

The Record

MICHAELMAS 2024 · No. 103



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CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE The Record MICHAELMAS 2024

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 ${\it Cover:} \ The \ College \ celebrated \ Forty \ Years \ On \cdot Women \ of \ Corpus, \\ marking \ four \ decades \ since \ women \ were \ admitted \ as \ undergraduates.$

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The Society (as on 10 October 2024)

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Professor Haroon Ahmed BSc (London) PhD ScD FREng

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Mr David Mogford MA
Ms Mary Taylor





The College Year

From the Master

In the last eighteen months, the College has marked two significant anniversaries: the sixtieth anniversary of the Leckhampton project (Michaelmas 1961) and the fortieth anniversary of the admission of women (Michaelmas 1982 for the admission of the first female Fellows and Michaelmas 1983 for the matriculation of female students). The various splendid and convivial events which brought together alumni and current students have been richly described: for Leckhampton (where the celebrations were delayed by the pandemic) by the Warden (J D Rhodes) in last year's $Record^1$ and for the admission of women by a commemorative edition of The Pelican. My purpose in this piece is not to reprise these accounts, but rather to look back at the origins of both of these significant moments in the College's history – and to reflect on the College's capacity for change.

The Leckhampton Project

Leckhampton House was built in 1880/1881 by F. W. H. Myers, a classicist and a Fellow of Trinity College from 1865 to 1869. Designed on the model of a Cotswold manor by Myers' cousin, the architect William Cecil Marshall (1849–1923), the house was named "Leckhampton" after a village in Gloucestershire south of Cheltenham (where Myers had spent much of his childhood). Mentioned in the Domesday Book, "Leckhampton" is thought by some to mean a 'homestead where garlic or leeks are grown'. Myers was a strong supporter of higher education for women and was appointed HM Inspector of Schools in 1872. He was one of the leading members of the Society for Psychical Research. He had rejected conventional Christianity, aiming to prove, by scientific method, the immortality of the soul. Before his death, he arranged to meet his wife, Eveleen (an accomplished photographer), and eldest son, Leo Myers, the novelist, at a given place in the United States. They both turned up – regrettably Myers did not.

Myers occupied Leckhampton House until his death in 1901 and his widow, Eveleen, remained there until 1919. It then had a series of tenants, the last, Louis C. G. Clarke, who occupied it from 1937 until his death in 1961. Clarke was Director of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (1922–1937) and the Fitzwilliam Museum (1937–1946) to both of which he was a most generous benefactor in his lifetime.



Christopher Kelly, Master.

- 1. The Record 102 (2023), 18–19; see too, The Pelican 32 (2023), 31–33.
- 2. Forty Years On · Women of Corpus (August 2024).

Opposite page:
(above) George Thomson
Building. Photograph by
Colin Westwood, 1964. RIBA
Library Photograph
Collection, RIBA19177.
(below) Leckhampton
House. Photograph
(platinum print) by Eveleen
Myers, 1914. National Portrait
Gallery, London, Photographs
Collection, NPG Ax68468.

The beginning of the Leckhampton project is noted briefly in the *Letter of the Corpus Association* for 1961: 'During the coming academic year the house will be occupied by Professor Longuet-Higgins [Fellow and Life Fellow, 1954–2004] and Dr Roach [Fellow and Life Fellow, 1950–2015] with seven research students. There is a swimming pool in the grounds which a group of undergraduates instigated by the [Senior] Tutor [Michael McCrum] have cleaned out and put in order.'³ More was said in the *Letter* the following year: 'Leckhampton, the graduate extension of the College ... is now in being and has already created a marked *esprit* of its own ... The garden has proved a popular rendezvous for senior members and their families as well as for junior members ... The dining arrangements for all Fellows provide for as much reciprocity as possible between Leckhampton and the Old House, and the resulting two-way traffic has ensured that the unity of the College has in no way suffered from its growth in numbers and from the distance between its two sections.'⁴

To fill in some gaps: October 1961 to August 1962 was the final year of Sir George Thomson's Mastership; he was followed by Sir Frank Lee. The Leckhampton project is to be credited to Thomson and the (Senior) Tutor, Michael McCrum. On 13 May 1961, the Governing Body agreed: 'That Leckhampton House should be used as a Research Centre, which would be part of the College, to house a large number of research students and a substantial number of Fellows.'5 In early 1962, the Privy Council approved amendments to the Statutes, establishing a new class of Fellows (class F) which allowed the election of Fellows not directly connected to undergraduate teaching: known informally as "Leckhampton Fellows". Eleven Fellows were admitted on one day (23 April 1962), nearly doubling the size of the Fellowship: Beck (engineering), Bruce (educational psychology), Caedel (Japanese), Coombes (pathology), Cross (veterinary anatomy), Green (inorganic chemistry), Gregory (experimental psychology), McBurney (archaeology), Page (Anglo-Saxon), Rudwick (geology) and Tubbs (biochemistry). This class of Fellowship was replaced by the present class F Fellowship in the 1982 Statutes.

Also by August 1962, a new building had been designed (by Philip Dowson and Arup Associates). It was agreed in Michaelmas 1962 to name the building after George Thomson. His successor as Master, Frank Lee, remarked in the *Letter* in 1962: 'The building will, we hope, accommodate itself well to the setting of the garden and trees, and possess architectural merits which may give the College an aesthetic reputation in advance of the rather low marks awarded by many critics to other Governing Bodies in recent years.'6

And from the account of Thomson's Mastership by John Roach in the *Letter*: 'It was Michael McCrum who, with remarkable vision and foresight, appreciated that Leckhampton might make a contribution towards solving the problems presented by the increasing number of research students, many of them from overseas, and of university teaching officers without college fellowships, neither of whom fitted very easily into established pattern of college life. ... It was a revolutionary scheme, and, looking back now over some fifteen years, one is astonished how readily it was accepted by what had always been regarded as a somewhat conservative society.'⁷

3. The Letter 40 (1961), 7–8.

4. The Letter 41 (1962), 11.

5. CCC Chapter Book 13.5.1961/61.

6. The Letter 41 (1962), 12.

7. The Letter 55 (1976), 35.

Admission of Women

The debates on Governing Body concerning the admission of women followed a bitter and hard-fought dispute about the relaxation of guest regulations. In Lent Term 1978 the Senior Tutor (Richard Bainbridge) proposed that 'guests of either sex may be accommodated in rooms already occupied' (for no more than three nights in any week and on a camp-bed). Debate dominated two Governing Body meetings (17 February and 3 March 1978). Those opposed were concerned that any 'relaxation might create a new moral climate in which undue pressure would operate on those who came from sheltered homes or schools to conform with permissive habits.'9 Perceived problems of security, promiscuity and 'emotional problems of sexual origin' were also discussed. The Porters were reported strongly to object 'on grounds of morality, dignity, the danger of being compromised, security, increased responsibility and impracticality.'10 One Fellow 'put the secular arguments against relaxation of the rules; he pointed out the dilemma between recognising premarital sex and encouraging promiscuity with its attendant medical risks ... he pointed out that sexual behaviour in other people was distasteful, and if condoned in the College, then the College would become distasteful to him.'11 There were appeals to the founders of the College. Supporters of the change, including the Master (Duncan Wilson), saw this principally as a matter of personal responsibility for adults, noted that sixteen other colleges had amended their regulations with no evidence that 'a civilised existence had deteriorated, and that there was a real danger in adhering to regulations which could not in practice be enforced.12

The motion to revise guest regulations was defeated by 21 votes to 20 (with two abstentions).¹³ The JCR boycotted dinner in Hall on 10, 11 and 12 March 1978 in protest. A subsequent attempt at re-voting was unsuccessful. On 5 May 1978 the Governing Body agreed – again after much discussion – that 'female guests may be accommodated in rooms other than guest rooms on the same terms as male guests except that written permission must be obtained in advance from the Senior Tutor or the Dean of College ... Such permission will not be granted unless the officer approached is satisfied that arrangements have been made for the host and his guest to occupy separate rooms ... whenever possible [permission] should be obtained at least a day in advance." At the same meeting of the Governing Body, the Master reported receipt of a letter from five Fellows 'expressing the hope that the Governing Body would agree to begin discussion this term of whether the College should admit women as well as men.'15 The letter (24 April 1978) made its case largely on quality of admission: 'until recently single-sex Colleges have been the rule rather than the exception. They will soon become the exception rather than the rule. Corpus will, as a consequence, attract only undergraduates who deliberately opt for a single-sex College.' The five Fellows who signed the letter were: Haroon Ahmed (Fellow and Life Fellow, 1967–2024; Master, 2000–06), Chris Andrew (Fellow and Life Fellow, 1967–), Barry Cross (Fellow and Life Fellow, 1962-67, 1974-94), Paul Davies (Fellow and Life Fellow, 1967-) and Geoffrey Jones (Research Fellow, 1977-79, subsequently Isidor Straus Professor of Business History at the Harvard Business School).

8. CCC Chapter Book 17.2.1978/12G-14G.

9.3.3.1978/19G.

10. 3.3.1978/13G.

11. 3.3.1978/13G.

12. 3.3.1978/13G.

13.3.3.1978/20G.

14. 12.5.1978/34*G*.

 $\pmb{15.}\, 12.5.1978/33G.$

16. 9.3.1979/20*G*; 11.5.1979/33*G*.

17.11.5.1979/36G.

18. 11.5.1979/35G.

19. 1.5.1981/23G.

20. 23/24.10.1981/49G.

21. 23/24.10.1981/52G.

A working party on the admission of women was set up by the Governing Body on 11 July 1978. Its report was considered at a meeting on 11 May 1979. In the meantime, the Governing Body debated the various options for the refurbishment of the kitchens, regrettably in the end deciding against the option favoured by the architects - of restoring the College's medieval hall. To my disappointment, the College Chapter Book does not contain a copy of the working party report on the admission of women. It does retain a record of a JCR referendum in which 59% of the JCR voted in favour of co-residence; 66% of the MCR was in favour.¹⁶ The meeting on 11 May 1979 focused chiefly on the implications for admissions if the College chose to remain in the small minority of single-sex male Colleges: 'Dr Hatcher [Fellow and Life Fellow, 1976-] summarised the main issues as being, firstly, that the College could not remain the same kind of place because of other Colleges going mixed; secondly and in consequence that the nature and quality of our intake would suffer.'17 It is worth mentioning in passing that a number of Fellows floated the idea of a 'half-way house': that Leckhampton might be allowed a 'looser connection' with the Old House and to go co-residential. 'Dr Hatcher said that it would be a serious matter to loosen the ties with Leckhampton further and it should not be done for the sake of expediency.'18 A straw vote at the end of the meeting had 25 Fellows in favour of the admission of women, 19 against and 4 abstentions – well short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the Statutes. For the balance of 1979, the attention of the Fellowship was taken up by further discussions on the kitchens, the sale of the "retained land" at Leckhampton (now Gough Way), the resignation of the Senior Tutor and a Mastership election.

The new Master (Michael McCrum) was prompted in January 1981 by a letter from four Fellows – Haroon Ahmed, Paul Davies, John Hatcher, Hew Strachan (Fellow and Life Fellow, 1975–) – asking that the matter be brought to the Governing Body for decision. (At this point, Corpus was one of four remaining all-male colleges: Corpus, Pembroke, Peterhouse and Magdalene.) The Master noted 'a tacit agreement that the matter would not be raised during his first year in office', but agreed to hold a special meeting of the Governing Body on 23 October 1981.¹⁹

Ahead of the meeting, in May 1981, the JCR had again voted on co-residence: opinion had drifted with only 53% now in favour (91 in favour, 81 against); 66% of the MCR remained in favour.²⁰ The Master summarised a long debate. Arguments against: 'tradition, uncertainty, irreversibility of the decision; postponement would not necessarily be damaging; the case for change was at best not proven; freedom of choice, restrictions of size; co-residence makes mixed colleges introspective; women win fewer scholarships and gain fewer firsts than men.' In favour: 'social equity in the modern world, enrichment academically and socially, popularity of mixed Colleges amongst applicants, expectation of schools and their pupils, loss of good candidates from single sex Colleges, demographic trends which will result in a 30% drop in male 18-year-olds in the mid-eighties ... no increase in numbers of applications to Corpus during the 'bulge' years of the seventies.'²¹ I note also important papers (included in the Chapter Book) received by the Governing Body on 23 October: a letter from

John Hatcher (dated 16 October 1981) and a letter from Chris Andrew (Senior Tutor) and Hew Strachan (Tutor for Admissions) (dated 29 September 1981): 'We are anxious to preserve the College as a plural society: as a community within which both the 'Corpus Squares' and Corpus radicals will thrive in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance ... the minority of undergraduates who prefer an all-male society are able to live happily and work effectively within a mixed college. Corpus, we believe, will find it easier to attract a wide range of talented men if it admits women than if it does not.'

The meeting voted 46 (out of 54 present) to admit women (85% in favour). The formal amendment to the Statutes was approved by the Governing Body the following morning (Saturday 24 October 1981). The Governing Body also dealt efficiently with the concerns – a mixture of archaic eccentricity and unabashed sexism – of the Bursar on domestic arrangements (to quote from the Bursar's paper of 31 July 1981): additional electric sockets in rooms for hairdryers; more varied menus in Hall 'as girls are more likely to be "weight watchers"; upgraded gyp rooms 'as more self catering and entertaining in rooms occurs'; and more tennis courts.²²

In July 1982 the Governing Body elected its first female Fellows: Charlotte Erickson and Diane Dawson (elected in that order; but admitted in reverse—as Diane was eager to emphasise to me, so both had equal claim to the first female Fellow of the College). In the 1982 admissions round there were 226 applicants for entry in 1983 (144 male; 82 female); and 52 for entry in 1984 (38 males; 14 female). For entry in 1983, the College made conditional offers to 40 (20 male; 20 females) and unconditional offers to 49 (35 males; 14 female). Note that 128 applicants were post A level; 49% of applicants were from private schools.²³ In 1983 40% of applicants were female.²⁴ Leckhampton shifted more slowly: in 1983, of 49 new students only six were women.²⁵

Brief Reflections

Both the decision to establish a postgraduate research centre at Leckhampton and the admission of women are to be applauded: the former was far-sighted and Cambridge-leading; the latter was belated, Cambridge-following and (for at least some Fellows) chiefly necessary to secure the academic standing of the College. It is a matter of lasting regret that it was not done earlier and for explicitly nobler reasons. But forty years later it is no less deserving of being marked. It is also a moment to congratulate those Fellows who were persistent in the face of considerable opposition in forcing debate and a decision and the Master, Michael McCrum, who so skilfully managed the business through Governing Body. It should also be emphasised that the College has changed significantly in the last four decades. Looking at the College today, it is sometimes difficult to remember that the decision to admit women was taken as recently as October 1981.

Indeed, both significant changes – the establishment of Leckhampton and the admission of women – are best seen in the longest perspective which extends back to the College's foundation in 1352 by a group of Cambridge townspeople eager to invest in education as an affirmation of a world restored after the devastation of the Black Death. That too is a narrative that needs to be re-told.



Charlotte Erickson, first female Fellow, 1982–2008 (photograph from the College's collection).



Diane Dawson, first female Fellow, 1982–2019 (photograph courtesy of Andrew Street).

- **22**. Annexe D in CCC Chapter Book 31.7.1981.
- **23**. Table in Governing Body papers for 4 March 1983 item 6.
- **24**. CCC Chapter Book 15.12.83/72SC.
- **25**. 4.10.83/57G.

26. The Record 102 (2023), 12–13.

I emphasised in last year's *Record*, the key role played by Margaret Andrew who on her death in 1349 left land to the newly established Gild of Corpus Christi. Margaret Andrew is the College's earliest known benefactor.²⁶

For me, the decision to establish Leckhampton and the decision to admit women are both significant inflexion points in the College's history, and two moments – one foresighted, the other embarrassingly belated – when the modern Fellowship regained something of the zeal and purpose of our founders determined in a spirit of educational reform to establish an academic institution: (in words of the licence granted by Edward III in November 1352) 'for all time a house of scholars, chaplains and others, under the name of the House of the Scholars of Corpus Christi and of the Virgin Mary at Cambridge, to be governed by a Master according to the ordinances of the same.'

Professor Christopher Kelly, Master

Tutorial Report

...and finally a really vintage year: we do not talk (much) about it, but the 2024 exam results have been spectacular, almost as good as in our golden year 2012. We had no fewer than 107 first-class marks and an outstanding record from our finalists, who, with 54 firsts out of 112, were the best in the University! I should add that the most successful subjects were Geography, Medicine, Psychological & Behavioural Sciences, Engineering Parts IIA and IIB, English Part II, Philosophy Part IA; and with splendid individual achievements also in the Natural Sciences, ASNC, History and Architecture.

Students helpers and prospective students in sunny New Court.



For all that, our students, as ever, distinguished themselves in a variety of cocurricular and extra-curricular activities: some of them rowed and played rugby and football with their usual passion, the College choir sang to their heart's content, and the Fletcher Players had a rich theatrical season. (One of them gave an impressive reading of a piece from Doctor Faustus at the Marlowe Dinner: "I must now perform the form of Faustus' fortunes, good or bad..."). They also spent their vacations journeying to research esoteric coursework topics, visiting sites of importance to their work, taking on internships, or simply relaxing and gearing up for the final push towards their examinations. Many of them also showed their commitment to the life and mission of the College by participating with enthusiasm in the Pelican Programme and the Bridging Programme's wider-than-ever series of outreach activities, looking after participants in the residentials and escorting groups of potential applicants around the Corpuscular courts for hours on end, at times under a rather un-English scorching sun. They extolled the great wonders of life in a small college where you immediately feel at home, and of Old Court or New Court rooms that have a great history and tremendous character (instead of mere ensuite facilities).

We, as I am writing, had a very busy (and very late) admissions cycle, during which their efforts (and the Admissions Team's) to manage the complexities of a hybrid system of remote and in-person interviews were much needed, and the results of their good work in outreach were clearly in evidence. This academic year is now well under way, in fact we shall shortly emerge from a particularly cold winter, and they are already looking beyond the exam and toward May Week. Plans for the 2025 May Ball are already afoot...

Dr Marina Frasca-Spada, Senior Tutor

Access and Outreach

Over the past academic year, we have been organising and expanding a busy programme of access and outreach activities across the country, particularly in the North East and Northern Ireland. These activities have had a clear impact on our application numbers and have helped in our continuing efforts to widen participation in the College.

The Pelican Programme

We started teaching to the third cohort of the Pelican Programme in January, running fortnightly super-curricular sessions in Architecture, Classics, English, French & Spanish, History, Law and Philosophy. The students were chosen based on widening participation eligibility criteria and we also endeavoured to ensure that students from across the country were selected. Subject leaders in all streams commented on the quality of engagement this year, with a low attrition rate.

In Lent we decided to extend the programme into the sciences. With the Forty Years On celebrations of the admission of women to Corpus at the forefront of our minds this year, and also given the historic problems of gender balance in Physical Sciences, we designed a programme of online sessions for women applicants, using the resources of the Isaac Physics programme to focus on problem-solving skills in Chemistry and Physics.

Sadie Berry-Firth speaks with Pelican Programme students who successfully participated in the French & Spanish sessions.



We were delighted to welcome 119 students from all the streams to the residential celebration event in July, where we ran academic sessions and admissions sessions, and enjoyed meeting everyone in person. The highlight was a formal dinner in a packed Hall at the same time as the "Women in Computer Science" programme. We were very grateful to the Catering Department for fitting everyone in at an extremely busy point of their year.

Easter vacation residentials

During the Easter vacation we hosted two residential events: a two-day STEM residential organised in partnership with Villiers Park Educational Trust and the second iteration of our Medieval Worlds residential.

In the Villiers Park event, the students experienced excellent subject-specific sessions with David Abrahams, Nicki Humphry-Baker and Robin Hughes, and

Parker Sub-Librarian discusses manuscripts with the participants of the second Medieval Worlds residential.



met our student ambassadors. They were also offered brief one-to-one discussions regarding their desired subject choices at university. Feedback was very positive.

"I feel the residential was organised very well, with staff and students who really helped me understand what University life is like in a short period of time."

"It was challenging which made for an enjoyable experience, also I learned valuable information regarding the application process which was very useful."

In the Medieval Worlds residential, students were again offered the chance to explore the medieval period and medieval themes through the Parker Library and conservation team and the extensive expertise in these fields within the Corpus academic community. The feedback was again overwhelmingly positive.

"I'd like to say thank you for such a special experience! Meeting with people in lots of different job roles, the academics and other people my age who are all passionate about the medieval was hugely inspiring and has definitely solidified in my mind the path I want to follow."

"Everything was so wonderful, it introduced ideas I had never come across. Also, the undergraduates were so lovely and very useful in answering all our questions."

Admissions Week

The office ran three back-to-back residential programmes in Admissions Week in July, involving 212 Year 12 prospective applicants (British Physics Olympiad Residential, Pelican Celebration and the Corpus Link Area Summer School (CLASS) for our Northern Irish schools). These events were held immediately before the two University Open Days during which we had around 5,000 visitors through the gates.

Our Outreach Co-ordinators

Both Elaine Effard, our Outreach Co-ordinator embedded in the North East, and James Davies-Warner, our Outreach Co-ordinator embedded in the College, had a very busy year outside the residentials already described.



Admissions & Outreach Co-ordinator James Davies-Warner speaks to Northern Irish students at the Link Area Summer School residential.

James visited Northern Ireland three times in the year, reaching his goal of visiting all the grammar schools not previously visited by Corpus in the previous year. He was pleased to see the impact of his work, with students beginning to apply to the University from outside the big Belfast grammars and from less advantaged backgrounds, and with more Northern Irish students in general applying for Cambridge outreach programmes (including our own). He also enjoyed exploring with the University's Development and Alumni Relations office how best to use Northern Ireland-based alumni in our outreach efforts. He also hosted several school and external organisation visits to College.

Elaine visited 28 schools across the North East, and exhibited at three regional university/careers fairs, reaching around 6,000 students in total. She also implemented a programme of talks and initiatives at Harton Academy, the school that hosts her post, and encouraged applications to Medieval Worlds, the Pelican Programme and STEM SMART. A particular highlight of her year was the North-East Teacher Conference, which took place in July 2024. There were 23 delegates representing 19 educational organisations. Feedback was excellent, and Elaine has already followed up on her post-conference offers of outreach, such as programmes of talks across the 2024–25 academic year and student one-to-ones for potential Oxbridge applicants.



North East Outreach Co-ordinator Elaine Effard points to a photo of her younger self, a former student at Harton Academy.

Student contributions to outreach

The undergraduate community continues to support the efforts of the Admissions Office in great numbers. We now have around 70 undergraduates who regularly get involved in access and outreach across College and the wider University (for example, we have the second highest number of STEM SMART mentors of any College). Our postgraduate mentors also supported the Experience Postgraduate Life Sciences programme over the summer again. Special mention should go to Sadie Berry-Firth (2024 MML graduate and Pelican Programme Subject Leader) who won a grant from the Association of University

Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF) to run a programme focused on the promotion of Francophone studies, called "Beyond the Metropole", which culminated in an in-person event in Belfast.

Dr Jo Willmott, Admissions Tutor
NAOMI WALKER-PEARL, Admissions and Outreach Manager
JAMES DAVIES-WARNER, Admissions and Outreach Co-ordinator
ELAINE EFFARD, Access and Outreach Co-ordinator in the North-East

Praelector's Report

I took over the role of Praelector from Dr Jo Willmott in October. Jo was extraordinarily generous and helpful in the transition and I join the College in expressing my immense gratitude to Jo for more than a decade of service as an exemplary Praelector. Jo's tenure as Praelector had coincided with the interruptions to regular graduation caused by the COVID pandemic as well as the marking and assessment boycott. Our recent congregations have returned to the pre-COVID norm, with in-person ceremonies in November, February, April, and July, and General Admission in June. The Head Porter, Simon Harding, continues to lead our procession to Senate House with great verve. John Richardson continues to serve as an indefatigable and minutely attentive Praelector's Secretary. Their work, in combination with many others in the College, has ensured another run of successful congregations for graduands and those returning to take their MA.

Dr Felix Waldmann, Praelector Rhetoricus

The Praelector watches graduands line up before the procession to the Senate House.



Leckhampton Life

The 2023–24 academic year was a peaceful one at Leckhampton. I am increasingly drawn to the positive value of uneventfulness, and so the steady progression of the year was tonic. The Stephen Hales talks, which I organise, offered the intellectual variety for which they are known: we heard talks on 'critical gastromusicology', biopolitics in contemporary China, Aristotelian geometry, the hotel in cinema, and the melodramatic mode in AIDS in popular culture.

The year marked the 100th anniversary of the matriculation of Christopher Isherwood as an undergraduate. Leckhampton was, in those days, a private residence, so Isherwood would never have had the good fortune of strolling the grounds. But Eliza Haughton-Shaw, one of our brilliant Early-Career Research Fellows (and who does live at Leckhampton), curated a wonderful and archivally rich exhibit in the Parker Library to mark this anniversary. The exhibit demonstrated what a strange place Corpus was in the early 1920s, and how strangely it nourished Isherwood's writerly imagination. The show also included the exhibition of original works of art commissioned expressly for it; these will be installed permanently in Leckhampton House later this year.

The MCR, under the decisive but un-coercing leadership of James Faulkner and Odara Medagedara (President and VP, respectively), and with the help of a generously engaged team of officers and secretaries, ran a year of exciting and galvanising events, all of which culminated in the annual leavers' dinner, served in the resplendent green of the garden in high summer.

I spent quite a bit of time working with other College officers to think about how to improve the Leckhampton site, to make it more hospitable to the combination of scholarly and the convivial for which Leckhampton is cherished. Leckhampton can feel nearly perfect, but finding ways to improve it has been one of the greatest pleasures of serving in my capacity as Warden. More to come...

Professor JOHN DAVID RHODES, Warden of Leckhampton



JD Rhodes and Eliza Haughton-Shaw at the Isherwood in Cambridge exhibition.

Bursary Matters

September is a special month in the College calendar. The end of the conference and summer school season and the anticipation of new students arriving for the new academic year in October. The chance to get everything ready for the coming term, including this year the repair and restoration of the Chapel Clock (see page 176).

As I write this, in September 2024 at the end of an academic year, looking out over New Court, past the Hall to Wilkins' superb façade, I reflect not only on the period of this *Record*, but on the seismic changes that have affected Corpus, since I was last here as Interim Bursar in the 2020–21 academic year.

All Cambridge colleges, indeed all businesses (and to a Bursar a college is a business, as well as an educational charity), were massively impacted by the COVID pandemic. This past academic year has been the first one where a sense of pre-COVID normality pervades the College courts. The students have spent most, if not all their time at Corpus post-pandemic. Supervisions, exams, dining, sports and social life have once again got a familiar feel. Under the surface however, Corpus is facing an existential threat.

Our main source of income (half the undergraduate fee of £9,250) has been frozen for nearly a decade; our utility costs have nearly doubled in two years; and the cost-of-living crisis that affects our students, as well as our own expenditure, limits the extent to which we can increase rents. We are faced with impossibly difficult choices: do we cut back on the educational and other benefits that previous generations of Corpus members have enjoyed; or can we find new sources of income? The choices are stark. For the time being, we depend on the generosity of our benefactors, most of whom, over the centuries and still today, want to "give back" something to Corpus, so that current and future generations of students may enjoy the life-changing experience of a Corpus education that they were fortunate to experience. The money we drawdown from the endowment allows us to maintain our expenditure on student support at around £1.2m. This year we also needed an additional £2.6m to make up for the deficit in our non-educational operating expenditure.

In this way, the return on investments of around £139m provide us with a short-term cushion to weather the current storm. But depleting the endowment is not a long-term solution. There are investment opportunities to generate future income – especially at Leckhampton – and these will need to compete for funding with the huge costs of maintaining our historic Old House, now in need of serious repair and refurbishment.

I am reminded of the line in *The Leopard* (di Lampedusa) "So that everything can stay the same, everything must change".

These are some of the challenges facing my successor as Bursar. The new Bursar will have to rebuild the Bursary Team, following the moves of Jenny Raine (Bursar) to be Head of Student Services in the University; Gemma Donaldson (Domus Bursar) to be Bursar of St Cross College in Oxford and Nichola Morse to be Head of Finance at Jesus College. We have been fortunate in being able to recruit Simon Shinkfield from Westminster College as interim Domus Bursar.

Academically, Corpus continues to do well and it was a great pleasure to read that, based on this year's Tripos results, the Tompkins Table placed the College in third place, narrowly behind Trinity and Christ's, with our graduating finalists in first place in the University.

It has been a huge privilege to be asked to return to Corpus as Interim Bursar and to renew the many friendships and professional relationships made four years ago. I am also hugely impressed with the calibre of the staff in place, many recruited since I was last here. I am confident that, despite the dire warnings above, the College will emerge stronger than ever and continue to flourish, as it has for nearly 700 years! Dr David Secher, Interim Bursar

College Staff

This year has been a more turbulent one than the previous one, with a higher turnover of our senior staff which has slightly unsteadied the ship and set us off course temporarily. No one likes too much change, and the process of transition can be challenging, but with change there is always an opportunity, and I am sure that the new Bursar, once in place, will set us on course for calmer seas in 2025.

We have said farewell to our Bursar, Jenny Raine, who has moved to the University as Head of Student Support and our Domus Bursar, Gemma Donaldson who has developed her career as the Bursar for St Cross College in Oxford. We wish them well and thank them for their leadership and focus which was needed after the global pandemic. We welcomed Dr David Secher as our interim Bursar and Simon Shinkfield as our interim Domus Bursar, both who have been very supportive during this transition and have provided some continuity and leadership to all of us while we have reassessed our needs and started recruitment for the replacement posts.

We are always sad to see staff leave us but are very happy to see that they are developing and broadening their careers. These include our Clerk of Works, James Earl, who has moved to King's College as their Head of Facilities; our Head of Finance, Nichola Morse, who will be heading up a larger Finance team at Jesus College; our College Nurse, Erika Spooner, who is going to Murray Edwards College; and our Tutorial Office Manager, Tess Milne, who after nine years at Corpus has ventured to pastures new at Newnham College to head up their Tutorial team. We wish them all the very best.

We are very pleased to welcome to the College our new joint Head of IT and Business Services, Tim Fowler. Tim holds the same post with St Catharine's College and 'joining forces' this way has proved very positive and beneficial to both colleges, ensuring an even stronger collegiate relationship than we had before.

We have always championed the apprenticeship scheme at Corpus, and we are pleased to have taken on three apprentices this year which is the first time since the global pandemic. We wish good luck on the apprenticeship journey to Jonny Ducker in IT, Felix Fosh in Maintenance and Matthew Sayers in Catering.

To finish on a very positive note, we have met our objective from last year of improving staff benefits. We have changed our pension provider and have



Head of IT Tim Fowler and IT Technician Jonny Ducker at the 2024 Macmillan Coffee Morning.

increased our pension contributions for staff. We have also improved our death in service insurance benefit. We are constantly seeking to enhance wellbeing for staff with new initiatives, so along with offering free legal advice and pension advice clinics, and work-based massages, as well as organising a range of staff events throughout the year, we hope that we will be able to attract new talent and retain the wonderful staff who are already on board.

Ms HELEN VINCENT, Head of HR

Development and Alumni Relations

The Forty Years On · Women of Corpus project is something we will remember forever. Recognising the fortieth anniversary of female undergraduate admission, it was the most significant Old Member project we coordinated throughout the 2023–24 academic year. The various aspects of the year as a whole are described more fully elsewhere in this publication. The big event was the weekend of 8–9 March 2024, presided over by Professor Philippa Hoskin, and coinciding with International Women's Day (IWD).

New Court lit up with the Corpus colours during the Forty Years On weekend.



Alumni in the Parker Library browsing the archive materials for Forty Years On · Women of Corpus.



The weekend was arranged around IWD goals of inspiring inclusion, celebrating women at work, women creatives, women's health, women in sport and women in tech. The panel sessions, performances and activities each showcased at least one of these areas and the keynote speech 'Inspire Inclusion' was delivered by Professor Baroness Kathy Willis CBE (m.1986) now Principal at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. We have curated an online publication, available on the Commemorations tab within the Alumni section of the website, for a more detailed summary of this project.

Last year in *The Record* we asked for your support to fund a bursary in Margaret Andrew's name, our first known benefactress, who died in 1349. The fund remains open to future proof its value, but from October 2025 we will be in a position to award this bursary to a female undergraduate student. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

It is rewarding to have planned such a major series of other events this year, and this is in part testament to a full and stable team this year in the Development and Communications offices, and here is an opportunity to thank them for their great enthusiasm and hard work.

Wonderfully, the regular rhythm of reunions and other events unfolded seamlessly throughout the year, with great fun mingled with doses of touching nostalgia in abundance. In September we held the MacCurdy Reunion for the matriculation years of 1983–88, appropriately timed to coincide with the years when women first joined Corpus to study and conduct research.

The pre-1966 Reunion was well received at Leckhampton in October, and was an opportunity for Old Members to see how the site has developed from being either new, or not yet conceived when they were in residence as students.

The Beldam Reunion for the matriculation years of 1978–82 was in April, and again this was a very jolly affair. We were surprised when the 100% male guests in Hall raised a cheer to the women who were admitted after them.



The Master and the Director of Development with alumni at Leckhampton for the pre-1965 reunion.

At our 1352 Foundation Society legacy event, after champagne in the Master's Garden, and lunch and conversation with the Master, we enjoyed listening to Professor Ewan St. John Smith's talk entitled 'Pathways to pain: how to cure, not cause!' – an illuminating talk much appreciated by the audience.

Another event of note was the tree planting ceremony to commemorate Charles Allen's (m. 1956) fantastic funding of 43 PhD students across Cambridge, with 20 of these attending Corpus over the years. Malcolm Allen (m.1984), also an Old Member, was present for the occasion.

Guests at the Beldam Reunion enjoying a drink in Old Court.





1352 Foundation Society Lunch.

The Master and I travelled to the east and west coasts of the USA in April, visiting Seattle, Palo Alto, San Francisco, Atlanta and New York, and to Hong Kong in May. Our aim is to build our Corpus social network on these trips, and we are particularly grateful to Andy Thompson (m.1982) and Andrew Smith (m.1981) for hosting events at their homes and for welcoming us so warmly.

We also aim to fundraise on these trips. Being passionate about the transformative impact of a Cambridge education, combined with the Corpus experience, means I am ambitious to enable new investment in core and new projects. The largest philanthropic project delivered through generous funding this year has been Mogford Lodge, the historic cottage adjacent to Newnham House, formerly occupied by a Fellow, Professor Raymond Page and his wife, Elin. We needed more accommodation for the larger cohorts that now include Bridging Course students, and David Mogford (m.1972) came to the rescue as the lead funder of this initiative, with others also making gifts.

You will have read in our *Impact Report* about the importance and value of our student support, wellbeing, and capital project developments. We are gearing up a fundraising campaign for the 200th anniversary of the Boat Club in 2028 and the Corpus Playroom needs a complete facelift.

We are grateful to volunteers who organised events around the country: Alan Farquhar (m. 1971) in Herefordshire, John Olbrich (m.1968) in Manchester and Stuart Laing (m.1967) in the south-west, with David Allison (m.1969) again overseeing the Corpus Association dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in December. Should you like to get together your cohort to meet up, we are always happy to send out your invitation to your peer group, and indeed a large group of the 1993 cohort, organised by Peter Bernstein, met in London in October.

I would like to thank all 736 donors and everyone I met in the course of the year for their friendly welcome, thoughtful ideas and generous support of Corpus. You make my role very special indeed.

Mrs Rachel Lawson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

The Year in Chapel

The Chapel's year saw us joining in heartily with the Forty Years On · Women of Corpus celebrations. All of the preachers this year were women, bar one visiting Corpuscle bishop from Queensland, the Rt Revd John Roundhill. Among them were: the Very Revd Abi Thompson, the Dean of Sheffield; the Venerable Dr Rachel Mann, Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton, as well as novelist, activist, musician and poet; the Revd Dr Sharon Prentis, Deputy Director of the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit; and the Revd Canon Angela Tilby, known to many from 'Thought for the Day'. The Mere sermon (see page 52), focusing on the writings of the female mystic Julian of Norwich, was preached by Dr Ruth Jackson Ravenscroft, Teaching Associate for the Cambridge Foundation Year and Director of Studies in Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion for Corpus. The Revd Dr Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville and Caius, and alumna of Corpus, delivered the Name Day sermon (see page 49).

The choir, organ scholars (Perrin Ford and Yejoon Park), along with Director of Music (Nick Danks), led us beautifully all year, and memorably so in our Advent Carols, focussing on the women of Advent (Eve, Deborah, Elizabeth and Mary), and then in a sequence of music and readings for Lent and Passiontide, in which we heard of the women of the Passion (Mary of Bethany, Pilate's wife, the daughters of Jerusalem, and the women at the foot of the cross).

There is, of course, one woman of Corpus who was not to be overlooked and she is the patron of the College: the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the College arms were being redrawn, the Master made sure that the ultramarine of the crest was officially 'Marian Blue', or #2b4593 as it is also more prosaically known.

The year began with the now traditional Chaplain's Cocktails and Mocktails party for the participants of the Bridging Course and then two Welcome Evensongs for the matriculating freshers. They were then also inducted into the grooviness of the Chaplain's 70s disco in Freshers' Week.

More sombrely, this year's Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day included a rededication of the memorial to those Corpus members who died because of the Great War. Thanks to the work of historian and alumnus Peter Martland, whose new book *Lost Generations* was launched on the day, the names of seven men who had been missing from the Chapel's memorial have now been included, superbly cut by the Cardozo Kindersley workshop.

Candlemas, the College's Second Name Day, was celebrated with St Bene't's, at which the Revd Dr James Gardam, interim priest in charge, but usually Dean of Pembroke, presided and the Chaplain preached. We joined with St Bene't's again for Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. It was a very great joy to see the Revd Devin McLachlan inducted as Vicar on 13 September 2024, eighteen months after the tragic death of the previous Vicar, the Revd Canon Anna Matthews.

Other College Livings also celebrated inductions and licensings. We were pleased to welcome the Revd Jim Robinson as the new Vicar of Grantchester, the Revd Ben Shires as priest in charge of St James, Norton, in the Diocese of Sheffield, and the Revd Tori Venmore-Rowland as priest in charge of Rockland, part of the Shellrock Benefice in the Diocese of Norwich.



Peter Martland at the launch of his book, Lost Generations.

The WW1 memorial in Chapel with seven new names added to it.



We continued to work more closely with St Botolph's, inviting their choir to sing for our Second Name Day Evensong, and then had a return match at St Botolph's in the summer, before celebrating Ascension Day together. The choir has also joined forces with alumni at the 'Come and Sing' Evensong, as well as with the school choirs of the Leys School and the Royal Hospital School, Suffolk. In Michaelmas, we also welcomed Fisher House for a Mass celebrated by Fr Paul Keane who reminded us of the various Roman Catholic martyrs who had been members of the College after the Reformation.

This year we continued to offer a termly service of Compline but also successfully experimented with a termly service of Alternative Worship, a meditative half hour with contemporary live music, readings and reflection, all offered by students.

The Chapel building has been busy. A fire detection system was installed and work began on the introduction of a new sound system. The Bene't Club, expertly shepherded by its President, Csenge Kosaras, has used the Chapel well, with Thursday lunchtime organ recitals, Friday lunchtime concerts, an open mic night, and the Soul Nights organised by Alex Bird. Serika Siriwardhana organised a concert by Cambridge Takht (an eight-piece percussion band from the Middle East) which, like the Soul Nights, raised money for the Oxfam Gaza Appeal. This was the charity which the JCR chose to support in the light of the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and for which the Chaplain was persuaded to be goalkeeper in a students versus Fellows charity football match. Despite his new motto – 'Saving souls, saving goals' – the Fellows were defeated. There have been plenty of other

concerts and musical evenings as well as a performance of the *Duchess of Malfi*, which raised eyebrows as well as raising money for the menstrual charity Bloody Good Period.

The Chaplain spoke to the Student Christian Movement about whether Christians could redeem Hallowe'en and also continues to co-lead the University Vocations Group with the Dean of Selwyn, the Revd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson. In the summer, they led a punting pilgrimage to Grantchester and both also appeared in *Varsity* in an article about chaplaincy, written by our own chorister and English student, Joshua Gleave (www.varsity.co.uk/features/26973).



The Chaplain playing goal in the student vs Fellows/ staff football match.

Lent Term was overshadowed by the loss of three Corpus friends. The Chaplain officiated at the funeral of Paula Farman on 21 February 2024 at Cambridge crematorium. Paula, a history teacher, was the widow of Joe Farman, honorary Fellow and discoverer of the hole in the ozone layer, who died in 2013. On 8 April 2024, the Chaplain officiated at the funeral of Dr Arthur Williamson, alumnus and former lecturer in the International Relations department, also at the crematorium. The memorial service for Dr Michael Tanner, Life Fellow, philosopher and opera critic, was held at Leckhampton on 26 April.

The summer brought some happier occasions. Dr Alicia Smith, the Parker Library Early-Career Research Fellow, having preached for Trinity Sunday, then led us on a day's retreat to the Julian Shrine in Norwich. Alicia's research concentrates on anchorites and she helped our pilgrim band to read closely some of Julian's texts. We also celebrated with the Revd Dr Steve Horne and the Revd Tom Musson who had both been ordinands on attachment in College as they were made deacons. Steve is the first Romany from the UK to be awarded a PhD in Theology and his monograph *Gypsies and Jesus: A Traveller Theology* (2022) is the first major introduction to the Christian theology of the Gypsy, Romany, Traveller community. We were honoured that he was able to deliver the University's first talk on GRT theology in College: 'The last "acceptable" racism? Writing a new Gypsy narrative'.

Students, Fellows and an Old Member, Revd Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne, visiting the Julian Shrine in Norwich.



We rarely baptise babies in College; usually those baptisms take place in the parishes where the children will be nurtured as young Christians. But fortuitous circumstances this year meant we were delighted to baptise Sebastian Noah Winter Bosoms in the summer, son of theology PhD student Marilu Bosoms Hernandez and her husband Philip Winter.

The British Museum's request to borrow Parker Library manuscript CCCC MS 223 for its Silk Roads exhibition led us to look at the incense recipe that was added to the front leaves in the tenth century once the manuscript had reached England. The ingredients of the recipe would all have reached England down the Silk Road. In a mighty interdisciplinary effort, Professor John Carr, Dr Betty

Cheung, Professor Philippa Hoskin, the Parker Librarian, along with graduate students in the biological sciences, Jennifer Palmer, Satish Viswanathan and Robert Waddell, came together to translate the recipe, collect the ingredients and gathered in the chapel to

recreate it - to good effect!

With heavy hearts, but offering him our most hearty congratulations, we had to say our goodbyes to our Dean of Chapel so that he could take up the role of Canon and Regius Professor of Divinity at Christ Church, Oxford. The Revd Professor Andrew Davison was Starbridge Professor of Theology and Natural Sciences in the Faculty of Divinity as well as being our Dean of Chapel. He studied at Corpus for his undergraduate degree and PhD in theology, after having already completed

PhD students Jennifer Palmer and Satish Viswanathan and Professor John Carr in the Chapel cooking up incense from an ancient recipe.

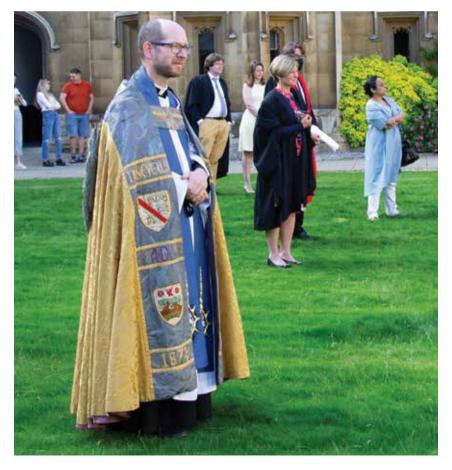


a degree in chemistry and a DPhil in biochemistry at Merton College, Oxford, and has been a Fellow of the College since 2014 (Dean of Chapel since 2019).

Andrew will be sorely missed at Corpus. As Dean of Chapel he has been a constant and dependable source of wisdom, common sense and genuine care for the Fellowship and the wider College. Not to mention the loss of his considerable skills in gardening, music, science and his impish sense of humour to boot. Andrew is ideally suited to the post of Regius Professor of Divinity. He is already an eminent theologian acclaimed for the depth and accessibility of his academic work, for his gifts as a teacher and administrator, but also for his ability to bring together his service of theology and his service of the Church. We are sure that Andrew will flourish in his new post and look forward to seeing how he makes it his own.

The Chapel year was rounded out by the wedding, just after the General Election, of alumna Dr Rosie Bell to Mr Luke Downham, a senior parliamentary researcher for the Labour Party. As the register was signed, the Director of Music, Nick Danks, managed to weave in a little D:Ream on the organ. The congregation grinned in unison as they detected the strains to 'Things can only get better'. In a year that has been so very hard and distressing for the world, let us hope that it may be so.

The Revd Dr Matthew Bullimore, Chaplain



The Revd Professor Andrew Davison on Corpus Christi Day 2024.

College Music

The volume and breadth of music performance in College continued to expand this year, with a very active Bene't Club and strong student participation and organisation.

Lunchtime Recitals took place every Thursday and Friday during Michaelmas, Lent and early Easter Terms, with good audiences, significant collections towards the termly Chapel charities and a wide variety of music: mixed recitals on Thursdays and organ recitals on Fridays. In addition, several new initiatives were launched, such as a Soul Night in Chapel and some select concerts from external choirs and orchestras.

The music practice rooms and chapel piano were fully subscribed in terms of usage with some extremely high quality piano practice being heard from the Chapel involving the clutch of talented pianists we currently have in College!

The Chapel Choir had a busy year as usual with the standard round of regular services, several joint services with the congregation of St Bene't's Church (including the annual Candlemas procession and Ash Wednesday) and the Choir of St Botolph's (with joint Sunday Evensongs and the now annual Ascension Day Eucharist). We also had the pleasure of singing jointly with the Choirs of the Royal Hospital School, Ipswich, and the more local Leys School. The Choir also took part in their annual choral concert with the St Paul's Knightsbridge Festival Choir in London in March, this year performing Dvorak's highly charged and beautiful *Stabat Mater*. Excursions to sing Choral Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral and St Mary's, Warwick, were also much enjoyed. The year finished with a trip to sing in Milan and at our link College in Pavia, the College Borromeo.

Bene't Club President Csenge Kosaras greeting visitors during the Forty Years On · Women of Corpus weekend.



It was also good to be able to welcome a large number of alumni singers back to the annual Come and Sing Choral Evensong in June, with a convivial garden party afterwards.

My thanks to outgoing Bene't Club President, Csenge Kosaras, who has put her heart and soul into College music, ably assisted by graduating organ scholar, Perrin Ford. They leave student music-making in good health.

NICHOLAS DANKS, Director of Music

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

It has been both an immensely fruitful and celebratory year within EDI but also a very difficult and tragic one. We celebrated the Women of Corpus for an entire year while we were also forced to watch the unfolding violence in Israel/Gaza, the global conflict which has particularly exercised students politically, and often personally, as well as the race and religion-related riots in the UK in the summer of 2024.

EDI is sometimes seen as virtue signalling, a side issue which needs to be seen to be done. At other times it is presumed to be the child of progressive ideologies, one side in an ongoing culture war. At Corpus, we have seen, however, that it is simply about becoming a better place to live, to study, and for all to flourish. By focussing on the clear goods of treating one another equally, celebrating our diversities, and making sure our students, staff and Fellows feel included as part of a vibrant whole, we see that attending to EDI is part of what it is to be a thriving collegiate community. Differences can be celebrated and sometimes they need to be mediated. We have been learning how to do both things well.

Students meeting with the Chaplain for the regular EDI forum.



Women/Gender Equality

This year we appointed a Women's Champion, Dr Jenny Zhang. Fittingly so, as the year focused on the celebration of women within College with the Forty Years On anniversary. There was a grand sweep of events organised through the Master's Office and the Development and Alumni Relations Office, including the hugely successful Anniversary Weekend and the Boutwood Lecture series organised by Professor Caroline Bassett. Other celebrations included an International Women's Day Formal and a Women/Non-Binary club night. The Chapel hosted only preachers who were women for the whole year, including Dr Ruth Jackson Ravenscroft as the preacher of the Mere sermon and Revd Dr Cally Hammond as the preacher for the Name Day (see pages 49 and 52).

Positive developments in the Admissions Office included a programme for women in STEM running as part of the Pelican Programme as well as an event run with the Department of Computer Science and Technology. The Admissions events were complemented by the College's new Ada Lovelace Society for women in science which supports progression for women at all stages in STEM within College. It was set up by JCR President Jess Morrissey and supported by the Women's Champion.

We were delighted to celebrate with the Women's Champion and Dr Daria Frank as they were awarded a L'Oreal/UNESCO Ambassadors Award this year to create a new learning resource for women in STEM. They have been asking for participation from female Fellows to create the content for this resource and hopefully will launch it in the coming years.

Informal women's mentoring events and lunches, curated by the Women's Champion, have been taking place twice per term. Special highlights included panel sessions hosted at Leckhampton on 'how to write competitive research grants', aimed at students and early career researchers, organised by Dr Daria Frank and Dr Jenny Zhang, and on how to 'straddle relationships and career' hosted by Dr Nicki Humphry-Baker and Dr Sarah Loos, as well as a session on 'The Creative Process' with alumna and author Gytha Lodge, hosted by Race and Equality Champion, Dr Nirupa Desai. All events were created by women Fellows for female and non-binary members of College, and were very well received.

LGBTQ+

There were the usual very successful events organised by Professor Ewan St. John Smith and the JCR/MCR officers for both LGBT+ History Month and Pride Week, speakers at the latter ranging from queer anxiety during the Cold War to single people and LGBTQ+ history. There were slacks, formal halls, film nights, speaker events and a linked Stephen Hales talk organised by the Warden of Leckhampton, Professor JD Rhodes.

Dr Eliza Haughton-Shaw organised the much-appreciated 'Isherwood at Cambridge' exhibition with play readings in the Wilkins Room, celebrating 100 years since Isherwood's time at Corpus.

Disability and Neurodiversity

The students' guide to all things EDI, the *Liberation Booklet*, was updated and expanded to include more details about neurodiversity and support. The Champion for disabled and neurodiverse students, Professor Philippa Hoskin, along with the relevant rep on the JCR committee, continued to liaise with the Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre, and kept an eye on accessibility issues within College.

Race, Ethnic Minorities and Equality

This has been a fraught year with instances of Islamophobia and antisemitism within the University and city following the 7 October 2023 atrocities in Israel and the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the West Bank.

Following Islamophobic attacks in the city and University in November the EDI Lead kept in close contact with Muslim students. He was able to pass on the students' needs as part of a consultancy team exploring Muslim chaplaincy arrangements led by Pro-Vice-Chancellors Bhaskar Vira and Kamal Munir.

The war in Gaza/Israel continues to cause distress to many students in College including Jewish and Muslim students. As part of its support, the College was able to match fund the Corpus Challenge fundraiser for Oxfam's Gaza Appeal.

Dr Nirupa Desai met with students who wanted to give a stronger voice to ethnic minority students, the result of which was the establishment of the Haroon Ahmed Society for students from ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged backgrounds.

Other positive events included an Ethnic Minorities Picnic, an Eid formal, and also the roll out of a Racial Harassment Reporting form to the MCR. We have also begun to explore becoming a College of Sanctuary that would be mindful of the particular needs of students from refugee backgrounds. Dr Steven Horne's talk on Gypsy, Romany, Traveller communities, 'The Last Acceptable Racism? Writing a new Gypsy narrative', was well-received by students and Fellows, some of which are themselves of GRT heritage. For Black History Month 2023, Dr Charles Read organised for the Corpus Christi College History Society to host author and critic Tomiwa Owolade for a very successful talk on his book, *This is not America: Why Black Lives in Britain Matter*. For Black History Month 2024 Dr Charles Read gave a talk about the story of how in the future Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie was given an honorary degree by the University of Cambridge in 1924 and came to lunch at Corpus after the ceremony (see page 62). That goes to show how possible it is to find black history everywhere you look in Cambridge, if you look hard enough.

The Revd Dr Matthew Bullimore, Chaplain and EDI Lead

Welcome

Author Tomiwa Owolade speaking with students and Fellows at the College History Society.

Communications Office

Much of this year was taken up with creating content for the fortieth anniversary of women programme, Forty Years On · Women of Corpus. This meant profiling illustrious alumnae, and publicising the events, lectures and gatherings that commenced at Matriculation when Life Fellow Professor Alison Smith and

Fellow Professor Caroline Bassett gave 'commencement' talks to new students. Highlights of the year included the wonderful women's weekend in March and the grand finale Garden Party in June. We compiled these and much more into a special commemorative edition of *The Pelican*, which can be viewed on our website.

This is a digital and visual era, so we are often running around the College with a camera or phone in hand to capture the events of the day. Of course we like to record matriculations, graduations, and alumni events, but we also like to reflect the daily life of College students, Fellows and staff. We enjoyed documenting the building works at Mogford Lodge and are even more excited to follow the development of a new garden there, which is being designed by alumna Jo Thompson (m.1990), one of the country's finest landscape designers. You can find a lot of the photos we take on the College's social media channels, especially our Flickr pages, where we now have almost 10,000 images of Corpus past and present.

Long-time College Porter Lee Peters went viral in April, when we made a video showing him ushering the Corpus ducklings safely to the river. The video was shared by the University and viewed hundreds of thousands of times. Fame at last! Another fun social media post on Valentine's Day featured the many Corpus couples whose eyes have met across New Court over the years. And we always love to photograph the gardens both at Old House and Leckhampton, so beautifully maintained by Head Gardener Andy Pullin and his team.



Porter Lee Peters safely ushers a mother duck and her 13 ducklings through St Catharines's College en route to the river.

It is really a pleasure to cover the outreach programmes run by the Admissions Team, and we have seen new initiatives each year. The summer months are filled with students coming from our link area Northern Ireland, and across the country for STEM SMART, the Experience Postgrad Life Sciences, Medieval Worlds, and the Pelican Programme. We also enjoy getting to know the latest cohort of Bridging Course students, talking with them about comms, the media, photography and more. You will have read about how these outreach programmes are helping us to meet our widening participation goals in the latest version of *Impact Report*, capably edited by Communications Officer Leah Stone.

The Parker Library is a never-ending source of fascination and inspiration. A particular stand-out this year was the coming together of art and science when a group of researchers re-created a tenth-century incense recipe that Professor Philippa Hoskin spotted in a manuscript that was displayed at the British Museum for their Silk Roads exhibition (see page 32). This kind of intellectual cross-discipline activity is what College fosters – and it was good fun as well.

We also like to celebrate our students and young alumni when they win prizes and academic honours, or when they are thriving in extra-curricular activities. This year included the Bill Gates Sr. Prize awarded to PhD student Stephen Metcalfe, the success of our Boat Club (especially W1 who had a spectacular year), recent graduate Amy Hunt racing to triumph at the summer Olympics where she won silver in the 4×100 m relay, and PhD student Nick Posegay's book launch of the fascinating *Illustrated Cairo Genizah*.

Showcasing the lives and accomplishments of Corpuscles is a joy, even when it is because we have sadly lost an Old Member. This year we wrote stories about alumni EP Thompson (m.1941) on the centenary of his birth and the philosopher and opera critic Michael Tanner (m.1955) who died in April; you can read the many tributes to him on pages 66–79. Look under the Meet our Alumni tab on our website and you'll find these profiles along with dozens of others featuring Corpuscles in business, academia, the arts, non-profits, medicine and more. These stories and many others show the breadth and calibre of our community across many disciplines and endeavours. Maybe you'll find yourself there next year?

FIONA GILSENAN, Head of Communications

Parker Library

The Wilkins Room has played host to a variety of different events this year. In addition to our regular schedule of exhibitions and tours (about which, more below) it has been the venue for readings of two plays. One was a newly commissioned play 'This is the Good Place', which formed part of the College's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of author Christopher Isherwood's matriculation at Corpus. The second predates this by a thousand years, a translation of Hrotsvitha (c. 935–973) of Gandershiem's tenth-century play *The Conversion of the Harlot Thais*, a rare outing of a work by a woman who is credited with many firsts, including being the first person since the fall of the Roman Empire to write a drama in Latin. This reading was excellently planned and delivered by this year's Parker Library Early-Career Fellow, Dr Alicia Smith.

The theme of performance is a feature of the Parker copy of Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* (CCC MS o61), the frontispiece of which shows Chaucer reading his work aloud. We were delighted to lend this to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, for their summer exhibition 'Chaucer Here and Now'. In a room full of treasures it had a case to itself and attracted the attention of reviewers from *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, the *London Review of Books* and the *Times Literary Supplement*.

Closer to home we have partnered with the congregation of our close neighbour St Botolph's Church to set up a permanent exhibition which allows visitors the opportunity to see more and learn more about two of Corpus' most visually spectacular medieval manuscripts – the Peterborough Bestiary (CCCC



The Parker Library is open for weekly tours.

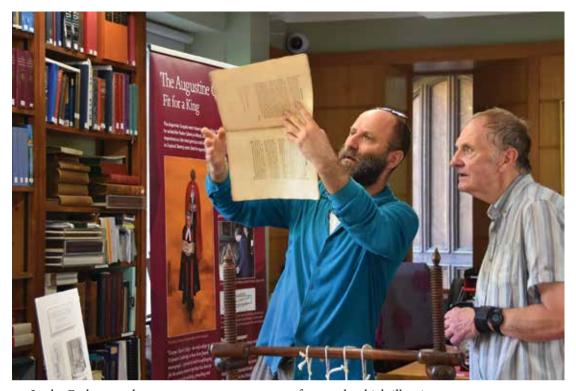
MS 053) and the Corpus Apocalypse (CCCC MS 020). Facsimiles are on display along with information about how people can visit the Parker Library.

I opened by mentioning that this year was the 100th anniversary of the matriculation of author Christopher Isherwood. In addition to staging the play, Dr Eliza Haughton-Shaw, an Early-Career Research Fellow at Corpus in English Literature, curated a fascinating exhibition on Isherwood's life and works, which delighted many visitors.

You will have read elsewhere in *The Record* that this year we marked the anniversary of 40 years since Corpus adopted a gender-blind admissions policy. This seemed a wonderful opportunity to capture some of our modern history from those who were there at the time, and you can read more about our oral history project in the Commemorative Edition of *The Pelican*. But here I'd like to mention the exhibition created by archivist Dr Genny Silvanus, who produced a standing exhibition in the Wilkins room over the period of the anniversary events. She also made it possible for many, many visitors to see at first hand archival material dating from their student years in the 1980s, and share their memories.

Our weekly openings for the public (which can be booked through Eventbrite) have continued and we have welcomed 460 visitors to see the Wilkins Room and its exhibitions, with an additional 330 people visiting us in one day as part of our contribution to Open Cambridge.

Our programme of teaching has also welcomed students to work with our manuscripts from across Cambridge faculties as well as from other UK universities, from international summer schools and as usual we have welcomed many research students and scholars to work on our collections.



Head Conservator Flavio Marzo with a visitor to the Parker Library during Open Cambridge.

In the Parker we also pursue our own avenues of research which illuminate more of the significance of the College's collections and help us excel in the care and preservation of collections. Emerging technologies and methodologies are making it possible to look afresh at manuscripts and archive collections without putting them at any risk of damage. As part of a broader research project, I have been exploring non-invasive methods of analysing the composition of the medieval wax seals in the College's archive, and am learning much about trade patterns in wax and pigments. We have also hosted researchers who are using non-invasive methods of studying parchment, also with the aim of understanding more about where the materials for manuscripts were produced. Three of us took part on the Leeds International Medieval Congress this year: Parker Sub-Librarian Dr Tuija Ainonen gave a presentation to a Round Table discussion dedicated to digital libraries, Parker Early-Career Fellow Dr Alicia Smith presented some of the work she has been doing this year in a panel about medieval hermits, and I presented work relating to my ongoing research on sealing.

Improving our knowledge of the physical characteristics of the material we look after is an important part of understanding how best to care for it. From time to time, for the long-term preservation of books and manuscripts, it is necessary to have conservation work done and this year, due to a generous donation, we have been able to rebind two of our manuscripts. We are very grateful to Ms Shawn Donnelley for making it possible to put these manuscript in bindings which will both keep them safe, but also look very handsome.

Professor Philippa Hoskin, Parker Librarian

The Taylor Library

The academic year 2023–24 was a year of steady progress in the Taylor Library, in which the annual book fund was fully spent on stock improvement, and sizable advances were made towards reclassification of the open shelf collection. The majority of titles purchased in any year derive from University Tripos course lists, from which the Taylor Library aims to provide print copies of essential and introductory readings across undergraduate subjects studied in College.

The Taylor Librarian is also keen to encourage student engagement in shaping the collection, and is pleased to report that high numbers of book recommendations were received in 2023–24 – the highest in any year since before the pandemic. Overall use of print remained strong throughout the year, with evidence that students are increasingly renewing books remotely to extend loans rather than physically returning and re-issuing items. Taken together, this supports a hybrid picture of learning, in which the demand for print remains resilient alongside the use of e-resources.

Reclassifying and relabelling the open shelf collection continued apace, with the librarians completing history of art, French literature, music and philosophy over the year. The project is approximately two-thirds of the way towards completion, which will see social sciences on the top floor, natural sciences in the middle and humanities in the basement. Achieving greater clarity of organisation will ensure that books can be efficiently located using the classification scheme alone, thereby providing a reassuring alternative to the electronic catalogues.

Joe Sandham, Taylor Librarian

The Bridging Course

Five years is not a long time in the history of a 672-year-old Cambridge college such as Corpus. It was that many years ago Corpus launched the Bridging Course, the College's flagship widening participation scheme, expanding its undergraduate intake by ten places each year and becoming the first Cambridge college to set those places aside for undergraduates from educationally under-served backgrounds. As part of the conditions of their offers, those incoming students attend a three-week residential summer school at the College before the start of their first term designed to help smooth their transition between school and university. It was a radical innovation in terms of how we do undergraduate admissions and the first such scheme of its type to be launched at any Cambridge college. But it is already hard for many Fellows, staff, students and Old Members to imagine a September at Corpus without the Bridging Course.

The College's fifth Bridging Course took place this summer between 8 and 28 September 2024. A total of 12 students attended the course this year, holding offers across the humanities, social science, and STEM subjects that Corpus offers. The subjects represented this year included Economics, English, History, HSPS, Law, Natural Sciences (Chemistry and Physics) and Philosophy. Every student invited to attend the Bridging Course had made an application to the University that contained at least one socio-economic flag, such as experience



Charles Read with student helpers Jacob and Shifaa on a visit to the Senate House.

of the care system or having received free school meals, the sort of indicators for which the University and the College had been set admissions targets by the Office for Students. All the costs of the course were met by the College and the students received a bursary to replace any loss in earnings over September.

As the students' testimonials at the end of this report show, those on the course now in their first year of study say they found the course extremely useful academically as well as enjoyable. Students on the Bridging Course are offered a tailored and individual programme of study, allowing them to develop their academic skills before their first term as undergraduates here. It also enables them to familiarise themselves with the Cambridge supervision system, as well as the layout of the College and the University. They live in student rooms and get to know Cambridge before other students arrive for the start of the academic year. This year's social events included a behind the scenes visit to the Senate House, where the students will eventually graduate at the end of their undergraduate degrees to see a mock graduation ceremony, a guided tour of the Fitzwilliam Museum's 'Paris 1924: Sport, Art and the Body' exhibition, and an opportunity to try their hand at some punting on the River Cam.

This will be my last report for *The Record* on the Bridging Course, as my term of office as its first and founding director comes to an end after five years. It is therefore an appropriate moment to reflect on how the Bridging Course has helped to change Corpus over the past five years. As the Master noted in the 2019 edition of the *Record*, "Any institution so brittle, unreflective and unresponsive to the concerns of the society of which it is part will last only a short while". No chance of that at Corpus. The Bridging Course has shown the College's ability to change and lead in terms of innovation among the Cambridge colleges, without losing its fundamental identity or sense of purpose. Indeed, given the College's origins as an institution rooted in its local community, and the ambitions of many of both its first benefactors (including Margaret Andrew) and many of its later ones (including Nicholas Bacon and Matthew Parker) that higher education has a vital role to play in terms of boosting social mobility, we can say that the Bridging Course helped the College to rediscover its roots rather than alienate itself from them.

The Bridging Course has helped to substantially change the shape and size of our undergraduate body in a remarkably short period of time. Over the past five intakes, the Corpus Bridging Course has roughly quadrupled the share of students from severely educationally under-served backgrounds at Corpus. Around 6.5% of students in the 2019 intake had the flags the Bridging Course now targets; this has now risen to 23% of the 2023 intake.

The Bridging Course has also confirmed our place in the University as the most innovative college in terms of widening participation, being the first Cambridge college to expand our intake (by ten) and specifically set those places aside for applicants from educationally under-served backgrounds. We were the first college in Cambridge to launch a Bridging Course in Cambridge - emulating the Opportunity Programme at University College, Oxford - and a further eight colleges in Cambridge have subsequently emulated our scheme, which is still seen in the widening-participation community as the academically goldstandard scheme in Cambridge. The October 2024 Report of the University's Board of Scrutiny formally endorsed Corpus's approach, stating that it "strongly supports the use of Bridging Courses and Preparation Weeks as a cost-efficient way for Colleges and University departments to promote the inclusion of students from educationally underserved backgrounds, as well as a way of addressing awarding gaps and promote belonging and inclusion". The Board of Scrutiny formally recommending "that the University should promote the use of Bridging Courses and Preparation Weeks and encourage greater co-ordination between colleges and Departments over their delivery to maximise economies of scale."2

Perhaps most importantly of all, the Bridging Course has significantly contributed towards enhancing Corpus's reputation for academic excellence. Corpus has risen from 11th on the Tompkins Table in 2019 (the last full exam season before the Bridging Course was launched) to 3rd in 2024 (1st for finalists). It once was thought around the University that a significant and rapid expansion of the share of undergraduates from educationally under-served backgrounds at a College would impair its academic results. The Bridging Course and wider Bridging Programme at Corpus has shown that view to be wrong.

The impact of the Bridging Course is clear. But without the help of our benefactors, most notably including but not limited to Ralf and Katie Preusser, David Mogford, Margaret Thouless and Christopher Bouckley, we could not have launched a programme so ambitious in scope, nor funded the bursaries which help the students who benefit from the scheme go on to successfully complete their degrees. For the Bridging Course and the wider Bridging Programme to take place each year, the College relies on donations from our benefactors because we do not receive any funding from the University or from the government for the scheme's running costs. The next challenge now is to secure an endowment to ensure that the Bridging Course can become a regular part of College life in the years and decades ahead, to keep Corpus as a leader rather than a follower in terms of innovation in widening participation as well as to capitalise on the remarkable benefits that it has already brought this College. If you would like to make a gift to add to these efforts, please contact Rachel Lawson in the Development Office on development.director@corpus.cam.ac.uk or 01223 338048.

Dr CHARLES READ, Director of the Bridging Course

1. Reporter, 6756, 2024/25, p. 67.

2. ibid.

The Bridging Course in the students' own words:

"Now that term has started, I can really appreciate just how helpful the Bridging Course has been. I received a better preparation for term than I would have without it, which was particularly useful. I also got a head start on making friends and learning how to socialise with people from many different backgrounds. I know I would have struggled a lot more by now if I hadn't had the Bridging Course, everyday I was learning something new, both academically and socially, and everything on the timetable had value. I have already applied much of what I learnt on the Bridging Course to my current lectures, reading, supervisions, essay-writing, and socialising."

"The student helpers were one of the best parts of my Bridging Course and they always checked in on us and made sure that everyone felt included; they were very friendly. In particular Jacob was very supportive and made me feel welcome but also reassured me about starting at Cambridge and had a lot of useful advice and suggestions. Also Melita and Shifaa were very friendly and always made an effort to speak to everyone and include everyone. Also big shoutout to Charles Read!"

"It has undoubtedly transformed the start of term for me – I feel that a lot of students are already accustomed to the extent of teaching and work quality here – the Bridging Course allowed me to bridge the gap to that state – also making friends would have been a lot harder without a Bridging Course – honestly so grateful I can't thank Charles Read enough for his dedication to the scheme – also special thanks to Shifaa, Jacob, Charlie, Isabelle, Aoife, Melita, and Yindy [the student helpers] who were amazing and made Corpus feel like home."

"Having more people experience the Bridging Course would be my biggest feedback. Thank you so so much for inviting me because I really benefited from being on the Bridging Course and it genuinely changed the way I saw Corpus and Cambridge as a whole. The helpers were such amazingly lovely people and having friends who you can always approach and be comfortable with is truly invaluable when you're at a new place. Thank you for being so wonderful in arranging it and once again for inviting me!"

"I think the Bridging Course is without doubt a brilliant addition to Corpus and I found it invaluable in allowing me to settle in when term started."

From the Archives

Photographs in College

Have you been to College recently and noticed anything different about the photographs hanging on the walls? Probably not, but as College Archivist, I have been slowly working my way around College on a preservation mission and replacing original photographs with high quality scanned copies in the original frame.

Usually digitisation is about making archives and manuscripts more accessible (such as the Parker on the Web project), but it can also be a useful tool for preservation. Photographs in particular are prone to fade if exposed to sunlight or extreme heat, and so keeping the original in optimum conditions is important



A photo of the Corpus Christi College Boat Club from 1899.

for long term preservation. Even if the copies become faded we can replace them with new prints.

I was surprised to see original team photographs decorating the walls in the College bar (The Pelican), particularly when I realised that many were the only copy held in College. So, during the redecoration of the bar in summer 2023, I arranged to have all of the photographs brought to the Parker Library. Over the course of the next few months I removed the originals from their frames and scanned at a high resolution (300 dpi). The more recent were held in by metal triangles, but those from pre-1940 were literally nailed in with small metal nails.

The team at Cambridge Reprographics stitched together the images (some required four or even five A3 scans of a single image) and then printed them out for me. I put them back in the original frames and the Maintenance Team hung them back in the Pelican Bar.

Accessions this year into the archives

The archives' collection policy is broad and means various accessions come our way from both internal and external sources. This year has been no different, with our usual interesting mix of dates and subjects. A few highlights include:

Loo News (Acc 2023/33). This weekly college newspaper from the late 1980s consisted of news, events, jokes and quizzes. Its title is derived from the fact that copies were placed in the college toilets. The editor gave us the first 50 editions from 1986 to 1989, and it forms an unusual and fascinating social history resource from the time. We also have the editions from 101–115 (1994–1995) in the archive

so we would welcome any to fill the gap!

Tankard (Acc 2024/20) engraved with 'William Warren Haggis Dec 26th 1826' and a stylised picture of a kitchen. Haggis was a Cambridgeborn cook at Corpus and died on 7 January 1860 aged 33. He is buried in an unmarked grave at Mill Road Cemetery. It is not clear why this tankard was engraved with presumably his birth date and not his death date as it includes the tools of his trade, but he died before retirement (which would be the obvious time for such a gift).

Revd Philip Brocklesby Davis letters and diaries, from 1893–1911 (CCCC 14/19). Describing Philip's time as an undergraduate at Cambridge and as a missionary in India in fascinating detail. This collection was partially catalogued by a volunteer which the archivist completed.

JCR minutes, constitution, policies, punt hire, gift agreements etc. Transferred by the JCR President in September 2023 these are helping to bring our clubs and society papers up to date.



A tankard engraved with 'William Warrne Haggis Dec 26th 1826'.

Correspondence about opening a bookshop in Leigh-on-Sea with the Wartime Price Regulation Committee which was housed at Corpus during the second world war. Given by the son of the couple who opened the book shop. This is an interesting part of College history which we have very little about in the College archive.

Three boxes of duplicate Fellows' photographs, 1940s–2010s. These have now been repackaged into archival packaging. One box has been listed, and I am awaiting next year's volunteers to help finish this.

Five boxes of Oliver Rackham's papers (Acc 2024/4, CCCC/14/6). These were still being used to complete research and so have come a few years later than the main deposit.

A tasselled hat that may have belonged to former Parker Librarian Ray Page.



The Librarian's hat. This colourful headwear reputedly belonged to Ray Page and was known as the Librarian's Hat. Ray Page was Parker Librarian from 1965 until 1991, and presided over great changes to the Parker Library including the re-boxing of the medieval manuscripts. We are not sure whether the hat is a 1960s gift from a grateful researcher or an older example of mid-nineteenth-century Orientalism but it is an interesting piece of College history nevertheless.

Old member deposits. Another great year, including a copy of *The Varsity Handbook* for 1978–79, a programme for the Freshers Play held in Michaelmas 1978, and digital photographs of 1980s College life. Guests at the Beldam Dinner (the reunion of the 1978–82 cohorts) also helped to add names to several of our unidentified photographs in the college archives, as did the Cambridge and Oxford Proctors' Away Day, held at Corpus in July 2024.

We are always looking for more archives to fill gaps. Our matriculation photographs are patchy before 1954 (and we have a few gaps after this too), and named photographs, programmes, posters, letters and diaries are all of interest. If you are planning a clear out then please get in touch.

Dr Genny Silvanus, College Archivist

Features, Addresses and Reflections

Name Day Sermon

Proverbs 9.1-5; 1 Corinthians 11.20-34

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: 2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. 3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, 4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, 5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Έγὼ γὰρ παρέλαβον ἀπὸ τοῦ κυρίου, ὁ καὶ παρέδωκα ὑμῖν, ὅτι ὁ κύριος Ἰησοῦς ἐν τῆ νυκτὶ ἦ παρεδίδετο ἔλαβεν ἄρτον 24 καὶ εὐχαριστήσας ἔκλασεν καὶ εἶπεντοῦτό μού ἐστιν τὸ σῶμα τὸ ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν· τοῦτο ποιεῖτε εἰς τὴν ἐμὴν ἀνάμνησιν. 25 ὡσαύτως καὶ τὸ ποτήριον μετὰ τὸ δειπνῆσαι λέγων· τοῦτο τὸ ποτήριον ἡ καινὴ διαθήκη ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ ἐμῷ αἵματι· τοῦτο ποιεῖτε, ὁσάκις ἐὰν πίνητε, εἰς τὴν ἐμὴν ἀνάμνησιν. 26 ὁσάκις γὰρ ἐὰν ἐσθίητε τὸν ἄρτον τοῦτον καὶ τὸ ποτήριον πίνητε, τὸν θάνατον τοῦ κυρίου καταγγέλλετε ἄχρι οὖ ἔλθη.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Long before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, when blood sacrifice ended for the Jewish people as a way of accessing God; even before Christ offered up himself, his body, his blood, as a sacrifice on the cross; there came a night when Jesus took ordinary foodstuffs, and did ordinary things to them – he blessed, broke, shared some bread; he poured, drank, shared some wine. Then he declared: This bread 'is' my body; this cup 'is' the new covenant in my blood. Our identity as members of this College bears the imprint of that long-ago evening, and those unforgotten words.



Revd Dr Cally Hammond (m.1995).

Corpus Christi, the body of Christ. Sanguis Christi, the Blood of Christ. Let's start with the basics. Are Christians cannibals, as the Romans once thought? Are we eating flesh and drinking blood? Eating human flesh would be gruesome enough; but could Jesus the Jew really ever have commanded his followers to drink his blood? Judaism prohibits drinking or eating blood, a taboo that survives to this day, based on the principle that "the life is in the blood" (Lev 17.11).

Arguments about the bread and wine of holy communion are baked into European history. Terms like 'Lord's Supper' 'Holy Communion' 'eucharist' 'mass' are not just words, they're badges of membership. For some Christians, there is no question of real flesh, real blood. For others, the reality of that flesh and blood defines their Christian identity. And naturally there are sceptics who dismiss the last supper as a historical reality altogether.

"This IS my body; this IS my blood." There is a lot riding on one small verb: what does "is" mean? That's really 2 questions: (1) how did disciples take Jesus' meaning at the Last Supper? (2) how do we take it today? We can take it (a) as an analogy, e.g. as when we say "that exam was a complete car crash"; or (b) as identical, actual, as when a voice from heaven tells Jesus "You <u>are</u> [not, say, "represent"] my beloved Son" (Luke 3.22).

Details of their phrasing vary, but Paul, Matthew, Mark & Luke all refer to bread as Christ's body; and to a cup of wine as his blood. Just before our passage for tonight, Paul asks a question (10.16):

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

If drinking the blood of Christ were 100% taboo, i.e. revolting, disgusting, blasphemous, Paul could never have spoken of it in terms of 'blessing,' or 'communion.'

Paul was himself Jewish by birth, and a Pharisee. Yet he shows not the slightest awkwardness or discomfort in speaking the language of the body and blood of Christ. Perhaps this means that the first Christians were radically different from their Jewish forebears from the very beginning, rejecting all food taboos along with other ritual practices. But New Testament witnesses make this unlikely. Rather, they, like us, were capable of understanding shades of meaning in the verb "to be": Jesus had once taught "let the dead bury their dead" – but that did not stop the disciples burying him. So the first Christians were just as capable as we of understanding one thing in two ways, or holding the literal and the figurative in tension.

What are we left with? The story of Jesus' Passion, including the gospel accounts of the Last Supper, form a core, the earliest sections of the gospels to be written. So the language of bread being flesh, and wine being blood, are recorded very early. But how early? The reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians Christians which we just heard underpins every later interpretation of holy communion; because 1 Corinthians is one of his earliest writings, so a most valuable witness to early Christianity in general. And, more than this, it contains some even earlier evidence, a nugget of historical gold, also known as a pre-Pauline formula.

To understand the importance of this pre-Pauline formula, picture the Corinthian Christians as Paul knows them: Greek-speaking, Greek by nationality. He has brought them the Good News, and they have embraced it. But now he has heard (he doesn't say how) that they are not sticking to the faith he shared with them. So he reminds them of what they learned. v.23, <u>Ireceived from the Lord what also I delivered to you</u>. He does not mean that the voice of Jesus spoke in his head. As in other pre-Pauline formulae, the phrasing tells us that this is what Paul had been taught when he learned about Christ.

Now we come to dates. Dates really matter for this. Sorry. Jesus was probably crucified in AD33.

Paul wrote 1 Cor *ca* 55, about 22 years after crucifixion. But Paul became a Christian around AD36, *ca* 3 years after the crucifixion. So the teachings he tells us he <u>received</u> (rather than his own teaching in Romans, say, or Galatians), those teachings we know as pre-Pauline formulae, go back to a time just after his conversion – when he was being taught, but had not yet become a teacher.

This ups the theological ante. As soon as three years after Jesus' death, we know what some of the first Christians believed and taught about holy communion, or the Lord's Supper, or the eucharist, or the mass – call it what you will. That makes it impossible to dismiss the event as a confected ritual based on a historical fiction. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all narrate the last supper; John presupposes it and alludes to it (chapter 6 passim). Mark, the earliest gospel, was written in the 60s AD, perhaps a decade after 1 Corinthians. Paul really is our earliest witness to the Last Supper: and he is evidence that within just a few years of the Last Supper, the first Christians were sharing bread and wine as – somehow – the body and blood of Christ, in memory of the Lord.

Christians hold ritual repetitions of historical last supper, because Paul and Luke both record Jesus as saying, that night, not just *Do this* but *Do this in remembrance of me*. Those words turn the one-off historical event of a last supper into a commandment for all time, for all Christians, the Lord's Supper. So every single time we celebrate *Corpus Christi, Sanguis Christi*, we obey the Lord's command, *Do this in remembrance of me*. The cup of blessing, and the broken bread bring about κοινωνία: a sharing, a fellowship: bread is broken, a cup is shared – then, as we take communion, they are made one again in **us**, the one Body of Christ.

The witness of Paul in 1 Corinthians is the foundation on which our College has been built, and the reason why it was dedicated to the one-off event that was the last supper; and the ongoing process that is the Lord's Supper. In being part of that true and living way, we are, among all people, most richly blessed.

The Revd Dr Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville & Caius College Cambridge

Mere's Commemoration Sermon

'All men are one man, and one man is all men'

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians, chapter 2, beginning at verse 5:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

John Mere – who we are gathered to commemorate today, and who endowed this sermon in his memory – offers the preacher only a short list of permitted themes from which to choose. Two of these sanctioned themes can be summarised in the following questions:

How should we prepare ourselves for death? And how are we to temper our fear of it?¹

For the next little while, I would like to speak to you about Julian of Norwich. Because I think that these two questions are ones about which Julian can tell us a great deal. Julian was a late-medieval mystic. She was an anchoress, a theologian, and a spiritual writer. And her extraordinary vision of divine love saw her understand that all death, all sin and the devil is overcome in the Person of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who is the true mother of all humanity, because his humanity is our humanity.

This year, at Corpus Christi College – whose medieval scholars at one time took this magnificent Church of St Bene't's for one of their Chapels – we are celebrating the 40-year anniversary of the admission of women to the College. In such a year, I think it a fitting activity for us to reflect on the writings of such a profound woman voice from the past – and one who was born (in 1342) only a decade before the original founding of Corpus itself.

What can Julian tell us about facing death?

Well, death was excessive, pervasive, in her context, and she was forced to confront it in brave and distinctive ways. When only a young girl of primary school age, the Black Death (of 1347–53) made its way ruinously around England, strangling the lives of a since unrepeated proportion of the population. I mentioned that Corpus was founded at this time, and thus in the wake of the effects of the plague in Cambridge, where one third of the population were killed, many without a funeral or without access to the last rites of the Church. The members of two



Dr Ruth Jackson Ravenscroft

1. The preacher, Mere stipulates, can offer an address which either wholly or in part "exhorts [the poor] to daily preparation for death, and not to fear death otherwise than scripture does allow".



Julian of Norwich, The Bauchon Window at Norwich Cathedral, designed by Maria Forsyth and made by Dennis King of G King & Son in 1964.

Cambridge Gilds, made up of local townspeople: the Gild of Corpus Christi and the Gild of the Blessed Virgin Mary, sought to establish a College whose scholars would all be ordained. These scholars would pray for Gild members, attend their funerals, and say masses for the repose of the souls of the dead.²

Julian survived the plague that drenched her entire community in death, but the threat of her own death lies heavily in the opening chapters of the major theological work through which we know her today, her *Revelations of Divine Love*. Julian composed this text in her vernacular middle English over the course of decades. This long and arduous composition process is still present to the modern reader in the fact that there survive manuscript copies of two separate versions of her work. There exists a single manuscript copy of Julian's 'short text', in which she records a series of 16 vivid revelations, or shewings, that she experienced in 1373, at the age of 30. The visions she describes are full of tangible almost theatrically dramatised scenes. Among them, Julian reports seeing Jesus crowned with thorns, Jesus scourged, bleeding, crucified; she sees the devil overcome by the Passion of Christ. She is confronted with the reality that God is the creator of all things, and that he is the eternal maker, carer, and lover of humanity. And in one vision she sees that sin is nothing at all. For, 'sin', she says – 'when I saw that God has made everything, I did not see you'.

In the 'long text' version of the same work, of which there survive three distinctive manuscript copies, and which is four times as long as the short version, the subject matter is the same. But this longer text is the outcome of at least 20 years of contemplation and prayer over the mysterious quality of these shewings, as Julian wrestles with their meaning; how to come to terms with what they tell her about God's love. Julian's theology, we find, is a working through, a struggle, a petition in the face of the truth, which is too dazzling, too formidable, to ever fully comprehend.

In both versions of her book, Julian explains that these extraordinary visions arrived when she was suffering such a mortal sickness that she was on her presumed death bed, where she had already received her last rites. Strikingly, however, this suffering – so severe, she wrote, that it 'led her to have no hopes of any fleshly or earthly life'³ – was something for which she had prayed long and hard. She sought to be 'purged by the mercy of God', coming so close to death that afterwards she would 'live more to the glory of God'.⁴ And this, furthermore, was not her only prayer. In a manner thoroughly discordant with the spiritually hygienic habits and dispositions of the modern mind, but consistent with a latemedieval tradition of encouraging Christians to enter imaginatively into the life and Passion of Christ, Julian craved, and asked God for, a deeper knowledge of the bodily sufferings that Jesus endured.

Julian also confronted death in her calling to the anchoritic life; the commitment she made to retreating from the world into a cell that she would never leave again, to live in a constant cycle of prayer, contemplation, and devotion to God. It is not clear to Julian's modern biographers and commentators exactly *when* in her life she entered her cell. They cannot determine for certain whether it was before or after she experienced her visions, what age she might have been, or what her life might have been like before — whether she had a family. Anchoresses were often but not always of noble birth, and Julian must have had access to some

2. Patrick Bury, A Short History of The College of Corpus Christi and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Cambridge, 3rd Edition, revised by Oliver Rackham, (Cambridge: Falcon Printing, 2013), p.1.; p.4.

3. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.41

4. ibid.

5. The scholarly consensus is that it was after she experienced the revelations.

6. See Ann K Warren, Anchorites and Their Patrons in Medieval England (Berkley: University of California Press, 1985), p.53.

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- 7. See Ann K Warren, Anchorites and Their Patrons in Medieval England (Berkley: University of California Press, 1985), pp. 92-126. Rotha Mary Clay, The Hermits and Anchorites of England, edited by Phillip Campbell (Howell, MI: Cruachan Hill Press, 2014).
- 8. Barry Windeatt, 'Introduction', in Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), x.

money, because all such prospective recluses needed to lay down a sum that would support them financially across their whole lifetime – enough to keep a servant, and to sustain them with necessary provisions. But what we also know, is that becoming an anchoress meant choosing a life that was a 'living death' – a death to the world. I am told that the rites of enclosure for an anchoress would involve her receiving her last rites from the Bishop. She would have excerpts from the Office of the Dead said over her, and having entering her anchorhold, she would be bricked in, sealed from the outside. Barry Windeatt, Julian's translator, points out that in one fifteenth-century rite for the enclosure of recluses, a shallow grave was prepared within the cell for the recluse to confront, to contemplate, and even to continue to deepen himself, scratching away at it, over time.8

I have had a couple of students remark to me, over the years, that they see Julian's journey into the anchorhold as a means by which she was cut off from human experience. I have heard quizzical responses to Julian's focus on human suffering, and on the sufferings of Christ, too. The charge I hear is that Julian does not dwell in the real world. And isn't suffering – a reader may remark – all about enduring and surviving in the world around us? I can sympathise with the perspective of such readers. We might well be tempted to say that a recluse is 'sheltered'. But even from these few details I have shared about Julian's life and her context, this is surely not the right conclusion to draw. In fact, I find it entirely unsurprising that Revelations of Divine Love was a text that many returned to during the pandemic, where all of us humans had to learn how cutting oneself off from community is its own form of suffering, and its own form of death.

Confrontation with death, then – a keeping close to it, a refusal to fear it, but a desire to understand better each day the death that Christ himself suffered resounds throughout Julian's life and context as well as her writings. And it is in this indelible connection that Julian continually draws between human suffering on the one hand, and the suffering of Christ on the other – Christ who suffers with humans, and suffers for humans, that we can see how in Julian's eyes, confronting death can be the very starting point for understanding the depth of God's love for us.

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Through the passion and resurrection of Christ, sin, ruin, and decay: all is overcome. A recurrent motif in Julian's Revelations is that nothing, no evil, nothing mortal, not even the devil himself may separate us from the love of God.

The extraordinary and confounding nature of God's love for humanity is not lost on Julian. In her Long text she probes that strange, joyful, and miraculous reality that the same Almighty and Everlasting God who makes the world out of nothing, is a God who cares for that thing-that-would-have-been-no-thing. This is a loving God who keeps God's creation and sustains it in being. One of Julian's most celebrated is her description of a vision where God showed her 'a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of [her] hand. 'What can this be?' Julian asks, turning the little object over slowly in her mind's eye. The answer she is shown is that this little speck is the entire universe. It is all that is created and held in being by God. 'It seemed to me' Julian adds, 'that this little thing', this fragile little crumb, '...might have disintegrated into nothing, because of its smallness'. And yet it persists, because God loves it, and God holds it in being?

Another moment where Julian reflects on the bewildering abundance of divine love is in the twelfth chapter of her long text, where she describes a vision she has of Christ's scourging, where his blood flows copiously from his wounds. The imagery catches us off guard with its vividness and excess. Christ's blood is the liquid that God lovingly offers us for the cleansing of our sins, Julian writes. 'There is no liquid created that it pleases him so much to give us; for it is most abundant, as it is precious.'10 It is this beloved blood, she continues, that 'descended down into hell and broke their bonds, and delivered all those who belonged to the court of heaven.'11 Later in her book, Julian brings together these images of bloodshed at Christ's passion with her striking vision of Christ as our true mother. 'He was in labour for the full time', she writes, 'he who wanted to suffer the sharpest pangs and the most grievous sufferings that ever were or shall be'. In his death, then, Christ brings humans to birth, and for Julian the marvel is that even all of this together cannot expend or exhaust the depth of God's love for us.¹² Her visions deliver her a Christ labouring in bliss and love, who exclaims: 'If I could suffer more, I would suffer more'.13

Julian's reflections on her visions lead us beyond an initial confrontation with death, to a series of theological insights building up one upon the other. She teaches humans that we would be no-thing, were it not for God's love. But she also counsels that this is no cause for alarm. Reflecting on our finitude can bring human creatures to a knowledge of what God has done for us; to a glimpse of the sheer magnitude of divine love and joy. It almost strikes us as absurd that God should love us, given His glory, and our littleness, and yet God does. And Julian's writings also cause us to ask – what is death to God? For God's love is stronger than death.

I have been urging that Julian has much to offer us on two themes among the select few that Mere permits his preacher. But having spoken about how Julian faces death in the light of God's love, I would like to close by bringing even more firmly into view Julian's emphasis on Christ's compassion for humanity. That is, Julian's focus on the teaching that Jesus suffers with humanity, as one of us, 'in the likeness of men'. And in doing this, I will alight on one of the other prescribed themes that Mere offers his preachers, namely: 'the due obedience of [] subiectes to their princyes, and of pupilles to their tutours, [and] of servauntes to their maisters'. If it seems surprising that this austere theme, a commentary on hierarchy and submission, now comes into view, then note that Julian's most memorable words about Christ's compassion for us, his identity with humanity, come in her reflections on a vision that she had of a loving Lord and his obedient servant.

Julian's vision was like this: A gentle, solemn and kindly Lord sends his servant on an errand to do his will. The servant springs forth enthusiastically. He could not be more willing or quick to serve. But on his way to please his Lord, the servant falls into a slade – a ditch – and he is gravely injured. He suffers great pains, he moans and groans, but try as he might, he cannot lift himself out or soothe himself. And what is most troubling about this scene for Julian, is that cast down in the slade, the servant is also unable to see his Lord, and to take comfort from him in his misery.

9. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.45.

10. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.57.

11. ibid.

12. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.130.

13. ibid.

Julian describes how she sought a closer look, in her mind's eye, to see what fault or error she could find in the servant, on account of the end that he has come to. But she could find none. 'His good will and the greatness of his longing were the only cause of his fall', she says. And Julian then looks more closely at the Lord, to see what anger and disappointment she can find in him, on account of this fall that the servant has suffered. But again, she can find none. Not only does the Lord look with steadfast kindness upon his servant, but he also designs to prepare him a gift – one that would leave him in a position of more glory and honour than if he had been spared from this fall and this indignity in the first place.

14. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.108. At the time of writing her book, Julian remains unsure of the full meaning and implications of what she has seen. She is only 'somewhat consoled' by her grasp on the truth, even twenty years after she was given the revelation. He offers a series of brilliant cascading reflections on the parable, which develop over time and accumulate on the page, as her reading becomes more detailed and her understanding of the merciful Lord as God takes shape. A real keynote among these reflections is Julian's perception that the figure of the servant here not only represents Adam – the first man, who fell, pitifully, into sin and despair – but that in this same servant figure is also comprehended Christ: the Son of God, according to the humanity he takes on in the Incarnation. The two cannot be separated; the Lord has only one servant. For 'when Adam fell', Julian writes, 'God's son also fell':

Because of the true union [between Christ and humanity] which was made in heaven, God's son could not be apart from Adam, for by Adam I understand *all* humanity. Adam fell from life to death, into the hollow of this wretched world, and after that into hell. God's son fell with Adam into the hollow of the Virgin's womb... and through his great might, he fetched him out of hell. 15

Julian's parable here adds a further dimension to Julian's contemplation on the depth of God's love for us. Jesus, for Julian, suffers with us into death, and is united with us in suffering. But this human story has cosmic proportions, for our humanity is Christ's humanity, and this is true from before we were made. No wonder that Christ is for Julian, our true mother, for he is our beginning and our end. The one who is both Lord and servant. The one through whom we know the Father, and the one in whom the Father knows us, from all eternity.

The title that I chose today evokes Julian's thought that 'in the sight of God, all men are one man, and one man is all men'. In as much as all humans fall in Adam, we are to despair towards death. But through her parable, Julian also rejoices that 'Jesus is all who shall be saved, and all who shall be saved are Jesus'.

Now unto God who is Love and who is Wisdom, eternally – as Julian says – the maker, the carer, and the lover of all humanity, may we always boldly ascribe, as is most justly due, all honour, might, dominion and praise, both now and forevermore.

Amen.

Dr Ruth Jackson Ravenscroft (m.2001), Director of Studies for Theology, Religion and the Philosophy of Religion, Corpus Christi College

15. Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford: OUP, 2015), p.112.

George Odomar Wiskeman m.1911 (1892-1963)

Several of the undergraduates who came to Corpus during the pre-1914 years went on to experience remarkable careers during the tumultuous twentieth century; among them was George Odomar Wiskeman.¹ George was born in Chislehurst, Kent, on 27 February 1892, the son of Henirid Hugo Odermar Wiskemann, a German national and professionally a chemical broker (described in the 1911 census as a 'Chemical manure and machinery merchant'). His mother, Myra, was born in Ipswich, Suffolk; there were also two daughters of the marriage. Of these, one was Elizabeth Meta Wiskemann (1899–1971), who read history at Newnham College, became a noted academic, writer, journalist and, during the Second World War, an intelligence officer.² George Wiskeman was educated at Wellington College from where, in 1911, he matriculated into Corpus. During his time at the College, he read Part I of the Classical Tripos and Part II of the Law Tripos, graduating with a BA in June 1914.

Immediately after graduating George Wiskeman joined the Foreign Office as a consular service officer. However, weeks later the First World War broke out and he spent the war years in Russia. During this sojourn, he held several appointments (there is no indication he was a member of the British intelligence service MI6). His first posting commenced on 29 July 1914 (a week before war was declared), was as Vice-Consul in the Russian port city of Riga (now the capital of the Baltic state, Latvia). Then, on 26 August 1915, he became Acting Vice-Consul in the large naval port city of Archangel in Northern Russia and in December 1918 (a month after the armistice was signed) Acting Consul in that city. It is worth noting that wartime consular reports concerning Russia were consistently more accurate than those submitted by the embassy. Frankly, if the British government had acted on these reports and noticed that from late 1916 hundreds of British supervisors and managers working in Russian factories were shipping their families home, there might have been a better response when the lid blew off the place in 1917!

After the war, George attempted to gain a permanent Foreign Office position, but (as the Foreign Office files show) he was turned down because of his German parentage. As a result, in early 1919 he was forced to resign as a consular officer and thereafter worked first and briefly with the British Treasury National Caisse d'émission (currency board) in Archangel. Then, until 1921, he worked in shipping and after that date was employed by the City of London firm Price and Pierce Ltd, a large-scale trader in timber and wood pulp in the lucrative Baltic trade. Consequently, during the interwar years, George spent much of his time based in Finland and developed a significant network of contacts. However, when the Second World War broke out in 1939 he sought to use his specialist knowledge, working initially as Head of the Scandinavian Section at the Foreign Directorate of the Ministry of Information.

In early 1941 George joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE). SOE had been created by prime minister Winston Churchill in the summer of 1940 in the aftermath of the Nazi conquest of continental Europe. He told SOE its task was to "set Europe ablaze". The National Archives at Kew have an SOE personnel file relating to George Wiskeman. It contains a January 1941 questionnaire,

1. Bury has the middle name as Odoman. The German version of his surname Wiskemann appears to have been dropped in 1914.

2. After her war service Elizabeth became an academic and appointed to the Montagu Burton Chair in International Relations at the University of Edinburgh. See also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_
Wiskemann

3. SOE file HS 9/1614/1, The National Archive, Kew.





George Odomar Wiskeman The Chess Club Lent Term 1913 (left) and 1914 (right).

which tells us a great deal about him and his life. At the time he was living at 13 Great St James's St, Bedford Row, London WC1 and still employed by Price and Pierce Ltd. He described himself as a single man, 5ft 5ins tall, with grey eyes and brown hair. He described his hobbies as sailing and his politics as National Conservative. At the time he had a private income of around £250 per annum. He spoke fluent Swedish and German and rusty Russian. His father (who returned to live in Germany in the 1920s), he notes, was deceased, but his mother was still alive. He gave as his next of kin Mrs Waghorn, Ladywood Cottage, Padworth, Reading, Berkshire (possibly one of his sisters) and the person to be notified if he became a casualty as Mr J A Hone, 10 Bathurst St, London, W2 (Mr Hone worked at the Air Ministry). He described his pre-war foreign travel as: Finland, four years residence and frequent visits on business; Russia, five years residence as a consular officer; Sweden, frequent visits on business; Norway, occasional visits; Germany, six months as a student and 'holidays' prior to 1914; Romania, two visits in 1939 on business and France, where he took occasional holidays.

At SOE, he served first as section head in Finland but was later put in charge of the whole of Scandinavia (later in the war Norway was separately organised). There is an official history SOE in Scandinavia by Charles Cruickshank (OUP, 1986). Given the senior position he held in the organisation, there is surprisingly just one inconsequential reference to George Odomar Wiskeman. From this and the SOE file there is no indication as to the kind of work he was directing and no further references have been located. It seems George, like so many others, took the secrets of his extraordinary wartime life to the grave.

In September 1944 George Wiskeman, although still with SOE, was working at the Ministry of Economic Warfare based at Berkeley Square House. In an internal SOE office letter dated 7 September 1944 contains the following: "I gather that he is leaving SOE as a representative of a big firm of timber merchants [presumably his old firm Price and Pierce Ltd]. It is not intended that he do any SOE work, but that after the war he might be useful as a contact." Between 1945 and 1960 his name appears on passenger shipping lists as a business traveller. He died in 1963 aged seventy in New Zealand. His death was recorded in the *Letter of the Corpus Association Michaelmas* 1963 No. 42 (p.31).

Dr Peter Martland (m.1982)

Christopher Bradshaw Isherwood (m.1923): A man of letters

In 1923 the writer Christopher Bradshaw Isherwood (the Bradshaw was dropped when he started writing) came to Corpus from Repton School as a scholar to read the Historical Tripos. The previous year, his school friend, lover and future novelist Edward Upward also came into residence. Isherwood remained in the College – which both he and Upward hated – for two years, leaving (or kicked out) in response to his writing rude limericks about his Tripos examiners instead of answering the exam questions. Isherwood went on to become a leftwing man of letters, a US citizen and a gay icon. He is best remembered for his Berlin novels set in late Weimar Germany which formed the basis of the musical and subsequent film Cabaret of which he wrote the screenplay. He died in California in 1986, but his life continues to intrigue. In 2011, for example, the BBC produced an acclaimed play based on his 1976 autobiography Christopher and His Kind (a work that had unexpectedly and late in life made him a gay hero). It starred Matt Smith, Douglas Booth and Toby Jones. However, in this article I want to look at Isherwood and his curious relationship with Corpus. In doing so I hope to describe the College as it was one hundred years ago and give an insight into one of the more intriguing students from that time.

Rather than partying to jazz-age tunes, students who passed through Cambridge in the 1920s were (like the rest of the country) also counting the cost of the Great War, coming to terms with the loss of three quarters of a million young men. These were turbulent years, with dramatic changes taking place in Cambridge and particularly in our College. After the war, the Corpus Fellowship



Isherwood with the poet WH Auden in New York in 1938.

Matriculation entry in the Praelector's book as Bradshaw-Isherwood.

Isherwood's biographer Katherine Bucknell at the Isherwood in Cambridge exhibition in the Parker Library in 2024.





was determined to drive up academic standards and to this end introduced entrance examinations and only admitted candidates for honours. They also doubled undergraduate numbers which, despite the restoration of many prewar activities, inevitably shifted the social as well as the academic base of the College.

Student life in Corpus during the 1920s was quite different to today, and in the novel *Lions and Shadows* Isherwood described his undergraduate life and exploits with Edward Upward (called in the book Allen Chalmers). They made their first visit to Cambridge in December 1921 to take the entrance examinations. Of this Isherwood wrote: "Cambridge exceeded our most macabre expectations. It seemed a city of perpetual darkness, for we spent the few hours of winter daylight almost entirely in the examination hall. When we emerged, the shop lamps were already blurred in the icy fog that stole out of the marshes into the town, bicycles veered shrilly hither and thither in the gloom, and the outlines of college buildings, half seen, half suggested, were massive and shadowy as the architecture of the night itself."

His description of Corpus sums up an institution half in and half out of the Victorian era: "Within doors, all was luxury: the armchairs, the crumpets, the beautifully-bound eighteenth-century volumes, the fires roaring in the stoked grates. Each of us had the loan of an absent undergraduate's room – bedroom, sitting room and pantry; all fitted up in a style which, after the spartan simplicity of a public-school study, seemed positively sinful. Each of us was called every morning, by a college servant with a cup of tea. Both Chalmers [Upward] and myself were overpowered, by the leisure, by the politeness, by the extravagance, by the abundance of alcohol and rich food."

When he came up in 1923, Isherwood made typical undergraduate complaints about his rooms in New Court: "The college authorities, considerate as always in such matters, had arranged to give me rooms in the same staircase as Chalmers; his were on the ground floor, mine on the second. I disliked my sitting-room from the first moment I saw it. It was chilly, bare and high; and the walls had been newly papered and painted, a bright unfriendly brown. My few books huddled together, quite lost in the tall built-in bookcase; and I had no photographs or menu-cards to break the long bleak black line of the mantlepiece. The grate didn't draw properly: the fire was difficult to keep alight and the chimney smoked ... Altogether, the place was like an old-fashioned dentist's waiting room".

From the start the couple hated the place and engaged in a secret war against authority. As Isherwood put it: "The dons were, for me, utterly remote and unreal figures, like the bogies in a child's book; indeed, we were careful to avoid contact with them (excepting Gorse [a thinly disguised Corpus historian Kenneth Pickthorn]) altogether, in order to maintain our vision of the 'two sides', 'the combine' directly expressly against ourselves." Yet Isherwood, a Scholar, buckled down and was: "gowned, seated uneasily on the edge of the chair, reading my first essay aloud to my history tutor. He had been in the trenches as an infantry officer, then joined the Air Force and nearly got himself killed in a crash. He said of the War: 'It was bloody, but I'd do it again tomorrow' – a statement you seldom heard in 1923".

Isherwood, coming as he did from a landed, moneyed and public-school background, proved to be an utter snob. He enjoyed associating with what Upward disparagingly referred to as the College "Poshocracy", admiring what he said were: "titles, Blues, money, good looks, or academic successes"; there is more than a hint of Isherwood's future in that statement.

Whatever he may have thought of the place, Isherwood came of age at Corpus. He wrote reflectively: "Looking back, I think that those first two University terms have been amongst the most enjoyable parts of my whole life. I had sufficient money, and no worries as long as I could be together with Chalmers, which was all day and most of the night, the word boredom didn't exist. I was in a continuous state of extreme mental excitement. Every idea we discussed seemed startling and brilliantly news. My official education was, it is true, at a standstill: but Chalmers was educating me all the time. Under his influence, I began to read the poetry I had been pretending for years to admire. I also started to take, mildly and gingerly, to alcohol. The icy layers of my puritan priggishness, which were thicker far that he ever suspected, had begun, very slowly, to thaw".

He also participated in the life of the College and wider university, he was a member of the Corpus Gravediggers, the College play reading society, wrote reviews for the University arts journal *Granta* and sought out and got to know the King's don and man of letters E M Forster.

He writes of the start of his second year at Corpus:

"Chalmers looked in on me an hour or so after my arrival at the college, while I was still unpacking. Nervously rubbing his hands together, smiling his conspirator's smile, he told me:

'Something very very nasty has happened.'

'What?'

'They've given me the haunted rooms.'

I laughed: but it was perfectly true. The rooms [now the Bacon Rooms] to which Chalmers had been moving in the Old Court, were the recognised property of the College ghost. I hurried along to inspect them. The sitting room with its deep window-seats was light and even cheerful, for the wooden panelling had been covered with white paint. I was rather disappointed. I asked: 'Where's the bedroom?' Chalmers opened the small narrow door of what I supposed to be a built-in cupboard and showed me a flight of steps, time and very steep, leading up into pitch darkness: I mounted, bumping my head, and found myself in an attic bedroom, adjoining which was a minute empty boxroom or closet, already christened by Chalmers 'the Obliette.'1 It was only the staircase, we were later told, that was haunted: sometimes heavy footsteps had been heard, climbing the stairs and stopping suddenly inside 'the Obliette'; sometimes the stairs were descended and there would be a sharp knock on the sitting-room door. Nothing had ever actually been seen. I need hardly add that, although until midnight or even two o'clock in the morning, we never once heard any kind of sound which even our only-too-willing fancy could interpret as supernatural. Perhaps the Watcher in Spanish was too jealous to allow any rivals in his domain."

1. An Obliette (or Oubliette) is a secret dungeon with access only through a trapdoor in its ceiling. The word is derived from the French oublier, meaning "to forget".

During his second year (Upward's third and final year) Isherwood realised he wanted out. However, he wanted to go with a scandalous bang. To this end he contrived to annoy his Part I examiners by writing nonsense. It somehow did not work out as he had hoped. During the long vacation, he was summoned to the College and invited to withdraw (or told not to return). What did he do? He ended up in Berlin, joining his friend from Repton and fellow writer W H Auden (who had taken a degree at Oxford) in late Weimar Germany – Isherwood said he went to Berlin for the boys. There, he witnessed the rise of Hitler and the Nazis and gave us the brilliant Berlin novels. By 1939 both Auden and Isherwood had become the enfant terribles of English letters but just before the declaration of war they left Britain for the US, ostensibly because they were pacifists and not prepared to fight. Their literary contemporary Evelyn Waugh was furious with them for abandoning Britain at such a time and in an early wartime novel he poked fun at them as absent darlings of the left, he called 'Parsnip and Pumpernickel'. Not that Isherwood cared. He carved out an American life as an observer of his fellow creatures, as a writer and teacher; and Cabaret made him famous, wealthy and elevated him to the status of a gay icon. As it turned out, getting kicked out of Corpus proved the liberation he needed; and he did give us some remarkable insights into College life during the 1920s.

Katherine Bucknell has recently published a biography entitled *Christopher Isherwood Inside Out* (2024). To read about the exhibition Isherwood in Cambridge visit: https://shorturl.at/tPCnV.

Dr Peter Martland (m.1982)

When Haile Selassie lunched at Corpus 100 years ago

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the University of Cambridge awarding Ras Tafari, later Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, an honorary degree during his first tour of Europe. Dr Charles Read, a Fellow in economics and history at Corpus of Ethiopian-Armenian ancestry, explains more about how a piece of Black history came about at Corpus a century ago.

One hundred years ago this year, African royalty – a living god, as some Rastafarians still claim – came to lunch at Corpus. This is mentioned in passing in Patrick Bury's *The College of Corpus Christi and of the Blessed Virgin Mary:* A History from 1822 to 1952 (1952):

Apart from the ordinary College hospitality the Master, as Vice-Chancellor [of the University] for three years running, had much entertaining to do, and among the many eminent guests whom he received in Corpus mention must be made of H.R.H. the Duke of York, now King George VI, on the occasion of the Royal Agricultural Show in 1922, and of H.I.H. Ras Tafari, now the Emperor of Ethiopia, to whom lunch was given on 17 July [1924].

This interesting nugget of hospitality disappeared from subsequent histories of the College, and unjustly so. The lunch took place after the University of Cambridge awarded Ras Tafari Makonnen, later Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, an honorary degree on 17 July 1924 during his first tour of Europe. Cambridge



Haile Selassie on a visit to Queen's College in 1937. He is accompanied by Fellows of Queen's and his Foreign Minister.

was the first university in the world to grant him such an honour, beating the University of Oxford to it by some 30 years. That this happened at the time when Corpus had a reputation, even by Cambridge standards, as a bastion of white male privilege and for conservatism, with both a small and big 'C', makes the invite even more remarkable. How and why did his visit occur? And with what consequences did it have for both the history of Corpus and for Ethiopia?

First, some background. In the late nineteenth century, during the so-called Scramble for Africa, European countries had claimed nearly every square inch of Africa as colonies. That is with one very major exception: the lands of the Abyssinian Empire, later retitled Ethiopia, in the eastern highlands of the continent. This empire had consolidated its control over this area at the end of the nineteenth century, culminating in the victory over an Italian colonial invasion at the Battle of Adwa in 1896. Nonetheless, Ethiopia's position remained precarious. It was initially denied membership of the League of Nations after the First World War and the collective security that this institution was theoretically designed to coordinate. Ethiopia had no independent access to the sea by which it could import modern firearms to defend itself against future colonial expeditions. It was vulnerable to arms embargoes by European countries, as it did not yet have the technical know-how or industry to make its own. In short, to defend itself it needed its own access to the sea.

And so in 1924 Ras Tafari, as Prince Regent, organised a tour of the Middle East and Europe to strengthen Abyssinia's diplomatic relations and try and secure this coveted port access. His tour included visits to Jerusalem, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Greece, and Switzerland. This tour played a crucial role in Ethiopia's diplomatic strategy and was a stepping stone for Ras Tafari becoming Emperor in 1930. But Ras Tafari's hustling for a deal was a failure: no European country took his demand for free port access seriously nor offered a deal Abyssinia could accept. Without access to the sea and the freedom to import western arms, the country was doomed to defeat when the Italians, under Mussolini, next tried to colonise the country in 1935.

Although the headline aim of the trip was a failure, there were successes along the way that raised his status both at home and abroad. One was the University of Cambridge awarding Ras Tafari an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The University already had a tradition of giving visiting royals such an honour. Race was no barrier to this: Imperial Highness Crown Prince Hirohito of Japan, for instance, had also been granted the same honorary degree by Cambridge in 1921.

By 1924 the Vice-Chancellor was Edmund Courtenay Pearce, Master of Corpus Christi College and later the inaugural Bishop of Derby from 1927 until his death in 1935. It was he, on behalf of the University, who formally invited Ras Tafari to visit Cambridge. To quote from Haile Selassie's autobiography:

On 11th Hamle (= 18th July) We departed from London at 4 o'clock in the morning (= 10 am) to visit Cambridge University. Before coming to London, while We were still at Rome, the Vice-Chancellor had asked Us in writing to be gracious enough to visit the University. After We had reached London, he informed Us of his proposal through the Foreign Office, and We, therefore, went to carry out this engagement.

After all the professors of the University had given Us a respectful welcome, the University's Vice-Chancellor approached and said: 'Your Highness! As we have heard of your initiative and perseverance in leading your country Ethiopia in wisdom and knowledge, we bestow upon you the honorary degree of Doctor of Law.' He then gave me the appropriate robes.

Pearce's invitation was much more than merely a grudging formality. Pearce and the Corpus fellowship were politically very Conservative. But at the same time they were great modernisers, having transformed in just one generation Corpus from Cambridge's most popular seminary for low-church evangelical Anglican clergymen into the birthplace of a new form of Anglican churchmanship: liberal Anglo-Catholicism, that sought to reconcile high churchideas with contemporary theological and scientific thought, culminating with the publication of the movement's manifesto in the form of the book, *Essays Catholic and Critical*, in 1926. This movement soon became the dominant form of high-churchmanship in the Church of England, overshadowing the older and more conservative Oxford Movement. Every Archbishop of Canterbury with Anglo-Catholic leaning since the Second World War has links in some form to this movement.

Themes of this movement included a keen interest in Oriental Orthodoxy: those ancient churches in Africa, the Middle East and Asia that were never in communion with the Western church or the Eastern Orthodoxy of Byzantium. Liberal Anglo-Catholics came to believe that 'Catholicity' – "the holy catholic Church" of the Apostles Creed in the Church of England – must be expanded to mean all Christians in the world, including these Oriental Orthodox churches, rather than simply the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches of the western tradition. Key to Pearce's transformation of Corpus was the appointment of Edwyn Hoskyns as Dean of Chapel at the end of the First World War. Hoskyns had been an army padre in Egypt and developed a scholarly interest in early Christian Greek and Egyptian Coptic manuscripts; a collection of which he donated to

the College in 1923 can still be consulted in the Parker Library today. In inviting Ras Tafari and his entourage to Cambridge, Pearce and his colleagues were unlikely to have seen it as an encounter with a living god, in the way some Rastafarians might. But, they would have been genuinely interested in encountering Tafari as a symbol of the Oriental Orthodox world that theologically interested them.

Haile Selassie's autobiography records an English version of University Orator's speech at his honorary degree ceremony in the Senate House and his reply to that speech. This speech – these days simply delivered in Latin – marks the achievements of the honorand with recourse to classical illusions. But on this occasion in 1924 it was also read out in Amharic translation as well as Latin, a policy of translation for foreign recipients of degrees that is still yet to be revived by the University in the modern day:

'Your Highness!

The poet Homer says the Ethiopians are blameless. Herodotus says the Ethiopians are long-lived because they do not drink wine at all.

It is a fact that the Ethiopians refused to pay tribute to Cambyses and to the Persian kings. Subsequently, they turned back victoriously all who came to take their country by force. Who does not know that the Queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon's fame, came by camel bearing spices, gold, and gems to try the king with riddles? Who does not know that she returned to her country to be the mother of all the kings? Who does not remember, as the centuries unfolded, their descent from David? Who does not know of their being of the family of Queen Candace? All this proves the establishment of their Christianity over the whole of Ethiopia and their possession of an ancient faith over a long history.

A man who had studied at Christ's College in Cambridge University has, in recent years, revealed to the English people the literature and law books of Ethiopia.

Today there is amongst us Tafari Makonnen, Ethiopia's Crown Prince. He follows in the footsteps of his ancestors and possesses knowledge exceeding that of orientals and Egyptians. He explores ancient and modern knowledge. He has studied all the ancient Christian traditions. He endeavours to acquire modern science. H. H. Tafari Makonnen is the first Ethiopian Crown Prince who has gone up in an aeroplane.

He has caused the books of John Chrysostom and of Mar Yeshaq to be translated from Ge'ez into Amharic and had them printed at his own press. These books can be found in the Cambridge University Library. Furthermore, he has built a school for the children of Ethiopia.' He ended by saying: 'We therefore make known to all of you here Ethiopia's great Crown Prince and Regent, H. H. Tafari Makonnen, the hope of Ethiopia, who is descended from ancient kings.'

We replied with the following speech to that delivered by the University's Vice-Chancellor:

'It gives me great pleasure to visit Cambridge University where the fount of learning and wisdom for so many different peoples rises. I thank you for receiving me with manifestations of such great pleasure and cordial friendship. Moreover, my joy is immense when you speak of Ethiopia's history proving the existence since earliest times of her independence and the people's adherence to Christianity.

Perhaps there remain some people who do not know that the Ethiopian realm possesses great antiquity and that it was established a long time ago. But if they study Ethiopian history carefully, they will be able to convince themselves of the firm existence of the Ethiopian realm prior to the Greeks and the Romans. Our country was well known even at the time of David and Solomon.

Since Ethiopia entered the League of Nations last year, it is appropriate for her to draw closer to the nations of Europe. As we have sent Ethiopian youths to study in Europe and in other countries and as they are very diligent in their studies, I hope that in a few years' time they will come to Cambridge for their university education and then serve their country when they return after graduation.'

Haile Selassie's visit to the University is important for several reasons. First, it gave him a diplomatic triumph to return to Abyssinia with, and enabled him to consolidate his power in the lead up to his coronation as Emperor in 1930. Second, his honorary degree, alongside his European-style coronation, were symbols that inspired black people worldwide to challenge the global colour line: the very idea that political power and university degrees were things only white people could hold. Indeed, the news of Haile Selassie's coronation directly inspired the development of Rastafarian ideas in the Caribbean. Third, the visit to Cambridge also triggered a switch in terms of where the Ethiopian elite sent their children for higher education, from French universities such as the Sorbonne, to Cambridge, where Selassie later sent one of his sons and grandsons (to Queens' College rather than Corpus). In that way, Cambridge and Corpus played a small but very early and significant role, in challenging the idea that universities should be bastions of white privilege – a world from which we as a College, I am thankful to say today, have moved very far away from.

Dr Charles Read

Michael Keith Tanner (1935–2024)

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Dr Michael Keith Tanner (m.1955), who has died aged 88, was one of the most brilliant and single-minded Cambridge dons of his generation. He possessed an astonishing intellectual breadth that both inspired and sometimes overwhelmed his pupils, whose loyalty to him was usually total and unequivocal. For over sixty years a Corpus fellow, Tanner was at different times Director of Studies in Philosophy and English, doing both jobs simultaneously until 1980 when Corpus decided at last to appoint a dedicated English Fellow. The English Faculty had been founded in 1919 but, as Tanner told one of his undergraduates, the Corpus governing body chose not to appoint a Fellow specifically to teach the subject because "they considered it to be the mark of a gentleman to have read these books anyway". His approach to English literature, which he had not



formally studied (having been an undergraduate on the Moral Sciences Tripos) was heavily influenced by his admiration for, and friendship with, the literary critic F R Leavis and his wife Queenie.

Michael Tanner, photographed by Judith Aronson in the early 1980s in his Old Court rooms.

Tanner's greatest passion in life, however, was for music, notably the works of Richard Wagner. He had been captivated by them after hearing *Parsifal* on the Third Programme (a service he considered an essential part of his education) at the age of 16, and he built up a vast collection of recordings on vinyl and on cassette tapes. His interest, as a philosopher, in Nietzsche created another important intellectual bridge with Wagner's music. For years he held informal evening gatherings in his magnificent rooms in the Old Court, which were said to have belonged to Christopher Marlowe, where he would lead novices through *The Ring* cycle act by act. His God, as a conductor, was Furtwängler, whom he felt interpreted Wagner in a way that realised the supreme artistic achievement, in words, music and ideas, of *The Ring*. He wrote the introduction to the English translations of Furtwängler's *Notebooks* and became good friends with the conductor's widow.

In later life he became the opera critic of *The Spectator*, a post he held for more than 20 years, though it was an occupation to which he brought a refreshing degree of cynicism: as he once said to a friend, "you're typical of people who love Wagner. You hate opera." However, his passion for the operas of Mozart was intense, although he detested much of Richard Strauss. His critical acuity was immense, and no one – not even authorities such as Roger Scruton or Bryan Magee – wrote about Wagner with such insight.

Michael Keith Tanner was born in Bromley, Kent, on 15 April 1935. His father had served in the London Fire Brigade but moved to Warwickshire shortly before the Second World War to become the county's Chief Fire Officer. He helped lead the battle to put out the blazes in Coventry on 14 November 1940 when the Luftwaffe blitzed the city and its cathedral. Michael, then aged five, was evacuated to live with a piano teacher and her elderly mother. He found the sound of the piano fascinating, and asked whether he could sit quietly in the lessons just to listen to it. The first piece of music to which he became attached was *The Messiah*, and for 10 years he attended every performance he could. He would refuse to stand for the Hallelujah chorus, however, feeling it an absurd tradition, and he eventually came to detest the piece and said he never wanted to hear it again. He quickly moved on to Bach, Mozart and Beethoven.

When Michael was 12 the family acquired a piano, and he achieved a reasonable level of competence in playing it, though he was reluctant to do so in company. Influenced by Hollywood romances, he recalled that "I liked the idea of playing the piano dramatically, and coughing blood over the keyboard." From the age of 10, he recalled, he was "passionately and ignorantly keen ... that I should come to Cambridge to study philosophy". He enjoyed listening to Bertrand Russell and C E M Joad ("quite a hero of mine, I am ashamed to say") on the wireless. He attended Warwick School, where he began to develop philosophical interests about life and death, body and mind, and whether right and wrong were objective values. His family were Anglicans and he was not religious, but at the age of 13 felt the pull of the Roman Catholic church, and started to attend High Mass. It was typical of him that his curiosity about Catholicism, which never matured into anything approaching a deep faith, was stimulated by attacks on the religion by Protestant evangelicals. "Infallibility was something I was really interested in," he said in 2010, "because I have a strongly ambivalent attitude towards authority ... my basic tendency is to sabotage it, and satire is my favourite literary genre." As a schoolboy he was reading Bertrand Russell, but after encountering Parsifal moved on to Ernest Newman's Wagner Nights.

After National Service in the RAF – part of which he spent stationed in Lübeck in Germany and spying on Soviet activity – he came to Corpus in 1955. He took a double first and was elected to a Fellowship in 1961. Shortly afterwards he was appointed Director of Studies in Philosophy and English and then as Dean of the College, which put him in charge of undergraduate welfare and discipline. Given that he was an incipient rebel this was an ironic appointment to say the least. He was appointed an assistant lecturer in Moral Sciences in 1961 and to a lectureship in 1965, a post he held until retiring in 2002, when Corpus appointed him a Life Fellow. He livened up what he considered the somewhat moribund Moral Sciences Faculty at Cambridge by introducing the teaching of aesthetics, and also a deep study of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche, the 19th-century German philosophers who would guide his understanding of Wagner. By the early 1970s Tanner had built a reputation as a radical voice in the faculty, but he was not ambitious for status and did not strive to make friends or build

alliances, which helped explain why, for all his originality and profundity of mind, he was never awarded a chair. He also became a heavy drinker, which began to affect his work, but gave up alcohol for good in the mid-1970s.

Tanner remained unconventional in appearance, his hair en brosse, dressed for decades in a 1960s Mod-style leather jacket, and later in life he adopted brightly coloured tops with his ubiquitous jeans. His uncompromising approach to intellectual matters put him at one with Leavis, whom he met in the late 1950s and whose black-and-white attitude to English studies - and view of English literature as "the central humane subject" in academic pursuits – he entirely shared. He described Leavis as "the one greatest teaching influence on my life". Tanner's trademark style, whether teaching a small group of undergraduates, lecturing a room or simply in conversation with friends and colleagues, was to express unequivocal views that sought to stimulate debate, and were often based on decades of reading, thought and reflection. He either admired people or works of art to the point of adulation or dismissed them with brutal severity: one of his most deployed verbs was 'to loathe'. One of his favourite adjectives about students he had felt had not taken their work seriously enough was 'thick', which he would almost spit out. He was especially hard on those he thought had some talent but had failed to develop it.

He wrote introductions for several of Nietzsche's works for Penguin Books, including *Beyond Good and Evil*, *Ecce Homo*, *The Birth of Tragedy: Out of the Spirit of Music and Twilight of the Idols*. His *Nietzsche* was published by Oxford University Press in 1994, *Wagner* by Harper Collins in 1996, *Schopenhauer* by Routledge in its Great Philosophers series in 1999, and *The Faber Pocket Guide to Wagner* in 2010 – of which, however, he said "there are some things about that book that make me gag". When asked why he had written it he replied that "I reasoned that if I didn't do it they would get someone who would make a mess of it to do it instead." He was motivated by "the thought of how many remarks about Wagner's 'dark underside' we would encounter". He had been attacked for repudiating the link between Wagner and Hitler ("the idea of his endorsing – let alone sharing the blame for – Auschwitz does seem absolutely grotesque") and he continued to taunt those who accused Wagner of being a forerunner of the Nazis, or who propagated "absurdities such as that someone who died before Hitler was born can be responsible for the Third Reich".

After his retirement Tanner devoted himself to musical criticism. He was a frequent visitor to his College, where he lunched most weekdays on High Table; his renunciation of alcohol meant that he almost never came in for dinner. He and his partner Michael Amos, a businessman to whom he was devoted, converted a disused pub in Cambridge into a stunning home with a spectacular library and spent their weekends in a medieval house in the walls of the Abbey at Bury St Edmunds. Tanner was an inveterate cyclist, and in 2022 was knocked off his bike in the city. Although his injuries did not seem severe, he was never entirely the same again, and he died in Addenbrooke's hospital after a short illness. Michael Amos survives him. Corpus Life Fellow Michael Tanner was born 15 April 1935 and died on 3 April 2024.

Acknowledgements to The Daily Telegraph

Memories of Dr Michael Tanner

Dr John Coulton (m.1976) I came up to Corpus on a rain-sodden October evening in 1976. I'd flown from spring sunshine in South Africa to this misery, the weather having turned abysmal after the best summer of the century, just as one would expect. I didn't know what a Cambridge Porter was meant to do as I plonked down my bags at the Lodge, anticipating assistance. The Porter, a stocky, tough military type, hardly gave me a glance, saying "Pick 'em up and follow me". This, I was soon to find out, was the legendary Albert Jaggard, the porter with the most fearsome reputation in the university, upon whom Tom Sharpe's Skullion in *Porterhouse Blue* was based. As I heaved my bags across the dark and dismal New Court, up two flights of cold stone stairs, I resolved to leave as soon as I could get a flight home. But then everything changed. I was told by the Senior Tutor the next morning to present myself to Dr Tanner in his rooms, P4 in the Old Court. "But not too early," he said. "Dr Tanner is not a morning person."

I climbed the stairs and knocked on the stout oak. There was a heady aroma on the landing and the pounding of loud classical music inside. I knocked again but nobody came to the door. So, I pushed it open and was confronted by a chaotic room strewn with books to waist height. The air was heavy with

Michael Tanner in a snowy Old Court.



perfumed smoke, Aramis aftershave and fresh coffee. One could just make out a grand piano and a desk piled with books and photographs. There was a wall of shelving with hundreds and hundreds of LP records, and further heaps of records scattered over the surviving floor space. Large reel-to-reel tapes turned slowly recording the music. Balanced on top of the debris, precariously, were large mounted close-up portrait photographs of nobody I recognised. I was to learn that they were Wagner, Mahler, D H Lawrence, Wilhelm Furtwängler and Maria Callas. The only hero who was missing was Nietzsche.

It took a moment to make out a figure tucked close to the windows with a telephone to his ear. He looked up with a frown of irritation and then a sudden radiant smile as he waved me in with one hand, rotating the other in a gesture of boredom at the conversation he was having, arching and flickering his eyebrows in a way that would become characteristic. Michael spoke with facial

gestures, particularly his eyebrows, just as Italians speak with their hands. I saw he had chiselled lines on his face, some laughter, some frowns ("Your face is unlined because you've never had a serious thought in your life", he would admonish me, half-jokingly), dishevelled red hair ("Not red, autumn brown"), and was wearing a leather jacket, open-necked shirt, and tight pigskin trousers. He puffed at a scented cigarette between shouting above the music into the phone. It was not at all the image I had expected of a Cambridge don, but I had the immediate sensation that I knew who he was: Butley, the charismatically dissolute lecturer in Simon Gray's play of the same name, the film version with Alan Bates I had recently seen, and loved. "Yes," Michael said at some later point with a dismissive wave of his hand, "so I've been told. I did lodge with Gray, but as for the resemblance – never been so insulted". And so, a close relationship began with a supervisor I came to know well, not only as an academic mentor but in a relationship which aspired to Wagner's sense of music.

Michael believed in university education in the way that Wagner – his hero above the other heroes whose photographs adorned his room – believed in music as the total work of art. It was all or nothing, and Michael, I think it fair to say, saw his role as messianic, and the relationship between pupil (his word) – at least those he singled out – and teacher as all-consuming and committed to moral and aesthetic seriousness. He was a moral philosopher, doubling as a fellow in English, but his interests were in aesthetics, then hardly known in Cambridge. His particular passion was for music, and a strict hierarchy, centred on the inspiration of Richard Wagner. It had taken him some considerable time, he would say, to be able to take even Mozart seriously, never mind the more frivolous bel canto composers which he had also come to love, so far were they below the rigorous standard set by Wagner, the master. His ability to make room for the lesser composers was largely on account of Maria Callas whose voice was for him the sublime expression of the sensual rapture he craved in music.

Michael believed, and believed passionately, in the power of art to measure, illuminate and transform life. He was proud to point out that his doctoral thesis – of which he gave me his original copy – opened with the words 'I believe'. He was an educational proselytiser, and a most charismatic one, in a sense which I don't think exists any more in universities, and it was perhaps only in the open and permissive period of the 1970s in which it could flourish.

Michael expressed his views trenchantly, and, while encouraging the cut and thrust of debate, was often dismissive of opposition, particularly if he rated the intellectual vigour of dissension inferior to his own, which invariably it was. He had a mission composed of strongly held opinions and positions and, while not exactly forcing them down the throats of his students, willed them to be accepted. There was a world according to Michael or there was nothing. He was an iconoclast and revelled in mocking and undermining most authority and convention, particularly that of the University.

Michael loved gossip and he could be scurrilous. He had a wicked sense of humour – those laugh lines on his face – and a robust sense of the absurd. He would regale his acolytes (as that is what we were) with outrageous anecdotes. His mode was irony, which ranged from the mischievous to the sardonic. It was

the mischievous which led him to invite me as his guest to the Queenborough Feast – describing me as 'Undergraduate' on the Fellows' guest register. "Most of them invite the Archbishop of Canterbury!" On the serious side, Michael identified closely with F R Leavis and his 'open-shirted' morality – the only University figure he genuinely admired – in regarding education as a strenuous moral mission, akin to warfare, which was concerned with 'life' (in Leavis's sense). Michael was an avowed atheist, but his educational manifesto was propelled by an overwhelmingly religiose fervour. He, like Leavis, saw himself as a prophet without honour, and he fought with fierce mockery and disparagement against an establishment he rebelled against. He identified with Leavis as 'Cambridge in spite of Cambridge' and saw himself as the bearer of the Leavis torch. He told me that Leavis had said to him (and here Michael adopted the penetratingly lugubrious tone of Leavis – something that was close to his own voice anyway), "Tanner, you're the one" (with a riveting stare). Whether that was true or not, it confirmed the image, and the mission, Michael set for himself.

His relations with 'pupils' were didactic and sometimes overwhelming. He believed the essential qualities of life were vitality and emotional generosity, both of which infused his style of teaching. He believed in an all-consuming inclusiveness in which his teaching was merely a part, albeit the driving force, of a total relationship. Pupils - and there was a clear demarcation between those he favoured and those he dismissed – were drawn into his weltanschauung (a word he often used). It was a dizzying experience because once drawn in and flattered with the intense attention bestowed by Michael (his close acolytes were invariably addressed as 'sweetheart' – a term some found cringeworthy) it was hard to be without it. Michael was wary of 'betrayal', and often posed as its emotional victim, but he was also able to discard quite brutally those he became bored with or who in some way offended (or deviated from) his strict principles. It was thus that a kind of Russian roulette was played, with a pupil being a favourite one moment and banished to the wilderness the next. It was game which is no longer able to be played but it was inspirational, if perilous, to be a part of it. One was the music while the music lasted.

In recalling those years, I come to the stark insight into how very different university was in the 1970s, and especially so in Cambridge in that milieu, and how profoundly the relationship between lecturer and student has changed. In these dismal times, it would be impossible for somebody like Michael to survive and impossible for a student to experience such extraordinary stimulation. The upshot is a considerable impoverishment on both sides.

Acknowledgements to The Spectator

Mike Scialom (Senior Reporter, *Cambridge Independent*) Tributes have been pouring in from myriad different sources – testimony to a life well lived – following the death of Michael Tanner, who taught philosophy at the University of Cambridge for 36 years, was a Life Fellow at Corpus Christi, a world-renowned expert on Wagner, and a much-loved and resonant opera critic at *The Spectator*.

The Telegraph described Dr Tanner as "one of the most brilliant and single-minded Cambridge dons of his generation"; The Times remarked "he was even



incapable of writing a dull footnote." And the Master of Corpus Christi, Professor Christopher Kelly, said "Michael was one of the great figures in Corpus in the latter half of the twentieth century."

Michael and Mike Scialom enjoying lunch.

Quite aside from his loss to culture, his passing will be keenly felt in Cambridge socially, where he was a hugely popular and respected educator, wit, raconteur, fine dining connoisseur, classical music expert – especially Wagner – and intellectual tour-de-force.

I knew nothing of this when I first met Michael at Adilia's coffee shop in 2018. I started going there every Wednesday at 10am for coffee before going round the corner to the Cambridge 105 studio to take part in a half-hour news show. In Adilia's, I was supposed to be scanning the just-published edition of the *Cambridge Independent* for stories to discuss on the radio, but that took second place to having a coffee with Michael, and chatting about the state of the nation or the latest Cambridge furores and, after a year or two, I took to joining him at The Box for lunch every few weeks – it being just up the road from his home.

Lunch with Michael was a two-hour banquet of food, excellent Turkish wine, and wild, glorious, stories. He loved the owners, not least because they had continued to deliver him his lunch during the pandemic. With Michael, you were never in any doubt that you were in the company of someone exceptional, someone with a rip-roaring sense of humour in a room from which no elephant could escape comment – withering, hilarious, insightful comment.

I got a bit of a potted history: his father was a fireman, and the family moved around the country. As a child at one point he was living near Biggin Hill when the Battle of Britain was being fought: he said he would look up and see the vapour trails of the planes when they were shot down, and the kids chased after the planes if they crash-landed nearby to see the pilot captured or welcomed home.

He was delighted to get into Cambridge in the mid-1950s, and related how he felt his life truly began as an undergraduate in a city he grew into, and which grew into him.



Michael Tanner in 2020, by Mike Scialom.

One time he mentioned he'd sat next to Sylvia Plath in class and I couldn't not ask him what she was like.

He described Plath as mischievous and effervescent and added: "But I spent a lot of the time wishing she would just calm down a bit." His "calm" and "down" were not understated.

He was at Corpus when E M Forster was Fellow at King's.

"He had no small talk," Michael despaired. "None whatsoever." Between each syllable of "what-so-ever" was a theatrical pause, as if to allow the implications of such a condition to sink in.

As one of the world's foremost Wagner scholars – his *The Faber Pocket Guide to Wagner* is a timeless classic – Michael went to Bayreuth for the Wagner festival every year, or did until travel became too complicated. There, one suspects, he was the darling of the Wagner set: he'd earned his place at the high table, through ruthless scholarship and relentless investigation. He loved being at High Table at Corpus too, and relayed with relish the occasion when one Royal stubbed out their cigarettes in the eggs Florentine. He could be terribly, wonderfully, indiscreet. He suffered too, of course: he was thoroughly miserable for a while after the death in 2019 of Clive James, whom he counted as a friend, and felt was taken before his time (James died in Cambridge aged 80).

Michael battled the indignities of old age with no trace of self-pity. He still had a lot to give – a memoir was being worked on. There were stories to be told, reputations to assess and reassess. The buffonery and incompetence of the ruling classes amused him. He read voraciously, from the Greek philosophers to *Private Eye* and he could jump in at any point in European history of the last 500 years and describe the cultural landscape of the time intimately. His ability to read people was consummate, and he was a generous and willing listener, who devoured everything you had to say with the delight of a hungry traveller, unless you voiced a lazy thought, or – heaven forfend – any species of cliched thinking. Then he would gleefully pounce, like a chess master spying an undefended queen, though above all he loved the cut and thrust of conversation and debate and, however withering he might be, he always left you, his audience, with a dignity-restoring escape route.

Acknowledgements to the Cambridge Independent

Undergraduate (Trinity College, m.1969) Gerard McBurney said, in a post on the Leiter Blog, that Michael Tanner's Wagner evenings in the 1970s were life-changing. For me too. He seemed completely imbued with the greatness and importance of Wagner. I found his presentation absorbing and charismatic. It drew you in — well, it drew me in. Those talks are among my best memories of Cambridge.

I ran into him a couple of times by chance in the following months. I was an undergraduate reading English at another college. He seemed happy to chat to me – just someone from the Wagner talks audience – about Thomas Mann, opera and so on. He combined an intense absorption in the big things in life – music, literature and philosophy – with a natural approachableness and intellectual generosity.

His erudition and incisiveness were of course evident even from such a brief acquaintance. His straightforward, conversational expression of things that

interested him and that he knew a lot about was inspiring. Even as a young knownothing I thought he was a very remarkable man. Apologies if that sounds pompous – difficult to get the tone right in something like this.

His claim in his writing that Wagner's antisemitism was of very little (or, in fact, if I remember correctly, of *no*) significance to his music and drama is an excellent antidote to the habitual restating of the opposite view by others.

My Wagner knowledge and appreciation are rudimentary. But Wagner is important and I very much regret not having written to Dr Tanner, as – years later – I intended to, to express my appreciation for the way he had inspired and influenced me. I envy those who knew him as a friend. It's very moving to hear of his death.

Robin Benn (m.1982) When I arrived at Corpus in 1982 and met Michael Tanner in his rooms (P4), he recommended to me Erich Heller's excellent book, *The Disinherited Mind: Essays in Modern German Literature and Thought*, which in turn greatly inspired me in my readings of Goethe and, especially, Kafka. It was a very astute recommendation, which opened my eyes to a passionate and involved mode of engagement with literary texts, far removed from the rather dry school of practical criticism that my school teachers had imbued in me.

When I left in 1985, I had decided (somewhat against my character) to become a chartered accountant, as I needed to find a job and thought that the rigorous technical training would do me good (which it probably did). Michael's response to this, over a canteen lunch in Hall just before I left Corpus, has stayed with me ever since: "What? Have you lost your regard for truth?" He said that he had imagined I might instead work on a thesis about Thomas Mann or Freud, and I could find no good response. I do feel I disappointed Michael in this somewhat, and part of me wishes I had spent more of my time in the literary world (though I did not remain in accountancy for very long in the end either).

I remember with some nostalgia the way the sound of Wagner, Bruckner and others used to float (or boom) across Old Court from P4 at very high volume throughout the Easter term: Michael had absolutely enormous speakers.

I also remember feeling quite amazed by Michael's collection of LPs, rumoured to be the largest in private hands in the country. I thought it admirable that Michael was concerned to ensure that recordings were preserved for the future, given the speed at which LPs went 'out of print'.

On one occasion, my friend Geoff Lloyd (at the time senior organ scholar) borrowed Michael's prized LP set of Wilhelm Furtwängler's 1952 recording of *Tristan und Isolde* (with Kirsten Flagstad), and I attended a listening party in Geoff's rooms. Although Michael was not present, this was the closest I got to experiencing his great love of Wagner (and Furtwängler), which remains with me now (I'm listening to it as I type this!). I think Michael inspired whole generations of undergraduates, wittingly or not.

More frivolously, I remember how one could always tell that Michael was approaching because his *Aramis* aftershave preceded him, and he was always elegantly (and consistently) turned out in his jeans and leather jacket: as if James Dean had been overcome with a sudden enthusiasm for Schopenhauer.

My abiding memory is sitting in the Buttery (which, at the time, had a door onto Old Court) and catching sight of Michael striding across the lawn to the broad wooden staircase that led to P4. It is strange to think that that world, and most of its inhabitants, is now gone, and I regret its passing.

Anyway, it was a privilege to know Michael Tanner, however briefly and however distantly, and it would be interesting, in due course, to read others' reminiscences.

James Warren (Fellow) Michael Tanner was a philosopher and critic of wide learning and immense charisma who was one of the great characters of Corpus Christi. He had strong opinions, particularly about music and literature, and was very happy to express them in his characteristic, sometimes acerbic, style. Most of all, he was continually interested in people; he enjoyed meeting new members of the College and finding out about their work, interests, and lives over coffee after lunch. He is very much missed.

Steven Hales (Former Visiting Fellow) I had a very enjoyable coffee and wideranging conversation with Michael when I was a visiting fellow at Corpus Christi three years ago. I did not know him in his prime, but his faculties seemed to me undiminished.

Cora Diamond (American Philosopher) Tanner wrote a very fine piece on Sentimentality. He was also co-author, with Bernard Williams, of a stinging response to Anscombe on contraception and chastity.

Paul Moss (King's, m.1987) Arriving at Cambridge to study philosophy in the eighties, I found it confined to the strait jacket of the analytic tradition and watch out anyone who dared mention subversive figures from the continent. But Michael Tanner cast such restrictions aside, enlightening – and above all, entertaining us, with his lectures on Nietzsche and Kierkergaard. No individual had such an impact on my university education – but he did refuse to teach me until I had gone away and listened to *Don Giovanni*!

Andrew Huddleston (Former Visiting Undergraduate, Pembroke College) No one was more influential on the direction my intellectual life has taken. Michael, in his retirement, agreed to supervise me when I was a visiting undergraduate at Cambridge. He no longer had an office, so I turned up at his house for the supervisions, which were due to last an hour, but would stretch on from early afternoon into the late evening. We covered little to nothing from the actual syllabus. But it was a heady diet of what I loved and still love – Wagner, Rilke, Mann, Callas, and so many other profound things – leavened with humour, gossip and the occasional ribald story. As our field trips, he took me along to the operas he was reviewing for *The Spectator*. Michael's house was filled with an astonishing collection of LPs, CDs, DVDs, and books. (He had, for example, 80+ recordings of the Bruckner 8th.) In the early 2000s or thereabouts, he wrote a beautiful essay about the passion for collecting, and with his death, it has an

especially valedictory quality: "Christopher Ricks, contemplating the lunacy of my library, said that it was my defence against death. He could be right, though at the time I was annoyed by what I felt was a glib jibe. As long as there are books unread, records unheard, not only do I owe it to myself to read and listen, life owes it to me to give me a chance. A casual calculation reveals that to get through all my records and books I need to live to be over two hundred years old, supposing I increase my reading speed only slightly (there's nothing one can do about listening speed, though some of the best-known names in the record reviewing business must surely have found some accelerated mode of absorption). There is a unique comfort, at least that is what I find, in being surrounded by things that have a peculiarly intimate connection with one, awaiting one's attention." He was a great teacher and a beloved friend. RIP.

Tom Lloyd (m.1974) Michael Tanner was my English literature (!) Director of Studies at Corpus Christi College in the early 1970s. His thought was wideranging and his wit often acerbic, at least to this then too-naive American from Georgia. He fed my interest in Wagner and directed me to excellent and sometimes controversial tutors like QD Leavis. Dr Tanner's connections were superlative. His major books on Nietzsche and Wagner came rather late in his career but were (I suspect) all the better in depth and clarity for the delay. His continued vitality in later life was inspirational to this now retired Professor of English. *The Spectator* obituary described him well.

Gerard McBurney (m.1973) Michael's Wagner evenings in his rooms in Corpus in the 1970s were life-changing.

Vid Simoniti (Churchill m.2015) I met Michael when I was a junior research fellow in Cambridge in 2015–18, and he was by then long retired. Like many others, I was instantly locked in by his magnetic wit. I think I even suffered from something of a Tanner obsession. My diary is interspersed with great blocks of text, which are simply transcripts of what he had to say. His papers in aesthetics, and his books on Nietzsche, Schopenhauer and Wagner, remain a stirring read. Here, as in his music criticism, his style is one of the chief joys of reading him: honest, acute, sometimes meandering, always insightful for example on young Wagner: "the chief constraints on what he wrote were those of having no very urgent need to communicate anything". You read that sentence once, and it's witty. You read it twice, and it's a perceptive description of the limits of creativity.

His outlook on life was roughly Schopenhauerian. I remember him saying, once, of dinosaurs, his hands splayed in characteristic horror over his face: "These dumb creatures, existing for millions of years, and then just going extinct. There is just no point!" The antidote to a meaningless universe was always art – music, film, literature – his knowledge of which he shared with a total generosity. But another antidote was his delicious sense of the absurd. His anecdotes, many of which pertained to philosophy of course, were unforgettable, told like they were out of Boccaccio or Voltaire's *Candide*. In conversation and in writing, Michael could move with unsettling speed from unadulterated awe (usually in

relation to music) to demolishing life's pretensions. To all who found affinity with him he was a profound presence, and he'll be greatly missed.

Susi Liles (The International Association of Richard Wagner Studies) I remember Michael giving a great lecture at the Wagner Society in London. His book on Wagner's works is both complex but accessible. He will be greatly missed in Wagner circles.

John Rapko (American Philosopher of Art) For decades I have attributed to Tanner (rightly? wrongly?) the profound remark that there are three kinds of bad art: incompetent art; boring art; and corrupt art. This seems to me vastly more illuminating than anything I've ever read about what makes good art good. And, as noted by Cora Diamond, his essay on sentimentality is very fine; indeed, it is, like Richard Wollheim's *The Sheep and the Ceremony*, one of the very few pieces in Anglo-American philosophy of art so interesting and penetrating that one benefits from re-reading it every few years.

Tamsin Shaw (New York University) Nietzsche said that one should depart from life as Odysseus departed from Nausicaa – blessing rather than in love with it. That's pretty much what Michael did. I visited him in hospital a few days before he died. He of course wouldn't permit any sentimentality. We had an absolutely lovely day talking about Thomas Mann, Nadia Boulanger, Martin Amis, Tom Nagel's views about death, gin, Carlos Kleiber, the *Missa Solemnis*, Wagner's dogs, his disbelief in the affection of cats, Rilke, and everything under the sun. He said he was quite happy to drift away in his haze of morphine. I didn't know it was possible to meet death with such grace. He never forgave me (or Andrew Huddleston!) for not finishing *Joseph and his Brothers*. Right now, I don't see the point in reading it because I can't talk to Michael about it. That would annoy him intensely, but I would laugh about it until he broke into a smile.

People who only knew him from his barbed opera criticism and his reputation in Cambridge for being slightly ferocious must have imagined him to be very different to the person he really was. And now I'm tempted to list his wonderful attributes in a way that he would certainly have frowned upon as excessively sentimental, so I'll just say this. His partner, Michael Amos, and I were talking today about the way he communicated so much through his many different smiles. He had an entirely loving smile, a welcoming smile, a curious smile, a mischievous smile, a "you know you're talking bullshit smile" (I got that one quite a lot and always laughed), a smile of pure admiration, and of course one of ecstasy for wonderful music. He would say that in his younger days he wasn't unhappy, he was a happy person trapped in an unhappy life. I think he showed that to be true. There are so many things I still want to talk to him about. But I shan't be mawkish (a word he once used for one of my favourite recordings and I couldn't listen to it the same way again). He started out as my PhD examiner (with David Owen, all with our shoes off in The Swan, and you can guess which smile he was wearing) and ended up a wonderful friend and soul mate (his words, though he didn't believe in a soul). I'm delighted to see the other fond remembrances of him here. I think he changed many people's lives. Certainly mine. I should have taken more of his advice.

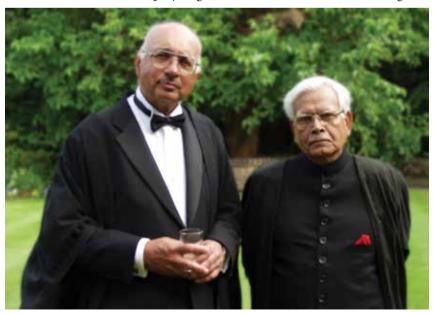
Phil Gasper (Queen's, m.1979) Michael Tanner supervised me in aesthetics when I was an undergraduate at Cambridge in the 1970s. It was certainly not my area of philosophy, but I learned a lot from him, despite our radically different political views. I had eight or nine supervisors during my time at Cambridge, all of whom were very fine philosophers, but Tanner stood out for his intensity and enthusiasm. I'm glad that our paths crossed.

Cosmo Corfield (m.1983) I was very saddened to hear of the death of Michael Tanner. His Leavisite connections provided one of my main pretexts for accepting a place at Corpus [Cantab] rather than Magdalen [Oxon].

Kunwar Natwar Singh (m.1952, Honorary Fellow) (1930–2024)

Kunwar Natwar Singh was an Indian diplomat, politician and author who served as India's Foreign Minister from May 2004 to December 2005. He came to Corpus as an undergraduate in 1952 and was made an Honorary Fellow of the College in 2004. Singh was born in 1930 into an aristocrat Jat Hindu family related to the ruling dynasty of Bharatpur. He was educated at Mayo College, Ajmer and Scindia School, Gwalior, took a degree at St Stephen's College, Delhi, from where he matriculated into Corpus to read the Historical Tripos. He was subsequently a visiting scholar at Beijing University, China.

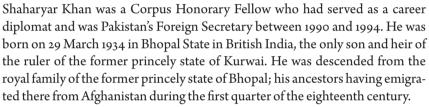
In 1953 Singh joined the Indian Foreign Service and served for thirty-one years. During that time, he held many roles including several with the United Nations and the Heads of Commonwealth Meetings. In addition, he was variously Ambassador to Poland, Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

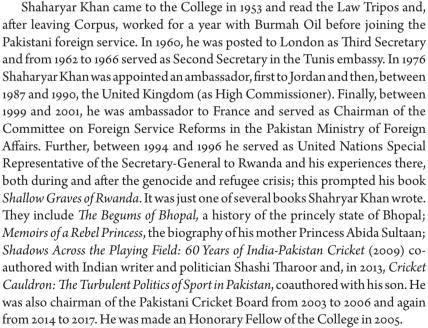


Kunwar Natwar Singh with former Master Professor Haroon Ahmed in 2005.

and Ambassador to Pakistan. In 1984 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award from the Government of India after he served as the head of the preparatory committee of the Non-Alignment Summit in New Delhi in 1983. That same year he resigned from the Indian Foreign Service to contest elections to the Indian Parliament as a member of the National Congress Party where he served for many years. As such, he held multiple ministries including Foreign Minister in 2004. Singh also authored several books including, *The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute* and *My China Diary* 1956–88 and an autobiography entitled *One Life is Not Enough* (2014) In August 1967, he married Maharajkumari Heminder Kaur, the eldest daughter of the last Maharaja of Patiala State. Natwar Singh died in Gurugram after a prolonged illness on Saturday 10 August 2024 aged 93.

Shaharyar Muhammad Khan (m.1953, Honorary Fellow) (1934–2024)





Shaharyar Khan married Minoo Khan in 1958, the couple having met when she was a student at the Queen's College in London the previous year. Shaharyar Muhammad Khan died in Lahore, Pakistan after a long illness on 23 March 2024 aged 89, just six days before his 90th birthday.



Shaharyar Muhammad Khan

The Fellowship

News of Fellows

The Master and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Fellow Librarian (Professor Philippa Hoskin) have been honoured by HM The King with the King's Coronation Medal. This medal was presented on Monday 12 February 2024 in The Assembly Hall, Church House by Sir Kenneth Olisa, HM Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, in recognition of their contribution to the King's Coronation in May 2023.

Professor Shruti Kapila was made an officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in HM The King's Birthday Honours for her services to research in the Humanities. Professor Kapila's research focuses on modern and contemporary India (1770 to the present) and global political thought, working to centre the importance of India for the remaking of global political languages. Since 2013 she has been a co-convenor of a closed-door seminar in the House of Lords that puts Indian leaders and key voices in dialogue with their British counterparts on important contemporary issues. She has been a Fellow since 2007.



Professor Christopher Kelly receives the King's Coronation Medal from Sir Kenneth Olisa.

Dr Qingyuan Zhao has been promoted to a Professorship (Grade 11) of Statistics in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. Professor Zhao joined the University in 2019 following postdoctoral research at the University of Pennsylvania. He has since been a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute and an Associate of the Cambridge Centre for AI in Medicine (CCAIM). Dr Zhao currently sits on the Editorial Board of *Statistical Science* as an Associate Editor. His research interests lie primarily in drawing scientific conclusions about causal relationships using experimental and observational data, a fast-growing area known as "causal inference". He is also broadly interested in applying statistical methods in biomedical and social sciences. Professor Zhao has been a Fellow since 2020.

Professor Sam Behjati was awarded the Francis Crick Medal (for 2025) from the Royal Society for his discoveries on the developmental origins of childhood cancers. Established in 2003 with an endowment from the Nobel Prize winner Dr Sydney Brenner, the Francis Crick Medal is awarded annually in any field in the biological sciences, particularly within genetics, molecular biology and neurobiology. The award also comes with a prize lecture, which Professor Behjati will deliver in 2025. Professor Behjati also received the 2023 Foulkes Foundation Academy of Medical Sciences Medal for his impactful work in transforming our understanding of how childhood cancers develop and for delivering state-of-the-art diagnostics for children. The medal has been awarded biannually since 2007 by the Foulkes Foundation to recognise the outstanding achievements of innovative biomedical researchers in the early years of their careers. Professor Behjati joined the College in 2016 as a Non-Stipendiary Early Career Research Fellow.

Dr Betty Chung was appointed to a University Assistant Professorship in Pathology. Her research is centred around the translational control of protein synthesis – an essential biological process in all living organisms. Dr Chung seeks to understand how living organisms utilise novel gene expression mechanisms to respond and adapt to challenging and complex biosystems, underpinning how these discoveries can be used to engineer biological systems for biotechnological applications to combat pathogen infection in the face of climate change. She was elected to the Fellowship in 2022.

Dr Charles Read has been appointed Senior Tutor and Tutorial Fellow in History at Regent's Park College, Oxford. His research examines the political economy of financial crises and famines in Great Britain, Ireland and the British Empire in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Dr Read will remain a Fellow of the College until September 2025 while continuing his position as Additional Deputy Proctor. He has been a Fellow of the College since 2018.

Professor Judy Hirst was honoured by Greenhead College in Huddersfield this year following the opening of a new science building in her name. An alumna of the College, Professor Hirst was present at the opening of the Hirst Building on 23 April 2024 with HRH The Duke of Gloucester. She is the Director of the Medical Research Council Mitochondrial Biology Unit (MRC-MBU). Her research combines structural, biochemical and chemical techniques to pioneer studies of energy conversion in complex redox enzymes, exploring how they

capture the energy released by a redox reaction to power proton translocation across a membrane, or catalyse the interconversion of chemical bond energy and electrical potential. She has been a member of the Fellowship since 2011.

Dr Andrew Sanger received the Pilkington Prize from the Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning for Excellence in Teaching. Founded in 1994 by Sir Alastair Pilkington to recognise excellence in teaching, Dr Sanger was one of 12 recipients in the University to receive the award. Dr Sanger is Associate Professor of International Law in the Faculty of Law and a Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law. He teaches international law and global governance, including human rights, political economy, technology and the law, and corporate responsibility. Dr Sanger was also shortlisted for Oxford University Press's 'Law Teacher of the Year' in 2023. He was elected to the Fellowship in 2018.

Professor John Biggins was awarded the Student-Led Teaching Award for Student Support (Academic Staff). The award was established in 2014 to acknowledge outstanding teaching and student support across the University and its Colleges. Professor Biggins is Professor of Soft-Matter Engineering in the Department of Engineering. His research focuses on the theoretical description of soft solids, including rubber, skin, muscle and jelly. He has been a member of the Fellowship since 2018.

Professor Sarah Bohndiek has been appointed one of the three programme directors of the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA), a government-funded agency that aims to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs that could benefit society. She is a Professor of Biomedical Physics in the University, jointly appointed in the Department of Physics and the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. She leads an interdisciplinary team that uses optical imaging technology to monitor in situ tumour evolution and support earlier cancer detection. Professor Bohndiek has been a Fellow of the College since 2013.

The Rt Hon. Lord (Terence) Etherton was awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (GBE) in HM The King's Birthday Honours. The honour was awarded in recognition of Lord Etherton's service to LGBT veterans. Lord Etherton has also served as Master of the Rolls and Chancellor of the High Court. He has been an Honorary Fellow of the College since 2007.

Life Fellows

Professor Sir Hew Strachan was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in recognition of his service as Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale in HM The King's Birthday Honours. The Royal Victorian Order is awarded for distinguished service to the Monarch and members of the Royal Family, both in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth. Professor Strachan was elected to the Fellowship in 1979, having held a research fellowship from 1975–78.

Professor Paul Hewett transferred to the Life Fellowship at the end of the academic year. After completing his doctorate at the University of Edinburgh in 1982, Professor Hewett joined the Institute of Astronomy as a SERC Fellow; he would join the College as a Research Fellow two years later. In 2007 he was made Professor of Observational Astrophysics, and in his time with the Institute

has served as both its Deputy Director (2008–11) and Director (2012–13). He is currently Vice-President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. Throughout his career, Professor Hewett's research has explored the evolution and properties of the quasar population, the nature and distribution of dark matter in the Universe and gravitational lensing. In Corpus, he served nine years as Tutor for Advanced Students, responsible for the admission and oversight of the College's graduate body, and as Food and Wine Steward since its inception in 2000.

New Fellows

Dr Emilija Leinarte is an Associate Professor in EU Law in the Faculty of Law. She completed her LLM Studies at both the University of Texas as a Fulbright grantee and Lucy Cavendish College before joining Trinity College for her doctoral studies. Her book *Functional Responsibility of International Organizations: The European Union and International Economic Law* (CUP 2021) provides a novel approach to the allocation of international responsibility in a non-state multilayered structure. Dr Leinarte is also Editor-in-Chief of the *Cambridge Yearbook of European Legal Studies* and was Co-Director of the Centre for European Legal Studies, 2022–23.

Dr Felix Waldmann is the College's Praelector Rhetoricus. Following his PhD at Gonville and Caius College, he was elected to both a Research Fellowship and the J. H. Plumb Lectureship in History at Christ's College, where he also served as Director of Studies in History and Tutor. His research primarily focuses on political thought and intellectual history in early-modern Europe. His first book, *After Vico: Philosophy, Politics, and the Enlightenment in Naples, 1668–1799*, is set to be published by Cambridge University Press in their 'Ideas in Context' series. Dr Waldmann is currently editing the Clarendon Edition of David Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* and *Occasional Writings*, in addition to John Locke's *Two Treaties of Government*.

Dr James Clark has been elected to a Stipendiary Early-Career Research Fellowship in Archaeology. His doctoral thesis explored the origins and intersite variation of the Oldowan and the subsequent reasons for the shift to the Acheulean. Dr Clark's research crosses archaeology and anthropology to explore behavioural variability across the evolution of *Homo sapiens*, with an interest in responses to both short- and long-term climate change through their technological adaptations through time. He also uses technology as a way of tracing human population history, dispersal, and demography. In 2020, he served as Book Reviews Editor of the biannual academic journal *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*.

Dr Elizabeth Ramsey is the new Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Early-Career Research Fellow. She previously studied at Warwick and Oxford, where she completed an MSt in German funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Her doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago explored concepts of play in German literary texts from the long nineteenth century, including the works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Clemens Brentano, E.T.A Hoffmann and Franz Kafka. In conjunction with producing a monograph based on her dissertation, Dr Ramsey is working on a new project

examining the work of Arthur Schnitzler, whose papers were shipped from Vienna to Cambridge in 1938 in fear of being destroyed by Nazis. The archive, now kept in the University Library, includes more than 40,000 pages, including an alternative ending to *Traumnovelle* (Dream Story), the novel on which Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* is based.

Dr Claudia Bonfio returns to the College as a Fellow. She had previously been at Corpus as a Non-Stipendiary Research Fellow in 2018 before joining the University of Strasbourg as Junior Group Leader at the Institute for Supramolecular Science and Engineering. She rejoins the University as Associate Professor in the Laboratory of Supramolecular Biochemistry in the Department of Biochemistry. Her group is interested in designing and developing functional primitive cells capable of Darwinian evolution. Dr Bonfio has also recently been awarded a highly competitive European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant, supporting her research on "Lipid Diversity at the Onset of Life", looking at the origin of cell membranes as a major unresolved issue in evolution.

Dr Emilia Wilton-Godberfforde also joined the Fellowship in October 2024. Before returning to Cambridge, Dr Wilton-Godberfforde was Head of French at the Open University (School of Languages and Linguistics) and Lead for the AHRC Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership. Her research focuses on seventeenth-century French drama with an interest in modes of deception including resurrection and playing dead in early modern theatre and visual culture. Books she has written include *Mendacity and the Figure of the Liar in Seventeenth-Century French Comedy*, an exploration of lying across a range of plays in early modern France and English-French Translation, a co-authored monograph on French grammatical structures, the nuances of different styles and registers, and the perils and pleasures of translation.

Dr Ruth Webster is Assistant Professor of Synthetic Chemistry in the Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry. A chemist in homogeneous catalysis, her research explores unusual phosphorus motifs and how to harness the potential of iron for use in atom-efficient chemical bond transformations. It was in recognition of her innovative and sustainable research in iron catalysis that she received the 2024 AstraZeneca Prize in Synthetic Chemistry. In 2022 she was also a recipient of the RSC Sir Edward Frankland Fellowship and Philip Leverhulme Prize, both for her work in this field. Before moving to Cambridge in 2023, Dr Webster had undertaken postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia with a Commonwealth Research Fellowship, later joining the University of Bath as both an EPSRC Early-Career Fellow and Prize Research Fellow in Catalysis.

Dr Timothy Glover, previously a Research Fellow at Emmanuel College, is the fourth Parker Library Early-Career Research Fellow. Dr Glover completed his BA, MA, and PhD at the University of Oxford, in addition to being awarded a Mellon Post-Baccalaureate in Post-Classical Latin at the University of California, Los Angeles. A cultural historian and literary critic of late-medieval England and Europe, Dr Glover explores the supposed disorganisation of late-medieval texts, contending that they are reflective of normative kinds of compilatory writings, especially those written outside of academia. His research has particularly

focused on the works of the medieval English monk, Richard Rolle, and is currently preparing a critical edition and translation of his *Emendatio vitae*.

Dr Chatura Goonesinghe has been elected to a Non-Stipendiary Early-Career Research Fellowship. After completing his BA in Chemistry at the University of Colombo, where he then served as an Assistant Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry, he completed his PhD at the University of British Columbia, sponsored by a UBC Four-Year Fellowship and the Gladys Estella Laird Research Fellowship. His research focuses on the development of new bio-inorganic hybrid catalysts in the Mateo Sánchez Lab at Cambridge, where he has taken up a Herchel Smith Postdoctoral Fellowship coterminously with his Fellowship at the College.

The College elected two new Fellows to the Guild Fellowship on 8 March 2024: David Mogford and his partner Mary Taylor. Mr Mogford matriculated in 1972 to read Geography and later began a career in international steel trading. This included an overseas posting in Pakistan for Coutinho Caro and Co. which, after their rebranding as Stemcor UK, he was appointed its Managing Director. Mr Mogford went on to cofound the Steelinvest Group, serving as its Managing Director between 2002 and 2023. Mary Taylor qualified as a mathematics teacher at Homerton College, going on to teach at King's Ely, St Paul's Cathedral School, in addition to schools in Pakistan and South Africa. Both Mr Mogford and Ms Taylor led the philanthropic efforts to renovate Ashton House, a Grade II listed residential property adjacent to the College accommodation at Newnham House. The house, now named Mogford Lodge in his honour, has helped address the increased demand for student accommodation following the introduction of the Bridging Course.

Former Fellows

The College is deeply saddened by the death of three Fellows this year. First, Dr Michael Tanner – Life Fellow, former Dean of College and Director of Studies in English and Philosophy – died 3 April 2024. Second, Shaharyar Muhammad Khan – former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Rwanda and Honorary Fellow since 2005 – died 23 March 2024, six days before his 90th birthday. Third, Natwar Singh – former Minister of External Affairs of India, Ambassador to Pakistan, Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Honorary Fellow since 2005 – died 10 August 2024. Their obituaries are included in this edition of *The Record*.

Professor Andrew Davison left the College to take up his appointment as Canon and Regius Professor of Divinity at Christ Church, Oxford. Dr Jenny Zhang was appointed as a University Assistant Professor in the Yusuf Hamid Department of Chemistry, linked to a Fellowship at Newnham College. Our former Bursar, Ms Jenny Raine, has taken up a new post as Deputy Head of Student Support Services in the University. Dr Samuel Lasman, sometime Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Early-Career Research Fellow, joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as Lecturer in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. Dr Alicia Smith, Parker Library Early-Career Research Fellow, 2023–24) has been appointed Lecturer in Medieval Literature and Culture at Birkbeck, University of London. Dr Jesús Sanjurjo-Ramos, sometime Non-Stipendiary Early-Career Research

Fellow, joins the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow as Strathclyde Chancellor's Fellow in Latin American History. Dr Amar Sohal, former Stipendiary Early-Career Research Fellow, has been appointed Lecturer in the History of Political Thought at King's College London.

Professor Christopher Kelly, Master

'Ex Africa semper aliquid novi'

Professor Christopher Howe, President

The long-established office of President in Corpus includes a number of tasks to do with College Hospitality. One of these is to chair the Fellows' Wine Committee, which oversees the Fellows' Wine Cellar (with the essential input of the Food and Wine Steward, of course) and is probably the only Committee of the College Governing Body that has a waiting list to join. (For some unaccountable reason Committees such as 'Health and Safety' and 'Minor Works' don't seem to have the same appeal.) Chairing the Wine Committee is certainly a pleasure, but can also be a challenge, as the expertise of the other members far outweighs my own. As a result, I am always on the lookout for opportunities to expand my knowledge of the field, and the offer of a Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Stellenbosch (the heart of the wine-making region of South Africa as part of my sabbatical in 2024 was too good to miss.

The Institute, STIAS, is associated with Stellenbosch University and is the first of its kind in Africa. It runs a wide range of academic activities including conferences and public lectures, as well as Fellowship programmes. The latter comprise two residential cohorts a year of around 30 Fellows each. Fellows come from a huge range of disciplines. While I was in residence, they included biologists, chemists, an astrophysicist, political scientists, theologians, lawyers, and a poet. The Fellows also come from all over the world, and include a number of 'Iso Lomso' Fellows, chosen specifically from African Universities and other Institutions. Iso Lomso means 'the eye of tomorrow' in isiXhosa, and these Fellowships are designed to help early-career academics establish themselves and develop international collaborations. (I hope to host one such Fellow from the Republic of Cameroon in my lab shortly.)

STIAS describes itself as 'A Creative Space for the Mind', and it certainly is. While in residence the Fellows are expected to meet each other over lunch and exchange ideas (not very different from High Table in College, so I felt quite at home), and each presents a seminar for the other Fellows. To have the time and intellectual space just to sit and think, and to attend seminars completely outside my own expertise was truly refreshing. The Fellows in my cohort are now collectively writing a paper on the value of interdisciplinary studies, and I was personally able to reflect on and write papers on my own research I had hoped to get around to for some time.

Interestingly, STIAS also has a small vineyard adjoining the Institute buildings. It is planted with grapes of the Pinotage variety and is named the Perold vineyard after Abraham Izak Perold. He was the first Professor of Viticulture at Stellenbosch University and famously developed the Pinotage grape by crossing



The President hard at work in the Perold vineyard.



The January–June 2024 cohort of STIAS Fellows.

the Pinot Noir and Cinsault (which was known in South Africa as 'Hermitage') varieties. The STIAS Pinotage wine is made from the Perold grapes by the nearby Lanzerac winery and is sold under the name 'Aliquid Novi'. This is a reference to a comment by Pliny the Elder, apparently quoting earlier sources, that 'Ex Africa semper aliquid novi' - there is always something new, in this case the Pinotage grape, coming from Africa. Traditionally, the STIAS Fellows help with the harvesting and treading of the grapes, so on the second Saturday in February 2024 your President was duly there in his shorts to participate as the photo on the previous page testifies. It was the first time I have tried grape-treading, and the squelchiness underfoot is a strange feeling, so it may be the last! The local Pinotage fan club turns out in force, and we had a very jolly day celebrating what, in my view at least, is a remarkable grape. It was a pleasure to meet Beyers Truter, sometimes known as 'the Prince of Pinotage', who, as head winemaker at Kanonkop, was one of the leaders in getting worldwide recognition for the grape. We uncorked the 2021 vintage, which met with widespread approval. Even those who claim to look down on Pinotage often have to admit that they appreciate Aliquid Novi, as the conditions at the Perold vineyard mean that the more subtle Pinot Noir ancestry of the grape is more evident than the rather robust Cinsault. The wine with my own footprint should become available in 2027, and I have been preparing the ground by introducing an earlier vintage to a Fellows' wine tasting. You can find Aliquid Novi in the UK, but usually only with fairly specialist wine merchants, as only 1,000 bottles are made each year.

If there are any academics reading this who are looking for somewhere to spend a sabbatical, I strongly recommend STIAS. The generosity of the Institute is exceptional, as is the warmth of welcome from the staff. The breadth of interests and geographical backgrounds of the Fellows is remarkable, and there is a tremendous sense of intellectual community. Of course, the location is wonderful – the climate, the scenery and Stellenbosch itself, which is full of

historic Cape Dutch buildings that also complement the contemporary architecture of places like STIAS. The Director says "Once a STIAS Fellow, always a STIAS Fellow" So, much as I love Corpus, as I look out of my window at a typical grey and damp Cambridge afternoon while writing this, I look forward to going back to STIAS when I can.

Shining the light on Indigenous Pacific language periodicals

Dr Wanda Ieremia-Allan, Pacific Islander Visiting Fellow, Summer 2023.

Wanda's research focuses on Pacific indigenous writing produced under the London Missionary Society Samoan church in a Samoan Gagana (language) church newspaper, O le Sulu Samoa. First published in 1839, O le Sulu Samoa's first newspaper and one of the Pacific's earliest regional newspapers.

News from Banaba (Ocean Island)

The 1943 removal of people from Banaba, Kosrae, Tarawa (Kiribati) started in the month of May. It started as a staggered shipment of people We were on the fourth journey to Kosrae, which departed on July 19, 1943, before it was suddenly diverted to Nauru. We were taken ashore for what was falsely explained to us to be a temporary rest ahead of our long journey. We were alarmed by the unloading of our items and the discovery of fellow islanders who had left on earlier ships to Ponape ahead of us Our cruel internment of two and a half years had begun.

F. E. Rusia – Ellice Island pastor of Banaba Island, Kiribati, published in O le Sulu Samoa, July 1946, pp 99–101. Translated by Wanda Ieremia-Allan

Struggling to make sense of the cruelty of the Japanese second world war labour camp on the island of Nauru, in the above words F. E. Rusia, a Tuvalu pastor from the London Missionary Society (LMS) church on Banaba Island, wrote to report, as per missionary practice, on the health and spiritual welfare of his 'flock'. Poignant and dramatic, Rusia painfully and meticulously writes to the editors of the LMS Samoa church newspaper, Ole Sulu Samoa (Sulu) about the ordeal. While he touches briefly on the daily indignities at the hands of their captors, it is the humanity, resilience and the faith of the community that becomes his focus.

Like many Pacific missionaries, Rusia is multilingual. Beyond his Tuvaluan mother tongue, he also reads and writes in Samoan, English and Kiribati. Rusia's report in 1946 is two years overdue, but necessary. Writing for the *Sulu* was a ritual he and his fellow missionaries performed to heal and connect after their wartime ordeal. The *Sulu* is the very first Samoan newspaper, written in the Samoan language and published by the LMS in 1839. Translated as the "Torch of Samoa," the newspaper's mission was to aid the conversion of locals to Christianity.

The newspaper has been the focus of my doctoral research in Te Tumu, the School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago in Aotearoa, New Zealand. I have been supervised by Professor Alice Te Punga Somerville (University of British Columbia), Dr Jess Pasisi (University of Otago) and Tootoooleaava Dr Fanaafi Aiono Le Tagaloa (National University of Samoa).



Despite the *Sulu*'s 182-year history as a regional newspaper, little is known of this regional newspaper, and my doctoral research aimed to fill this gap in the literature. Its neglect by previous historians is attributed to the privileging of colonial languages. Although Samoan oral traditions remain rich and vibrant, historical sources in the German and English languages remain the primary source of historical recall in Samoa.

This unsettling 'discourse of sufficiency' identified by the Hawaiian historian Noelani Arista (2010) is a call for fellow Pacific researchers to centre our own respective language archives. Despite being envisaged as a colonial instrument, the *Sulu* became a tool of resistance by indigenous people themselves. Epistemic tensions in the newspaper are rife, and the use of allusion, allegory and metaphor in the Samoan language became a refuge for Pacific people away from the surveillant colonial and church authorities of the time. Pacific students who were educated at the Samoan seminary school, the Malua Institute, utilised Samoan as the language of instruction across the South Seas London Missionary School network, resulting in the newspaper becoming unrivalled in terms of circulation and readership in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The newspaper is still being published by the indigenised church, now named the Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano Samoa (EFKS).

As a historian, I prefer the nineteenth and early twentieth century issues. Frustratingly, newspaper records returned with European missionaries, leaving very few copies in Samoa. I am enjoying collating and engaging with extant issues that have been found in archives around the world including a significant number in the UK.

My time in Cambridge

I was very grateful to be the recipient of the Pacific Islander Visiting Fellowship at Corpus Christi, University of Cambridge, in 2023. I applied for the Fellowship because I could not pass up the opportunity to travel to the European metropolitan areas where early extant Indigenous Pacific textual archives were relocated to by the London Missionary Society over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In my interdisciplinary Pacific Studies work, I am inspired by the late Professor Epeli Hau'ofa's reminder of Oceania's vastness and the totality of our relationships. I trace the literary and literal movements of our Pacific people associated with the *Sulu* and apply Samoan epistemological frameworks to its reading.

I am also on a mission to collate extant copies with the ultimate plan of repatriation. During the Fellowship I traced the footsteps of Pacific writers who came to the UK, many of whom wrote prolifically about their experiences here. I engaged with Pacific and English archives, spent time meeting with academics working at literary intersections and worked on my dissertation. Writing as an Indigenous Pacific person in the heart of Cambridge provides a unique opportunity to understand this monolithic colonial apparatus and follow the intellectual Indigenous Pacific scholars such as Professors Alice Te Punga Somerville, Noelani Arista, Albert Tuaopepe Wendt; Drs Featuna'i Liua'ana, Jess Pasisi, Tootooleaava Fanaafi Aiono Le Tagaloa; the late Professors Fanaaf Aiono Le Tagaloa, Marjorie Crocombe, Epeli Hau'ofa and many more intellectual elders

and colleagues in decolonising our archives and championing Indigenous Pacific scholarship.

On a personal note, I was moved to visit Cambridge, where my own father, a LMS pastor, educator and church administrator, studied as a young Pacific scholar, under the tutelage of Anglican Bishop of Woolwich, John AT Robinson at Cheshunt Westminster College in 1970. It was a rare and meaningful honour to walk in my father's footsteps, understand the obstacles he had to overcome and appreciate the man he eventually became.

I encourage other Pacific scholars to apply for this Fellowship. It is once in a lifetime opportunity to learn among and from other scholars at Cambridge, such as the Revd Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne whose rich and significant archival collection of Pacific texts is unparalleled and perhaps only surpassed by his generosity of spirit and goodwill. Fa'afetai tele lava i lau Susuga Revd Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne, Ioeva i le ta va. May God keep you.

Dr Wanda Ieremia-Allan Associate Curator, Documentary Heritage (Pacific Collections) Auckland War Memorial Museum | Tāmaki Paenga Hira

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Christopher Andrew

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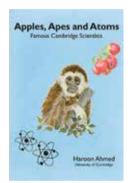
John P Carr

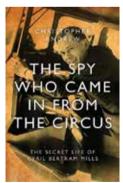
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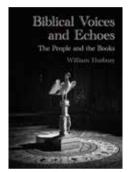
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Horbury W 2024 'Toledot Ješu' Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum 32: 679-693



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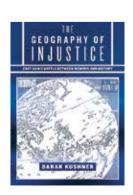
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CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

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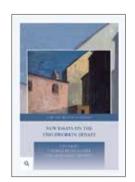
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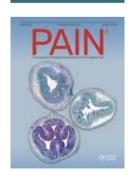
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MCR

President's Report

Last year, I ended the annual report by sharing my hopes that Leckhampton, in a manner largely analogous to its founding, should be a place where traditional ideas are simultaneously honoured and forged. This year, it gives me deep pleasure to confirm that this has been even truer than I had anticipated.

Perhaps the most notable and gratifying change over the past year has been the increase in involvement in the MCR committee, particularly amongst new students. This is no doubt a result of the incredible work of all members of the existing committee, who have worked tirelessly to maintain and build upon Leckhampton's presence as a lively social and academic hub. It has been a joy to see such vigorous involvement, and I do not doubt it is a sign of great things to come.

The year has seen a range of events of all kinds. Time-honoured fixtures such as the Leckhampton Society, sit-down dinners and tea-and-biscuit events have continued, but the busy social calendar of Leckhampton has also been seasoned with a broader range of culinary delights. We have had both chocolate and coffee tasting events, and most recently a gin tasting evening from our very own resident distiller, PhD student Will Lowe! Michaelmas has also seen the introduction of monthly live jazz nights in the bar, which encourage attendance of students from all colleges and have thus far been a great success. All of these are testament to the depth and variety of experience Leckhampton has to offer.

As I hand over the baton to take a seat on the back benches, I have every faith that the MCR will continue to flourish in the coming years. The ongoing commitment to Leckhampton, home to so many of us, is clear, and I look forward to seeing what the future has to offer.

JAMES FAULKNER, MCR President



James Faulkner with Old Member Simon Hathrell (m.1973) at the University croquet competition.

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Approved for PhD

- A Ahmad The economic theories of the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research, 1923–1945
- C Antoniou Chronic activation and downstream mechanisms of programmed axon death
- P D Bacos Utilising non-covalent interactions in developing enantioselective radical transformations
- R Cacioppo A novel route to oncogenic activation of cell cycle kinase Aurora A
- J A Clark Molecular diagnosis of lower respiratory tract infection in the paediatric intensive care unit
- L R Devereux Predicting the structure and performance of dye-sensitized solar cells by computational methods
- N K Dhall Optimisation of TrAEL-seq to study DNA damage and replication in complex and dynamic mammalian cell systems
- J L Dickerson Hardware developments to improve image quality for cryoEM of biological specimens
- R Field The spiritual pedagogy of the Cloud-author
- L B Freund Essays on the macroeconomics of labor markets
- G Garbagni Presidential, post-imperial and personal: envoy diplomacy in Japan, 1960s–1980s
- C González López CD82 as a novel biomarker of senescence and its theragnostic potential
- E C Gordon Reforming the state from within: public servants and knowledge transfer in post-2008 Ecuador
- AD Gregg Microscale actuators from carbon nanotube and hydrogel composites
- N Guccio Exploring the function and sensing mechanisms of human enteroendocrine cells using intestinal organoids
- V A Gui Visualising lung disease in modern China: body, nation, and environment from the Nanjing decade to the Cultural Revolution
- D R Hanigan Constructing the coast in Imperial Greek periplography
- J P Hugger Contrastive representation learning for bioimage quantification
- L Judge Exploring the role of long non-coding RNA in neural stem cell reactivation from quiescence: a functional genomics approach
- C Lingjaerde Joint network modelling of omics data for understanding complex diseases
- A N Malusà Fashion, art and the Early Modern Court, Frans Pourbus the Younger (1569–1622)
- M Marković Powering the nation: a conceptual history of 'national power' and the 'population problem' in modern Japan (1870s-2000s)
- A Millington The coming of 'kawa nyampa': climate change, temporality, and prophecies of decline in Himalayan Nepal
- G F Pliotis Studies in the ancient reception of Seneca the Younger
- S L Rafferty New methods to answer old questions: a study of London infant and child mortality at the turn of the twentieth century

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- R H Rickman Mechanisms of synovial fluid lipid-mediated neuronal sensitisation in arthritis
- E Rudicky Power, legitimacy and sovereignty in Hadramawt, Yemen
- E Scholz A communications revolution? The emergence of images and writing in early Iron Age Greece and Central Italy
- T Shagdar Hegemony and culturedness: elites after socialism in Mongolia
- E J Siragher The placenta in adverse maternal environments; exploring how hypoxia and food restriction limit fetal growth
- E L Slingsby The enemy within: combatants, commanders, and comparative models in Julio-Claudian recollections of late republican civil war
- S J Snyder Protestant-nominalism: an analysis of post-reformation (1555–1662) protestant philosophical theology
- J E Steinberg The program goes south: Australian prose and the University, 1970–2020
- M C Thomas Improving de novo molecule generation for structure-based drug design
- D J Whiteside Imaging correlates of heterogeneity in the syndromes associated with frontotemporal lobar degeneration
- Y Zhu Equivariant line bundles with connection on the Drinfeld upper half-space $\Omega^{(2)}$



Studying in the library on a summer day.

Prizes and Awards 2023-24

University Tripos Prizes

The Armourers & Brasiers' Prize (Materials Science)

The Project Prize (Pharmacology)

The Hartree and Clerk Maxwell Prize (Physics)

Katharine Joyce
Oliver Li

Daniil Zhitov

Marko Trandafilovski The N K Chadwick Prize (Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic) The William Vaughan Lewis Prize (Geography) Yu (Iris) Huang The Deka Chambers Prize for the Law of Tort **Jacob Simmonds** Yosef Abdelhalim The Faculty of Law Prize for Legal History The Joan Robinson Prize (Economics) Sahil Koita The Alison Fairlie Prize (French) Leila Branfoot Yosef Abdelhalim The Faculty Legal History Prize (Law) Oliver Donaldson The Sylvia Haslam Prize (Plant Sciences)

College Awards, Elections and Prizes

Foundation Scholarship

For Modern and Medieval Languages Leila Branfoot
For Psychological & Behavioural Sciences Brandon Davidson
For Natural Sciences Katharine Joyce
For Economics Sahil Koita
For Natural Sciences Chung Lam

For Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Marko Trandafilovski

For Natural Sciences Daniil Zhitov

Bishop Green Cup

For Natural Sciences Chung Lam
For Natural Sciences Daniil Zhitov

Third- and fourth-year Undergraduates

Scholarships and Book Prizes

For Engineering Benjamin Adams For Natural Sciences Oliver Broad for Computer Science Joshua Chin For Natural Sciences Jenny Duckworth For Engineering Zachary Hilburn For Mathematics Edward Hilditch Nicholas Ho For Engineering For Natural Sciences Katharine Joyce For Computer Science Hao Xiang Li

For Engineering Chi Ma

For Natural Sciences

For Engineering

For Natural Sciences

For Mathematics

For Mathematics

For Natural Sciences

For Natural Sciences

For Natural Sciences

For Natural Sciences

Daniil Zhitov

Title of Scholar and Prizes

For History of Art Amelia Beddington

For Modern and Medieval Languages Sadie Berry-Firth

For English Iona Boyer
For Management Studies Cosimo Burdett

For Psychological & Behavioural Sciences Brandon Davidson

For English Patrick Davies Jones
For Natural Sciences Ollie Donaldson

For Natural Sciences

For English

Emma Gibson

For Natural Sciences Christopher Hadaway

For Natural Sciences Peter Heylen

For Human Social and Political Sciences Jacob Hougie
For Geography Yu Huang

For History May Larson
For English Isobel Lawrence

For Modern and Medieval Languages James Lewis
For Natural Sciences Sophie Mance

For Natural Sciences Sophie Mance
For Modern and Medieval Languages Tobias Mayhew

For Natural Sciences James McNamara
For History and Politics Luka Murphy

For Linguistics Ben Palmer-Welch

For Human Social and Political Sciences Luca Povoas
For Archaeology Thomas Prince

For Natural Sciences Gao Qu
For English Isabella Rew

For Psychological & Behavioural Sciences Molly Rigby

For Philosophy Cosma Rubben
For Theology, Religion & Philosophy of Religion Henry Rynehart

For History Nina Sachs-Simpson
For Geography Julia Sinkinson

For English Wenxi Wang
For Natural Sciences Xiangwei Wang
For Human Social and Political Sciences Jesse Woodd

Title of Scholar, Prizes and Studentship

For Natural Sciences Pandha Chatdokmaiprai

For Natural Sciences Oliver Li For Natural Sciences Zhikai Li For Natural Sciences Macey Stables
For Natural Sciences Francesca Wilson

Second-year Undergraduates

Scholarships and Book Prizes

For History Toby France
For English Joshua Gleave

For Architecture Freddie Herschel-Shorland

For Economics Sahil Koita
For Human Social and Political Sciences Oliver Law
For Human Social and Political Sciences Eleanor Lewis
For Medical Sciences Erin MacCabe

For Geography Benjamin Millward-Sadler

For Music Sebastian Myhre
For Mathematics Oliver Palmer
For Medical Sciences Emily Parkinson
For Modern and Medieval Languages Caspar Pullen-Freilich
For Human Social and Political Sciences Alexander Ramsay

For History Major Shokar
For English Alexander Stephenson

For Engineering Zeeshan Tabassam
For Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Marko Trandafilovski

For Medical Sciences

Callum Wolvers

First-year Undergraduates

Scholarships and Book Prizes

For History Jonathan Baddon
For Natural Sciences Luke Billimore
For Modern and Medieval Languages Leila Branfoot
For History Omer Burbanudd

For History

For Computer Science

For Mathematics

For Natural Sciences

For Law

Omar Burhanuddin

Adam Catley

Heguang Chen

Ka Deng

Olivia Evans

For History and Modern Languages Anna Green
For Computer Science Advay Gupta

For Psychological & Behavioural Sciences

For Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

For Economics

Tridha Vinod Haritwal

Jakob Heathcote

Yuly Klinov

For Economics Yuly Klinov
For Geography Jensen Wei Koh
For Natural Sciences Chung Lam
For Natural Sciences Nicholas Land
For Engineering Owen Marlovits
For Mathematics Bora Olmez

For Engineering Mohammad Ostadazim

For Natural Sciences Yejoon Park For Philosophy Kyle Parsons For Engineering Dipesh Purandare For Medical Sciences Luke Quinn Elizabeth Scott For History of Art For Law Jacob Simmonds For Philosophy Xin Tong For Modern and Medieval Languages Megan Wilson

Other Undergraduate Prizes

Corpus Prize

Awarded to the undergraduates who have come top in Tripos

For Human, Social, and Political Sciences

For Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

For Natural Sciences: Materials Science

For Economics

For Archaeology

For Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Tyberiusz Czapinski

Brandon Davidson

Katharine Joyce

Sahil Koita

Thomas Prince

Marko Trandafilovski

For Natural Sciences: Physics Daniil Zhitov

Corpus Project Prize

For those in their final year who achieved first-class marks for a dissertation

or project but did not obtain first-class results overall

For Law Neela Cawasjee Nee
For Linguistics Ruth Chapman
For Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Anna Harper
For Classics Daisy Haynes
For Natural Sciences (Biological & Biomedical Sciences) Grace Heslin

For Natural Sciences (Physics)

Thomas Hollingsworth

For Human, Social & Political Sciences

For Natural Sciences (Pathology)

Xinyan Li

For Philosophy

PeterLilley

For Computer Science

Dylan Mankin

For Natural Sciences (Chemistry)

Mingyang Ni

For Mathematics

James Redman

For Natural Sciences (Earth Sciences)

Oliver Ross

For Theology, Religion & Philosophy of Religion Amin Royatvand Ghiasvand

For Engineering Tasin Sayed
For Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Flori Sharpe
For Architecture Marcela Vicente

Spencer Exhibitions

On the nomination of the Master

For her exceptional contribution to the College's

WP activities, in particular the Pelican Programme Sadie Barry-Firth For his work as JCR Vice-President and then President Jacob Hougie

Intermediate Exhibitions

Awarded to undergraduates remaining in residence for at least one further year who narrowly miss a first-class result in their examinations and would not otherwise hold any award

For English

For English

For Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

For English

For English

For English

Joshua Herberg

For English

Alexandra Bird

Hewitt Exhibitions

For academic merit and contribution to College life by those graduating in their third or fourth year who are not otherwise scholars. For her work on the JCR Committee, May Ball, Telethon

and Access Ruth Chapman
For her work on the Bridging Course Hannah Richmond

Bridges Prize for History

For the finalist achieving the best result in the

Historical Tripos Luka Murphy

Nina Sachs-Simpson

Donaldson Prize for English

For the undergraduate achieving the best result in

the English Tripos Isobel Lawrence

The David Maull Prize for Engineering

For achieving the best result in the third year of

the Engineering Tripos Nicholas Ho Zachary Hilburn

The Mark Warner Prize for Physics

For achieving the best result in the third year of the

Natural Sciences (Physics) or (Astrophysics) Tripos Daniil Zhitov

Gao Qu

Simmons and Simmons Prize

On the nomination of the Director of Studies in Law Olivia Evans

Jacob Simmonds

Robert and Mary Willis Prize

For a finalist in Architecture-related disciplines of Civil, Structural

and Environmental Engineering or the History of Art Amelia Beddington

Margaret Parker Prize

For the most distinguished dissertation or piece of coursework submitted by an undergraduate reading either HSPS or

Psychology & Behavioural Sciences at Part IIB

(exceptionally, two prizes may be awarded) Luca Povoas

Brandon Davidson

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

Alistair Saunders Prize in Law

Awarded to a postgraduate or undergraduate member of the College who has demonstrated distinction in the study of Law, including legal research and activities ancillary to the study of Law

Yosef Abdelhalim

Charvet Prize in MML

Awarded to an undergraduate student who achieves the best overall result in Part I of the MML Tripos

Leila Branfoot

Wort Prize in Music

Awarded to foster study and/or performance of music in College

Sebastian Myhre

Purvis Prize in Theology

Awarded on the annual Tripos Examinations in Theology Henr

Henry Rynehart

Stewart Perowne Prize in Classics

Awarded for a solid academic performance alongside a strong contribution to College life and the wider

Ellie Marsh

Griffiths Roman Prize

University community

Awarded to reward and encourage excellence by a resident member of the College (postgraduate or undergraduate)

in the field of Roman studies George Pliotis

Avinash Dixit Prize in Economics

Awarded for the best first-class result in the

Economics Tripos Sahil Koita

Postgraduate Scholarships and Prizes

Title of Scholar and Prizes

For Medical Sciences Bryan Chang

For Architecture Gabriela MacAllister Darwisch

Cunning Prize in Medicine

Awarded to a member of College on the results of

the Final MB Examinations

Bryan Chang

Ahmed Prize

On the recommendation of the Senior Tutor and Warden of Leckhampton for all-round contribution to

the Leckhampton community

Benedict Turner-Berry

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JCR

President's Report

Corpus has always been a very special place for me because of the community it fosters. During my presidency, I have been privileged to witness this community come together for a range of meaningful projects and events that have made 2024 an exceptional year for Corpus.

Lent term was full of its usual festivities. Second years celebrated (perhaps a little too much!) at the Marlowe Dinner, while ever-keen first years solidified their nuptials at the Marriage Formal. The MCR hosted the JCR with an evening of (questionable) dancing at a Burns Night Ceilidh. Amidst the merriment, Corpus hosted two more meaningful events which were the highlights of the year byfar. First, my heartfelt praise goes to the incredible team of undergraduates and postgraduates who organised the JCR v MCR Corpus Challenge in support of Oxfam's Gaza Crisis Appeal. Ayesha Miah (JCR Ethnic Minorities Officer), Harley Summers (JCR Class Act Officer) and Freddie Sehgal (MCR Social Secretary) deserve special recognition for their efforts, raising over £1,600. In a day full of sporting and fundraising events, it was heart-warming to see students, staff and fellows alike come together for such an important cause. Plus, the sight of Corpus' most dedicated goalie Revd Matt Bullimore, playing football in his cassock after Sunday service, is something none of us will soon forget!

Another unforgettable moment was the celebratory weekend marking the fortieth anniversary of Women at Corpus. Rachel Lawson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, and her team have my total admiration for putting on such an enjoyable weekend full of panels, seminars, career events and social gatherings for alumni and students. A moment I will always treasure is sitting in the dining hall full of extraordinary women, the usual background buzz being about an octave higher and twice as loud! As part of the weekend, I had the



Jess sits with former JCR President Jacob Hougie and other JCR members during matriculation.



The Dining Hall was filled with female students, staff, Fellows and alumnae for the Forty Years On · Women of Corpus weekend.

honour of hosting a networking event for the Ada Lovelace Society - a community for women and non-binary scientists at Corpus - which was made possible thanks to the generous support of alumna Veronica Rogers.

With exams looming, Easter Term saw the usual refilling of the Taylor Library. Meanwhile our hardworking EDI team were squirrelling away at new initiatives. Projects included the founding of the Haroon Ahmed Society, reintroducing the ethnic minorities family scheme, and establishing both a class working group and a disability support group. Thanks to the dedication of individuals like Revd Dr Matt Bullimore (EDI Lead), Professor Ewan St. John Smith (LGBTQ+ Champion), Dr Nirupa Desai (Race and Equalities Champion), and many committed JCR officers, Corpus is an increasingly inclusive and welcoming space.

In collaboration with Ruth Chapman (CAF Officer) and her predecessor Yuly Klinov, I've also been working with the housekeeping department on the renovation of the JCR, due to be completed in early 2025. The space has had a well-needed freshening up, along with new fixtures - most importantly a Wii for those of us (myself included) who can't resist a bit of Mario Kart. Additionally, the gruelling task of room repointing has almost reached its end thanks to the efforts of Aoife Sargent (JCR Vice-President), including the addition of the Mogford Lodge accommodation.

Aoife and the rest of the JCR delivered a phenomenal Freshers' Week featuring a very well attended Chaplain's Cocktails and Mocktails party, a rather embarrassing karaoke night, and the classic back-to-school slack. Corpus would not be what it is without the incredible staff that keep it running and I am forever impressed by the dedication of the Porters, pantry staff, housekeeping team, and maintenance team. There are several members of Corpus community who have made my time as President – and simply as a student – profoundly enriching. In particular, I am deeply and personally grateful to Dr Marina Frasca-Spada for her respect and honesty, to Rachel for her grit and confidence, to Tess Milne and the Tutorial team for being utterly superhuman, and to Davide and Scarlet for their great tunes, fabulous drinks, and even better company. My final thanks, which does not convey even a fraction of my gratitude, is to James Davies-Warner for his (mostly) wise words, kindness, and encouragement.

JESS MORRISSEY, JCR President

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Societies

The Fletcher Players

The Fletcher Players are the drama society of Corpus Christi College and the resident company of the Corpus Playroom. Their recent projects include a fundraising and outreach project to completely renovate the Playroom; among other improvements this renovation will make the Playroom wheelchair-accessible. The Fletcher Players are proud champions of new writing, fringe theatre and theatre by underrepresented voices.

Two productions funded by the Fletcher Players in Cambridge, *The Book of Margery Kempe* and *SQUIRES*, went on to successful runs at the Camden and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. The Fletcher Players conducted research into the Corpus Christi Gravediggers society archives and were delighted to present a revived Gravediggers event with Parker Library Early-Career Research Fellow, Dr Alicia Smith: *The Conversion of the Harlot Thais*. The society also welcomed Dr Eliza Haughton-Shaw's exhibition on former gravedigger Christopher Isherwood, and the Gravediggers investigations

that made up part of that exhibition. The Forty Years On · Women of Corpus commemoration programme included a performance of *The Yellow Wallpaper* produced and facilitated by the Fletcher Players committee.

Stan Hunt



A poster for SQUIRES at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2024.



Dr Alicia Smith introduces the Gravediggers event The Conversion of the Harlot Thais, which took place in the Parker Library.

Nicholas Bacon Law Society

2023-24 has been a fantastic year for the Nicholas Bacon Law Society.

We began Michaelmas term with an eventful week of workshops welcoming our new cohort of first-year students, giving them an insight into what to expect during their time at Corpus and an introduction to mooting. This was soon followed by a fascinating talk on international law with Corpus alumnus Professor Philippe Sands KC. In addition, we saw a fantastic turnout at our traditional curry night at The Tiffin Truck, and we ended the term on a high, celebrating Bridgemas together with a dinner at Côte Brasserie.

The new year saw the beginning of the College's Forty Years On · Women of Corpus celebrations, which the Society also celebrated with several events, including a talk by Professor Eleanor Sharpston KC on her impressive career at the English Bar and as Advocate General of the European Court of Justice.

The annual NBLS dinner – the highlight of our social year – was held in March and was dedicated to female Corpus lawyers. Professor Janet O'Sullivan led a toast to Corpus women after an insightful speech about her experiences as one of the first female undergraduates at Corpus. Earlier in the day, we also had the privilege of hosting Baroness Butler-Sloss, Honorary Fellow of Corpus and first female Lord Justice of Appeal, who delivered an interesting talk and Q&A on the topic of forced marriage in the UK. The day also saw our traditional Freshers' Moot judged by Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith, with our four finalists demonstrating their impressive advocacy skills on the tricky topic of product liability, written by Professor Jonathan Morgan. Whilst all four first years performed brilliantly, Libby Evans was declared the ultimate winner.

Alongside this achievement, Corpus had sustained mooting success over the past year. We are proud to report that Libby Evans and Jacob Simmonds came first and second respectively in the Cambridge University Fledglings Moot in front of Lady Rose, Justice of the UK Supreme Court. Yosef Abdelhalim reached the semi-final of the De Smith Moot, and Luke Tyler and Sophie Palmer came second in the Cambridge Cuppers Moot. A group of students also travelled to



Jacob and Libby (right) with Lady Rose, Justice of the Supreme Court at their successful appearance at the Cambridge University Fledglings Moot.

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 $Corpus \, Christi \, College \, Oxford \, to \, see \, Reuben \, Bolton \, and \, Sophie \, Palmer \, win \, the \, annual \, 7KBW \, moot, judged \, by \, Lord \, Justice \, Nugee.$

The Society is also proud to be able to acknowledge the achievements of our Law Fellows. We congratulate Dr Andrew Sanger on his receipt of the Cambridge Pilkington Prize for Excellence in Teaching, which is well-deserved and reflective of the incredible support he gives to his students. In addition, we are thrilled that Professor Jonathan Morgan has been promoted to the position of Professor of English Law and many of our students thoroughly enjoyed his inaugural lecture on Judges, Jurists and Style. We are also delighted to be able to extend a warm welcome to our new fellow, Dr Emilija Leinarte, who is supervising students in EU law and is a fantastic addition to the College.

Andrew Sanger (far right) poses with other winners of the Pilkington Prize for teaching excellence.

Pelican Poets and Writers Society

In November 2023 we were so bold as to take on T S Eliot's 'defining poem of the twentieth century', *The Wasteland*, just over a hundred years after its appearance in 1922, and still as challenging and rich in resonance as it was then. Since the publication in 2021 of over a thousand of Eliot's highly personal letters to his close friend and muse Emily Hale, and the magisterial and meticulously detailed recent biography of Eliot's early life by Robert Crawford, the poem has taken on fascinating new life and significance. The discussion encompassed this along with an exploration of the elements that give the poem coherence. To assist in this, we began with a dramatized reading of the entire poem by nine members of the group, which in itself yielded much discussion, and was an unforgettable experience.

In Lent Term, following a suggestion by undergraduates, members of the Pelican Poets put together a series of poems on or by historical figures, ranging from Queen Elizabeth I, Shelley, Browning, Yeats, Larkin, Sylvia Plath and contemporaries Tracey K Smith and Eloise Greenfield. An exploration of the historical figures themselves, in addition to the perspectives in the poems, proved more engrossing than we could have imagined, thanks in large part to the research of presenter Mark Willington, alumnus and loyal member of the Pelicans.

In June we once again invited the current Cambridge University Judith Wilson Poetry Fellow, Mary Jean Chan, to present and discuss their poetry and

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to facilitate a writing workshop following the reading. As Chan is an award-winning poet and focuses on the absorbing subject of family relationships, their name attracted a delightful range of students, Fellows and associates. At the last minute, Mary Jean was unable to attend, and Sarah A Shapiro, another writer on the topic of family who focuses on the mother's role, heroically stepped into the breach. We read samples of her 'poetic prose', fascinated by her unusual and honest angle on this subject, along with some of the poems Mary Jean Chan had intended to share. In the workshop hour that followed, inspired and liberated by Shapiro's original perspective and style, the group wrote of their own family memories, sharing their efforts with great interest. The evening had a profound impact and was a memorable way to end the Society's proceedings for the year.

ELIZABETH STEPHAN

Oliver Rackham Society

Last year was an excellent year for biologists at Corpus, many completing their PhDs and moving on to the next step of their career, as well as undergraduates obtaining a wonderful set of exam results across the years.

Last year's Oliver Rackham Society Annual Lecture and Dinner saw Professor Amanda Vincent FRSC talking to the audience about her time at Corpus, including her time rowing and acting in the Leckhampton Players. Amanda



Amanda Vincent gives the Oliver Rackham Society Annual Lecture.

gave a truly inspiring talk about her career in conservation biology, which has focused largely on seahorses, examining international trade, habitat loss and the impact of non-selective fishing practices. A key part of Amanda's work has been Project Seahorse, which she cofounded in 1996, an international organisation committed to conservation and sustainable use of the world's coastal marine ecosystems, working to develop sustainable conservation schemes in partnership with local communities and policy decision-makers. Following

the lecture and drinks, attendees had a wonderful dinner before toasting Oliver and the College in its traditional form: Floreat antiqua domus!

It was wonderful to have so many alumni from across so many decades return to Corpus for the Annual Lecture and Dinner, and we look forward to seeing many return again in April 2025, when we will see alumna Dr Rachel Edwards-Stuart (m.2000) return to give the Society lecture. Rachel is a food scientist and flavour expert who is a trained chef and runs the London Gastronomy Seminars.

We are also delighted that in early March 2025, we will be holding a careers evening with alumni Andrew Clarke (m.1967), John Paul Maytum (m.1986) and Jenny Molloy (m.2007) to give short talks about their career trajectories, followed by Q&A with students.

EWAN ST. JOHN SMITH

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Lewis Society of Medicine

The Freshers' tour is the earliest event hosted by the LSM in the academic year, taking place each year during Freshers' week. The tour showcased the Babbage Lecture Theatre where first- and second-year lectures take place; at Downing Site, the locations of the Department of Physiology, Development, and Neuroscience for physiology and neurobiology practicals, the Anatomy Building for dissections, and the Department of Biochemistry for biochemistry practicals; and the Chemistry lecture theatre for second-year lectures.

The Meet the DoS Quiz Night this was one of the highlights of the year. With a large group of 20–30 Fellows, supervisors, and students, three groups are created to compete against each other in a much-anticipated showdown. Traditionally this has involved a stiff rivalry between Professor Howe and Professor St. John Smith, who have a great time battling it over the anagrams section with frequent reciprocal allegations of foul play. Other sections involve two truths, one lie, dingbats, trivia, personal statement questions, which always create a great atmosphere, and everyone gets a good laugh. The first years also appreciate the opportunity to get to know the Fellows and older students under a more informal context.

Stukeley Talks invite current students, typically clinical students, to talk about their elective, summer research, student-elected component, or student-selected placement in front of an audience of other medical students, Fellows, and supervisors. Michaelmas 2023's edition featured Kirsten Martey-Botchway and Lucy Hall discussing their Part II dissertation and projects, while Lent 2024's edition featured Diya Salahudin and Ken Li talking along the same vein.

The Lewis Society of Medicine's annual dinner took place on Saturday 3 February, and started as usual with the Archibald Clark-Kennedy Lecture



The Annual Lewis Society dinner.



The Archibald Clark-Kennedy Lecture was delivered by alumna Dr Jenny Dickens (m.1999).

delivered by Dr Jenny Dickens (m.1999), an academic clinician who specialises in respiratory diseases at Royal Papworth Hospital. The lecture covered Dr Dickens' journey to becoming an academic clinician scientist, with emphasis on her PhD work and current work.

Through their generosity, the Lewis Medical Society benefactors fund a yearly academic trip for a group of our medical students. This year's trip, which included students from years one through three, took us to the Pharmacy Museum of Lisbon, a significant national and international reference, showcasing the rich history and evolution of the pharmaceutical profession spanning thousands of years.

During our visit, we explored a diverse range of exhibits, including reconstructions of historical pharmacies, such as an eighteenth-century apothecary and the Liberal Pharmacy from the early twentieth century. A highlight for many of us was seeing the recreation of a traditional Chinese pharmacy from Macao, dating to the late nineteenth century.

We are, as always, deeply thankful to our sponsors for enabling us to engage in these enriching activities. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Lewis Society of Medicine for invariably encouraging our academic pursuits.

Jinan Chebab, Ken Li and Aisha Warner

Ada Lovelace Society

The Ada Lovelace Society is specifically for female and non-binary undergraduates in the Sciences. The impetus for the Society is to encourage female STEM students to share experiences and learn from each other, as well as receive mentoring opportunities from Fellows and postgraduate students. Corpus is a small College which means it's often the case that a woman is the only female in her subject, sometimes even for all three years of her undergraduate degree. That can be isolating.

I came across Lovelace when I was quite young because my uncle got me a comic book called *Babbage and Lovelace Adventures*. It was one of my favourite comics. I looked at Ada Lovelace and thought, okay she's a computer scientist,

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she's very impressive in her own right and she took ideas and applied them to different fields.

I first thought of this as an access opportunity to encourage STEM applicants but I realised it could be just as valuable for current students. I saw that there were quite a few female Fellows in STEM and postgrads as well, and they're all keen to meet up and talk to us in a way that might not happen naturally. The Society has already shown that we have such a strong community of women at Corpus who care about their subjects, are intelligent scientists and want to pass on their knowledge.

The goal is to have social events (a barbecue at Leckhampton was one of the first get-togethers), as well as training and workshops. We talk about careers a lot. I have alumnae who come in and speak about post-graduation pathways. We don't have enough visibility of what other STEM students actually do.

We are grateful to alumna Veronica Rogers (m.1995, Economics) who provided seed money for the Society saying "I'm really excited to have the opportunity to collaborate and continue to invest in the success of women and non-binary students at Corpus."

Jess Morrissey

Jewish Society

The Corpus Christi College Jewish Society, established last Easter term, has run several events throughout this year to retain a space for Jewish students in College. We were most excited to meet all the freshers at the start of the year and had plans to run a variety of events. Given the circumstances, the tone of many of our events changed but over the course of the year events included a Tu Bishvat Seder to celebrate the new year of trees in Lent term and a repeat Shavuot cheesecake party in May Week.

It has been a privilege for myself, Sophie Kelly and Luka Murphy to run this society, but we are pleased to have passed it on to the capable hands of Zack Hilburn and Yuly Klinov for the next academic year.

JACOB HOUGIE

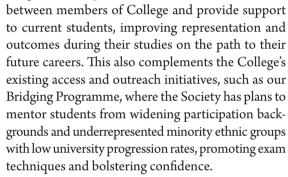
A networking-and-pizza event for the Ada Lovelace Society was attended by Fellows Dr Jo Willmott, Rachel Lawson, Dr Jenny Zhang and Professor Alison Smith. CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE The Record · Societies MICHAELMAS 2024

Haroon Ahmed Society



The Haroon Ahmed Society, a new society, has welcomed students, staff, Fellows and alumni who have an interest in fostering a diverse community for those from multicultural and underrepresented backgrounds. Named after Professor Haroon Ahmed, the society hopes to continue his legacy. Haroon was elected to the Fellowship in 1967, became Warden of Leckhampton in 1993, and subsequently Master in 2000, making him the first British-Pakistani Master of an Oxbridge College. Inspired by his story, Ayesha Miah started the society in his honour.

Sharing in Haroon's values, the Society is dedicated to celebrating our multicultural and social class diversity within the College community, aiming to enhance inclusion by creating a welcoming space. Working towards this goal, the Society has begun creating mentorship schemes to increase connections



The President of the Society, Ayesha, has recently elected a full committee made up of undergraduate and postgraduate students, reflecting the collective spirit of the College in fostering this community for all members. Among these roles, the committee includes a Fundraising Officer, to build on Haroon's priorities and ambition to help students. We are keen to pursue a bursary for a promising undergraduate, named the Haroon Ahmed Bursary.

Whilst only recently formed, the society has already organised popular events, including a Breakfast & Coffee Morning to invite over 35 new student members, and a film screening of *Tilka* (2023). Back in November, the executive committee – Ayesha and Harley Summers – invited Victoria Lupton, CEO of Seenaryo, and her husband Dr Stefan Tarnowski, a Corpus Fellow and sociocultural anthropologist, to host a Q&A about the documentary which won Best Local Documentary at the Lebanese Independent Film Festival.

The future of the Society looks towards many educational events including inspirational speakers, discussions and networking socials to enrich students with skills which will instrumentally assist their careers. Ultimately, the committee aspires to live up to Haroon's accomplishments, which has left an immeasurable mark on the College, and inspire greater inclusion among the College community.





The Hall ready for the Haroon Ahmed Society formal dinner.

Sports Clubs

Corpus Blues 2023-24

Nils Barner – Half blue – Tennis Harry Cookson – Blue – Tennis Freddie Herschel-Shorland – Half blue – Hockey Juliet Shepherd – Blue – Cricket Callum Wolvers – Half blue – Hockey

Corpus Challenge

Sunday 25 February saw the return of the newly reconstituted Corpus Challenge at Leckhampton. This year's Challenge was premised on the friendly, warm-hearted and thoroughly vicious rivalry between the JCR and the MCR. The two faced off in a dazzling variety of sports: the usual suspects of football, rugby, tennis etc. were supplemented by no-less dramatic matches of tiddlywinks and chess.

The most important feature of this year's Challenge, however, was its accompaniment by a brilliant programme of fundraising for Oxfam's Gaza Crisis Appeal, and JCR Ethnic Minorities Officer Ayesha Miah deserves every ounce of approbation for her efforts in putting together both the Challenge itself and the clothing sale, bake sale, raffle and 'Sponge the Bear' events that raised – in just one day – around £1,600 for the aforementioned cause.

There ought also to be thanks to every member of the Challenge Subcommittee for their genuinely tireless work to this end. Many sleepless nights, prolonged meetings and breathless panics went into the organising of these events.

In recounting the 2024 Corpus Challenge, it would be remiss not to mention the hotly anticipated Fellows/Staffvs Students Football Match. This was the *pièce de resistance* of the day's sporting events. Kudos goes to the Revd Dr Matt Bullimore for his spirited goalkeeping on behalf of the Fellows. Matt arrived fresh from Sunday service and departed with perhaps the Anglican Communion's muddiest cassock. Despite the steady hand of Access and Outreach Co-ordinator James Davies-Warner at the wheel of the Fellows and Staff, the Student Team, captained by Freddie Sehgal (m.2020), prevailed; the final scoreline was 4–2 in the Students' favour with the brilliant Allaya Rasul (m.2023) emerging as Player of the Match.









From the top: Nils Barner, James Faulkner, Juliet Shepherd, Freddie Herschel-Shorland.

FREDDIE SEGHAL



Allaya Rasul (left) was Player of the Match in the Students vs Staff/Fellows football match.

Corpus Rowing

CCCBC rowers ended the 2023–24 season with plenty of memorabilia: engraved wine glasses and hip flasks, pewter tankards, lots of greenery and even a spoon or two. After two successful bumps campaigns, over ten races off-Cam and even more regattas and head-races on their home river this was a pretty successful victory haul, even compared to usual.

The rowing year started off full of exciting prospects as our senior crews welcomed a record number of novices. Michaelmas was full of splashing, crabs, and shouting coaches. A highlight of the term, as usual, was Emma Sprints. This year our novice women were a waddling of ducks and the novice men a wardrobe of onesies. The term ended with Fairbairns, as it always does and this year Corpus fielded a mammoth seven boats. A special shout out goes to the Corpus Oariginals, our composite alumni 8+!! If anybody would like to help see their return in the 2025–26 season please do reach out, the Boat Club welcomes all faces old and new. Nothing inspires a batch of new Corpuscles quite like an alumni boat!



The men celebrating Lent Bumps.



Boat Club alumni back out on the water.





2024 arrived quickly on the scene and even more quickly CCCBC rose to its challenge. Bumps prep started early as the Club held its annual rowing camp in the cold wet days of early January and in a blink of an eye the first three races of term had happened: the head-to-head, Newnham Head and Pembroke Regatta. The men put on a particularly impressive performance at Newnham Head coming 3rd in their division out of 10 boats. Pembroke Regatta was another strong showing from the club with both W1 and M1 making it to the semi-finals before being pipped in close races to their combined nemesis and boathouse neighbour - Wolfson. At the end of February W1 took the year's first foray off the Cam, travelling to the distant banks of Norwich and rowing a strong 5k to come first in their division.

Having prepared well, soon Lent Bumps arrived. After a busy and blustery four days of rowing the men bumped and were bumped to maintain their position at the top of second division. The women decided to join them there, going up three to sit at the highest position on the bumps table that the women have achieved in several years. A long time coming, this success was built on the shoulders of the women who came before us. And how appropriate! Though Lent was finished and bumps rowed, term was not yet over, there was another thing left to celebrate: forty years of women at Corpus! In celebration of the fortieth anniversary of women's admission to the College, the Club invited old alumni down to take to the waters of the Cam once more. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and the minimum outing limit, W2 had been unable to show off their finesse during bumps week but they brought the term to an end with their signature flair, rowing the Talbot Cup with style and speed.

Easter term began much as Lent did – with the head-to-head race. It then continued just as quickly, but our crews had decided to up the ante. After a spate of the usual Cam races, the women again ventured out to rivers far afield, winning their divisions at both Bedford and Peterborough Regattas! Refusing to be shown up, the men logged a scorching time in the Radegund Mile (11 seconds ahead of their closest competitor) to become the overall winners of the head race. All of CCCBC had made it clear that we were not a boat club to be slept on this Mays.

Yet despite this fair warning, our crews caught several colleges slacking during bumps week. W1 once again went up 3, enjoying a week adorned with greenery. M2 completed the gargantuan task of rowing as sandwich boat for all Captain of Boats Bella Beckett and other members of W1 pose with some of their trophies at the Forty Years On garden party.

W1 with their greenery after bumping in May Bumps.

four days and good thing too because though it didn't turn out as we hoped, boy were they hungry. Our M1 rowed strongly throughout the week and left all they had out on the river. They held their heads high despite going down two. W2 were the only Corpus boat to win anything this Mays, earning spoons after a week of hard races. Although May bumps didn't end quite as we had hoped, valuable experience was gained. Turning to this new year of racing, the club has been growing and rebuilding, we have learnt our lessons! Special thanks goes out to our volunteer coaches – Takashi, Luke, Jack and Forbes – and to our boat man Tim. The Club would also like to thank all the alumni who have helped support the club this year – we could not do what we do without you, thank you. Here's to an even bigger and an even better 2024–25 season. Go Pelicans!

AMBER KIRWAN, Captain of Boats 2024-25

Cricket

This now-annual event, first revived in the College around five years ago, is the highlight (and indeed the only light) of the cricketing season for Staff and Fellows in College. Under beautiful blue skies the match began at 14.00 with the undergraduates put in to bat. Despite some fireworks from Captain Ben



Millward-Sadler at the start, the undergraduates made a few false moves in the initial overs, with catches coming fast and furious: notably 4 behind the stumps for Steve Symonds (ex-Finance Office) and 2 for David Abrahams, both on debut for the team. Wily bowling from guest duo Sumit and Rohan Sahai (father and son offspinners), and strong performances from David Sneath, Polar Medallist Julius Rix (m.1995), Martin Ruehl, Jonathan Morgan and guest Karthik Kathuria, further kept the runs down to a very manageable total of 95.

An extended tea break, clearly designed by the Catering staff to weigh down the

undergraduates, prepared the way for the Staff and Fellows' batting innings. Captain Simon helped to see off some fierce opening overs from Ruben and Cambridge University bowler Ben, but he was then bowled by some (much less fierce) spin from Tom, who went on to take 4 wickets. Pick of the batting though was guest Pat Connors who retired on 39 n/o, paving the way for a very unexpected win for the Staff and Fellows, ably assisted by batting from Steve Symonds (unlucky LBW decision), Andrew Harvey, Duncan Hewitt and Karthik Kathuria ($5\,n/o$).

The final result was Fellows: 100 (in 18 overs), Students: 95 (in 20 overs).

With many thanks to Ben Millward-Sadler for organising and captaining the undergraduates, to Andy Pullin and the grounds staff for battling the elements and the electrical works with such good humour to deliver an excellent pitch, and to the Catering Department for a delicious tea. We look forward to the rematch next summer.

PROFESSOR SIMON GODSILL

Croquet

It was good fortune that the scheduled date for the 2024 Varsity Match turned out to be what was arguably the first day of decent summer weather for the year – dry, sunny, pleasantly warm, and a notable contrast with the long run of unrelentingly cool, wet weeks that had preceded it.

The Oxford team arrived with only one member having a handicap below 22, their captain Charlie Sharpe who was playing off 10, while the Cambridge team had three players with handicaps in the low teens. So on paper Cambridge looked like the favourites to retain the title that they had won the previous year. But such paper predictions are notoriously unreliable when confronted with the cut and thrust of Varsity competition.

As usual the Hurlingham courts were green, immaculate and much faster than the visiting students were accustomed to. One prediction that could be made with some confidence was that the morning doubles games would not finish before lunch, as it was nine years since any Varsity doubles game had actually gone the distance. (Nine years on and the winning Oxford pair on that occasion now have handicaps -2 and -1.) And so it proved when play started at 10.20, with both sides having difficulty adapting to the fast lawns, and there were numerous instances of balls being croqueted off the court.

Oxford made the better start in all three of the doubles games, and after nearly an hour were 8 hoops to 4 up on the top court, 3-1 up on the second and 5-3 up on the third. But then Cambridge started to claw their way back, so that by noon Cambridge had gone 5 up on the third court with Jerome Gasson making a break to 4-back with a (roughly) diagonal spread leave, Joseph Steane on the second court reaching 1-back for Cambridge to go 1 up, and Dan Heathcote reaching 3-back on the top court to draw level. Over the remaining hour Oxford were unable to counter the Cambridge advance, and although on the top court Charlie Sharpe reached peg himself, his partner Sam Reynolds remained stuck on hoop 1 while Dan's partner James Faulkner made a few hoops. Then, as time

James Faulkner takes aim during the Varsity Match.



was about to be called, Dan also reached peg and pegged himself out for an extra point to win +4 on time.

Meanwhile on the second court the Cambridge pair hung onto their 1-hoop lead, and on the third Cambridge increased their lead to +10. So 3-0 to Cambridge at lunch. The lunch kindly produced by the varsity alumni members of the Hurlingham Club was much appreciated by all, and provided an entertaining opportunity for the aspiring young Varsity croquet players to encounter the vintage variety (amongst whose ranks your reporter now finds himself too).

Duly refreshed, the players resumed the contest in the afternoon with the usual 6 games of singles, played in handicap order, from which Cambridge needed just two wins to secure the match.

On the top court Oxford's Charlie Sharpe was matched against Cambridge's Dan Heathcote. On turn 3 Charlie hit first ball on the east boundary and put Dan's first ball to 2 ready for a break. Dan missed on turn 4, but Charlie then failed hoop 1 off his partner ball, Dan missed again, and Charlie made his first hoop, but neither player managed to make any significant progress for a while.

Meanwhile on the next court Cambridge's Jerome was off to a good start, notwithstanding sending his ball off the court on the croquet stroke after hitting his very short Duffer tice on turn 4. But his opponent Greg Simond failed to make much progress from the error, and not long afterwards Jerome was back in with a good break, so that after an hour or so he had taken his first ball to peg while Greg was still for hoop 2 with both balls. Jerome then followed with his second break, which by 16.00 he had taken round to finish +24 and increase the Cambridge match lead to 4-0, and earning himself a handicap reduction to 9, as certified by spectator and Croquet England handicapper Ian Plummer.

Back on the top court both Charlie and Dan had managed to get a ball to 4-back. Charlie's second ball was for 3, but failed the hoop after a long rush from near corner I, leaving Dan to make 4-back and penult with his forward ball. Dan then failed 3 with his backward ball, but shortly afterwards hit a 25-yarder from the south boundary to regain the innings with a 4-ball break awaiting, only to fail at hoop 3 as well. Charlie then picked up his own break with his backward ball which he took to peg, and finished +13 a little while later to bring the match score to 4-1, also earning himself a handicap reduction to 8.

The other four games were slower affairs with no breaks of more than a few hoops at a time by either side. As the time limit approached, in the sixth game Cambridge's James Faulkner had managed to reach penult and peg while his opponent had only made 9 hoops, at which point James pegged out his peg ball to win by a comfortable +14(T). The remaining three games were all relatively close affairs, but in all three of them the Cambridge players managed to maintain their advantage of a lead of a few hoops, so that when time was finally called a jubilant Cambridge team emerged with a convincing 8-1 victory, their their best result for over 20 years.

Many thanks once again to the Hurlingham Club for hosting this annual match, and to referee Richard Hilditch for his usual inimitable contribution in keeping everything running smoothly.

SIMON HATHRELL (m.1973)

Old Members

Corpus Alumni Association

After the restrictions of COVID, the Association has been able to get back on track with a range of activities across the country this year. In December the Association dinner was held at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London and was very well attended. In April Alan Farquhar (m.1971) organised a very successful guided visit to Hereford Cathedral for the Wales and Marches Alumni group and other members of the University. John Olbrich (m.1968) organised an enjoyable lunch for alumni living in the Manchester area at the *Don Giovanni* restaurant. Further meetings are planned and you will be notified in the near future.

For the southwest, our previous Master Stuart Laing and his wife Sibella hosted a delightful lunch for alumni at their beautiful house near Marlborough. Again, it is hoped we can plan another southwest event sometime next year. If any members are interested in discussing with me possible plans to set up an alumni event in your area do let me know (me@davidcrellin.uk) and we can discuss them.

DAVID CRELLIN (m.1976)

News of Old Members

1951 BRIGADIER WULF FORSYTHE-YORK OBE KSTJ has written to tell us he has been awarded an MPhil by the University of East Anglia for his thesis *The value of sentencing drug offenders: a critical analysis of law and policy*.

1955 JOHN BERTALOT has received a second honorary doctorate in Sacred Music, conferred on him by the Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi Christian University in Miami, Florida. John is Organist Emeritus at Blackburn Cathedral and has had a long and distinguished career as an organist, choir director, arranger, composer and author. He was previously awarded an honorary doctorate in Music from Rider University.

1957 ROGER CLARKE has written to tell us about his post-retirement translation work. "I studied Russian while beginning a career in the civil service. After retirement I took up a 'second career' translating Russian literature and, in particular, the works of Alexander Pushkin, a writer whom I admire and whose poetry has, in general, been poorly translated into English and underappreciated in the Anglophone world. My ambition has been to widen knowledge and enjoyment of Pushkin among English readers through versions of his work that are both accurate and well expressed in a modern and accessible idiom.

My latest project, for the last five years, has been to produce in four volumes a complete bilingual edition of Pushkin's nearly 800 lyrics and shorter poems, with supporting background material. The English versions, all in verse, are by a number of translators, though the largest contribution is

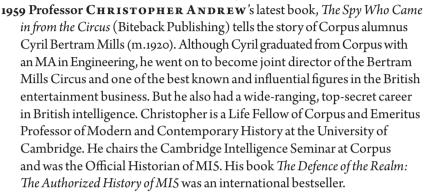


John Bertalot



my own. This is the first time that such an edition has been produced in the English-speaking world, and it will from now on be an invaluable resource for those studying Pushkin and for all those wanting to extend their knowledge and appreciation of his work.

Alma Classics, my publisher, has previously published six other volumes of Pushkin's works translated or edited by me."



1962 Dr NICK MAURICE was awarded OBE in 2001 for international work and in particular the setting up of a partnership between Marlborough and the Muslim community of Gunjur in The Gambia. He subsequently worked with the Government to encourage other communities to form partnerships with communities in the Global South by forming the organisation Building Understanding through International Links for Development (BUILD). In 2001 he was nominated by the Gambian Government for the Nobel Peace Prize.

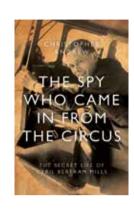
1966 Professor VASILE BALTAC was given the 2023 Excellent Alumnus
Award from the Politehnica University, Timisoara, Romania, for outstanding contributions to the prestige of the university.

1966 CHARLES GEORGE KC was in 2021 awarded the Archbishop of Canterbury's Canterbury Cross, having retired as Dean of the Arches and Auditor in 2020.

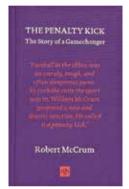
1966 Professor EDWARD HIGGINBOTTOM is a former Corpus organ scholar and College Junior Research Fellow. He has been awarded the Choral Director's Lifetime Achievement Award by the Musician's Company in recognition of his thirty-five years as Director of Music, Fellow and Tutor at New College, Oxford. Previous recipients include Stephen Cleobury, Harry Christopher, Christopher Robinson, Andrew Carwood and James O'Donnell.

1966 Dr IAN TIZARD is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and a University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Immunology, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, The Texas Veterinary Medical Center at Texas A &M University, College Station, Texas. He has published many textbooks on Immunology, including the first standardised textbook on Veterinary Immunology in 1977. In 2024, an eleventh edition of this widely used text was released.

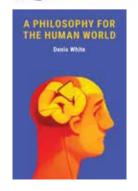
1968 Professor Sir Hew STRACHAN CVO in the 2024 HM The King's Birthday Honours was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of his service as Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale.



- 1968 ROBERT PETO converted an existing fundraising charity in 2017 to a fully operational one called PROMISEworks. The charity recruits, trains, and matches volunteers to children and young people who are on the edge of, or have just left, the care system in Somerset. He is increasingly focusing his charitable support, both financial and in terms of personal time, on this charity. The charity was honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022. promiseworks.org.uk
- in the 2024 HM The King's Birthday Honours in recognition for services to LGBT veterans. He was also named in the University of Cambridge's Q100, which recognizes trailblazing LGBT+ and ally alumni who are making a difference. Terence Etherton was Master of the Rolls from 2016 to 2021, prior to which he was Chancellor of the High Court from 2013, making him the most senior openly gay judge in British history.
- 1971 Professor KENNETH FALCONER CBE was awarded a CBE in the 2024 HM The King's New Year Honours List for services to mathematics. He is Regius Professor of Mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of St Andrews. He was awarded the London Mathematical Society Shephard Prize in 2020.
- 1971 ROBERT KNOWLES, formerly a technical writer, blogs at harmlessdrudgery.blogspot.com and has featured Corpus-related content such as the books of Christopher Andrew (m.1959), the Augustine Gospels, the Marlowe portrait, singing in Chapel, and the Corpus Chronophage. His published ebooks are also available via his blog.
- 1972 Dr Robert McCrum has published *The Penalty Kick: The Story of a Game-changer* (Notting Hill Editions). The book tells the story of how his great-grandfather William McCrum, the heir to a linen fortune and a keen amateur goalkeeper in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, proposed a new and drastic sanction: a penalty kick that would admonish anyone and their team for not following the rules. At first the International Football Association resisted 'the Irishman's Motion' as a restriction that would curb the players' freedom of expression, but the penalty kick was adopted in 1891 to almost immediate acclaim among fans and players. For about a hundred years, this extraordinary phenomenon has not only regulated the conduct of football, but it has inspired game theorists and infiltrated classics of contemporary literature.
- 1972 Dr Charles Mynors was elected FLSW (Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales) in 2023. He is a lawyer at the Welsh Government working on consolidating planning legislation. The Sixth Edition of his book, *Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets* (Sweet & Maxwell) was published in 2023.
- 1972 Dr Denis White (Monash University, Victoria, Australia) writes to tell us, "I was a Visiting Scholar at Corpus in 1972. Members interested in philosophy/politics may like to hear of my book *A Philosophy For The Human World* (Connor Court). I would love to hear from anyone interested. David Kemp, a former Professor, Australia's Education Minister in the early 2000s and author of a five-volume history of Australia (MUP), said at the book launch "this book comes at a very important moment in our history not just in

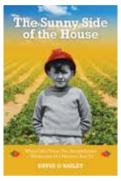






CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE The Record · Old Members MICHAELMAS 2024







Tom Hayhoe



David Crellin



Dr David Hoyle

Australia's history but in the history of the western world ... and this book has got the potential to make a significant contribution about the kind of thing that our world so very much needs."

1973 Professor Jonathan Clark has published The Enlightenment: An idea and its history (Oxford University Press). He was formerly a Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge. At the University of Oxford, he was a Fellow of All Souls College; at Chicago, he held a Visiting Professorship at the Committee on Social Thought; he has held visiting posts elsewhere. Latterly he was Hall Distinguished Professor of British History at the University of Kansas. He lives now in Northumberland. His interests are primarily in intellectual history, philosophy, social history, literature, and historiography, especially in the 'long eighteenth century', 1660–1832.

1974 DAVID G BAILEY's latest publication is his non-fiction debut after three novels. The Sunny Side of the House is the first volume of When Life Gives You Strawberries – Memories of a Fenland Boy. If the gripping narration of a 1960s Isle of Ely boyhood sometimes reads like fiction, the detailed evocation of characters and events, by turns humorous and traumatic, anchors it in remembered facts. The author does not soft-pedal the dysfunction at the core of a wide, supportive family in which the boy faces adult challenges, including jarring discoveries about his parents' separate and shared history. Visit davidgbailey.com for sample chapters and more details.

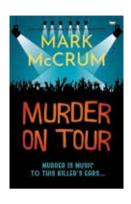
1974 TOM HAYHOE Following the end of his term as chair of West London NHS Trust, he has recently been appointed Chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel, Chair of the Advisory Board for the Government of Jersey's Health and Community Services, and Chair of the Taxation Disciplinary Board.

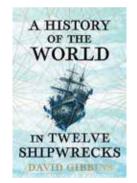
in 2002. He is a barrister at Three New Square Chambers where he is particularly active in patent cases involving smartphones, computer hardware and software, electronics, and mechanical engineering. He also maintains a more diverse practice in copyright, trade secrets (in particular misuse by ex-employees), and other IP.

1976 Dr David Crellin writes to tell us "In 2023 I discovered a miniature painting of John Wood [the Elder] architect of Bath, and his architect son John Wood [the Younger] in Florence at one of the homes of his fifth great-grandson Count Bernardo Blasi Foglietti. This is significant because prior to this discovery there were no authenticated pictures of either of them. This discovery was the result of over ten years of research carried out in association with the History of Bath Research Group of which I am the Secretary. Details of the discovery have recently been published in the Georgian Society Journal."

1976 The Very Revd Dr DAVID HOYLE KCVO MBE was appointed Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in the 2024 HM The King's New Year Honours List for services at the Coronation of their Majesties The King and The Queen. In 2019 he was appointed the 39th Dean of Westminster, and he conducted the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey in 2022.

- 1976 ROGER YEOMAN represented Great Britain in the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Roger competed in the Flying Dutchman sailing event, which was made up of seven races involving 44 sailors, on 22 boats, from 22 nations. Roger helmed the British Flying Dutchman to sixth place.
- 1977 MARK MCCRUM published the fourth in his Francis Meadowes series of whodunnits, Murder on Tour (Bloodhound), which takes Francis on a murderous tour of Europe with pop star Jonni K. This follows The Festival Murders (Severn House), Cruising To Murder (Severn House) and Murder Your Darlings (Severn House), in which Francis solves tricky cases at a literary festival, on a cruise off West Africa and at a writing retreat in Tuscany. A standalone mystery, Ghosted (Bloodhound) tells the story of a wealthy architect who wakes up at his own funeral to realise he has been murdered.
- 1981 CASPAR HENDERSON, a writer and journalist, has released the audio version of his book *A Book of Noises. Notes on the Auraculous* (Granta). He also has a Substack for the book at fullofnoises.substack.com.
- 1983 Professor Steven Evans was elected a Member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA). He is Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a Presidential Young Investigator, a Sloan Fellow, and a Miller Fellow. He has received the Rollo Davidson Prize, the G de B Robinson Prize of the Canadian Mathematical Society, and the IMS Medallion. He is a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.
- the time of my sixtieth birthday, I received the Outstanding Clinical Practitioner Award from the Society for Endocrinology. I retired from my position as Consultant Endocrinologist at the Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary and Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University in April 2024 after nearly 25 years. However, I have resumed working part time as Consultant Endocrinologist to the Northern Regional Gender Dysphoria Service, an Honorary Reader in Reproductive Endocrinology at Imperial College London, as Treasurer to the UEMS-European Section & Board of Endocrinology and Senior Editor of the journal Endocrine Connections. Joanna (née Stutz Trinity College, Medical Sciences, m.1983) and I also plan to spend more time in our house in Le Marche now that our Italian citizenship has come through. Our eldest, Alexandra, is a second-year pharmacy student, Oliver is a first-year medical student and James, our youngest, is about to sit his GCSEs."
- 1984 **Dr David Gibbins** is a marine archaeologist and writer; he has written twelve highly successful novels which have been published in thirty languages. However, his most recent book *A History of the World in Twelve Shipwrecks* (2024) he describes as "representing my lifelong fascination with underwater archaeology and the place of ships and shipwrecks in world history."
- 1985 Dr PATRICK MILEHAM is the Editor of Jus Post Bellum: Restraint, Stabilisation and Peace (Brill). This book seeks to answer the question "is restraint in war essential for a just and lasting peace"? With a foreword by Professor Brian Orend who asserts this as "a most commendable subject"

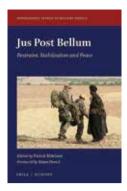


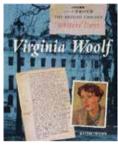




David Gibbins

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Jo Thompson



David Farnsworth

in extending Just War Theory, the book contains chapters on the ethics of war-fighting since the end of the Cold War and a look into the future of conflict. Patrick served as a regular Adjustant with the Royal Yeomenry, retiring to become a university lecturer in 1992. He has previously authored many publications and conference papers.

1986 RUTH WEBB was named in 1997 as an inspirational teacher as part of the new Blair government's 'No-one forgets a good teacher' television, cinema and newspaper recruitment campaign. In 1998 she held a Visiting Fellowship to Indiana University. In 2000 she published a biography of Virginia Woolf for the British Library and Oxford University Press, New York and a Japanese publisher.

1990 Jo Thompson, a garden designer, has won the Grand Gold Award, the highest award available, at the GBA Shenzhen Flower Show for her garden 'I Live with Nature'. This horticultural show attracts over two million visitors. The garden is a celebration of the wonder of nature in an urban setting, and features an intricate brick pavilion at its centre created using Augmented Reality technology, thanks to a collaboration with the Form Finding Lab at Princeton University and researchers from the University of Bergamo and Pegaso University. Jo will design a garden for the 2025 Chelsea Garden Show for the Glasshouse Charity, as well as creating a new garden for Mogford Lodge at Corpus Christi College.

1991 PHILIP ABBEY was made a Chartered Engineer in 1998, and a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology in 2013.

1991 EMMA BROADHURST was made a Carlyle Member of the London Library.

1991 DAVID FARNSWORTH OBE was awarded an OBE in the 2023 HM The King's New Year Honours List for services to the voluntary sector in London.

1992 ALISON NORRISH competed in the women's coxed four event at the 1988 Summer Olympics. She represented England and won a silver medal in the eight and a bronze medal in the coxed four at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was a member of the eight that won the national title rowing for the ARA (now British Rowing) squad at the 1987 National Championships.

1992 LIZ SMITH CBE MSP (Former Teacher Fellow) was appointed CBE in the 2024 HM The King's New Year Honours List for services to sport.

1993 LIAM DENNING has won the Commentary Category in 2023's 'Best in Business' Awards from the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing, for his (and photographer Louie Palu's) three-part series on the changing Arctic. Liam is a journalist at Bloomberg, covering the energy sector. He previously worked at the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. The series can be read on Bloomberg.com at shorturl.at/cOuQH.

1994 RUFUS JONES, an actor and writer, starred in the popular Disney+ series Rivals, playing the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Stratton. Previously he has appeared in many TV roles, including Home, which he created and wrote for Channel 4. 1995 BRYONY PEARCE has published her latest book for young readers, Hannah Messenger and the Gods of Hockwold (UCLan Publishing).

Bryony is a multi-award-winning novelist working in both the YA and Adult markets. In the YA genre she has produced a mixture of dark thrillers, paranormal adventures, dystopia and horror. Hannah Messenger is her middle grade debut. Bryony teaches the course Writing for Children at City University, regularly visits schools to speak about reading and writing and conducts creative writing workshops, as well as delivering entertaining and inspirational talks. She has performed at the Edinburgh Literary Festival, The Wychwood Festival, Comicon, YALC, the Sci Fi Weekender, The Just So Festival and a number of other festivals and events.



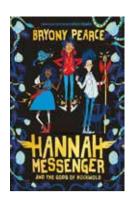
1996 LISA JUCCA won a Society of Publishers in Asia award for journalism in 2017 for her series of investigative reports on the secret negotiations between the Vatican and China. In 2020, she published a book on the 2019 Hong Kong protests, 30 giorni a Hong Kong. Frammenti di una protesta (Scalpendi Editore). Lisa is Reuters Breakingviews' European Business Editor, based in Italy.

1996 MATTHEW SMITH KC was appointed to the rank of King's Counsel in a ceremony in the spring before the Lord Chancellor. Matthew's practice at Maitland Chambers embraces all aspects of commercial chancery litigation: from company and insolvency questions to contractual and property-related disputes. He has particular expertise in insolvency and in charity matters. He has been recommended for many years in the *Chambers UK Bar Guide for Charities* as a 'Star Individual'.

1997 Dr Julius Rix was awarded the Polar Medal in the 2023 HM The King's New Year Honours List. Julius has been Head of Engineering and Technology at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) since 2022 and has worked for the Survey for 14 years. He has spent two winters and eight summers in Antarctica and twice worked on the Greenland ice cap. After wintering as the Advanced Ionospheric Sounder Engineer at Halley, Julius returned as the BAS ice-core driller, drilling cores in the Antarctic and Arctic, and developing the BAS Rapid Access Isotope Drill.

1998 ADAM TUCK has been appointed Lancaster Herald at the College of Arms after previously serving as Rouge Dragon Pursuivant. He tells us, "The work of a herald combines historical and genealogical research among the College's unique manuscript collections, with designing the new armorial bearings which continue to be granted every year. Plus one gets to be part of a corporation which has been running continuously since 1484 — in fact the title of Lancaster Herald has been in existence even longer, first being mentioned in 1347. That's two years older than Corpus!"

2000 KIERON BOYLE OBE was appointed OBE in the 2024 HM The King's New Year Honours for services to impact investment and impact economy.





Daniel Gerring

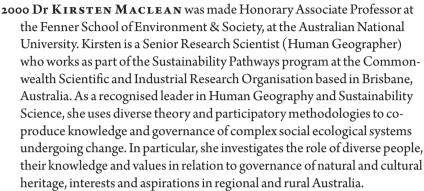


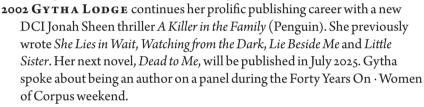
Matthew Smith

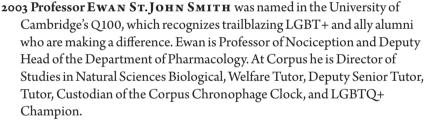


Kieron Boyle

Kieron is the Chair of the Impact Investing Institute. He is also a Governor of the Southbank Centre, a Trustee of the Design Council, and the Chair of the Long-term Investors in People's Health programme, a \$7-trillion global alliance of institutional investors. He is also a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.







2005 Dr James Riley, currently a Fellow, Tutor and Director of Studies in English at Girton College, has published Well Beings: How the Seventies Lost its Mind and Taught us to Find Ourselves (Icon Books), a history of the rise of the wellness industry in the 1970s. James also makes films and performs spoken word poetry.

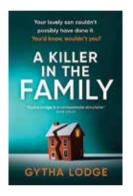
2006 Dr PAUL HUGHES was admitted as an attorney at the New York Bar in 2020. He is Senior Knowledge Lawyer at FromCounsel.

2008 ANDREW BAIRD became a Chartered Engineer with the Royal Aeronautical Society. Andrew is a Transient Performance Engineer.

2008 Dr Sabesan Sithamparanathan OBE was awarded an OBE in the 2024 HM The King's New Year Honours List for services to innovation technology and the promotion of STEM subjects in education. Sabesan is Founder and President of PervasID, which manufactures near 100% accurate battery-free real-time Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) location tracking systems. Sabesan was elected to a Research Fellowship at Girton College Cambridge in 2011 where he became an Enterprise Fellow in 2022.

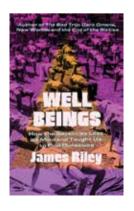


Dr Kirsten Maclean





Ewan St. John Smith



- 2009 PIERRE NOVELLIE has published Why Can't I Just Enjoy Things: A Comedian's Guide to Autism (Blink Publishing), after receiving a late diagnosis of the condition when he was 30. Pierre is a comedian, radio host, podcaster and writer who performs standup around the country and co-hosts The Frank Skinner Show on Absolute Radio. His website is pierrenovellie.com.
- 2010 TARA MANSELL has won a number of communications awards in her career for podcasting, website design, and digital storytelling, including a Listener's Choice Award and a Silver Signal Award (Signal Awards, 2023), a Communicator Award of Excellence (The Communicator Award, 2023), an Accessibility Award (Geneva Engage Awards, 2023), a Bronze Anthem Award (The Webby Awards, 2023), the Best Association Podcast or Audio Series and Effective Voice of the Year (International & European Association Awards, 2021 & 2020). She is Senior Communications Officer at the International AIDS Society.
- **2011 WILLIAM FRIEND** published *Let Him In* (Poisoned Pen Press), the United Sates edition of his debut horror book *Black Mamba* (Atlantic Books).
- 2012 FLORENCE SCORDOULIS was named in the University of Cambridge's Q100, which recognizes trailblazing LGBT+ and ally alumni who are making a difference. Florence is a freelance journalist and editor who covers LGBT+ rights, travel, women's lifestyle and celebrity interviewing.
- 2013 Dr Nina Friedrich writes to tell us, "Receiving a scholarship from my undergraduate to PhD studies inspired me to give back. I am thrilled to announce that I have donated the full value of my scholarship to effective charities. Using tools like the 'How Rich Am I?' calculator by Giving What We Can, I realised my financial privilege and committed to effective giving. By supporting highly cost-effective charities, my donations have likely impacted 50,000 people and saved nine lives. I continue this journey with monthly donations via the 10% Pledge and leading High Impact Professionals, a non-profit aiding professionals in maximising their impact."
- **2013 Dr Kerry McInerney** co-hosts (with Dr Eleanor Drage) the podcast *The Good Robot*. Each week, they invite scholars, industry practitioners, activists, and more to provide their unique perspective on what feminism can bring to the tech industry and the way that we think about technology. Kerry, an AI Ethicist, is a Senior Research Fellow at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, where she co-chairs The Global Politics of AI research stream on AI and international relations.
- 2015 SYLVANNA ANTAT is an environmental researcher and Vice-Chair of the Environment Protection Appeals Board of the Government of Seychelles. She was an EDGE Fellow of the Zoological Society of London from 2013–16 and became an EDGE Affliate in 2017. She is also a 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow of the United States Department of State Young African Leaders Initiative.
- 2015 ROB GALLAGHER co-founded Kanda Products & Services to help UK tradespeople build their businesses through flexible financing options. The company was accepted into the prestigious venture capital company YCombinator Winter program.

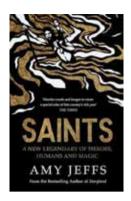


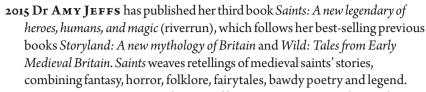
Sabesan Sithamparanathan





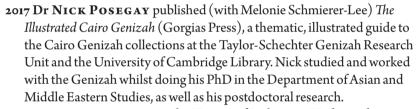
Nina Friedrich



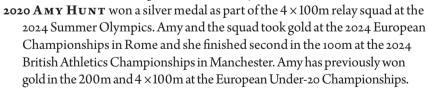


2016 Dr DAVID HARDMAN showcased his engineering research at Parliament to politicians and a panel of expert judges as part of the STEM for Britain poster competition. David's poster was titled Artificial robotic skins – hydrogels that sense and heal. David is now a Henslow Research Fellow at Fitzwilliam College and an EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellow at the Department of Engineering.

2017 Dr Takashi Lawson was jointly awarded the 2024 Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy Armourers and Brasiers Postdoctoral Prize in recognition of his contributions to research, teaching and outreach. Takashi works at Microsoft Research in areas related to the net-zero energy transition. He is a Chartered Scientist (CSci), Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA). He volunteers as a STEM mentor for the Windsor Fellowship. A former Corpus Christi Boat Club Captain, he also coaches the current women's crew along with Luke Pattison (m.2017).



Dissertation Prize 2023 for *Thatcherism and deregulation in the City of London*. The History of Parliament Trust awards the prize for an undergraduate dissertation on a subject relating to British or Irish parliamentary or political history. Josh was also awarded the Ellen McArthur Prize for the best undergraduate dissertation in economic and social history in the Faculty of History. Josh is currently studying for a postgraduate diploma in law at BPP University with a view to becoming a commercial lawyer.



2020 YIFEI ZHENG won the Alan Coulson Prize for the best dissertation on a topic in the field of British imperial expansion. His dissertation was on Britain's approach to the Hong Kong handover negotiations. Yifei is currently studying for a postgraduate diploma in law at BPP University, intending to be a trainee solicitor.

2021 JACOB HOUGIE was awarded the 2024 Robert Silver Prize for an adapted version of his dissertation, which was on the political thought of Jonathan Sacks and its relation to the communitarian tradition.



Nick Posegay



Amy Hunt

2022 RICHARD WAGENLANDER was named in the University of

Cambridge's Q100, which recognizes trailblazing LGBT+ and ally alumni who are making a difference. Currently working as a legal consultant and researcher, Richard focuses on public international law, human rights law, international investment law, and general commercial law. Most recently, Richard became a trustee of Lavender Common, a new NGO dedicated to LGBT+ rights and litigation in Europe. He continues to advise members of both Houses of Parliament on LGBT+ rights issues and international law and works pro-bono with NGOs pursuing the advancement of LGBT+ rights.

2023 Jesse Woods was awarded a Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship from the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation (Australia). Jesse will pursue his PhD in Theoretical Physics at the University of Bern, Switzerland.



Richard Wagenlander

Beldam and MacCurdy Dinners

The Beldam Dinner was held on Saturday 13 April 2024 for matriculation years 1978–82. The MacCurdy Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday 28 September 2024 for matriculation years 1972–77.

For 2025, the Beldam Dinner will be held on Saturday 5 April for matriculation years 1989–93; and the MacCurdy Dinner will be held on Saturday 27 September for matriculation years 1994–98.



Alumni Privileges

The following privileges for dining and accommodation apply to alumni who hold an MA, or other Masters/MPhil degree, or a higher degree from the University, and who are **not current students** at the University.

Dining Privileges

High Table

Alumni may dine at High Table as a guest of the College and take wine on any one ordinary evening in each quarter of any year, free of charge.

- 'Ordinary' in this context means evenings other than Mondays following Governing Body meetings, Wednesdays in Full Term, feasts, or other special occasions as designated by the President from time to time.
- Subject to the restrictions above, dining is available at High Table in Old House on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- There is no High Table dining in Old House on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Waiter-served dinner is available at Leckhampton on Tuesdays and cafeteria dinner is available on Thursdays.
- In the summer vacation (from mid-July to the end of September), High Table dining in the Old House takes place on Wednesdays and Fridays only.

Alumni availing themselves of the privilege of dining at High Table as a guest of the College wear an MA gown or the gown of the higher Cambridge degree to which they are entitled. If they have not got the appropriate gown to hand, they should ask the Head Porter, who can usually arrange for a loan.

To book High Table, please email high table@corpus.cam.ac.uk or telephone o1223 761539, with at least two weeks' notice, giving details of any dietary requirements.

Alumni may bring one personal guest such as a partner, relative or friend, to High Table in the Old House, (charged at the current rate of £50.00), or to Leckhampton. Booking should be made through hightable@corpus.cam.ac.uk. Please provide both yours and your guest's name, dietary requirements and brief details at the time of your booking. Please note that current undergraduates and those under 18 are not allowed to dine at High Table.

Guest Night and Formal Hall

Guest Night and Formal Hall Alumni are most welcome to bring guests to the Fellows' Guest Night dinners organised termly by the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Due to the popularity of these events, and to ensure we can welcome as many alumni as possible to these evenings, registration is restricted



to **one guest night per academic year**, and a maximum of three guests per alumnus on each occasion. The dress code for these occasions is smart attire.

Formal Hall bookings for an alumnus plus a maximum of two guests may also be permitted to dine, at a charge of £50.00 per person, in the body of the Hall on evenings when undergraduate formal hall is served (normally Fridays and Sundays in Full Term). To book, please email catering@corpus.cam.ac.uk.

All the above privileges are subject to the approval of the President, who may occasionally, in order to ensure a convivial balance on High Table in the Old House or at Leckhampton, limit the number of alumni and guests dining on any evening.

Rooms in College

Alumni may occupy a guest room in College, if available, for up to three nights at a reduced rate of £70.00 per night (room only). These are booked and allocated on a first-come first-served basis. We are more likely to be able to provide accommodation outside Term. Bookings may be made up to three months in advance, and up to twice a year. We regret that we are unable to accommodate families (other than spouses or partners), or children under the age of 18. We prefer you to book via email with alumni.accommodation@corpus.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 338014, with at least two weeks' notice.

In Memoriam

1943 VICTOR (Vic) WATSON BROWN we have learned that Vic Brown, one of the few remaining Second World War armed forces matriculands, died on 21 June 2024 in his 99th year. He was born on 1 September 1925 in Hanwell, Ealing the son of a customs officer and educated at Ealing County Boys School (now part of West London College). Vic came to Corpus as a Royal Navy cadet and spent a year studying Engineering. He lived at Winchcombe, Devon. The notice of his passing included the following: "Vic had a hat for every occasion so, if you would like to join us [for the memorial service], you may wish to wear an outfit set off with a hat."



1945 JOHN BATTERSBY who came to Corpus in 1945 to read the Modern Languages Tripos, died on 25 January 2024 at Kendal Care Home, Cumbria aged 96. He was born in Crumpsall, Manchester in 1927, spent much of his working life in Harrogate working for ICI Fibres and retired to the Lake District. He was married to Enid and the couple had two sons, three grandchildren and a greatgrandchild.

1945 CAPTAIN RICHARD ALFRED NESBITT ORANGE-BROMEHEAD **BSc CEng MICE** was born in Ferozepur, Punjab, India, in 1928 the son of a British army officer Colonel F E Orange-Bromehead OBE and educated during the 2nd World War at Cheltenham College. Richard came to Corpus for one year in 1945 as part of the final cohort of Royal Engineers cadets studying the mechanical sciences. Earlier in the war, his brother John Douglas Orange-Bromehead (1924–2014) (m.1942) had also been a Royal Engineer cadet. During his time at the College, Richard was an enthusiastic rower and won his oar. Of this time, his son has written: "it meant a great deal to our father and he was very proud to have studied there – he kept his oar in the dining room that he was given having won a big race." After Corpus, Richard went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, was commissioned as an officer in The Royal Engineers and obtained a civil engineering degree from the Military College of Science, Shrivenham. He then had a ten year military career which included postings to Germany and Cyprus with the 37 Field Engineering Regiment, where he also enjoyed competitive sailing with the Royal Engineers Yacht Club (REYC). Richard retired from the Army in 1961 having served as a Royal Engineer Staff Officer at Headquarters Northern Command, York. In 1963 he joined the consultant engineering firm Rendall Palmer & Tritton, where he specialized in dam structures. Elected a member of The Institution of Civil Engineers in 1968,







Richard later served as Engineer's Representative for the Gale Common Ash Disposal scheme in North Yorkshire from 1970, overseeing reservoir operations and supervising earthworks, structures, and drainage until his retirement; in 1987 he was appointed a supervising engineer. Richard retired to Hovingham, Ryedale, North Yorkshire, where he was an active member of the Conservative Party, contributing to the community as a parish councillor, school governor, chairman of the local British Legion and as a volunteer for the National Trust. In 2000, following significant floods, he led the implementation of a flood defence scheme in Hovingham, safeguarding local homes from future flooding. Richard Orange-Bromehead passed away on 19 June 2024 at the age of 96. He was preceded in death by his wife Claire in 2021 and survived by his beloved sons James, Robert and Peter, as well as seven grandchildren.

Acknowledgements to Peter Orange-Bromehead

1946 SIR JOHN ERNEST MICHAEL CONANT, (2nd Bart) was an aristocrat, farmer and landowner. He was born on 24 April 1923 at the Lyndon estate in Rutland the son of a Conservative MP. He was educated at Eton College and during the Second World War served with the Grenadier Guards. He had received an emergency commission in December 1942, with promotion to lieutenant in April 1943. In 1946, after demobilisation, he came to Corpus where he studied Agriculture (although he later said he learned little of value for his later career). In 1950 he married Periwinkle Elizabeth (née Thorp), this marriage ended with her death in 1985. In 1992 Sir John married Mary Clare Attwater. He served as High Sheriff of Rutland in 1960. His widow telephoned the College with news of Sir John's death on 19 January 2024, during which she highlighted that they both had appreciated the birthday cards from the Master to mark Sir John's 100th birthday in 2023. She concluded "he was fighting fit until the end, which is how he would have wanted to go".



1946 JOHN LEONARD THORN was born in Chiswick, London on 28 April 1925, the son of Stanley Thorn a bookmaker and his wife Winifred, a librarian. He was educated at St Paul's School, from where he left in 1943 (in the midst of the Second World War) with a deferred scholarship to Corpus in order to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He experienced war service as a gunnery officer with the rank of Sub-Lieutenant on the destroyer HMS Eskimo in the Indian Ocean. In 1946, he took up his scholarship (he was an exact contemporary of Michael McCrum) and in 1949, mentored by Desmond Lee, took a double first in history. That year he began his teaching career at Clifton College, Bristol, where Lee had become headmaster and quickly became head of its history department and then a housemaster. John was appointed headmaster of Repton School in 1961. A controversial reformer, he brought the school, which he saw as "a rather brutal place" for boys not suited to a culture he found "disconcertingly hearty", into the second half of the 20th century. He opposed the traditional dominance of school sports, writing that "the arts must no longer be Cinderellas" and "must no longer take second place to cricket nets and the rest of it". He expanded the teaching of drama and art, praising these as cultivating creativity and sensitivity which, he hoped would make the boys more "industrious, creative and happy". He also reduced the use of corporal punishment and abolished fagging. These challenges to Repton's traditions created such strong hostility from a faction of conservative, sport-focused teachers that he left the school. However, during his tenure the school's examination performance improved, and at least some pupils such as the poet James Fenton and the professor of classical lieder Richard Stokes benefited from its creative arts. In 1968, in succession to Desmond Lee, he became headmaster of Winchester College. He found that Winchester, inspired by late 1960s counterculture, was already rejecting the austere public school customs he had encountered at Repton. John had a clear vision of the changes he wanted including opening the school to - not just those with wealthy parents but also to boys from state schools. To finance this, in 1976 he approved the controversial sale of a manuscript of Malory's Morte d'Arthur. He also sought to change the emphasis of the curriculum from classics to the wider humanities including English literature, and to the sciences. To this end, he created a theatre workshop and an art school to encourage the participatory arts. He also encouraged music, providing additional money for scholarships and saw the school's staging of operas as a crowning accomplishment. John Thorn used his year as chairman of the Headmasters' Conference in 1981 to oppose what he saw as excessive emphasis on A-level results for university admissions and to champion public schools, since he believed that "education is far too important to be left to governments." Reviewing his career, The Daily Telegraph described John Thorn as a visionary head, with ample "charm and panache" which made him an extremely effective leader. In its opinion, he was "one of the most influential - and unconventional - schoolmasters of his time." In addition he was at various times a director of the Royal Opera House; a Trustee of the British Museum and of the Winchester Cathedral Trust and vice-chairman (later chairman) of the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust. He also served on the executive committee of the Cancer Research Campaign, was chairman of governors of Abingdon School, a governor of Oakham School and of Stowe School. After retiring from Winchester, John taught at King Edward VI School, Southampton and then Portsmouth Grammar School. In 1955 John married Veronica Laura (née Maconochie); they had one son and one daughter. In 1989 he published his memoirs, The Road to Winchester. John Thorn died on 20 October 2023, at the age of 98.

Acknowledgements to The Hampshire Chronicle

1948 JOHN STUART CUMMING we have learned that John, who read the Law Tripos, became a Chartered Accountant and lived at Battle, East Sussex, died at his home on 25 February 2024 aged 95.

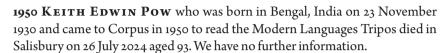
1949 REGINALD HERBERT (known as Nic) NICHOLLS was born in Harbin, China in 1930 of Anglo-Russian heritage. His early life was punctuated by the death of his businessman father, his mother having to earn a living teaching music, wartime Shanghai and three years internment by the Japanese. Nic had been educated at the Cathedral Boys' School, Shanghai prior to the 1942 occupation; a fellow student was the future writer J G Ballard and his 1984 book *Empire of*



Reginald Herbert Nicholls

the Sun chronicled their lives in the Yangchow Internment Camp. He relates how their education was continued by fellow internees who had been masters at their school. In 1946, after liberation, Nic was sent to England to complete his education. He was lucky enough to gain a scholarship to St Paul's School and from there an exhibition to Corpus where he read the Historical Tripos. During his time at St Paul's, Nic had been introduced to rowing and at the College stroked the 1st VIII. In his second year he trialled for the Blue boat and although he failed to make the final cut he was, in his third year, part of the historic Corpus boat to win the Wyfold Challenge Cup at Henley. He was also a member of Thames Rowing Club and even qualified for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Alas, he was unable to go as his boss would not give him the time off work! After a period as a businessman, Nic became a schoolmaster and taught at several schools before, in 1969, moving to Altrincham Grammar School for Boys where he spent the rest of his career teaching history. The former MP Sir Graham Brady, who had been one of Nic's pupils, recalled how remarkable it was to study the Russian Revolution with someone whose "older sister was born to the sound of her uncles being shot in the yard outside." As a teacher Nic encouraged the boys in whatever pursuits captured their imagination and Brady recalled when he discovered a shared fascination for cacti, "he very kindly took me on many visits to the monthly meeting in Wilmslow of the Cactus and Succulent Society." Teaching colleague and friend, Keith Nodding, recalled, "Iknew Nic as a thoughtful and dedicated teacher and although modest and somewhat reserved he was widely respected by both boys and staff alike." The passion he felt for the subject and his expanded use of technology prompted him to become involved in the Schools Council project to improve the teaching and examination of history in schools; as a result, he became a trusted adviser to the Joint Matriculation Board (JMB) for both O and A levels. Nic established a School Sailing Club on Tatton Mere and was the first to take pupils to the National Schools' Regatta on Anglesey. Nodding praised Nic's efforts to widen sporting opportunities for Altrincham Grammar pupils by introducing not only sailing but also squash. Nic had many keen interests, from cacti to breeding fuchsias, and he was also talented at woodturning and piano, but the interest that dominated over all was sailing and the sea. To be near the sea, Nic and his wife Pauleen retired to Shaldon, Devon. They would often sail to France and Pauleen recalled some hairy Channel crossings but was always confident in Nic's navigational skills and sail handling. For a time Nic was Vice Commodore of the Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club and after giving up the larger sailing craft continued to fish well into his seventies. Sir Graham Brady said of him, "Nic was a gentleman and a great role model. Many thousands of us will have grown into better men because we were lucky enough to be taught and guided by him," and this appears to be the sentiment of so many who knew him. Nic was also a sociable man and Keith Nodding remembered with much affection "the holidays we spent together in which Nic taught my children the arts of canoeing in Chichester Harbour, or fishing for mackerel off Treaddur Bay – not that I ever recall us catching very much!" Nic died on 2nd January 2024 at the age of ninety-three and is greatly missed by his wife Pauleen, two children Amanda and Pip and a cousin, Ron.

1950 RICHARD LAURENCE DAVIES COCHRANE was born on 26 August 1930 and came to Corpus after National Service to read the Natural Sciences Tripos. He was a transport consultant and lived in Alderley Edge, Cheshire. The Corpus archivist Genny Silvanus added: "Richard Cochrane deposited some really lovely photograph albums of his travels – he drove across Europe with friends and also went to Egypt whilst on National Service". He died on 27 December 2023 aged 93.



1950 CHARLES EDWIN (known as Ted) WALTER SAUNDERS was born in Cambridgeshire in August 1930. He came to Corpus in 1950 to read Agriculture but left without taking a degree. Ted was a Cambridgeshire farmer and was for many years a director of the East of England Agricultural Society. We recently learned of his death at Glassmoor House, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire on 15 March 2018 aged 87.

1950 Dr Roy (known as Christopher) Anthony Weatherley-White MD was born in India, spent the war and immediate post war years in England and came to Corpus to read the Natural Sciences Tripos. He went on to train as a physician at Harvard Medical School and became a renowned US-based plastic surgeon. In addition to his own practice Roy, in his later years, gave much of his time to Operation Smile, a worldwide charity that provides surgery for children born with a cleft palate. The charity published an online appreciation of his life and work from which the following is derived. "We first met Dr Weatherley-White in 1997 and from that moment on Chris joined our medical teams, traveling the world to provide free reconstructive surgery to hundreds of children for nearly twenty years. His assignments took him to eleven countries in every Operation Smile region, saying always, "It's the children that inspire me". Chris most often held the role of team lead or field medical director and often served on the advance team to make sure the sites were ready for the full team to arrive. He also volunteered his time for education/research programs and served on Operation Smile's Plastic Surgery Medical Council, providing guidance and oversight of our medical standards in the field.

Chris received a degree from Cambridge University, then returned to the United States to serve with the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division. After military service he went to Harvard Medical School and completed his medical training at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City and at the University of Colorado in Denver, where he settled and specialised in plastic surgery. Chris was also chair of the Operation Smile Denver Chapter and participated in three to four surgical programs a year. When he wasn't volunteering his talent to change children's lives through surgery, he was donating his time to raise funds so that, as he said, "I can give more children whole new lives". In January 2002 he was a torchbearer for the Winter Olympics, carrying the torch through his home state



of Colorado. When asked to provide his inspiration statement, it was no surprise that Chris reflected on the children he met through Operation Smile. His own words are truly a fitting way to end this tribute: "As a paediatric plastic surgeon, I have witnessed the fears, struggles and transformations from many birth [differences] and injuries. Working with Operation Smile, I have taken part in surgical teams in underdeveloped countries. The families may travel hundreds of miles, sometimes on foot or by cart or canoe, to bring their children in for surgery. When the cleft lip is repaired and the child sees their face in a mirror, all fear dissolves, and I get my reward and inspiration: a big smile, often a hug and once a live chicken!" We are sure you will agree when we say it is extremely hard to find an individual as passionate and motivated as Chris to help children here and around the world. His value structure was impeccable. His ability was unbelievable and we will never forget what he taught all of us. We will admire the example he set for all of us and hope to celebrate his memory by helping even more children, in the way that he was passionate about doing it. We will always remember Chris, the torchbearer for Operation Smile. He died on 21 March 2024.

Acknowledgements to Bill and Kathy Magee, Co-Founders of Operation Smile



1951 BENEDICT (Ben) MICHAEL BIRNBERG a British solicitor and radical campaigner for human rights was born on 8 September 1930 in Stepney, East London. Fleeing Russian pogroms, his father had emigrated to Britain in the 1890s, grew up in Whitechapel then came to Cambridge where he read the Mathematics Tripos and became a schoolmaster. Ben's mother ran her own school where she read *Mein Kampf* to the pupils "to better know the enemy". Ben and his brother Teddy were day boys at the King's School Canterbury and met Hewlett Johnson 'the Red Dean of Canterbury', which sparked an interest in communism. He undertook National Service before following in his father's footsteps to Cambridge, where he read the Historical Tripos at Corpus, graduating with a 2:1. He then trained as a solicitor and, after qualifying, leased a property in Borough High Street, Southwark and created B M Birnberg & Co as a oneman civil liberties, neighbourhood practice. Accessible to all, the firm operated from these cramped offices with Ben as senior partner until he retired in 1999. Associated with many radical causes, Ben was a pioneer acting on behalf of those who had suffered miscarriages of justice; in 1998 he secured an official pardon for Derek Bentley, who had been wrongfully hanged in 1953. In its obituary, The Independent characterised him as having "acted for clients ranging from the eccentric to the eclectic; from high-profile cases such as Derek Bentley, Richard Branson and Vanessa Redgrave, to the 'unfashionable', as the solicitor himself describes Moors murderer Ian Brady." On one occasion he struck a blow for artistic freedom, defending David Hockney's right to bring back magazines deemed obscene by Customs and Excise officers. He also successfully defended the Notting Hill community activist Frank Crichlow, whose restaurant was subjected to repeated police raids in the 1970s and 80s. He fought for gay rights before the term was invented, representing the Albany Trust. As a result, the firm became a crucible forging radical lawyers acting for civil rights and social justice clients. Among those he trained were Labour politician Lord Boateng, Imran Khan and Gareth Peirce. Ben was for many years company secretary for the charity War on Want and chair of the National Council of Civil Liberties (now Liberty). In retirement he enjoyed classical music, art and writing letters to the national press. He and his wife Felitsa (a former client) enjoyed annual trips to the Edinburgh Festival and he was an enthusiastic attendee of the Proms. His daughter wrote of her father: "Ben was always very proud of the fact that I could play the piano well. It was a source of comfort to me, towards the end of his life, that I could make him happy simply by playing a Mozart sonata ... It was never difficult to make Ben happy really. He had a gift for enjoying life." Benedict Michael Birnberg solicitor and civil liberties campaigner died on 13 October 2023 aged 93. Acknowledgements to The Law Society Gazette and The Guardian

1951 PETER WILLIAM MCLELLAN who came to Corpus to read the Natural Sciences Tripos had a career as an engineer with McLellan Pipelines Ltd. Peter's son Lucian is a Bristol based alumnus (m.1981) and an artist. Peter died on 24 August 2023.

1951 PATRICK JOHN TOPLISS we have recently learned that Patrick, who was born in 1931 in Burton on Trent, Staffordshire the son of Corpus alumnus Kenneth Ivor Topliss (m.1923) died on 24 December 2017 aged 86. After National Service with the Royal Artillery, he came to Corpus to read the Modern Languages Tripos and in 1968 married Annmarie Apprich. His last address was Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

1952 LIONEL BARRY AKID was born into a working class family in Stockport, Manchester on 28 December 1934. He won a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School and then a further scholarship to Corpus, where he read the Modern Languages Tripos. Barry's hard-working attitude was instilled in him in childhood and at Manchester Grammar School and it continued into his working life after Corpus. After graduating he undertook National Service and then entered his career which including senior management roles with the UK Atomic Energy Authority, Cheshire County Council, the Civil Service in central London and latterly as the CEO of a pensions company in Surrey. After marrying Cynthia in 1968, to whom he remained happily married until his death, home was Knutsford, Cheshire and then Wimbledon, South London - Barry and Cynthia's two children, Cate and Matthew, were born in the early 1970s before the move down south. Away from work, Barry had several passions and interests including amateur photography – he was President of Richmond Photography Society for a time - enjoying jazz gigs, watching football, and taking on voluntary roles including Chairman with a local charity the Wimbledon Guild which assists people in need of support. His final years were spent with Cynthia at a care home in Bournemouth, near to his daughter Cate, as his life came full circle - he had met and married Cynthia in the area and they spent many happy family summer holidays nearby. Barry Akid died aged 89 on 21 January 2024.

Acknowledgements to Cate Addison and Matthew Akid



1952 ROGER HENRY FOX we have learned that Roger who came to Corpus to read the Classical Tripos died in June 2024. He lived in Ingoldsby, Grantham, Lincolnshire.



1952 DR GEORGE CHRISTOPHER SUTTON MABChir FRCP MD FACC was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1934 the son of an engineer and of a psychologist. After the 1939 invasion of his country by Germany, the family made the hazardous journey to Paris via Romania and in 1940 made their way to Britain. Settling in Rugby, George attended Lawrence Sherriff School then, with a scholarship, Rugby School, where he excelled and became Head of House. In 1952, George came to Corpus to read the Natural Sciences Tripos; which turned into a fifty year career as a cardiologist. After Corpus, he undertook clinical training at University College Hospital, London and house jobs at UCH and Wimbledon Hospital. He became medical registrar at St George's Hospital, London and subsequently at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. In 1964, George was invited to spend a year as a research fellow in cardiology at University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital. On his return, he went to the Royal Brompton Hospital as senior registrar in cardiology; his Cambridge MD dissertation in 1971 on acute massive pulmonary embolism was fuelled by his work at the Brompton. He was subsequently an advisor to the WHO for pulmonary embolic disease. In 1972 he was appointed consultant cardiologist at Hillingdon Hospital, where he served until retirement in 2008. During this period, he developed a nationally recognised community heart failure service, and created and chaired the Northwest Thames cardiology committee. He served on the editorial boards of the British Heart Journal and the Journal of Cardiovascular Ultrasound and was a referee for numerous publications. George also served on the cardiology committee of the Royal College of Physicians; and was a member of the teaching committee and council member of both the British Cardiac Society and the British Heart Foundation. In 1977, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. A prolific author, he contributed to thirteen books and published nearly two hundred papers including 119 on heart failure, where his pioneering research broke new ground. An outstanding clinician, George was also an excellent teacher, devising audiovisual programmes demonstrating his extraordinary breadth of knowledge. He was senior lecturer in cardiology and director of education at the National Heart and Lung Institute, taught at Imperial College School of Medicine, and was dissertation advisor for numerous outstanding future cardiologists. His love of teaching and research took him all over the world including to Ethiopia, where, in 1985 he organised the transport and donation of an ECG machine to St Paul Hospital, Addis Ababa, where his best friend was then British Ambassador. He met his wife Jane in 1956 in Paris where he and the same friend serenaded a group of young Irish women staying on the floor above them, only to be rewarded by the women dropping water-filled balloons onto their heads. They remained married for 61 years until Jane's death in 2020. A keen golfer, he was also a cricket enthusiast, a staunch supporter of Yorkshire County Cricket Club and proud member of the

MCC. In retirement he was a governor of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, where he was an enthusiastic supporter of school cricket matches and a regular at prize-giving ceremonies and carol concerts. George Christopher Sutton died aged 90 on 2 March 2024.

Acknowledgements to Rachel Marlin-Sutton (daughter),
Dr Elizabeth Jacobs (MA, BM, BCh), Dr Pauline Monro MBE (MD, FRCP)
and Dr Taylor Prewitt (MD, FACC)

1953 CHRISTOPHER JOHN WITHERS MINTER was born in 1933 and educated at Winchester College. He left Winchester in 1951 then spent two years undertaking National Service, first enlisting in the Royal Green Jackets before taking a commission with the Royal Sussex Regiment. Chris then volunteered to serve with the King's African Rifles in Kenya and posted to an infantry platoon with 23 (Kenya) Battalion King's African Rifles. He arrived in the colony just after the governor had declared a state of emergency in response to the Mau Mau insurgency. He thereafter played an important part in a well-led and effective battalion and was justifiably proud of the Africa General Service medal he was awarded. He ended his military service in 1953 and matriculated into Corpus to read the Historical Tripos, graduating in 1956. During his time at the college, he was an enthusiastic member of the Boat Club and won his oars twice. His military service in Kenya had inspired an enduring love for the country and its people and, following graduation, Chris joined the colonial service in Kenya where he served until independence of 1963. When he returned to Britain, Chris began a long and varied international business career beginning with Harvey's of Bristol. He then went on to become a highly respected independent Market Researcher working for a range of businesses including British Market Research Bureau (BMRB), a subsidiary of the advertising agency J Walter Thompson: an associate director and manager of Target Group Index and later manager of Survey Research Hong Kong. During his career Chris came to own Executive Surveys Ltd and China Research Services and was, in the late 1980s, an international market and media research consultant in Asia, North America and Europe in 1987 he spoke at the Third World Advertising Congress in Beijing and other countries. His last position, held between 1990 and 1998, was as a senior associate director of market research at Reader's Digest, London. In this role, as colleagues later remembered, he was held in high regard for his great intelligence, kindness, generosity and steadfast loyalty. On retirement he moved into writing, contributing to books on Kenya and the Mau Mau insurgency, including ed John Johnson Colony to Nation: British administrators in Kenya 1940 to 1963, (2002), LSB Leakey The Kikuyu and the Mau Mau, (2013) and Ian Parker The last colonial regiment: the history of the Kenya Regiment (TF) (2009). In addition, he served for ten years on the wine committee at The Hurlingham club to which he brought a wide-ranging knowledge and enormous flair. In July 1994 Chris married Lynda M Thorvaldsen (Minter). He remained a dedicated supporter of the KAR Association and attended its regular events until declining health forced a curtailment of his activities. Chris Minter died on 14 June 2024 aged 91.

Acknowledgements to Lynda Minter





1953 NIGEL MARGRAVE JOHNSON CBE was born on 6 July 1935 in Sprotbrough, South Yorkshire the son of Harry who was a distinguished architect. His mother Amy studied mathematics at university and played bridge to county standard. Nigel was educated at Rugby School and came to Corpus where, initially, he read Architecture but later switched to the Classical Tripos, in which he gained a first. National Service followed, this was at the height of the Cold War and he was recruited into intelligence. After some months at a secret "spy school", he returned to Corpus to learn Russian and again gained a first. Nigel always had a strong affection for the College and regularly attended reunions. A career in the Civil Service followed. Initially with the Post Office (at the time a government department), then in the Home Office. One of his many assignments occurred as the National Lottery was being introduced. He was tasked with visiting casinos in Gibraltar to see how they were run; he later commented that his principal memory was how unhappy all the patrons looked. Curious though it may seem, in the 1980s he was asked to investigate stories that the bones of the Saxon King Edward the martyr (c.962–978) had been found. In 1992 Nigel was awarded a CBE for public service and retired in 1995. Nigel regularly returned home to Carburton, a hamlet near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, to be with his parents and elder brother Michael, a solicitor. Life settled into a pattern - Swan Hellenic cruises, Glyndebourne, the Oxford and Cambridge Club. He looked after his parents and then Michael, who died in 2005. He had a succession of much-loved border terriers. In 2012 he decided to move to Wells, Somerset to be near a cousin and her husband. This led to ten very happy years for him as he enjoyed music, particularly opera, bridge, cathedral life and more travel. Nigel always had a Christian faith and was a churchwarden at St Giles, Carburton; in Wells he joined the Friends of the Cathedral and continued to attend services regularly even when the arduous journey had to be made by motor scooter or Zimmer frame. In April 2023 he became too unwell to live independently and moved into a local care home. In his trying last few months his qualities of humour, modesty, patience and consideration for others came to the fore, as was shown in the great affection for him from those who looked after him. Nigel Johnson died on 14 October 2023 aged 88.

Acknowledgements to Colin Poole, Nigel's first cousin once removed

1953 REVEREND RICHARD WARWICK MAPPLEBECKPALMER (as an undergraduate he was known as Palmer). Richard came to Corpus in 1953 to read Divinity and on graduation took Holy Orders. In 1989 he became Rector of Grace North Parish Church and The Grace Institute for Religious Learning, Berkeley, California, USA. In 2008 he retired to become pastor emeritus but went to serve as chaplain at the Abbey of Merton St Ambrose, Martinez, California, USA. We recently learned from his friend and alumnus Reverend Donald Reece (m.1955) that Richard died on 7 December 2022.

1953 PETER GRAHAM NICHOLSON who came to Corpus in 1953 to read the Economics Tripos died early in 2024. He was educated at Tonbridge School and after graduating from Corpus studied accountancy at the Chartered Institute of

Secretaries and Management Studies at IMEDE (International Institute for Management Development). Thereafter, he was a businessman and a director of public companies; prior to retirement he was Director of Mining Finance and Exploration for Selection Trust Limited. Peter lived in Essex.

1953 RONALD TUXWORTH PROCTER was born in Cheltenham on 25 January 1931, the youngest of four brothers and educated at Cheltenham College, where he was Head of House and a sportsman; Captain of cricket, fives and squash and awarded colours in cricket, rugby and hockey. After Cheltenham, Ronald went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where he continued to play hockey and cricket. After passing out, he was commissioned with the Royal Engineers and served until he matriculated into Corpus where he read the Engineering Tripos. During his time at the college, he gained a Blue in hockey. After graduating, Ronald returned to the Army where he remained until 1968, when he joined the consulting engineers practice G Maunsell and Partners (GMP), working as a resident engineer on motorway construction projects for the M53 on the Wirral and the Birmingham middle ring road. In 1976, Ronald joined the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), working from Bristol as a civil contracts engineer. In that role he managed repair, maintenance, demolition and improvement of the CEGB power stations in the southwest. Privatisation saw the break-up of the old CEGB and he moved to Powergen, working from Gloucester and then Birmingham. He did not enjoy the disruption and uncertainty so he took early retirement. In 1956, Ronald married Adriane and the couple had two children, Jeremy and Katherine. Ronald took enormous pride in their lives and achievements and later their grandchildren Emily and Tom. He couldn't help his pride and interest in Tom's cricketing skill. In retirement, Ronald and Adriane settled in Daglingworth, near Cirencester. It was around this time that he became involved with the Cheltonian Society and had time to return to his old school for cricket matches and reunions, something he enjoyed well into his retirement until he became too frail. After Adriane died in October 2003, Ronald stayed in Daglingworth and looked after his daughter who has severe long term illness. Ronald's son said of this "The commitment he made to our mother to look after Katherine was fulfilled unswervingly, even though it did restrict his ability to enjoy more of the lives of his grandchildren". Ronald died in a Cirencester hospital after a period of illness. He is survived by his son, daughter and grandchildren.

Acknowledgements to Jeremy Procter and Cheltenham College website

1953 IAN HENRY NASH-WEBBER SINCLAIR we have learned that Ian died early in 2024. He read Economics and Law as an undergraduate. We have no further information.

1953 PETER STAPLETON VINCENT was born on 11 February 1933 in Ruislip, Middlesex, the son of Elizabeth (née Peyton) and Stanley Vincent who served as a fighter pilot in both World Wars. On leaving Lancing College, Peter undertook national service in the RAF before matriculating into Corpus to read the Historical Tripos, graduating in 1957. As an undergraduate he wrote for Footlights







Peter Stapleton Vincent

revues – sometimes in collaboration with the future Liberal MP John Pardoe – for performers such as Jonathan Miller and Daniel Massey. After graduating, Vincent began working life teaching in a Littlehampton secondary school, he then became a lecturer at Brighton Technical College. However, he came into his own as a television scriptwriter. His break came writing for the anarchic BBC radio revue-style series I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again (from 1965 to 1966), with the future Goodies TV stars Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie among the cast. In 1968 he switched to television, writing for Frost on Saturday and Frost on Sunday (where he met and wrote for cast members Ronnie Corbett and Barker). He then wrote material for many entertainment shows with top stars such as Harry Secombe, Bruce Forsyth and Stanley Baxter. He enjoyed particularly fruitful collaborations with Dave Allen. Vincent moved on to *The Two* Ronnies contributing sketches, and some of Corbett's famously long-winded monologues, to all twelve series of The Two Ronnies (1971-87). As well as sketch writing, Vincent became script editor for several years (1972-76). This involved finding new writers and creating a shortlist of items for the popular opening and closing spoof news spots that bookended the comedy sketches, playlets, songs and parodies. These were submitted by regular writers and outsiders, and Vincent picked about twenty each week to hand over to Corbett, Barker and the producer, Terry Hughes, who would often reject half of them. Barker himself claimed responsibility for seventy-five percent of the programme's scripts, under the pseudonym Gerald Wiley. His association with Allen began as one of two principal scriptwriters on the BBC series Dave Allen at Large (1971-79) and continued through various specials and the ITV show Dave Allen (1993–94). He eventually became the main collaborator of the Irish comedian. Their work on The Two Ronnies led Vincent and Davidson to create the BBC sitcom Sorry!, starring Corbett as Timothy Lumsden, a frustrated fortysomething librarian tied to his domineering mother's apron strings, and they scripted all seven series (1981–88). In 1959, Vincent married Patricia Lloyd; she died in 2016. He is survived by their daughter Miranda, son Bosie and four grandsons. Peter Stapleton Vincent, died on 2 July 2024 aged 91.

Acknowledgements to Anthony Hayward and The Guardian

1954 ANTHONY (Tony) CLENNELL CULLINGFORD Tony's son Andrew informed the College that his father died on 21 April 2023 aged 87. Tony came to Corpus in 1954 to read the Historical Tripos. He and his wife Connie served with All Saints Cathedral, Cairo, Egypt and in retirement he was a member of the Tewkesbury Refugee Support Group.

1954 MICHAEL JOHN JENKINS we have learned from his widow that Michael, who came to Corpus to read the Classics Tripos, died on 16 December 2023.

1955 ROGER HINDLE came to Corpus from Leeds Grammar School in 1955 to read the Economics Tripos. He graduated in 1958 and was, between 1962 and 1965, a personnel manager at Mars. He lived in Leigh, Worcestershire and described himself as a shared lives provider. He died in 2023 and the College was informed in September of that year.

1956 MERVYN CHRISTOPHER GRIFFITHS TD DL was born in 1936 and educated first as a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor and then at Uppingham School, where he excelled as a scholar, at sports (he was a member of the 1st XV) and as a musician. Before coming up to Corpus, he undertook National Service with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, spending time commanding a tank squadron on the Lüneberger Heide in Germany. At Corpus he read the Historical Tripos but also became well-known for his work restoring an ancient gondola that had previously been owned by the writer Marie Corelli and displaying it on the Cam; he later became gondolier to the Marquess of Hertford, with which he defeated the panel on the BBC television programme What's My Line. After various jobs which included teaching at a secondary modern school, editing the house magazine for Avery's, a spell in PR and some time at the Harvard Business School, he became managing director of Eurocard Ltd, then chief general manager of the Alliance Building Society and later Registrar of the London Medical Society. He was a Special Constable in London and a stalwart of the TA. Mervyn served on the board of various schools and as a Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex. He moved to a beautiful country house in Isfield, Sussex in 1976, where his wife Barbara died in 2005. He died at home after a long illness on 19 September 2023 aged 87. His funeral took place at St Margaret of Antioch Church, Isfield on 13 October 2023.

1956 Reverend Canon GERALD RICHARD STANLEY (Bill) RITSON came to Corpus to read the Divinity Tripos. His friend and near contemporary the Reverend Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne (m.1955) has written; Bill – we never knew why he did not use any of his real names - as an undergraduate was a member of an entertainment group I set up as President of the Fletcher Players. It was called The Sequins, and we put on entertainments of various kinds in Corpus and elsewhere. Another retired priest, Alun Glyn-Jones, was a member of the group. The others eventually became the Music Director at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, a schoolmaster in the South of England and a lay missionary in Africa; the latter was Bill Roberts who was in the Chapel Choir with me. As a group we enjoyed ourselves and had many laughs! Bill Ritson had a varied ministry and was for one term a popular and well-liked (especially by undergraduates) acting Chaplain at Corpus. His resounding voice and humour went down well. Between 1965 and 1968 he was Assistant Curate of St Mary's, Goldington; then, between 1969 and 1987, Rector of Clifton, Bedfordshire; between 1976 and 1987 Priest-in-Charge of Aldenham during this time he was also Chaplain to Robert Runcie the Bishop of St Albans; then between 1980 and 1987 Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral and finally, between 1987 and 2000, Residentiary Canon. I visited him at St Albans Cathedral and in other places where he had ministered and kept in touch until he went into a residential home in Sussex and stopped sending Christmas cards. However, I learned that he eventually became bed bound. Fortunately, I was able to visit him earlier this year and we had a long overdue reunion, He had difficulty in speaking, but was delighted we were able to visit him. Bill died on 22 June 2024 aged 89. May he rest in peace in the presence of the Lord he served.

Reverend Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne



1957 BARRIE CHARLES GANE CMG OBE was born in Birmingham on 19 September 1935, the son of Charles Ernest and Margaret (née Price) Gane. He was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham and in 1957 after undertaking National Service as a Royal Navy sub-lieutenant matriculated into Corpus to read the Historical Tripos. He graduated in 1960 and was quickly recruited by British foreign intelligence, the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) popularly known as MI6. As an intelligence officer operating under diplomatic cover during the classic Cold War period he saw service in Laos, Sarawak, Poland, Uganda and between 1977 and 1982 as head of station in Hong Kong; he was outed in a 1980 New Statesman article by the investigative journalist Duncan Campbell as Hong Kong head of the "Local Intelligence Committee". Of him, Campbell said: "MI6 is disguised as the 'Study Group' in British Forces HQ; its Head is their station chief Barry Gane". In addition to his overseas postings, Barrie had two extended periods at SIS headquarters in London where he was first Controller Far East and then Director of Requirements and Production. By the time of his retirement in 1993 (at the time the age of retirement for operational officers was 55 with short extensions for a few senior directors) he was a senior SIS Director and had been one of the leading candidates to replace the then Chief, Sir Colin McColl. He was seen, as a colleague put it, a "safe pair of hands rather than an innovator". However, during the early 1990s, a period when it was believed the Cold War had ended, people like Barrie, who belonged to the old Sovbloc élite, ran against the grain seeing (rightly as it turned out) the continuing Soviet/Russian threat. Their resistance to changes of focus and priorities led to a clear out of senior officers in what became known as 'the Night of the Long Knives'; officers were told of their fate a month before the changes took effect in January 1993. As a result of all this, older MI6 directors were replaced or offered early retirement. Barrie was replaced as Director of Requirements and Production by David Spedding who was distinguished by his membership of the 'Camel Corps' – his Middle Eastern expertise – and the fact that he had no Sovbloc experience. For his services, Barrie was awarded an OBE in 1978 and a CMG in 1988.

After his SIS retirement, Barrie Gane joined the private security sector working for Group 4 Securitas as Director of Group Research and a consultant. Then in 2000, after Group 4 and Falck merged, he transferred to Global Solutions Ltd, the custodial services division of Group 4 Falck. He was also a board member of Threat Response International. Barrie Gane first married Elizabeth Anne and the couple had two daughters, Christine Anne and Nicola Vanessa (Tina and Nicki). This marriage ended in 1974 and that same year he married Jennifer (known as Jenny) Anne. Barrie Gane died on 10 December 2023 aged 88 following a long illness. He never forgot his time at Corpus, as his wife Jenny put it: "He absolutely adored his time at Corpus and was hugely grateful to the college for the time he spent there and he was very supportive of the College."

Acknowledgements to Jenny Gane

1957 Professor John Christopher Raymond Charvet was emeritus Professor of Political Science in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics where he worked for his entire career. His specialist area was international relations, liberalism and human rights and he wrote several books including The Nature and Limits of Human Equality, The Liberal Project and Human Rights: The Theory and Practice of a New World Order and his latest and seventh book Communitarian Ethics was recently published. John came to Corpus in 1957, where he studied Economics and Philosophy. In 1963 he married Barbara Keeling in the Corpus Chapel. John's uncle, Patrice Charvet, was a French scholar and a Fellow of the College. John and Barbara lived first in Cambridge, then moved to Parliament Hill Fields, London for fifty years, before his second marriage resulted in a move to Brighton and France. His eldest son Guy died of a brain tumour aged 34 and his other children are Emma, Oliver and stepdaughter Vera, he has two grandchildren Rory and Holly. John died suddenly of a blood infection but was previously in good health having successfully recovered from cancer and was enjoying his passions for writing philosophy and gardening in his house in the Jura, France with his wife Eliza Kaczynka Nay.



Acknowledgements to Emma Charvet

1957 MICHAEL JOHN STONE grew up in Dorset during the war years. His early memories included troops throwing sweets out of train windows and gliders filling the skies before D-Day. Schooled at Sherborne, where he entered the prep school aged five, he came up to Corpus after National Service in the Welsh Guards. He read the Modern Languages Tripos and graduated in 1960. In 1961 he met his wife-to-be, Sarah and the couple married two years later and settled down in Rome before moving to Genoa. 'Italians', he used to say, 'love life' and so did Michael. He followed their example and, fluent in their language, would, in Italian restaurants, be treated by the waiters almost as a compatriot. Spending his entire working life in the packaging industry, Michael, after returning to the UK, was based first near Glasgow, then in Ellesmere Port and finally in Devon. Each move involved the purchase of a large house in a rural location and not very good condition. Every spare minute was spent renovating the family's latest home. At the last of these, the Cider House at Buckland Monachorum, Michael and Sarah created a garden which brought visitors from the world over - including, frequently, Japan. He ran the local National Gardens scheme and was also involved in other local projects, including as a trustee for Morwhellam Quay. In their early 70s, Michael and Sarah left Devon and, moving closer to the family, bought an old Sussex farmhouse. There, in the last of their homes and lushly productive gardens, they continued their wonderful hospitality to family and friends. But Devon was drawing them back and late last year, as they were making plans for a final move, Sarah sadly died very suddenly. Michael did return to Devon but died a few months later on 28th March 2024. They are survived by three children, Richard, Emma and Susanna and nine grandchildren.





1958 GRAHAM GEORGE HAYWARD ERRATUM Peter Ryde (m.1957) has written: "Could I please draw your attention to an apparent discrepancy on page 141 of *The Record*? In the obituary of Graham Hayward, you say that he died in February 2023 at the age of 79. Having been born in 1938 he would have been 79 in 2017 and must have been in his mid-80s by 2023. Though we lost touch later, we were friends when at Corpus so I read his obituary with particular interest and regret, otherwise I should probably not have noticed the mistake."



1959 ANDREW LUMSDEN was born on 5 August 1941 in Herne Hill, London and educated at Furzedown Preparatory School and Lancing College before coming up to Corpus to study English. After graduation, he lived in a commune in Notting Hill and became an assistant on BBC TV's Fanny Cradock cookery programmes, before going into journalism working for numerous publications including *The Times*, *New Statesman* and *Management Today*. However, it is for his activism that he is most widely remembered. From the early 1970s Andrew was a prominent member of the Gay Liberation Front, co-founding the fortnightly Gay News in 1971. After he left Gay News Andrew wrote for Petroleum Economist but returned as news editor in 1981, and then for a year as editor. The paper had survived prosecutions for obscenity and blasphemous libel, but finally closed when a new owner was unable to support its finances; Andrew and Gillian Hanscombe told its story in Title Fight: The Battle for Gay News (1983). Andrew helped to organise London's first Gay Pride march in London. This took place on 1 July 1972 to coincide with the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. That first Pride march attracted approximately 200 participants, whereas today London Pride is thought to attract over one million visitors each year.

In 2019 on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, Andrew published *Rainbow Planet*, a book that was written as an "Open Letter from Gay Liberation Front for Pride in London" and was given out for free at the London Pride march. Andrew had helped set up *Gay News* to give the LGBTQ+ community its own publication with a national reach that included articles the mainstream media were unwilling to publish; at its height it had a circulation of almost 20,000.

In his later years, Andrew worked for Queer Tours of London as well as writing on Henry Labouchere, the MP remembered for his part in Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, which made "gross indecency" a crime in Britain. This law was often used to prosecute homosexual men when sodomy itself could not be proven and under which both Oscar Wilde and Alan Turing were convicted. His first essay on Labouchere entitled, "We are born" was published online in 2022 and was intended to be the first offour, but unfortunately Andrew's untimely death appears to have prevented this.

I first met Andrew four months before his death. He had received a phone call as part of the Development and Alumni Relations Office's annual telephone campaign and expressed an interest in wanting to know about what Corpus was doing in relation to LGBTQ+ initiatives. I was able to explain to him the forming of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team in 2022 and how we were about to hold our second Pride Event and Pride Formal, the event featuring four speakers

providing an overview of their LGBTQ+ related research. Andrew was enthusiastic to attend, and it was a delight to have him in our audience and as a guest at High Table; I suspect few around them in the lecture theatre realised quite what impact Andrew had had on pushing for LGBTQ+ rights within the UK and beyond. In following up with Andrew after the event, he wrote, "I was fascinated by the four talks, and startled by the range of subjects you found. Even if everything else is gloomy for students in '23 they're lucky in you for their champion." I would like to think that in providing a platform for researchers to discuss their LGBTQ+ research, from discussing how queer voices are changing our thinking about the Arctic and Antarctic regions (Leah Palmer 2023) to Canada's Cold War "fruit machine" homosexuality test (Leah Madelaine Schmidt 2024) that Corpus is providing provocative food for thought just as Andrew did throughout his career.

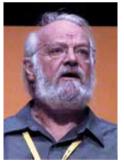
Andrew Lumsden, activist, journalist and writer, died aged 82 on 31 October 2023. He is survived by his partner of 17 years, Stephen Clissold, and by his brother, Quentin. Another brother, David, predeceased him.

Professor Ewan St. John Smith, LGBTQ+ Champion

1959 MICHAEL STEED was born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1940, the son of Margaret (née Cloke) and Norman Steed, a farmer; he was the eldest of two boys and four girls. Michael was educated at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate, before matriculating into Corpus in 1959; the following year he was banned from entering South Africa where he was attempting to deliver food aid to victims of the Sharpeville shootings. In 1960 he was elected president of the national organisation for Liberal students. At Corpus he read the Economics Tripos in his first year, then switched to the Geography Tripos. After graduation, Michael went to Oxford to undertake postgraduate research under David Butler and in 1966 became a lecturer in government at Manchester University, where he remained until taking early retirement through ill health. As a psephologist, he was a specialist in the analysis of election results from a sociological point of view. In the late-1960s and throughout the 1970s he appeared regularly on election night broadcasts, often at the side of Robert McKenzie who popularised the "swingometer" based on David Butlers concept of swing. He developed a more complex formula for calculating swing, known in the trade as "Steed swing" to differentiate it from "Butler swing".

From 1964 to 2005 Michael, latterly in conjunction with Professor John Curtice, was responsible for the statistical analysis in David Butler's regular Nuffield election studies entitled *The British General Election of...* From his undergraduate days, Michael was a leading member of the "radical" wing of the Liberal Party which in the late-1960s and 70s found itself at odds with the parliamentary party and then-leader Jeremy Thorpe and was a contributor to the radical monthly *New Outlook*. For a time, he was national vice-chairman of the Young Liberals and later an elected member of the Liberal Party's national executive. Michael Steed was an ardent pro-European and in 1969 advocated a common European currency and, at the 1971 Liberal Assembly, he argued national sovereignty would "die away as a European democracy of widely diffused power was created and exercised at all levels" in "a close political union of the people of Europe".





Michael Steed sought wide-ranging constitutional reform, including devolution, with elected regional governments, proportional representation and the abolition of a prime minister's right to dissolve Parliament; this was achieved in 2011 only to be repealed in 2022. In all he stood as the Liberal Party candidate in eight national and European elections without success. In 1976, Steed designed the new system for the election of the leader of the Liberal Party and was elected president of the Liberal Party 1978 and 79. In 1975 he co-founded Northern Democrat, a magazine calling for democratic regional government which developed into the Campaign for the North. This all-party group, with Steed as chairman and funding from the Rowntree Trust, campaigned for devolution in the English regions as well as Scotland and Wales. In 1970 he had married a Swedish Young Liberal, Margareta Holmstedt, and settled in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, but after they separated in 1990 (they divorced in 2004), he found it difficult to cope with the hilly terrain there and returned to Kent, settling in Canterbury. In 1999 he met Barry Clements, a master carpenter. They became partners and were joined in a civil partnership earlier this year. Barry survives him, as do his sisters Corinne, Sarah, Sue, Frances, and his brother David. Michael Steed died on 3 September 2023 aged 83. Acknowledgements to the Guardian



1960 NICHOLAS HARE has died, aged 81. Carol Lelliott in her obituary for the *RIBA Journal* wrote:

"Nick came late to architecture having studied natural sciences and English at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, where, years later, he was to be the architect for the Beldam Building and the McCrum Lecture Theatre. Before uprooting his young family to take up his place at the Liverpool School of Architecture he had worked as a *TLS* sub-editor and for Jarrold's, the printers. This love of the precisely expressed word never deserted him and informed the articulacy of his design.

So too did his science background, and his first architectural job was for the multi-disciplinary practice, Arup Associates. He admired its rational approach to design and especially enjoyed working alongside engineers. Many became lifelong friends. He took this delight in construction to his students at the Department of Architecture in Cambridge. Nick was a gifted teacher able to develop the best in all who worked with him. His ability to identify the key issue in a problematic design served him well as teacher and critic. He spent 17 years as consultant architect to the University of Essex and acted as external examiner at many architecture schools. His favourite was the Caribbean School, where he enjoyed the cigars as much as the student work.

Nick started Nicholas Hare Architects (NHA) from the attic of his Highbury house and his first public success was the design for the Paris Opera Bastille. Although it didn't win, it was the only British practice to be shortlisted and the publicity put it on the map and the prize money allowed it to relocate. Although we missed tea around the kitchen table, a business address and a growing reputation meant more client commissions. Sophie, Nick's wife, became the heart of the admin team and the NHA extended family. That culture never changed.

Subsequently, the practice was shortlisted for the redevelopment of Covent Garden but its first significant arts building was the Brunei Gallery for SOAS.

Creating a tree-lined pedestrian thoroughfare and constructing a gallery for Islamic art alongside extensive teaching facilities in the heart of Georgian London, the project was both demanding and controversial. Its challenges enabled Nick to develop his personal architectural philosophy.

He was always sensitive to a project's context, both physically, but also emotionally in the aspirations of the client. He was an early champion of passive design with a particular fascination for natural light. Expressing the nature of materials, like the massive external brickwork walls and flat arches of the SOAS gallery's brick and concrete vaults, was a key design driver. He advocated exploring the design in the imagination to achieve an intuitive spatial clarity and sensory delight, calling this the importance of orientation. Critics often found it difficult to identify an NHA style because projects appeared quite different but all shared these fundamental principles.

Nick believed good architects could and should tackle any project, always encouraging us to think from first principles. He favoured a curious and continually challenging approach founded upon close client consultation that produced innovative and exciting architecture. This approach dovetailed with the aspirations of the Blair government's Building Schools for the Future programme, and ironically led to NHA becoming education specialists. His fascination for structures, sustainability and natural light was celebrated in the design of a new production workshop for the Royal Opera House at Thurrock. A vaulted, greenroofed structure spans a light filled shed enabling the construction of fully assembled scenery. 'Dedicated to light and the craft of making', said the RIBA Awards judges, but the same could have been said about the architect.

Nick retired in 2018 after more than 40 years leading NHA. Still brimming with enthusiasm, he set about a new career experimenting with large-scale sculpture."

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1960 Professor CHARLES LESLIE MURISON was born in Scotland in 1938, the eldest of four boys. He came to Corpus in 1960 to study the Classical Tripos and soon after met his future wife Barbara, another undergraduate in her early days at the university. On graduation in 1963 they were married and went to the University of Edinburgh where Leslie undertook a PhD and then emigrated to Canada. His great passion for ancient history became his career, and he joined the Classical Studies Department at Western University where he remained for the rest of his academic life; he continued teaching for over fifty years, delivering his final class in 2019 on one of his favourite topics, Alexander the Great. Although Leslie was dedicated to his work, he will be remembered by those who loved him for his intelligence, kindness, warmth of personality and always present sense of humour. Among his publications were Suetonius: Galba, Otho, and Vitellius (1992); Galba, Otho and Vitellius: Careers and Controversies (1993) and Rebellion and Reconstruction: Galba to Domitian. An Historical Commentary on Cassius Dio's Roman History Books 64-67 (A.D. 68-96) (1999). Leslie Murison died at University Hospital, London, Ontario, Canada on 22 August 2023 in his 86th year; his wife, Barbara Cresswell Murison, having predeceased him. Leslie and Barbara had two sons and four grandchildren.

Acknowledgments to The London Free Press

1961 Professor HIROSHI SUGINOME a Japanese chemist, educator and researcher was born on 12 October 1930 in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, the son of Harusada and Katsuko Suginome. In 1953 he took a Bachelor of Science degree at Hokkaido University, Sapporo from where, in 1961, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science. That same year he came to Corpus as a graduate student and was an early resident at Leckhampton House. He was the holder of the Ramsay Memorial Fellowship at Cambridge University and used it to undertake research for a chemistry PhD, which was awarded in 1964. On completing his Cambridge studies, he spent a year as a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His academic career at Hokkaido University had begun in 1957 when he was appointed a science instructor, however, on his return from Cambridge and MIT he became an associate professor and in 1980 professor of engineering (professor emeritus 1994). He was also, from 1993, chief director, of the Suginome Memorial Foundation. He was a member (and for a time chairman) of The Hokkaido Japan-British Society; of The Japan Photochemistry Association; The Royal Society of Chemistry; The Chemical Society of Japan; The Sapporo Rotary Club and The Japanese Alpine Club. Hiroshi was married to Yasuko Konoe and the couple had two children, Michinori and Jun. Of the time he spent at Corpus and Cambridge his widow has written "He was very proud of being a Corpus man. He often reminisced about the days he spent at Fanshaw House, Leckhampton House and University Chemical Laboratory at Lensfield Road". Professor Horishi Suginome died on 4 December 2023 aged 93.

1961 DAVID CHRISTOPHER LIPSCOMB died in December 2023. He came up to Corpus to read Modern Languages in 1961 and played a significant part in the Cambridge theatrical scene, acting both in college and university drama and becoming a prominent member of the Footlights in a vintage era. On graduating in 1964 he joined the New Zealand Shipping Company but later worked for the Greater London Council and, when this was abolished, joined the Ealing Health Authority. Throughout his life he was a keen cook, enthusiastic fly fisherman and accomplished painter in watercolours.

Christopher Sandars (m.1961)



1961 JEREMY BERKOFF who died just before his 80th birthday in March 2024 came to Corpus in 1961 to read the Archaeology and Anthropology Tripos, then changed to the Economics Tripos. His earlier gap year in Borneo had a major influence on his interests and led to his career as an international development economist, working in thirty-seven countries. After Cambridge, Jeremy worked first at the Economist Intelligence Unit and then the Ministry of Overseas Development. He was fascinated by other cultures and later joined Hunting Technical Services, an economic consultancy, with projects around the world from Indonesia to Brazil. He moved to the World Bank in Washington, working for seventeen years as a water economist on projects in China and other countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. This included three years based in India to improve irrigation – which he considered as one of his most creative studies. This he noted in his memoir *Incidents in the Life of a Development Economist*

(2012). Back in the UK as an independent consultant, he became chairman of the International Consulting Economists' Association. Jeremy was deeply honest with intellectual integrity and tenaciously held opinions – not always welcomed by colleagues! – but always with a sense of humour and ever good company. He had an impressive breadth of knowledge, particularly of history and current affairs. He was chairman of the Hampstead and North-West London Branch of the Historical Association and member of a book group with friends – and an entertaining debater on every topic from the risks of Chinese surveillance to money laundering in London. He never married but had a huge range of friends around the world. His funeral service was attended by several Corpus friends: Chris Sandars, David Lipscomb, John Smith, Patrick Grattan, Andrew Large, Cedric Parish – along with others unable to attend who watched remotely including Mike Thorn and Chris Bull. Robert Foster gave the tribute.

Acknowledgments to Robert Foster (m.1961)

1962 JAMES LATHAM HURLSTONE HEESOM was born in 1943 the son of Dudley Stone Heesom. James came to Corpus in 1962 to read the Architecture Tripos and after graduation went into practice in Stamford, Lincolnshire. He was married to Helene Elizabeth Heesom and the couple had three children. James died in 2023 aged 80.

1962 ROBERT ANTHONY NIGEL HENLEY was born in Canada on 23 August 1942 the son of Commander Robert Stephen Henley RN and Kathleen Margarita (née Baines). Nigel was educated at Mount Kelly College, Devon and matriculated into Corpus in 1962 where he read the Economics and the Law Triposes. He married Celia in 1968 and the couple had a son and two daughters. This marriage ended, and in 1988 he married Anne; they had a son and a daughter. After a career in financial leasing, Nigel and Anne lived in Lymington, Hants. He died peacefully on 27 September 2023 aged 81.

1964 LAWRENCE (Laurie) FRANCIS DOOLAN who was born on 11 July 1945 and came to Corpus to read the Law Tripos died on 11 November 2023. During his working life he served at Air New Zealand as General Manager, Corporate Affairs. In an online obituary he was described as "a leader, colleague, advisor, corporate director, philanthropist, community man and dear friend to many." Laurie was married to Sue and the couple had two children and two grandchildren. He lived in Auckland, New Zealand for many years.

1968 Professor IVAN BODIS-WOLLNER MD DSc having enjoyed a child-hood of privilege and formality Ivan Wollner was described as a man with one foot in the 21st century world of science and the other in the 19th century world of central European decorum. His mother's family had been granted a title of nobility by Emperor Franz Joseph II in recognition of its contribution to the welfare and cultural life of the city of Szeged in southern Hungary, where Ivan was born in 1937. However, his childhood ended abruptly in 1944 when, aged seven, the Nazis sent him and his family to Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp.



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

This nightmare ended on 13 April 1945 when the family, having survived starvation and on a train crammed with 2,500 Bergen Belsen prisoners, halted in a German forest and was spotted by the 743rd US Tank Battalion on its way to fight one of the last battles of the 2nd World War. The unit left two tank commanders and crew with orders to find food, shelter, and medical care for the prisoners. The family eventually travelled back to Szeged on top of a coal-filled goods wagon only to find their grand home, built by Ivan's great grandfather, carved up into apartments, occupied by strangers. A decade later Ivan was actively involved in the 1956 Hungarian revolution and compelled to escape from his native land.

In 1965 Ivan took his MD at the University of Vienna and two years later received a one-year scholarship to Cambridge University to study visual physiology in John Robson's laboratory; a move that set him up for a scientific career. He was an early resident at Leckhampton House and his time there was not all work. Ivan, who had grown up as a rower (in Szeged, his family home was across from the Tisza River, where his family kept a kayak), joined the Boat Club and was thrilled to become a member of a real rowing team.

After his year at Leckhampton, friend, Corpus Fellow and psychologist Professor Richard Gregory (m.1962) asked Ivan to join him at the University of Edinburgh where he, Professor Christopher Longuet-Higgins (another Corpus Fellow (m.1954)) and Donald Michie (from Oxford) had created the Department of Machine Intelligence and Perception whose work was at the forefront of research to advance AI long before most imagined its broad applications. In 1970 Ivan, armed with cutting-edge knowledge of visual processes and cognition, left England for the US where he completed a residency in neurology at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and started his own laboratory. He went on to become professor of Neurology at Mount Sinai and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, co-director of the Parkinson Disease Center at Mount Sinai and Director of the Parkinson Disease Center of Excellence at SUNY Downstate.

His research in basic science and visual processing, especially in relation to Parkinson's Disease, was instrumental to the understanding that disease and its affects not only movement but also cognition, emotions and other non-motor systems. Among the honors he received were the Humboldt Prize and the Doctor Honoris Causa from Szeged University. He was an elected member of the American Neurological Association (ANA), a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the Hanse Institute for Advanced Studies. Ivan published more than two hundred research studies in peer reviewed journals including Nature, Science, Journal of Physiology, Brain and Annals of Neurology. Neurologists who worked in Ivan's lab went on to become directors of Parkinson's Disease programs at Johns Hopkins, New York University, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. They include neurology chairpersons and faculty members at medical schools around the world. Ivan never forgot his time at Corpus and loved the traditions of Cambridge: his many conversations about European history with Patrick Bury, the Warden of Leckhampton; the pride and confidence that centuries of achievement imbued in the faculty; and the many dinners in tuxedo. Professor Ivan Bodis-Wollner passed away at his

home in Brooklyn Heights, New York on 28 June 2024 aged 87. His wife of fiftyone years Oli Westheimer has written of him: "His life was filled with science, medicine, his family and events beyond his control." Ivan is survived by his wife, his daughters, Mara and Stefanie Bodis-Wollner and his grandchildren.

Acknowledgements to Oli Westheimer and Roger Mears (m.1962).

1968 MICHAEL CHARLES CLEAVER the musician and composer was born in Leamington Spa and as a child took up the organ and trombone; he learnt to play the piano at the age of four. He matriculated into Corpus in 1968 where he read the Music Tripos. Corpus proved a congenial environment and one in which he could regularly hear performances of his own music. He subsequently went on to the London Opera Centre, which led to positions with opera houses in both Germany and Britain; he worked at English National Opera and Opera North. The core of his work was as a pianist and he played a wide range of music from cabaret to Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto. Concert and recording engagements included song, instrumental and he performed chamber music programmes in both Germany and Britain. He made his Wigmore Hall début in 1980 and appeared on television as a collaborative pianist in the Young Musician of the Year competition (for which he was also an adjudicator) and with the cellist Julian Lloyd-Webber. He toured with classical saxophonist Eugene Rousseau and was a featured soloist in the Orchestra of Opera North's recording of Constant Lambert's ballet music Tiresias. In 1999 Michael, together with colleagues from the English Northern Philharmonia, founded the chamber music group Arcturus, whose repertoire extends from Haydn, through the major classics, to several world premières. He also worked as a singing coach, plays recitals with many wellknown singers, and arranged music for various vocal and instrumental groups. Michael died of pneumonia (following sepsis) in St James's University Hospital, Leeds on 18 December 2023. He had been in seriously poor health for a good number of years. He is survived by his wife Sandra.



1970 Dr Jonathan Wolfe came to Corpus from Loughborough Grammar School to read the Natural Sciences Tripos and as an undergraduate met his future wife Amy at a Corpus party; they married in the Corpus chapel. On graduation Jonathan went to Oxford to undertake his DPhil in genetics and then went to University College, London where, according to his UCL biography, he was for 22 years a lecturer in Human Genetics, becoming a Reader in 1997. His major research interests were the structure of the human Y chromosome and the identification of genes (both Y chromosomal and autosomal) expressed in spermatogenesis, the development of molecular techniques for mapping the human genome band 9q34. This led firstly to some of the earliest megabase long autosomal DNA sequences in the early days of the human genome project and secondly to the identification of the gene TSC1, mutations in which cause the disease Tuberous Sclerosis. As well as teaching a range of human genetics courses to UCL science undergraduates, he was for ten years the principal teacher of basic medical genetics to the preclinical students of the Royal Free and UCL medical schools. He retired from UCL in 2006 and taught for some



years in secondary education. A very energetic man, Jonathan was, according to his friend Tim Jolliff, a smallholder, a beekeeper, gardener and a master at shepherding and looking after grandchildren. He had a passion for croquet which was divided into two, first at Cambridge where he learned and played the game with his friends. His 'stag do' was a memorable croquet tour with friends; the game was played in abundance as was the amounts of beer drunk. He returned to croquet in 2009 and became a stalwart of the advanced Taunton Croquet Club team. He reached a world ranking of 179, played in the Treasurer's Tankard and for Somerset. Dr Jonathan Wolfe passed away during the night of Saturday 25 May 2024 after a day's play at the AC inter-counties tournament.

Acknowledgements to Tim Jolliff and UCL



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

1974 RONALD HENRY JOSEPH GRAHAM was born in Kendal, Westmorland on 14 November 1951 the son of Shiela and Leslie Graham. He and his sister Wendy agreed they had inherited their keen sense of humour from their father, and the many tributes that poured in following his death refer not only to his intellect, integrity and caring nature but to his immense mentoring skills and sharp wit. He was educated at Kendal Grammar School, where he decided that he was not a sportsperson (his chosen sport, at which he excelled, was avoiding all sports), but he loved walking in the countryside and enjoyed following rugby, cricket and the failing fortunes of Carlisle United AFC. In his teens Ronald became an enthusiastic member of the Westmorland Youth Theatre, and whilst at Corpus took on the title role of Coriolanus with the Leckhampton Players. During the production, there was much swotting-up of lines for the next scene whilst in the wings and, unable to see without his glasses, the sword fight was also tricky, requiring some nifty avoidance manoeuvres by Aufidius. On seeing Ralph Fiennes as a brutal Coriolanus in London, Ronald observed that he (Fiennes) just "simply didn't have the feeling for the role".

Ronald's university career began with a one-year stint at Birmingham University before switching to read Jurisprudence at Merton College, Oxford. Having gained a "good second" degree he came to Corpus to take a Diploma in Criminology and, living in the George Thomson Building, he gained an abiding interest in exoskeleton structures, although he remained rueful at the University's reluctance to convert the Dip Crim to its current equivalent of an MPhil. Ronald took his solicitor final examinations in 1976 but a summer holiday working at the Wildfowl Trust, in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire led to a job offer and six years employment in aviculture and a Churchill Travelling Fellowship. It was whilst at the Trust that Ronald met Eileen who became his lifelong partner, and they delighted in taking holidays in far-flung parts of the world, including following ornithological symposia and workshops.

Ronald eventually returned to practise law, applying for articles at the Manchester law firm Alexander Tatham (which evolved into the global law firm Eversheds Sutherland). He remained at the firm until retirement in 2019. In the 1990s, as solicitors' practices became more specialised Ronald became a pensions specialist and the founding partner of the Eversheds Manchester pensions team. Under his leadership, it grew to become the leading group of pensions lawyers in Northwest England. During the early 2000s, he headed the firm's Employment and Pensions teams for its northern offices (in Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle).

On retiring from the Partnership in 2015, he spent four years as a consultant for Eversheds. In retirement he became Chair of the Pensions Board of the Derbyshire LGPS (local government pension scheme) Fund and independent trustee for other pension funds; he also took on various voluntary roles. In June 2022 Eileen was awarded an OBE in the birthday honours list and Ronald proudly attended the investiture at Buckingham Palace. His sudden untimely death occurred following a freak accident whilst he and Eileen were walking to some waterfalls in the Greater Caucasus mountain region of Georgia on 17 May 2023. It came as an immense shock and the news spread like wildfire. Messages from across the globe included these words from a friend in Iran who wrote that: "Ronald was a great man, very quiet and gentle".

1976 Professor REVEREND RODNEY (Rod) ALAN WHITACRE was born on 28 December 1949 the son of Charles and Leah (née Keller) Whitacre in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. He grew up in Richland, on the banks of the Columbia River in Southeastern Washington State. When a child, Rod was baptized in the Methodist Church and fell in love with the Bible. By the time he was in junior high school, he was active in a small inter-denominational mission and headed towards full-time ministry. In 1968, after graduating from Richland High School, Rod took a bachelor's degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts. In 1976 he took a Master of Theological Studies from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts. He came to Corpus in 1976 to study for a PhD, which he completed in 1980. He was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Cranmer Theological House, Dallas, Texas. Between 1981 and 1983 Rod was director of the New Testament Greek program at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts, before moving to Pennsylvania to become New Testament professor at Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge. He authored a commentary on the Gospel of John, along with several Greek textbooks and was a well-loved teacher, counsellor and mentor from 1983 until his retirement in 2015. After retirement, Rod continued to teach, sharing with students his love for the Word of God. Rod was an ordained priest in the Reformed Episcopal Church and for many years served as part-time assisting priest at Grace Anglican Church, Edgeworth, Sewickley, Pennsylvania, where he also led a monthly acoustic music Roots Jam. On 22 May 2023 Rod passed peacefully in his home with his loving family by his side. He was aged seventy-three. He is survived by Margaret (his wife of fifty years), two sons and four grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers.

Acknowledgements to Triblive Online Only

1983 CRISPIN WILLIAM RAPINET came to Corpus in 1983 and read the Modern Languages Tripos. He subsequently trained as a lawyer specialising as a white-collar crime, fraud and investigations. He had a thirty-five year career and was a partner with the law firm Hogan Lovells (and its predecessors), developing a practice in international cross-border fraud, bribery and corruption cases.



He acted in several celebrated cases including the collapse of BCCI Bank, the Lehman Brothers litigation (representing Standard Chartered Bank) and the multi-jurisdictional Nortel bankruptcy litigation (representing UK pension interests). Crispin led the firm's Asia and Middle East practice for eight years until 2013, having also spent five years in post-handover Hong Kong from 1998. He was a leader in pro bono work in Britain and Hong Kong, and was a supporter of social inclusion and responsible business work. His steadfast advice and guidance spanned legal advice, skills development and community volunteering. His interests ranged from supporting the North Islington Law Centre to the Hogan Lovell's school debating programme. He was also a trustee of St Luke's Community Centre in London, a trustee director of Youth Business International and sat on the board of several other initiatives. Crispin was married to Ruth and the couple had three children. Diagnosed with lung cancer, Crispin died in Malta on 24 June 2023 aged 59. As his family obituary observed "... having lived life to the full to the end. His warmth, humour and integrity will be missed by family, friends and colleagues."

Acknowledgements to The Global Legal Post and to Hogan Lovell



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE

1990 Dr Arthur Charles Williamson MA MPhil was born in New Cross, South London and baptised (coincidentally) at the Corpus Mission church in Bermondsey. He proved exceptionally bright but missed out on a scholarship to Dulwich College because his father's work moved them away. Like other men of his generation Arthur undertook National Service, in his case postings with Army Intelligence to the Middle East, Sudan, Eritrea and Cyprus and, in later life, as a member of the RAF Air Power Committee. He found work as a cartographer before joining the Kenya Police during the Mau Mau emergency. On his return to Britain he eventually headed up the graphic design department of an engineering firm. He met and married Mary; the couple had three children (Alexandra, Iain and Victoria) and settled in Blackheath. After retirement, Arthur took history diplomas at Birkbeck College then, in 1990, came to Corpus to read the Historical Tripos followed by an MPhil and a PhD in International Relations. Despite him being an older student, he threw himself into the life of the College; he rowed, trained as a glider pilot, was a member of Chapel, played cricket and even sang in a choir. His PhD focused on the role played by the RAF during the Malaya Emergency and remains the authoritative account of that subject. It is a testament to his work that experts were needed to examine it. His spent some time as the Defence Studies Research Fellow at the RAF Staff College, where he taught and made many lasting friendships, coauthoring the Dynamics of Air Power with his friend Air Commodore Andy Lambert. Arthur remained involved in teaching, whether summer schools at Madingley Hall, or filling in at the International Relations Department, or in American universities; he also lectured on cruises. Arthur remained gregarious until the end and a great debater on the issues of the day. He was analytic with a knack for seeing two steps ahead; there was always a thirst to know things and he'd always read something about everything. In 2017, at the age of eighty-seven, he married Sue in the Corpus Chapel. They had met during his lectures on board ship in 2008, and became fast friends before finally a loving couple. Sue cared for Arthur during the last year of his life with true care and love. The diagnosis of heart failure didn't slow Arthur down and off they went to Spain; he carried on receiving visitors and getting out when he could. In November 2023, he attended the Corpus Chapel for the War Memorial Service of Rededication. Although frail, he was alert and determined as ever and proudly wore his service medals. He died at home, which was for Arthur a place where he was surrounded by his books, by pictures from his travels, by crests that bore witness to the number of institutions of which he had been a part. Dr Arthur Williamson MPhil died aged ninety-four and both his funeral service and College memorial service were taken by the Reverend Dr Matthew Bullimore, the Corpus Chaplain.

Acknowledgements to Sue Williamson and Revd Dr Matthew Bullimore

Former Corpus porter **IAN FRANCIS** sadly died earlier in 2024 aged 65. Between 2015 and 2019 Ian was a popular and respected member of the Porters' Lodge team. Prior to his time at Corpus, Ian enjoyed a long career as a police constable with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and even after retirement gave specialist fraud-related training to British and foreign police forces. He was also a musician and played bass guitarist in the group Something for the Weekend.

PAULA FARMAN The College was saddened to learn of the death on New Year's Day 2024 of Paula Farman (née Bowyer). She was the widow of Dr Joe Farman CBE (m.1950), the distinguished geophysicist, Antarctic scholar and pioneer environmentalist. The couple met in 1959 and married in 1971. An Oxford history graduate, Paula enjoyed a career as a teacher. Joe Farman will always be remembered for his discovery (with others) of the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. He was a Corpus Fellow between 1989 and his death aged 83 in 2013.

Donor List 2023-2024

Thank you to all those who have made a gift to the College in the financial year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. You will find your name here unless you expressed a wish to remain anonymous. If you have made a gift after this date, we will include you in next year's list.

Key: † = Parents † = Deceased ♦ = Guild Fellow ♦ = Master's Circle

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Participation rate 1%

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2017

Participation rate 2%

Mr Francis Aznaran Mr Nathan Clark Mr Joseph Hunt Mr Daniel Ley

2018

Participation rate 1% Mr Dominic Bielby Miss Amy Williams

2019

Participation rate 2%
Mr Matthew Andrews
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Diana Heffer

We are incredibly grateful to all those who have pledged to leave a legacy gift to Corpus, many of whom are members of the 1352 Foundation Society.

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Endpiece

The Chapel Clock was installed in 1964 in memory of former Master Will Spens. It was built by the Morris Singer Co, a fine-art foundry that is still in existence. The Saffron Walden-based firm A. James Jewellers have cared for the clock for the last 40 years, and they carried out repairs in 2024.

