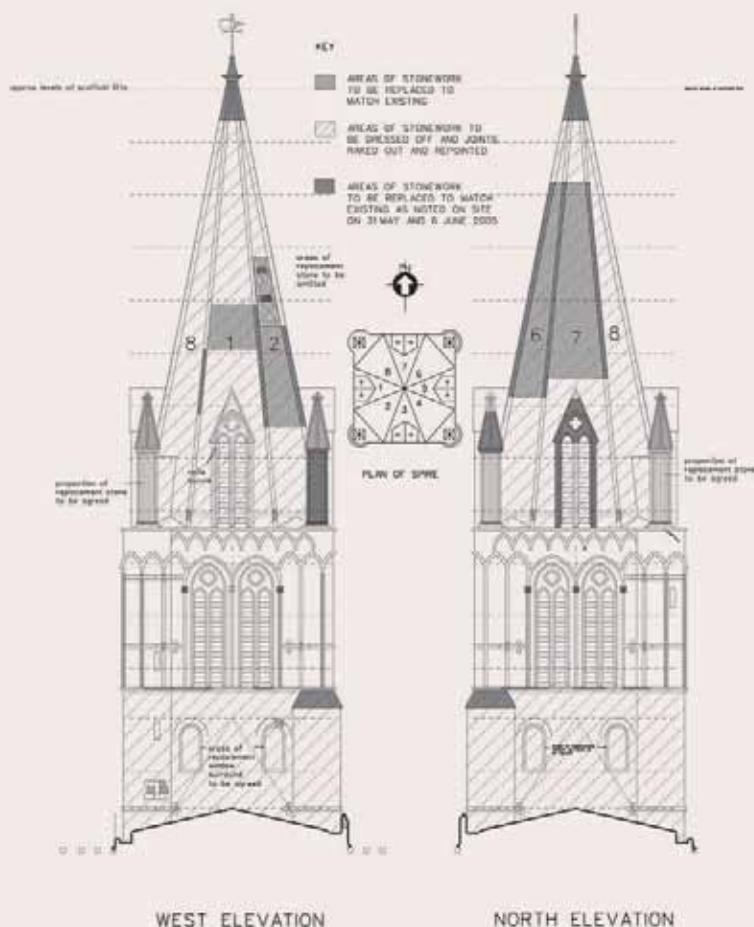
The finial stone at the top of the spire was also affected by the rusting of ironwork. It was therefore decided to remove the simple finial installed by Hudson in 1835 and replace it with a carved finial designed to echo the style of an earlier example shown in the 1862 engraving by R J King.

The engraving of the section of the spire removed by Hudson and erected in a garden at Christ Church shows a more elaborate finial with acanthus leaves wrapping up the central shaft.

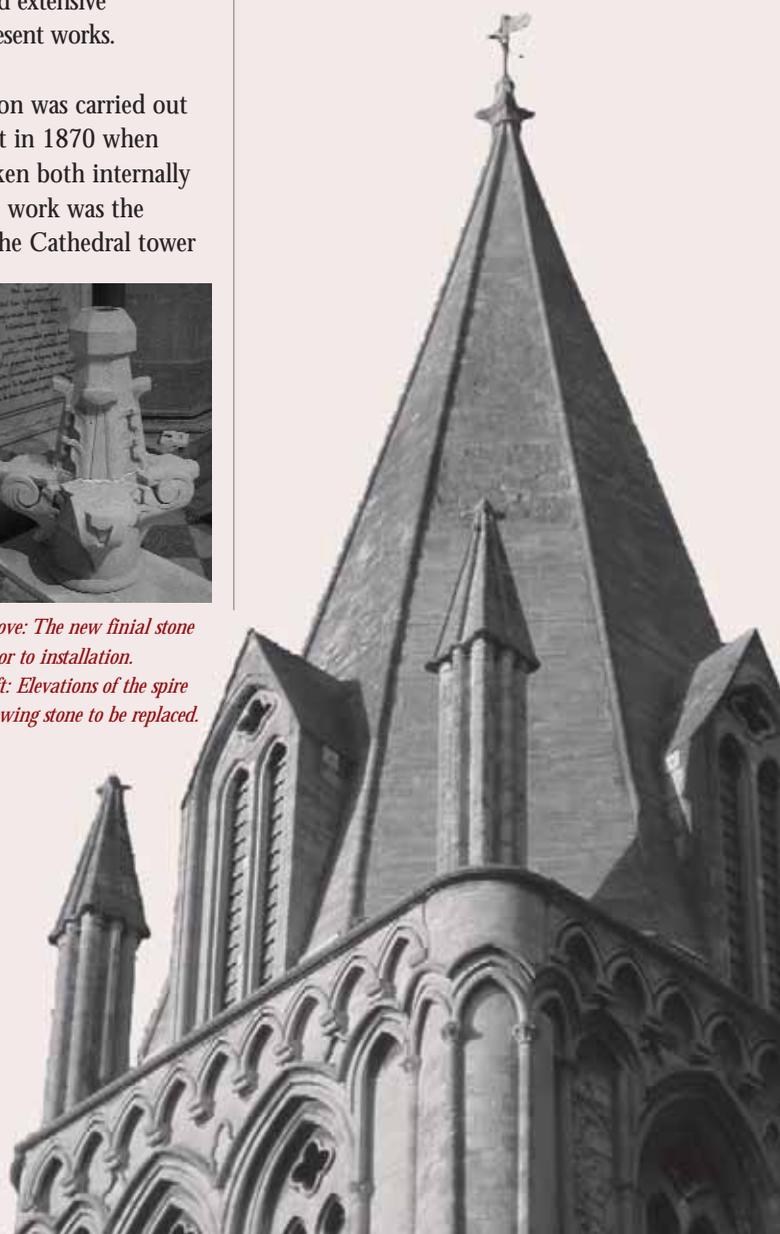
Designs for the new stone were prepared using a similar detail and the new finial was carved and installed in December 2005.

The restoration works were completed in February 2006 at a cost of £350,000.

ROBERT MONTGOMERY, Cathedral Architect



Above: The new finial stone prior to installation. Left: Elevations of the spire showing stone to be replaced.



Skeletons in the cupboard?

EXCAVATIONS were a familiar feature in Tom Quad during the early months of 2006. Digging to lay new utilities fuelled great archaeological interest especially outside the west end of the Cathedral where it was speculated that a guest house and lodgings associated with the former Augustinian St Frideswide's priory would be found.

Parts of two adult inhumations and five infant burials were recorded and lifted. These related to the priory, which would have been carrying out burials of local inhabitants. They probably date to the later medieval period as earlier burials have previously been found at a greater depth. Other similar burials were found during excavations in the Cloister in 1985.

The precinct wall of the priory was located under the southern terrace. To the west at least one articulated inhumation was found, laid with the head to the east (usual practice is for the head to be to the west). Disarticulated human remains have been found further west along the southern terrace. These may have been associated with the Church of St Michael at the Southgate. Provisional dating suggested a medieval date of perhaps 13th to early 14th century.

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

"Skeleton 287", a probable female aged between 15 and 21 years. The skull next to her left shoulder is numbered 291, and is an adult male.



Mitchell M. Gitin Fund

MITCH GITIN (1960) upon his retirement from the active practice of law after 38 years working in New York, Sydney, Hong Kong, London and Moscow, has endowed the Mitchell M. Gitin Fund to enable Christ Church Library to maintain a constantly supplemented collection of books on Russian history, culture and language.

Mitch commented:

"After completing the BA in Modern History in 1962, I spent two years as a "cold warrior" officer in the United States Army Intelligence and Security Branch in Stuttgart, Germany, and went through several crises which could have culminated in the use of nuclear weapons and the consequent end of civilization as we know it. Russia today is a huge energy power. Moreover, despite the current fixation with the rise of China, it can never be forgotten that Russia is estimated to still possess close to 20,000 nuclear warheads.

Surveys of schoolchildren in the UK report that the only non-UK person in the 20th Century they know anything about is Hitler, notwithstanding that 50 million deaths have been attributed to Joseph Stalin.



Left: Mitch Gitin Right: Janet McMullin

Yet, recent surveys of schoolchildren in the UK report that the only non-UK person in the 20th Century they know anything about is Hitler, notwithstanding that 50 million deaths have been attributed to Joseph Stalin. As recently reported in The Economist, historian John Lewis Gaddis, author of the newly published and much-acclaimed The Cold War: A New History, has observed that the confrontation with the Soviets which effectively ended in 1989 is [ancient] history, not at all different from the Peloponnesian War. Rather, the story of Russia – at least in the 20th century – is really part of the "history" of virtually everyone alive in the world today. For all these reasons, I think it important that the House make available to its members a good selection of written materials on Russia and I have accordingly set up a fund to provide for this."

MITCH GITIN (1960)

An uncommon common room



The long-awaited refurbishment of the JCR began in early March 2006, with Annual Fund donations constituting a large part of the budget. This cosmetic overhaul of the space will result in having separate, designated areas for television, reading, and games. The existing television room will be adorned with new furniture, lighting, and equipment, while the old games area will be redesigned as a quiet reading room, with coffee tables and armchairs. The large outer room will be transformed at one end into a café area with furniture funded by a prior Annual Fund donation. Will Dorsey (JCR President 2005-2006) describes the JCR as the centre of an undergraduate community and, on behalf of that community, expresses his grateful thanks to Annual Fund donors for contributing to a project that all of Christ Church can be proud of.

SARAH THOMAS, *Alumni Relations & Database Assistant*

The new television room

Oxford Investment Partners

Former Chancellor of the Exchequer Lord Lawson of Blaby (PPE, 1951) has become Chairman of Oxford Investment Partners, an initiative which puts Christ Church at the forefront of financial innovation in UK universities. The impetus behind the venture has been led by Karl Sternberg (PPE, 1988), former Chief Investment Officer at Deutsche Asset Management.

THE CHRIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT is essential to cover our annual expenditure, and our future ability to provide an exceptional education to talented students. We do not make significant changes to the investment of the endowment without good reason, so the decision to entrust management of £30 million of our assets to Oxford Investment Partners ('OXIP') is an important one. It represents three different innovations, together aimed at improving our long-term financial position and keeping Christ Church at the forefront of commercial ventures within the University.

Firstly, it represents a more sophisticated way of investing our assets. The old approach was to rely on two big bets: property and public equities. We decided that now is the right time to diversify the portfolio to produce smoother returns, by adding together assets and active management with low return correlations to one another. But in a world of lower returns generally, this diversification would involve working much harder to discover sources of premium returns. In particular, we believe that

we will find better returns by being early adopters of new or relatively untapped sources of return and by harnessing the extra returns which come from hiring very talented fund managers.

This new approach is much more complex and time-consuming than the simple property and equity portfolio we had in the past. The search and ongoing monitoring costs are daunting. But without diversification and manager skill, we know that we will struggle to produce good returns in future.

It represents three different innovations, together aimed at improving our long-term financial position and keeping Christ Church at the forefront of commercial ventures within the University.

Overcoming this barrier led to the second innovation: a joint-venture to implement our investment approach with two other colleges, Balliol and St Catherine's. Both these colleges were having similar discussions about their endowments. After considerable deliberation it was agreed that the cheapest and most sensible

approach was to pool our endowment efforts. In order to reduce search costs we decided to engage the services of Watson Wyatt, one of the world's largest investment consulting firms. Unlike most of their clients we will work with them, rather than simply implement whatever advice we receive. The project is so important to them that their Head of Manager Research is personally involved.

Once we had a pooled vehicle for investment, it became clear that we had something potentially very valuable. Many charities and endowments face similar issues. Being able to access the sunk costs and ongoing efforts of three sophisticated clients, fund managers and assets consultants all in one organisation could be very attractive to them: normally they would have to seek advice from each separately. Hence the third innovation: the creation of OXIP, with Christ Church a founder shareholder, alongside Balliol, St Catherine's and the professional management. OXIP was launched formally in March after the FSA registration was received.

If the business is as successful as we hope, it will boost Christ Church income further from the flow of profits, and give us a valuable asset.

By putting ourselves at the forefront of financial innovation OXIP is one example of how we are working hard to make the most of every penny we have received over the centuries and to safeguard the future of Christ Church.

KARL STERNBERG (1988)

Living here, learning here

OVAL HOUSE THEATRE DEVELOPS NEW WORK WITH YOUNG REFUGEES

"Hello, I'm calling from social services. I'm responsible for a teenager who arrived as an unaccompanied minor from Afghanistan, the Congo, Eritrea, Kosovo, Iraq...S/he is interested in the arts, but really just needs a safe social structure in which to make a few friends. Can you help?"

This is a phone call that has become very familiar to Oval House Theatre in the past few years and one that tells of the reality of hundreds of young people arriving as refugees and asylum seekers into Lambeth and Southwark. They are looking to make friends and be normal teenagers, but schools are ill-resourced or equipped to answer their needs and pressures.

In response, Oval House has developed a three-year project, LIVING HERE, designed to help new citizens tackle the barriers they tell us about – lack of confidence, lack of friends,

disappointment in their under-achievement at school. We have pioneered creative techniques that form the basis of LIVING HERE. Through drama and related arts young people express their ideas, develop fluency in language, build confidence and self-esteem, and enjoy an uplifting experience that contrasts with the complications of their daily lives. LIVING HERE involves the whole school and creates a channel for young refugees into the wider arts activities of Oval House.

'In my country, we don't play drama – we don't know what that means. Some people in the school, they don't talk to no one, but when they come in the drama lesson, they have to talk to someone. Everybody enjoys it because it's nice. Drama was lovely for me. It helped me to make friends, to be a man, to laugh with people. If you laugh with people, people love you.'

– A participant from one of our drama workshops



LIVING HERE is funded by the Princess Diana Memorial Fund and the Baring Foundation, but we rely on the generosity of our donors to maintain our services for young people.

To help, or just find out more about Oval House, please contact Valerie Boulet on +44 207 735 2869 or valerie.boulet@ovalhouse.com

VALERIE BOULET, Oval House

Paine Graduate Reading Room

ON 19th JANUARY 2006 we celebrated the naming of the Paine Graduate Reading Room in the Law Library.

This redevelopment was part of the project of refurbishment and endowment of the Burn Law Library, funded through the Law Development Campaign (an early part of the Campaign for Christ Church). The creation of the new graduate reading room involved major building works, and Peter S. Paine Jr (1957, and now President of the American Friends of Christ Church) and his son, Peter S. Paine III (1985), made a particular donation to enable this element of the project to succeed. As the plaque in the Paine Graduate Reading Room makes clear, both father and son were taught by Edward Burn, and indeed, Peter S. Paine Jr has been tireless in promoting the whole of the Law Development Campaign in the United States, in honour of Edward Burn.

Our old member lawyers who matriculated between 1976 and the late 1980s will remember the room, off the Law Library entrance lobby, in which the Law Weekender taught them. That teaching room was rather dark and cold, but with an electric fan heater it served its purpose, and it had a second (smaller and even darker and colder) room beyond, where the Law Weekender used to have a bed. For those who need a further geographical point of reference: the “No Peel” door, at the foot of the hall stairs, was the fire exit from the bedroom. During the 1980s we decided that the two rooms of the Law Weekender’s flat should become the “BCL Rooms” because, in those days, our graduates were generally reading for the BCL. Each room was equipped with two desks which, at the time, was adequate provision.

But our population of graduate lawyers has grown significantly over the years. Now, for

example, we have a typical group of 12 graduate students reading for a variety of Law degrees: not only the BCL but also the Magister Juris (the equivalent of the BCL for students who have read a civil, rather than a common, law first degree), the Master of Studies in Legal Research and the Master of Philosophy (both one-year thesis degrees) and the D.Phil. Four desks in two small, rather dark and badly heated rooms were hardly very good provision for our graduates, so as part of the Law Library development project we devised a new scheme for the old BCL Rooms. The wall dividing the rooms was removed to provide a larger, light and airy space, with new lighting and heating, and new desks were installed to double the capacity to eight working spaces, all with individual power sockets and internet connections.

This would be a significant project in itself. But the work on the graduate rooms was made more extensive by our decision to make them accessible for wheelchair users—as the whole of the Burn Law Library is accessible—which necessitated lowering the floor by several inches to remove the steps into the room. The cost of the refurbishment of the graduate rooms was therefore a significant part of the whole Burn Law Library Project, and we were delighted that Peter S. Paine Jr and Peter S. Paine III came forward with their donation to enable it to be achieved. The new Paine Graduate Reading Room is a significant improvement to our provision for Law graduates, which is confirmed by the constant use that they make of it, and by all that our graduates tell us about the benefits they have from such a splendid working environment.

JOHN CARTWRIGHT, *Tutor in Law*



Left: Peter S Paine Jr
Right: The Very Reverend Christopher Lewis

Ivy League

ON THE EVENING of Monday 6th February, the private dining room at the Ivy in Covent Garden was the setting for a dinner of Housemen and women who had gathered to show their support for Christ Church. The dinner was organised and hosted by two members of the Campaign Board, Kate Bingham (Biology, 1983) and Simon Warshaw (Engineering, 1983), with a view to raising the £350,000 needed to name the East Wing of the library as part of the Campaign for Christ Church. £3,300,000 is needed to re-roof, rewire, repair, restore and expand the library to improve the working space, and the services available to readers.

The guest of honour was Lord Lawson of Blaby, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who spoke of his time at the House. He also spoke of his delight, upon entering the House of Lords, to find that both the Junior Censor and Senior Censor from his time as an undergraduate were there to welcome him. The Dean spoke about the role of Christ Church within the collegiate university and Sir David Scholey (Chairman of the Campaign Board) informed everyone of the need for the Campaign and fundraising progress to date. It was in between the roast *Poulet des Landes* and the Bramley apple pie that Kate Bingham

made her pitch to the assembled diners, asking in such an enthusiastic manner that surely none could resist. Indeed few did, and the pledge cards, discreetly placed on the table, were filled in remarkably swiftly.

To date, £318,000 has been given and pledged towards the East Wing of the library as a result of that dinner. A warm vote of thanks goes to all those who have given, and especially to Kate and Simon for all their hard work in making it happen.

LUKE PURSER, *Major Gifts Director*

Beryl Woolley



Left: John Cartwright Centre: Beryl Woolley,
Right: Edwin Simpson

"The College Cassandra", so nicknamed for her perceptive insight into Christ Church applicants, Beryl Woolley completed 40 years of service to the House in January 2005. From her initial appointment as Assistant to the College Secretary, Beryl was headhunted to the Admissions' Office in July 1965 where she worked for the next four decades, with numerous Admissions' Tutors, five different Deans, and seeing Housemen such as Stephen Darlington, John Cartwright and Edwin Simpson apply as undergraduates.

Peter McDonald, the last Admissions' Tutor for whom Beryl worked, described her memory as "the single most important piece of smart technology in the place", with a legendary knowledge of generation after generation of candidates, undergraduates and tutors. With a plethora of memories, anecdotes and insight into the evolving world of Christ Church as it launched access schemes and opened its gates to women, Beryl's presiding memory of her time at the House is one of a strong and supportive staff community. So much did Beryl value this community that upon her retirement she made arrangements for the refurbishment of the staff dining room – now called the Beryl Woolley Dining Room – as a thank-you to all those with whom she worked, and as a means to foster warm links between new staff members.

Despite her official retirement, Beryl is now a regular volunteer in the Cathedral. Her continued presence in college, together with the tangible legacy of the Dining Room, is a constant reminder of all that Beryl achieved and contributed to the life of Christ Church. We once again extend our warmest thanks to



Beryl Woolley by Jim Godfrey

Beryl for her dedication – past and present – to the House, and wish her the very best for the rest of her retirement.

SARAH THOMAS, *Alumni Relations & Database Assistant*



Edwardian dinner display table

Many old members were among the 150 or so participants in the House's 2006 Special Interest Weekend at the beginning of April. Food and History appear to be the two themes that draw an enthusiastic following from year to year. The 90th anniversary of the battles of Verdun and the Somme were the focus of the history option, designed by the late Robin Neillands and led by Tristan Lovering.

Sara Paston Williams again drew together the food experts whose focus was the extravagance of the Edwardian table, a style of life and opulence whose lights were put out when the Great War erupted.

Foodies immersed themselves in tea and ice cream, as it were, with tutored tastings of both delights. Lectures included *La Belle Epoque* with Raymond Notley and *Great Chefs* from

Futile sacrifice and Edwardian extravagance

Ivan Day. Peter Brears brought a new insight into kitchen design including that of Cardinal Wolsey and Phillipa Glanville explored Christ Church's silver.

The House's catering team surpassed themselves with a measured, authentic and beautifully crafted Edwardian banquet.

Though 1916 was the peg on which the history option was hooked, speakers extended their range across the whole conflict, from the outbreak of war to the conclusion of the Versailles peace treaty in 1919. Corelli Barnett and Sir Alistair Horne opened the intellectual barrage, Dr Bill Philpott (1983) spoke on Verdun and Professor Gary Sheffield the Somme. Gallipoli was Michael Hickey's topic and Corelli Barnett concluded the programme with a rebuttal of the *futile sacrifice* argument and with trenchant views on the naïveté of President Woodrow Wilson. Penny Lomax's hugely popular talk on Great War literature was an elegant contrast to the tactics, strategy and carnage of the muddy battlefields.

The House's spring weekend has established an encouraging following, this programme having been fully subscribed by Christmas. It has been decided to offer another such event next

year (29 March - 1 April 2007). The subject options will again be food and history. For further information, or to reserve a place, please contact Alex Webb, Conference & Events Administrator, on +44 1865 276174 or alexandra.webb@chch.ox.ac.uk.

JOHN HARRIS, *Steward*



Spies, Lies & Intelligence

3-8 September 2006

From the historical certainties of World War II, through the treacheries and ultimate triumphs of the Cold War, we have emerged into an age when "Terror" is the West's new political and security watchword.

This five-day conference brings together authors, experts and intelligence practitioners of international standing and examines the evolution of intelligence, espionage and deception across more than half a century.

Please direct all enquiries and bookings to:
The Steward's Office, Christ Church
OXFORD OX1 1DP. Tel: +44 (0)1865 286848
Email: conflict@chch.ox.ac.uk



Christ Church Association News

TRINITY TERM 2006

ISSUE 17

Editorial

Over the past few weeks and months many of my waking moments, and indeed many sleeping ones too, have been consumed by *Christ Church, Oxford: A Portrait of the House*. The response from old members has been wonderful. Thank you to everyone who sent in memoirs or memorabilia. I am only sad that we will not be able to include them all. Everything sent in, whether it made it into the book or not, will be held in the college archives for future reference. I hope the resulting book will delight, or at least intrigue, those who turn its pages.

Turning now though to Association News, sadly just before production, we had to lose two of our features to free up space for other Christ Church Matters' material. There was a major feature on the year reps scheme, listing all the year reps and their contact

details, plus a number of their photographs. There was also a feature on three old members (Michael Powell (1968), Fiona Rice (1980) and Stephen Fielding (1970) who have been doing some work in the charity sector. I have been promised that Association News will be given more pages in the Michaelmas edition of Christ Church Matters and so both of these features will be held over until next time.

In this slimmed-down edition, we do have a feature on old members who have tried their hand at "exploring" and an interesting insight into behind the scenes at the Olympics bid and the role that Christ Church old members played. In an experiment, we have made the Triennial calendar into a tear out format. It is always helpful to hear your views and comments, so please let us know what you think, about this or anything else.

FIONA HOLDSWORTH (1981), Editor
Fiona.holdsworth@btopenworld.com

One Day in Singapore

THE RACE FOR THE LONDON OLYMPICS

You probably saw the pandemonium erupt on television on July 6th last year when Dr Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), confounded the bookies and announced, "The Games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012 are awarded to the city of... London."

The decision, made at an Olympic Committee Members' meeting in Singapore, was greeted with dismay by crowds in front of the Hotel de Ville in Paris - and with jubilation in Trafalgar Square. What wasn't shown on television was the tense sequence of events that preceded the announcement, or the role that Christ Church played in bringing the Olympic Games back to the UK for the first time in 64 years.

The day began with five cities still in the race to win the biggest prize in sport. Havana, Leipzig, Istanbul and Rio de Janeiro had already been eliminated. Only London, Madrid, Moscow, New York and Paris were left. Paris was clear favourite to win, with London, according to the pundits, destined to be runner-up. But the London team, for which I was director of marketing, wasn't ready to give in. Each bid team had 45 minutes to make their case to the 105 IOC members, who would then vote on which city would host the Games.

Paris was up first. Their presentation began well with stunning imagery of the French capital filmed from the air by Luc Besson. However, it then descended into a barrage of statistics, talking heads and computer-generated imagery, which didn't give the viewer a chance to draw breath.

Some of us wondered if the French had lost sight of the audience, the average age of which was 65 and included many in their eighties.

New York followed with a polished presentation that concluded with a film by Steven Spielberg, in which the Olympic Torch was united with the flame held by the Statue of Liberty. Mayor Bloomberg, in his speech, suggested that if New York wasn't awarded the Games in 2012, it wouldn't bid again. It sounded like a threat; not a great note to end on.

I didn't see Moscow's presentation. I was calming London's team in the green room, reviewing for the final time who, after our presentation, would handle the different issues we expected to be raised during Q&A. We resisted the temptation to produce a travelogue of our city, and instead chose to focus on what London could do for the Olympic Movement: use London's youth appeal to inspire young people across the world to take up Olympic sport. In the coffee break, we were excited to hear directly from members of the audience that our pitch had been well received.

Following Madrid's presentation, the voting began. One by one cities were eliminated. Moscow first. New York next. Then Madrid. The final vote was between London and Paris.

Two nail-biting hours later, the delegations from each city were invited to return to the ballroom to hear the result of the final ballot. As we entered the room, I could see the French

carrying bottles of champagne. David Beckham, one of the personalities supporting the London bid, pointed out that 57 of the 60

journalists in the room were positioning themselves in front of the Paris bid team. "That's not a good sign," he said. A wave of disappointment flooded our team: the media had obviously been tipped off so they could get the best reaction shots.

Formalities extended the tension for a further 20 minutes allowing London Mayor Ken Livingstone to compose the remarks to be offered in defeat to his opposite number, Bertrand Delanoë.

When the result came, everyone was taken by surprise. The media pack scrambled to get to the other side of the room and the British bid team. Instead of opening their champagne, the French had already started to apportion blame. We were absolutely euphoric.

And the part played by Christ Church? It supplied the London bid team with Media Strategist Elizabeth Kesses (1991); Head of Marketing Chris Denny (1983); Executive Assistant to the Chairman Andrea Lewis (daughter of the Dean), and me. I wonder how many medallists will the House provide in 2012?

DAVID MAGLIANO (1981), former Director of Marketing, London 2012



Andrea Lewis

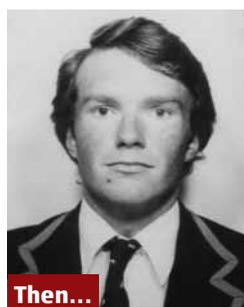


Then...

Elizabeth Kesses



...now



Then...

Chris Denny



...now



Then...

David Magliano



...now

This issue we hear from five old members involved in exploring as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

Nick Rankin (1969) on becoming a writer



At Oxford, ambition changed sweaty horses. From boyhood, following my Kemble genes, I had longed to be an actor, and played small parts with OUDS until the day I turned down the lead role in *Coriolanus*. I've never regretted that fork in the path. "Actors are cattle" as Hitchcock remarked. I was a reader who wanted to write, but had no real idea of what sort of writer to pretend to be.

Perhaps it was Prescott's *Conquest of Peru*, borrowed in my second year from the Library in Peckwater, which set me wandering in South America and Spain for the next five years. I wrote many thousands of words of diary there, but published nothing. I was 30 before my initials appeared under an item in a beekeepers' journal, or my byline topped a piece in the papers. The chance that I had happened to read Robert Louis Stevenson's *Fables* to the blind Argentine Jorge Luis Borges then helped me to hook a book contract to follow the author of *Treasure Island* around the world.

Stevenson once told a young journalist in Auckland, New Zealand that the only way to learn to write was by reading. He also said that in youth he had "played the sedulous ape" to writers whose prose he admired by copying their style. I enjoyed waterskiing in Stevenson's wake in the UK, France, America, Hawaii and Samoa, and also trying to report clearly what I saw in my first book. I still like one sentence in *Dead Man's Chest*, about a D-Day anniversary: "The ferries were full of men remembering".

I found I had written a biography in the form of a travel book. A decade later, I visited Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, South Africa and Spain researching *Telegram from Guernica*, but

because this was a biography in the form of a history book, I had to curtail exuberant colour. Piecing together the story of the forgotten journalist George Lowther Steer, I learned the usefulness of Q's weary admonition to James Bond on screen: "Pay attention, 007." Getting it right, as best you can, is the aim. The struggle is fitting facts and thoughts into words and sentences that go together in paragraphs, like trains pulling box-cars of consciousness. Steer saw reporting as writing the history of every day: both reporters and historians owe absolute duty to the truth. I think good writing is distilled truth, and bad writing simply isn't true.

Nick Alexander (1973) on Kilimanjaro



As I looked down on the glacier from the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro last October, Christ Church was not in the forefront of my thoughts. These were mainly preoccupied with breathing! However the climb caused our editor to think of me when looking for travel related contributions.

Although I feel rather a fraud in this context thinking of myself chiefly as a media man, I did sandwich Christ Church between two transportation jobs, London Underground before coming up, and British Rail on going down. Both were mercifully brief as was my later claim to a travel career as the first Marketing Director for Virgin Atlantic Airways.

I have many stories about all three jobs but this is a piece about Kilimanjaro. Inevitably with only a few hundred words it is impossible to do the experience justice but I can give you a few headlines.

It was beautiful! In seven days on the mountain we had only a few hours of rain. I climbed with 21 people from the video game

industry, several of whom were already my friends, now they all are. We climbed slowly through rain forest from 6,000ft, alpine landscape from 9,000ft and ended in volcanic scree from 15,000ft to the top at just over 19,000ft.

The last part was the only tough bit. Setting off from Kibo camp at midnight, so that the scree is frozen and you can get up it, we reached Gilman's Point on the near side of the volcano around 8am. It had been a difficult night with several casualties en route. But most of us made it and most of us were in tears of high emotion when we went over the top and saw the glacier beyond.

The most masochistic of us went onto Uhuru, another two hours painfully slow walking around the volcano and only a few hundred feet higher. Four and a half days to the top and only a day and half back down!

I virtually skied down the scree. What had taken 8 hours to ascend took only 40 mins to descend. The rest of the descent passed incredibly quickly, driven on by the thought of a shower, a proper bed and the powerful effect of increased oxygen in our lungs that made us feel fantastic.

So why did I do this? In honesty it was not to raise my share of the £200k for children's charities in Tanzania or the UK that we jointly achieved, but the advent of a big birthday that seemed to need acknowledging by more than giving a party.

At the House my sport was pinball. I had climbed a few hills in England before and had once been at altitude in Peru, but had never attempted anything like this and I think I can truthfully say that nothing at Christ Church prepared me for it either. Not even climbing the steps to Hall for breakfast after a very heavy night. Kilimanjaro was much easier!



Robin Garton (1965) *Late developer*



Robin Garton was sent to the House in 1965 under high parental pressure to become the family's 24th rowing blue. Instead, the torpid in which he rowed stroke, started head of the river and finished fifth. Rustication followed soon after.

Garton became an art dealer and is now more or less retired from business after 39 years during which he made sales to over 150 museums and public collections.

He started mountain climbing in 1999, and became 'hooked' by glaciers. He managed the Matterhorn on his second attempt in 2002 and is hoping to reach 6,000m (20,000ft) in Peru this summer. He climbs for appeals on behalf of NGOs and has so far raised a little short of £50,000 for different causes.

He considers that western concepts of Development and Aid can inflict horrendous damage on the third world. His preferred method is to work on smaller scale projects with locally or indigenously based NGOs, who understand the needs and aspirations of local communities, with a particular emphasis on the participation of women. Much of the money raised has gone to support One World Action, a partnership NGO based in London, which provides money to local NGOs. An example of one such project involved the building of 28 schools in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a small and little known region of Bangladesh with a rich ethnic and tribal diversity. Education is vital to help these remote people to understand their precarious land rights, to learn Bengali, English and numeracy. They may have a rich future from tourism and spice trading, but it has to be built from the bottom up over time. Only women are allowed to teach in these schools and this will enhance their status, which at present is non-existent.

This year he is trying to help raise £50,000 for unrestricted funds for One World Action. He is half way through a BSc programme at Southampton University, still trying to obtain his first degree!

Rupert Cox (1962) *in the Sahara*

Arriving at Christ Church fresh from remote Swedish Lapland, making a map for the Swedish government under the auspices of the British Schools Exploring Society, my attention was soon focussed on using the long vacation to 'explore'. A fellow freshman, Carl Jones, and a school friend at Oriel were soon in discussion about possibilities of finding a suitably remote mountainous area. The Tibesti mountains in the Sahara rise to 11,000ft and cover an area as big as the UK in the middle of the Sahara desert, and seemed a good challenge. It was clear that for official support – essential for serious sponsorship – we needed a scientific programme. Research showed that the Ashmolean Museum needed a survey of artifacts and rock engravings for their African Stone Age collection, and that the OU Medical School needed skin samples from desert people for leprosy research. Many months were spent in research, writing to experts in various fields and enlarging the team which, apart from Carl and me, included Patrick Wheeler and Robert Coate, both from Christ Church.

As leader I was responsible for the presentations to official bodies, including the OU Exploration Club and the Royal Geographical Society and, as it transpired, for typing many of the letters to companies for funds and cadging supplies. It taught me about objectives, planning, project management and (lack of!) delegation which were certainly useful experiences for business life. We had to raise around £3,000 (some £45,000 in today's terms) and struggled until we (a group of students without an HGV licence amongst them!) were loaned a 5-ton truck by Ford to add to our two second-hand Land Rovers. The hours spent in the planning and organisation seemed somehow more rewarding in the short-term than studying for



In the Sahara 1965
l to r Rupert Cox, Robert Coate, Patrick Wheeler (all ChCh)
and Dave Lowe (Oriel)

final exams! Indeed my tutor, Dr Michael Grace, discovered that I was spending rather more of my time on desert logistics than on physics theory and said he would have stopped me had he known earlier. Once finals were out of the way the Head Porter provided us with storage space for the mass of supplies which were rolling in and needed to be reorganised and boxed.

After more than two years of planning the 1965 Oxford University Sahara Expedition was on its way. The two crossings of the Sahara Desert (from Tripoli to Zouar and vice versa) were successfully completed, navigating by compass and sextant (no GPS!) and not without slow and arduous progress in certain sections of the desert and several mechanical problems which required some innovative repairs. The fieldwork programme was successfully completed and a film made for Ford.

For us all the expedition was a maturing experience where we rapidly learnt the importance of working as a team and putting aside any personal or character differences. Each benefited from the expedition in different ways, but common to all were some lasting friendships. For me the expedition was also directly responsible for landing a job at Shell, despite dropping a degree class. In my Shell career I was also able to continue my interest in travel to remote areas in many parts of the world, including Borneo, Laos and the Amazon.

In October 2005 we held a 40-year reunion in the dusty 'outback' of New South Wales, reliving our desert experience over a 4,500 km trip, albeit in a little more comfort. Our itinerary took us on a circular route, via the dingo-proof dog fence out to Cameron Corner at the intersection of NSW, Queensland and South Australia, and back via Mungo National Park and the wine-growing areas of NSW. So successful was the trip that we now have plans to meet up again for another reunion in Canada in 2007!



Australian Outback 1985
l to r Carl Jones (ChCh), Rupert Cox (ChCh), Lyndsay Tyler (Camb), Tony Moody (Oriel), Robert Coate (ChCh), Dave Lowe (Oriel), Patrick Wheeler (ChCh)

David J. Pierce Jones (1983) on climbing Everest



David J. Pierce Jones then

When you're there, at the summit, you can't help feeling that if man could have climbed Everest a few centuries earlier he could have saved a lot of arguments about whether the Earth was flat. I don't just

mean locally; obviously it's not very flat at all in the Himalaya, but you can feel the curvature of the horizon; you can see the world is a ball.

At the Pole, though, your horizons are so limited that it feels like you're skiing round and round an average sized white asteroid, and it gets very monotonous. I remember one day thinking how dull polar travel was compared to mountains and asking my expedition partner what he thought, trying not to give away my feelings. "It's so much more interesting than the South Pole!" he

enthused. Everything really is relative. The day we climbed up to the top of an iceberg trapped in our frozen sea was almost agoraphobic: we could see over a kilometre away! It's cold up there, especially when your progress is halted by a "lead" - an open water gap in the ice, sometimes big like a canal, sometimes narrow enough to step over the deep ocean under your skis, always humid, with evaporating water furiously cooling itself to freeze over again, the moist air chilling you fast. Weird, moist air at -26C. Sort of feels like Scotland. Sometimes we would ski around it, sometimes it would freeze over, and across we go, skiing on thin ice.

Heaviest guy first, no point us all getting wet if it cracks. I'd like to go back one day, and do the "full" version, skiing from the Siberian coast to the pole, rather than starting on the ice cap for the "quick" trip (kind of necessary - my wife was pregnant at the time!)

The main question people ask about Everest isn't "was it hard?" (of course), "did you worry about dying?" (of course) nor "did you nearly die?" (maybe), not even "why?" (because I wanted to since I was ten), but "did you use oxygen?" People are obsessed about it. Yes I did. I'm married with four kids, and one of them was conceived after I got back. In my view not using oxygen is moronic for anyone with responsibilities, or who wants to be capable of creating a new one when they get home.

It doesn't make it any easier really - the performance gain is pretty much cancelled out by having to lug the extra kilos (though the Russian Poisk system that many use is lighter) but you feel a lot warmer, or at least less cold, and for the average climber that avoids a lot of small mistakes snowballing into big ones. You put a fire out by depriving it of oxygen, and it's the same for the heat-producing chemical reactions in your body. The reason I realised that my oxygen wasn't working properly one time wasn't that I was carrying the extra weight for no good reason (though it did feel harder) but the creeping cold.

Everest was amazing. I don't want to tell any dramatic stories about near-death experiences. But on 30 May every year I quietly celebrate being alive.



David J. Pierce Jones now

Working together to make a book worthy of the subject

GENERAL EDITOR: PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER BUTLER • 280MM X 240MM / 192PP / 80,000 WORDS

This magnificent, richly illustrated tribute to Christ Church is being prepared in association with Third Millennium Publishing and is well on schedule for publication in November 2006.

Christ Church, Oxford: A Portrait of The House will be neither a history of the college, nor a book solely designed to adorn a coffee table. It is intended to be a stimulating anthology of articles, vignettes and images capturing the history, habits and harmonies of the House. We hope that as you dip into the volume, it will not only serve to rekindle happy memories but unmask facts and stories about the college you never knew.

If you have not subscribed, you will pay considerably less if you do so now, rather than wait until the book is published. In addition you will receive your copy ahead of publication and have your name included in a special index with all those who will have made publication possible.

- The first full-colour portrait, in words and pictures, of Christ Church in all its aspects
- The historical backbone running through the book together with memoirs from old members ensures that most aspects of college life are covered
- A rich cast of Christ Church personalities



'We are delighted with progress on A Portrait of the House. The number of subscriptions we are continuing to receive is certainly one of the best responses we've ever had', comments Julian Platt, Chairman of Third Millennium Publishing.

How to Order

A Portrait of the House will retail at £45, but we are able to offer the book (including postage and packing) to subscribers in the UK at only £35, £38 for Europe and £45 for all other international addresses.

Subscribers will have their name listed in the book.

To order your copy, either fill in the form attached to the inside pages of *Christ Church Matters*, or order securely online at www.tmltd.com. Once there, please click on Forthcoming Titles in the Books Gallery section and follow the instructions.