

pelican

The magazine of Corpus Christi College Cambridge



Dr Richard McMahon becomes President

Interview with Professor John Hatcher

Profile of Dr Shruti Kapila

50 years of Leckhampton



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Produced by Cameron Design & Marketing Ltd
01284 725292



Master's Introduction



The Corpus Development Team (on which more below) are delighted to offer you a bumper issue of the *Pelican*, with a varied and fascinating collection of articles and pictures. Continuing a feature of previous issues, we have some interesting articles about the teaching and research being done by our Fellows Drs Shruti Kapila, Andreea Weisl-Shaw and Sarah Fine in subjects where the College is particularly strong at present – history, medieval and modern languages, and social and political sciences. We are sure you will also enjoy reading the feature by Dr Richard McMahon, who takes over from Professor Christopher Andrew in January as President – the Fellow who chairs the Hospitality Committee and supervises all the arrangements for our important “set pieces”, such as College Feasts and Fellows’ Guest Nights, and other events where the College’s public face is to be seen.

The Fellowship has seen major changes this year (details in the *Corpus Association Letter*, also soon to be circulated). I am glad that this *Pelican* features an interview with one of those moving to the Life Fellowship, Professor John Hatcher. His latest book, on the Black Death, caught the attention of a wide readership; and in his continued activity he demonstrates the truth (as do our other Life Fellows) that in academic circles real retirement is virtually unknown!

I hope you will enjoy the article on the opening of the Prairie Garden at Leckhampton. On that occasion we were able to express our thanks not only to our garden staff, who do such a wonderful job keeping the Old House and the Leckhampton sites both pretty and spotless, but also to Tom Stuart-Smith (m1978) who gave much time and effort to design and produce the Prairie Garden. It enables us to give an extra focus to Leckhampton, where we are hoping (subject to planning permission) to construct a new building to provide better accommodation for Corpus postgraduate students – in place of rooms in various houses nearby. This is an exciting development, and will greatly enhance our postgraduate accommodation provision.

This issue also contains a supplement on the Development programme, with a list of donors over the past year. In it you can see how your gifts have been spent, and how we are building up the Alumni Fund in order to leave the College in a good state for future generations, and to provide support for students in need – something which will become even more important in the new climate of higher fees. I take this opportunity to congratulate our Development Team for their excellent work, to thank Latona Forder-Stent who left in July for her contribution over 9 years at Corpus, and to welcome Francesca Watson who took Latona’s place in October.

Stuart Laing



Dr Shruti Kapila

by Meredith Whitton (m2007)

DR SHRUTI KAPILA WAS APPOINTED UNIVERSITY LECTURER IN MODERN HISTORY IN 2007 AND CHOSE CORPUS AS HER BASE. WHEN ASKED WHY SHE CHOSE CORPUS, SHE RESPONDS THAT HER DECISION WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE COLLEGE'S EXISTING STRENGTH IN TEACHING HISTORY TO UNDERGRADUATES AND POSTGRADUATES.

Since her arrival in Corpus Dr Kapila has had a tremendous impact on the history students' performance. The Part II History candidates of 2010 obtained four firsts; the Part I candidates one; and one first was obtained in Part II Prelims. All Part II students achieved a 2.i minimum. This has been the College's strongest performance in history in years.

Dr Kapila fostered an atmosphere of intellectual vibrancy, by encouraging the exchange of ideas and thoughts at gatherings where students were invited to discuss key texts, such as Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. She supported the College's History Society, which began regularly hosting guest lectures once again throughout the term. At one event, the College hosted a panel of historians, featuring Shruti and the Regius Professor of History Richard Evans to discuss 'Violence and Historical Change'.

Shruti took her first degree in Chandigarh, the first planned city in India. The city is internationally known for its architecture and urban planning, and Shruti takes great pride in studying in a place she characterises as 'post-colonial', a term that she would apply to herself. During her BA she majored in History, Psychology, and Politics, and topped the university in her final exams. She then completed an MA at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi where she focused on modern history. It was here, she explains, that she was truly inspired by history. The teaching was similar to that provided at Oxford and Cambridge; small classes and tutorials provided the staple teaching.

After completing her MA Shruti did not initially apply for PhD research. Instead, she worked in the world of journalism for over a year, and believes that the skills acquired at JNU provided a basis for her observations of society and politics. After working in journalism for a year and half, she decided to begin PhD research and did so at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. Before arriving in Corpus, Shruti held posts at Oxford University and Tufts University in the US. Shruti Kapila can be seen as an embodiment of a contemporary global culture - she has lived in three different continents and does not see herself as being uniquely from one place. →





Dr Kapila has multiple bases in Cambridge: the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) where she is a current Fellow, the Centre for South Asian Studies, the History Faculty, and Corpus itself. CRASSH is the major humanities centre in Cambridge, and her research project for her Fellowship there is entitled *Terror and Territory: Twentieth Century's First Terrorist?* The project explores the life of Har Dayal - (1884-1938) – an academic and intellectual who was also a key organiser of the 'Ghadar' (Mutiny) Movement in 1912, an armed revolution against the British Empire which had at least five thousand members. The project will also explore the role of terror as a 'targeted economy of violence' that has been 'constitutive of the twentieth century world order'. Her work on Har Dayal will look at a figure whose life story, she argues, has been 'neglected' because 'modern history has been effectively strait-jacketed' by 'the narratives of nation and empire'. Modern history, Shruti notes, tends to be contained within the nation.

Shruti continues to research political modernity in India and how it came to be and has looked at ideological innovators, such as Gandhi. The questions like 'what is it to be modern' are central to her research. She is also deeply interested in the role of intangibles – such as ideas be it science or political ideology – that can still have a profound impact, for example the ideas that fashioned anti-imperialism. Her research thus far has covered the politics of violence (and terror) and the politics of territoriality (nationality). She has a key interest in examining the role of violence in political transformation. Shruti Kapila teaches the history of empires and global history in the Historical Tripos. Her focus is on the

twentieth century, but she also teaches world history from the late eighteenth century to the present day. She has researched the relationship between science and religion in the context of Empire and India (psychological sciences) and the new form of selfhood. She is also heavily involved in the teaching of the newly created MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies. The MPhil focuses on the significance of India in the contemporary and historical world.

Her latest publication, a special issue of the journal *Modern Intellectual History* entitled *The Bhagavad Gita and Modern Thought* (co-edited with Oxford's Faisal Devji) explores the *Bhagavad Gita*, 'arguably the most influential non-Western philosophical text in Asia and across the wider world during the last two hundred years'. The *Gita* holds a place in Indian thought comparable to Machiavelli's *Prince* or Hobbes' *Leviathan*. *The Bhagavad Gita* takes the form of a dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna before an apocalyptic battle. Arjuna wonders at the senselessness of war that requires the countless killing. It is a source of thinking about modern politics as well as the ethics of war. According to Kapila, the *Gita* 'allowed Indians to think of politics beyond and after the imperialism'. The resonance of current global political culture is also explored.

Dr Shruti Kapila's edited Special Issue of the Modern Intellectual History journal, 'Politics in Action: Bhagavad Gita and Modern Thought', was published in August 2010 and An Intellectual History for India (CUP) was published in May 2010.

Meredith Whitton graduated in History from Corpus in June of this year. She is now studying for an MA in Medieval History at King's College, London.



Interview with Professor John Hatcher

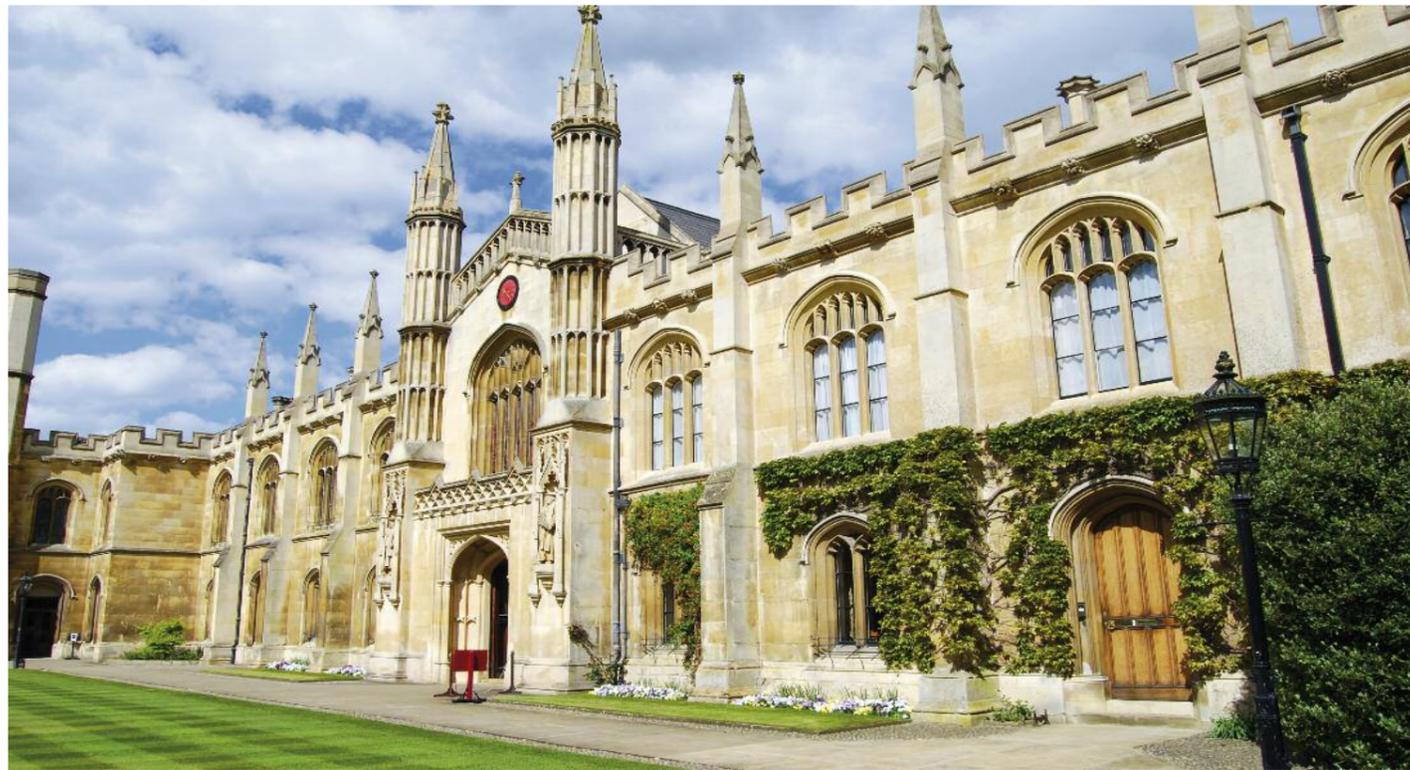
by Dr Simon Heffer (m1979)

WHEN PROFESSOR JOHN HATCHER AND I WERE FIXING UP A TIME TO HAVE THIS INTERVIEW, MARKING HIS RETIREMENT AND HIS BECOMING A LIFE FELLOW, HE WARNED ME 'MY CAREER GOT OFF TO AN UNCONVENTIONAL START'.

It sounded intriguing. 'I was born in Islington, off the Essex Road, and went to Owen's, which was then the top grammar school in the area,' he told me when we met in his rooms in New Court a few days later. 'I had a highly academic education there. I don't want to go on about the grammar schools, but I believe that in those days there was far more social mobility than has ever been the case since. The problem was that the rest of the system didn't work very well: but that was no reason to pull the grammar schools down.'

Professor Hatcher came from a typical London working-class background – his mother was a school dinner lady and his father a cleaner at the Bank of England. Even at primary school he was impressing his teachers with his range of intellectual pursuits. 'One of my early interests was Tibet – because it was so unusual and so different – and then Africa. I remember writing an essay at primary school on the dark continent. This created quite a stir.'





'IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND I SUPPOSE I REBELLED AGAINST THAT. I PARTICULARLY COULDN'T SEE THAT LATIN WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO – I SEE THE POINT OF IT NOW! I DIDN'T FIND SCIENCES PARTICULARLY EASY, I CERTAINLY WAS MUCH BETTER AT THE ARTS SIDE.'

Still, the road from Islington to Corpus was not, in the immediate post-war period, inevitably a smooth one, even for a bright boy. 'My mother wasn't at all academic but was very supportive. My father wasn't supportive at all. I learned subsequently that he had won a scholarship to a good school but his stepmother hadn't allowed him to take it up. He was the eldest child and he needed to go out and earn money: so he harboured quite a deep resentment and had a rather unsuccessful life. He died young, when I was 17.'

Like many of the intellectually curious, he became a voracious reader and haunter of libraries. 'Owen's had a good library, and I used to frequent the Islington public libraries too and dig things out.' Yet his transition to grammar school was not a smooth path upwards either. 'Owen's had streaming. I started off in the A form and ended up in the C form by the time I was 14. I played a lot of sport. I think I wasn't fulfilling my potential, and they did this to pull me up sharply. It did jolt me into working. I took my GCEs from the C stream and got exceptional results, so it worked.'

He did history, economics and English A levels. 'I won the English prize when I left school, but didn't win the history prize. I think I was picked out by a range of teachers as someone of promise – but there were a number of boys like that. Economic history was a big interest to me at school.' This interest would be the key to his later academic career.

The death of his father when John was in the first year of the sixth form changed his prospects. Instead of going to university, which had been the plan, he decided he had to earn a living. 'I went out to work when I left Owen's and did a part-time BSc (Econ), then went full-time for my PhD. I had applied to a number of universities, but I had to go out to work. My father left debts, there wasn't much money around, and so I turned the place I had at LSE into a part-time course.'

This ushered in the unconventional period in the career of the medieval historian. 'I got a job at HJ Heinz at Harlesden, in the office. I was supporting the sales team and dealing with customers when deliveries had gone wrong, and adding up

the sales that had been made in each region. It was quite a responsible job. I remember having to re-plan the calls that salesmen made in the course of a month, equalizing workloads and re-drawing boundaries.'

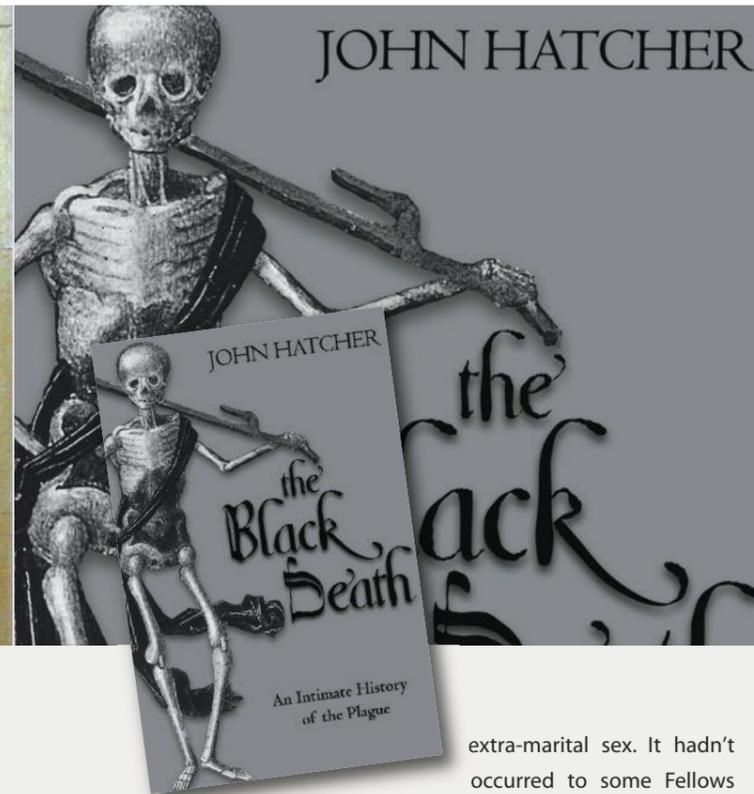
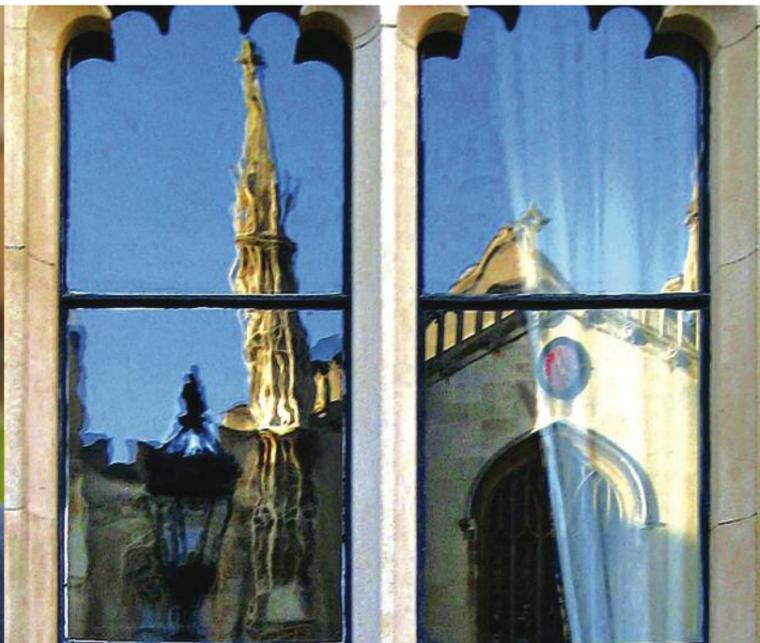
His degree at the LSE took four years rather than three, helped by Heinz giving him day-release one day a week during term time. 'I then worked for J and J Colman, the mustard people, as a salesman, and found I had more time. I'd seen sales from the other side working at Heinz, and Heinz, being American, was way ahead of Colman's. This was in the early 1960s when supermarkets were coming in. I remember at the interview with Colman's I was almost promoted immediately because they asked me how to sell into a supermarket. I told them you wouldn't sell into a supermarket; you just make sure your products are prominently displayed and the supermarket sells them for you. I was immediately put in charge of south London supermarket sales. It was an early example of something I have worked on since, which is the transfer of technology', he says with a chuckle.

Given he did well in commerce, did he think of staying there? 'I think all the time I was working to be an academic, and to do a PhD if I got a good enough degree. I thought fairly early on at the LSE I could get a first and get funding for a PhD: I started in 1964. In those days there was no question you wouldn't get your grant. There was government money waiting for you.' It was probably as well he left as he didn't always fit in at

Colman's. He hadn't joined in the company practice of salesmen fiddling their expenses – his petrol claims were sent back to him because they were too low – so perhaps he wasn't really cut out for it.

'I knew I wanted to cover the medieval field,' he says, 'and I found some excellent documentation on the Duchy of Cornwall. It hadn't been spotted that the archive was split between the Public Records Office and the Duchy office. When you put the two together it was a splendid run of records, and the Duchy had only just let in researchers to its archives. I'd done medieval history at A level as one of my three topics. I enjoyed the medieval work most of all and it was quite exciting – there was a lot of new work waiting to be done in economic and social history, and this became even more apparent once I set about doing my PhD. This was the time when the Marxists had got into the medieval period and it looked to be crucial for a lot of theoretical arguments, so it was an exciting subject at that time.'

Professor Hatcher does not come across as one of nature's Marxists, so I asked him whether he had found this intellectual climate difficult. 'Not at all. I remember (Sir Michael) Postan (the Professor of Economic History at Cambridge in the 1960s) saying to me that he was grateful for the Marxists because at least they were intellectuals – he had contempt for historians who just accumulated little bodies of facts and didn't interpret them, or said it was impossible to interpret them.'



I didn't think they were putting forward convincing arguments, but I think the intellectual framework, and the fact that they were dealing with ideas and processes was something I gravitated towards.'

He completed his PhD on Rural Society and Economy in the Duchy of Cornwall, and went to Kent University for seven years. 'Jobs were ten a penny then. It was a time of immense government stupidity towards higher education. All higher education institutions were expanding at the time and drawing on the existing pool of PhDs: the sector doubled in size in three or five years. When I was appointed I told the dean of the faculty that I didn't think there was anything on their syllabus that I could really teach. He asked me what I'd like to teach and I said 'medieval economic and social history'. 'All right,' he said, 'start it up.'

IN 1976 HE CAME TO CORPUS. HE HAD BEEN HAPPY AT KENT BUT 'I THINK THE OFFER WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T TURN DOWN. I HAD ALWAYS HAD AT THE BACK OF MY MIND BEING A LECTURER AT OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE, AND CAMBRIDGE SUITED ME BETTER BECAUSE OF THE COURSE'S EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY.'

How was Corpus in those days? 'It was quite a shock. The Fellowship was pretty elderly and extremely eccentric. It was

friendly and eccentric at the same time – John Harley Mason, Donald McKinnon, Theodore Boorman, Garth Moore. It had recently expanded with Leckhampton, and new Fellows had to have standing to be elected, so were all at least in their mid-40s. 'Sir Duncan Wilson had recently become Master, and his formidable wife had signaled her intention to dine on high table. 'This caused Charles Smyth – another great eccentric – and Garth Moore to write to the Master and tell him to observe the proprieties and keep his wife in the Lodge. So I think Sir Duncan had a difficult first year.'

The Fellowship of the time had even more significant matters to consider than the wishes of Lady Wilson, but of a related nature – the admission of women. 'The Fellowship as a whole didn't want to admit women, but we were caught out by the speed of change. Large numbers of colleges did admit them in the late 1970s, so there was an excess of places for women, and we went through this stage of not really discussing it or raising the issue. We ended up admitting them quite quickly and after a number of short debates just after Michael McCrum became Master. I'm not sure he was strongly in favour of it at that precise time, but he was when we did it because our academic standards started to plummet. One Fellow – Geoffrey Woodhead – resigned, but others just got on with it and made the best of it.'

Professor Hatcher has fonder memories of discussions among the governing body about guest hours. 'There were remarkable debates about women being allowed to be in rooms after 11pm – endless discussions. Graham Routledge and Donald McKinnon clashed on the biblical authorities for

extra-marital sex. It hadn't occurred to some Fellows that you didn't only have to have sex at night, and others were concerned about the plumbing problems of having too many women in the College.'

Professor Hatcher got his Chair in 1995. 'It was an odd period in Cambridge – the history faculty didn't promote people. When I arrived Maurice Cowling was the only reader in the faculty and Geoffrey Elton had the only personal chair. There were no promotions for seven years, and I got one of the first promotions, to be a reader. Other faculties promoted, but Geoffrey Elton vetoed all other promotions.' This had the inevitable effect of driving out some of the most talented younger historians – David Cannadine, Simon Schama and Richard Overby all left. 'It was relative deprivation, though', says Professor Hatcher. 'We were all in the same boat. But even though I was not being promoted I could continue to write and teach and get involved in college administration, which is one of the great strengths of Cambridge.'

Two years ago he received widespread acclaim inside academia and outside it for his semi-fictionalised, but historically precise, study of the Black Death. 'I wasn't conscious that there'd been anything like it – particularly inventing dialogue of ordinary people. It became extremely slow and difficult to write because in doing something like that you have to create a complete picture of life. I hadn't thought about the fact that the plague is in London in November and doesn't come to Suffolk or Cambridge until

Easter – what happens to movement of goods and people between those times? There's no information. There is some evidence of disruption as market tolls collapsed, but it was very difficult to find out what people would have heard and when they would have heard. I realised I only knew what other historians knew: there were records that had to be re-interpreted. That slowed me down.'

He is currently working on what he describes as a 'technical article on living standards over time, saying we've got it wrong, including me. We've been guilty of a gross inflation of living standards in the late middle ages. Food was cheap, wages were high, and if you take a daily wage rate and look at the price of grain, you see why Adam Smith and Malthus said it was a stain on the times they lived in that 15th century labourers appeared better off than those in the 18th century. However, there wasn't continuity of employment in the 15th century. In the winter a labourer was lucky if he could get the odd day's work digging a ditch, at a penny ha'penny a day.'

The change in his life of having to step down is a little strange for him. 'I suppose the thing that faces me at the moment is retirement. It seems funny to be retiring, especially when the Government is abolishing the statutory retirement age. I did find it odd in Stanford [where he recently spent a sabbatical year] when I had nothing to do but research: when you have other things to do, you make the most of your research time.' He indicates that there will be fresh challenges and things to occupy him, inside and outside historical research: it is certainly not a book closing for him, but a new chapter opening.

A portrait of Dr Richard McMahon, a middle-aged man with short, wavy grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue striped shirt, and a dark blue tie with a repeating paisley pattern. He is looking slightly to his right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a warm, textured wall.

Corpus's new President

Dr Richard McMahon

Director of Studies in Engineering

WHEN MICHAEL MCCRUM OFFERED ME O4 OLD COURT, THE THEN PRESIDENT'S SET, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AFTER THE DEATH OF SIR BARRY CROSS, IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME THAT NOT ONLY WOULD I HAVE O4 FOR LONGER THAN ENVISAGED, AS SUBSEQUENT PRESIDENTS PREFERRED THEIR EXISTING ROOMS, BUT ALSO THAT I WOULD ONE DAY BE OCCUPYING THE SET AS PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE.

When I became a Fellow of Corpus in 1983 it was, of course, a different College but there had been recent major changes, notably the admission of female Fellows in 1982 and undergraduates in the year I arrived. There were also still senior Fellows here who predated the large increase in the size of the Fellowship in the 1960s along with the founding of Leckhampton.

Joining a Fellowship is rather like being a fresher with a much wider age range and the complications of seniority. David Ibbetson (m1973), whom I had known as a graduate student and who had been a Research Fellow, offered what turned out to be good advice – dine regularly and get involved. In those days, a junior Fellow got to know the other Fellows in this way, especially by serving coffee in combination. Of course dining was not always easy – many Fellows were welcoming and friendly, others somewhat daunting, others had little conversation and some seemed not to notice you existed.

I remember sitting next to John Harley-Mason as presiding Fellow and offering him water – an offer that was met with a gruff outburst - 'I never touch the stuff, sir'. There was also the dreadful moment when it turned out that although I was very junior, I was actually the first in line to read grace; the Master waited for me to read it and it was only a hissed 'get on and do it' from Mr Garth Moore that enabled us to get dinner. Another time I was feeling hungry and took what I thought to be a modest amount of food but Ron Storey, the College Butler, scowled at me and said 'I believe, sir, the portion is one'. Having said that, most of the time the Fellows were very supportive and whilst it's rather invidious to pick out individuals Sir Barry Cross and Peter Lewis come to mind as especially kind.

On joining the Fellowship, a new Fellow has full rights and responsibilities, including a vote on the Governing Body. I suppose the first really controversial issue I encountered after admission was the Beldam Building project for which Mr Beldam (m1932) has promised money but not quite enough – and the question was; should the College proceed? Eventually the decision to do so was made even though capping the expenditure brought its own difficulties.

I had been elected to a Research Fellowship supported by British Telecom. An externally supported Fellowship was something of an innovation then, owing much to Haroon Ahmed. Now we can look back on a number of these, with the Microsoft Research Fellowship as the current example.

At the time, my work was in semiconductor materials – my thesis had been on a way of removing the damage in silicon, and other materials, after the introduction of dopants by ion-implantation, a process which caused considerable damage to the semiconductor material, damage which had to be removed if good electrical properties were to be achieved. The approach I adopted was

to heat the materials to high temperatures, say 1000°C, in a few seconds, much faster than the furnace treatments in use at the time. The rapid treatment limited unwanted movement of dopants, thereby enabling ever-smaller devices to be made. The process has become widely used in the production of semiconductor materials, but alas not by my method (using electron beams) but by using powerful halogen lamps for the heating, an approach pioneered by an ex-Stanford Israeli paratrooper who set up a company to exploit the technology.

Towards the end of the 1980s, the UK effectively gave up trying to make many semiconductor devices, including memory and processor chips. BT left the components business. At the same time, I felt I had been doing postdoctoral work too long and applied for lectureships. By chance I was offered two posts almost

simultaneously and took the post in Engineering. Apparently Gonville and Caius had approached Mr McCrum, the then Master of Corpus, to see if I were available but he apparently said (without consulting me of course) that I would not be interested. So I came to be permanently lodged at Corpus.

My research work has taken a journey which is rather the reverse of the normal – from microelectronics I have moved to progressively larger power electronic converters and electrical machines. I initially worked on drives for domestic appliances, principally washing machines, with Hotpoint in Peterborough. Most machines at the time used motors with brushes which were noisy (regarded as increasingly unacceptable in cramped British kitchens) and required brush replacements during normal life. We came up with an advanced brushless drive and demonstrated a spin speed of 2000 rpm – not ideal for the clothes and rather frightening for Hotpoint test staff as the machine was only designed for 1500 rpm maximum. Fortunately it (and we) survived. However, Marconi, co-owners of Hotpoint did not; Hotpoint was sold and the project stopped. I suppose it was some consolation that on a recent visit to Taiwan a grizzled old factory owner told me that he remembered my talking about the project on a study tour of the UK and now he had a very good business with Japan selling these drives – German manufacturers also have adopted the technology.

In the late 1990s, alongside my University lecturing, I picked up some industrial research work from a departing professor on generators for wind turbines that originally had come from Oregon State University. Shortly before his death, the leader of the Oregon team told me over lunch in a Manchester curry house their work had come to a stop because of a mistake in the design of a 100 kW generator which was fatal to their progress as the cost of a replacement was beyond his group's finances. Most current wind generators use a slip-ring induction generator with brushes – a technically excellent system – apart from the brushes which wear and need replacing. This is bad enough on land but worse off-shore.

The new approach is to use a brushless generator with an inductive coupling to the rotor. After much work and frustration, we eventually, over a decade or so, worked out how to design the machine – there being really no literature or books to assist in this. To demonstrate the practicality of the machine, my team recently put up a wind turbine in West Cambridge, officially opened by the Vice Chancellor in May 2010, with one of these generators, now christened the brushless doubly fed induction generator (the VC said

she had not met one of these beasts before). On windy days it generates well but the planners did not want the tower too high so it could be hidden from Madingley Road by trees – not ideal for getting the most output.

The technology is now in a spinout company and we are building a 250 kW machine before a full size multi megawatt machine for commercial wind turbines. As well as wind power, I work on the generation of power from sea waves, a much less developed area with many competing ideas. With a Southend company, we set about building a 100 kW wave machine for mooring off Southwold at Small and Co's shipyard in Lowestoft. The shipbuilders at Smalls had never encountered an academic before, least of all from Cambridge, so they were a bit wary of me. However, after a few visits I was offered chocolate biscuits which I took to mean that I had been accepted.

may not be happy with experimental verification of the effects of releasing very large amounts of carbon dioxide through the burning of fossil fuels. Looking at renewable generation and energy saving is therefore quite rational.

Every form of green generation has its advocates and we review these in the course. I am all for generating power from burning straw or out of date ready meals, but there will be never enough of these fuels. I have concentrated my research on wind as it is the obvious next step. There are many arguments advanced against wind – only two and half have any merit. Wind turbines have a visual impact, and there can be a noise problem if siting is poor (the half reason). Wind power in favourable circumstances can be economic, compared to fossil fuelled generation, but often is not. One thing that we all agree on when we give the Judge Business School's 'Electricity and the Environment' course is that green energy will not be cheap.

sizable fraction of a new building's cost. The M&E engineers tend to be conservative and not always mindful of the cost of ownership. They are also naturally suspicious of an academic who doesn't know all the acronyms and part numbers – and in addition talks about out-of-this-world technologies such as heat pumps and air-air heat exchangers. However, so far we have stayed within the realms of the possible but usefully above the common denominator of 'fit and forget' practice. The new Leckhampton building, whilst not adopting the most advanced heating techniques, will be a long way from the gas boilers the College currently depends on.

My own home is also the scene of energy saving experiments. When I was a graduate student several of my contemporaries studied for their PhDs at the University of East Anglia and lodged in an Old Rectory just outside Norwich. I rather took to the place and, at the

'Diggerland'. Now there is enough lawn again to host the traditional parties for the engineers.

Now that we accept that finishing the project is a chimera, we live reasonably contentedly and comfortably. The house gets warmer, but the humidity meters tell their own story – 80% in the later summer and below 20% last winter – the woodwork does not stand a chance. 'We' are my partner Jennie, I and the lodger – Denis Skvortsov, another Corpus engineer who said at one of the engineers' parties that the place came closest to reminding him of his native Siberia and could he stay with us. Jennie, who is a partner in the law firm Kester Cunningham John, may not be able to do the things that Jenny Andrew does, as she has her own 'presidency' coming up, that is Chairman of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners which will keep her very busy. However, she enjoys coming to functions at Corpus and will try and attend as many as she possibly can.

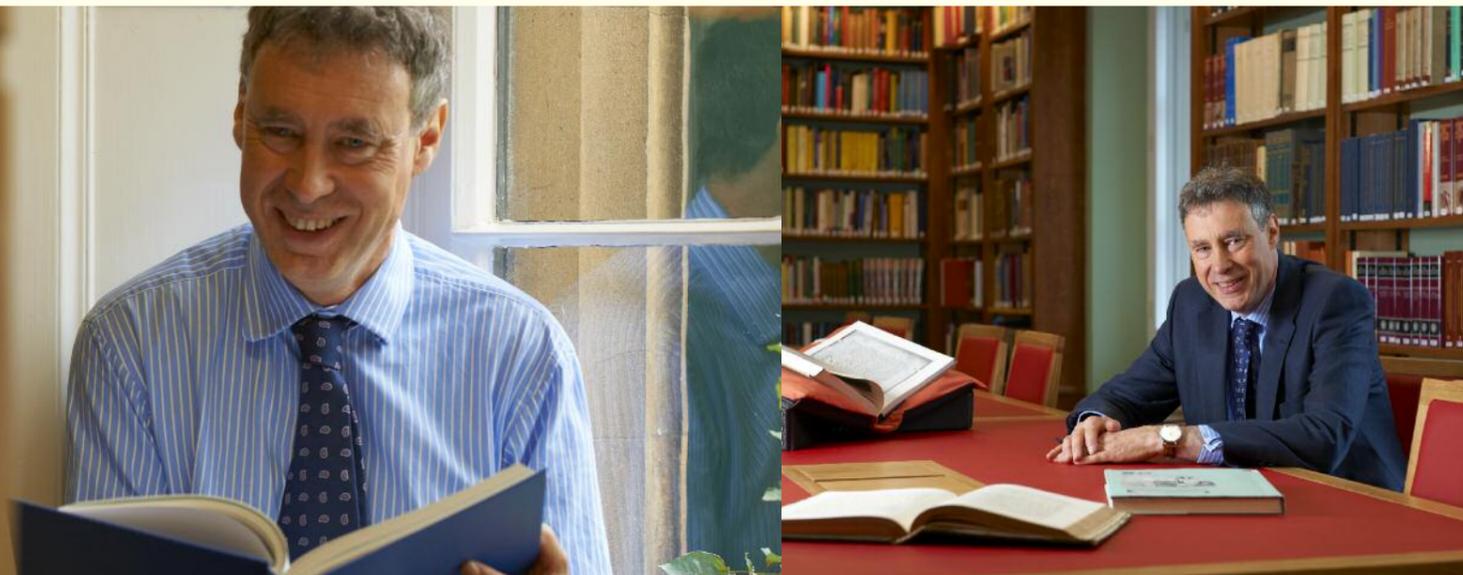
I have been very touched by the messages of support from both staff and Fellows and I hope that I can meet some of their expectations. I do not have a '100 day plan' and although I know well the various activities in which a President is involved, I'd like to go through a complete yearly cycle before proposing any significant changes. My predecessor Chris Andrew is currently giving me a one term familiarization course before I take over in January.

There is said to be a President's manual in existence, written by Geoffrey Woodhead (m1940). I'd be curious to see it but I might take different views on some matters! I also have the practices of my illustrious predecessors to draw on, Sir Barry Cross, David Bruce, Sir Paul Mellars and Chris Andrew.

Hospitality is the more obvious part of a President's role and I shall aim to ensure that dining at Corpus is an enjoyable experience and support the Master and Development Director in College entertaining. The difficult current financial position has meant reductions in College spending in all areas, and High Table dining has been reduced by two nights a week. This may realize savings, but dining has been a custom of the College over many centuries and even in today's busy times I feel it has an important role.

The second part of a President's role is less easy to define, but can be illustrated by contrast. The Master is not a Fellow, and the Bursar, Senior Tutor and other officers have specific College functions. The President can therefore try to represent the Fellowship as a whole, without representing a particular constituency. The Corpus sense of Fellowship suffered during the recent difficult years. I think we have made great progress in recovering from that and I shall do what I can to strengthen the feeling in the College. In that I am encouraged by the support from all sections of the College.

There is said to be a President's manual in existence, written by Geoffrey Woodhead. I'd be curious to see it but I might take different views on some matters!



The electrical side of the wave machine looked good, and the machine was launched. Somewhat to my surprise it actually went through between the piers of the bascule bridge carrying the A12 but started to list a few miles offshore. It then sank. As one colleague from the wave business said 'it puts you in the premier league of wave power devices if you have at least one sinking'. At least it made the local television news. The recovery was fascinating – the Dutch crane barge (a bargain at 30,000 euros a day (recession price)) really did have bicycles on board.

I find the students to be very enthusiastic about 'green generation' and I introduced along with a colleague a final year course in Engineering on the topic as well as speaking at the annual BP Institute's Energy Masterclass. There's a lot of talk about climate change but I have always been sceptical about computer predictions unless experimentally verified. However, in climate science you

Green considerations are increasingly affecting the College – I can claim to have had the first compact fluorescent lamps in the College. We paid the price of early adoption – the lamps are now less than a quarter of the price fifteen years ago. However, most of us prefer the warm glow of the filament lamp. The Bursar always found my ideas for reducing the College's energy consumption 'interesting' but more recently, with legislation such as the carbon reduction commitment, these steps are becoming financially very significant. The Bursar and the Treasurer are paying more attention now!

I have been interested in the construction of buildings since an early age and have played various roles in the construction of the Beldam Building, the Taylor Library and the Parker Reading room, as well as in chairing the Building Committee in recent years. These days mechanical and electrical services (M&E) make up a

end of the 90s after we had lived in the City for many years, bought an Old Vicarage near Cambridge from a reluctant St John's College. In the John's archive there is a beautiful water colour of the house from Rattee and Kett with 'about £1000' pencilled in a corner. Construction stopped after £1100 had been spent with less than three quarters built. I am told that funding the new Chapel was an issue at the time – instead of the original fenestration, we have copies of the windows from the Hills Road Almshouses and sections of the old communion rail for our banisters.

The incumbent since 1946 had neither been dutiful in church nor home responsibilities, and the garden had become overgrown and neglected. One of my first steps was to clear some of the trees around the house and conveniently one of my former engineers, James Gilbert was able to lend me a digger. I can see why people go to



Dr Andreea Weisl-Shaw

College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Modern Languages
(Spanish and French)

I HAVE BEEN AT CORPUS FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS (I STARTED PART TIME IN JANUARY 2009 AND WAS ADMITTED TO THE FELLOWSHIP IN OCTOBER 2009), AND I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT TAKING UP THIS JOB WAS THE BEST THING I COULD EVER HAVE DONE. I WAS QUICKLY WELCOMED INTO A WARM AND FRIENDLY FAMILY OF FELLOWS AND STUDENTS, AND HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED WORKING WITH A FANTASTIC GROUP OF LINGUISTS WHO MAKE MY EFFORTS WORTHWHILE EVERY DAY.

Before coming to Corpus, I was an undergraduate and then graduate at Trinity College, where I studied French and Spanish for my BA, then an MPhil in European Literature and Culture, and then a comparative PhD in medieval Spanish and French literature, under the supervision of Dr Louise Haywood (Trinity

Hall) and Dr Bill Burgwinkle (King's). I grew up and lived in Arad, a town in the West of Romania, where I spent eight years in the local arts and music school, preparing to become a professional pianist. As I was uncomfortable performing on stage, I changed direction in high school, where I specialized in

English, Maths and Physics – though, to be honest, Maths and Physics were never my strong points, and I much preferred working on English. At sixteen, I won a scholarship to spend a year in Dublin, where I studied and took my Leaving Certificate at St Columba's College, and after that, I came to Cambridge.

My greatest passion has always been languages, and if I could, I would love to learn them all. Alongside my mother tongue, Romanian and English, I speak French, Spanish and Italian, as well as some Portuguese, and I have also toyed with bits of Hebrew, Latin, Hindi and German (the last one, with the least degree of success, alas!). Alongside my love of languages, I have always been very passionate about literature (with rather eclectic tastes), so the Modern Language course here at Cambridge was ideal for me on all

counts. And, from early on in my undergraduate career I came to realize that the area that attracted me most was medieval literature, and that I would always be a medievalist at heart. Indeed, I took all the medieval papers that were available to me as a student (in both Spanish and French), I devoted my entire year abroad to medieval studies, and in my final year, when I was asked to work on something else as well, I wrote a dissertation on the use of medieval motifs in the cinema of Pier Paolo Pasolini.

After that, my graduate trajectory was clear. I designed my MPhil studies to suit my own interests and wrote all of the required research pieces on medieval topics. Then, for my PhD, as I was still unable to choose between Spanish and French, I decided to become a comparative medievalist and



study both Spanish and French texts. Rather than going upwards in time in order to widen my horizons, thus straying from the medieval to the modern period, I decided to go sideways, specializing in both languages equally. So far, this has proved a most rewarding decision.

My research interests centre, broadly, on medieval Spanish and French comic and comico-didactic texts. Whether they provided the post-dinner entertainment for a court party, or were recited by wandering storytellers in town markets or by priests in the pulpit, comic stories were amongst some of the most widely disseminated texts of the medieval period. So famous were they, that many of their plots have travelled through time and feature as present-day jokes.

To give just one example, I have found a very similar plot to one fourteenth-century Spanish text recorded as a joke in Romania, New York and Mexico. The fourteenth-century plot (from Juan Manuel's *Conde Lucanor*) goes as follows: 'A young Moor married a reputedly contrary and difficult woman. On the wedding night, the bride and groom were locked together in their new house, as was the tradition. The groom addressed the household cat in a harsh tone: 'Bring us water so we can wash our hands before dinner.' When the cat failed to do so, the man angrily killed it, cutting it to pieces. Then he turned to his horse and asked it for water, and when the horse didn't do it either, he snapped: 'What? You think that just because you are my only horse, I will spare you if you disobey me?' And, as the horse still did nothing, the man killed the

horse as well, in an even more brutal way. Finally, he turned to his wife, and asked her for water as well. Of course, she immediately rushed to serve him, and no sign of her contrary nature was ever seen again.' (In the modern version, the groom is taking his new wife home in a horse-drawn cart and counts 'One', 'Two', 'Three' each time the horse stumbles. On the third stumble, he takes out a shotgun and shoots the horse. When the wife complains about his cruelty to animals, he simply says: 'That's one'... and this puts an end to her contrariness much like in the medieval tale.)

In my doctoral dissertation, I studied comic tales included in didactic or pseudo-didactic collections, and examined the interplay between humour and didacticism, and their frames of meaning. In particular, I looked at short gender humour tales often dealing with trickery, such as the famous thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Old French *fabliaux* (precursors to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*), and I compared the French texts with similar tales from the Spanish tradition (e.g. the thirteenth-century *Calila e Dimna* and *Sendebär*, the fourteenth-century *Conde Lucanor* and *Libro de Buen Amor* and the fifteenth-century *Arcipreste de Talavera*).

The *fabliaux* are very different from their Spanish counterparts: primarily humorous, they end with surprising morals, whereas the Spanish comic tales feature within didactic collections intended to teach some moral lesson. Their blend of humour and didacticism brings the two traditions much closer than it first appears. Humour and didacticism each provide their own

meaning for the text, acting like mutually reactive substances that, at the textual level, explode any monological interpretation. In Spanish, the intervention of humour within the didactic frame troubles the didacticism, rendering it questionable at the same time as more palatable; in the *fabliaux*, the morals unsettle the outright humour, by their simple appearance inviting a complex interpretation and a multitude of possible readings.

While the texts' didactic intention is often quite obviously spelled out and, therefore, easier to discern, the humorous aspects pose far greater difficulties to us as readers. In fact, humour as a concept is at best tenuous and at worst impossible to grasp. As the contemporary English philosopher Simon Critchley poignantly phrases it, 'a joke explained is a joke misunderstood': the very attempt to understand humour threatens to undermine our enjoyment of it. Even in modern times, it is difficult to establish why people laugh, and what they will laugh at, as humour is highly dependent upon cultural and personal background. In medieval texts, humour is without doubt even more difficult to ascertain, not least because of the scarcity of medieval treatises on its uses and mechanisms, but also because of the distance between modern and medieval mentalities. As critics often point out, these texts make clear that medieval people often laughed at situations that modern sensitivities would find troubling or even pitiful (and certainly not funny!) and, due to the temporal distance, we might not even be able always to discern what was supposed to be, or not be, funny in these texts.

It is crucial to pay attention to these complexities when studying gender humour tales, as, despite their purported comic intentions, these are often tainted by descriptions of violence, mutilation and even murder. Harsh antifeminist tales about wife-beating obviously trouble modern scholars due to their play on cruelty, and many feminist critics in particular often show themselves to be suspicious even of their humour. Nevertheless, it seems unfair to ignore or reject the obvious comic intentionality and patterns in these tales simply because they offend our modern sensibilities. Given its taste for violence, social derision and scatology, medieval humour can seem to be very distant from modern sensibilities; yet, as modern studies (such as Freud's *Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious*, or Gershon Legman's compilations and analyses of modern jokes and limericks) show, the ruthless cruelty involved in humour, as well as the elements of sexual aggression and deliberate humiliation did not entirely disappear in more recent times. In the medieval tales, the patterns of adultery, trickery and deception are comic at the very least in intention, and whether or not they in fact provoked laughter at the time of their composition, or whether they can still provoke our laughter nowadays, is another matter altogether. It is only if we accept this primary intention of humour (regardless of its actual potential for realization) that we can understand the way in which many of these tales function within the didactic or pseudo-didactic frames within which they feature.

Building on my doctoral research, my post-doctoral project will compare the use of animal humour in medieval French and Spanish literature. I shall analyse both exemplary and humorous tale collections: the French *Roman de Renart* (c. 1180-1250) and *Fables* of Marie de France (twelfth century), and Spanish texts such as *Calila e Dimna* and *Sendebär*, as well as the *Libro de los gatos* (fifteenth century) and *Ysopete Ystoriado* (1489). Although the Spanish texts appeared later than their French counterparts, the two traditions are strongly linked thematically and ideologically. Animals were often used as metaphors in church teaching. Made to mimic the most foolish or reprehensible human behaviour, they allowed for the exploration of extreme, troubling violence and deviance (e.g. rape, murder, cannibalism). However, dogmatism quickly gave way to subversion and morality to humour: often, the animal tales became more resonant in their humorous connotations than as didactic tools. I shall use medieval theology and philosophy alongside modern theory in order to understand the inner mechanisms of humour, what made (or was intended to make) medieval audiences laugh, and how animal humour fitted within these parameters.



Out and About with the Choir

by The Revd James Buxton, Chaplain

TERM TIME AT CORPUS IS PRETTY INTENSE FOR EVERYONE - EVEN MORE SO IF YOU ARE TAKING ON A MAJOR EXTRA COMMITMENT, LIKE ROWING, THEATRE OR SINGING IN THE CHOIR.

With three choral services a week, plus special services (carol services, Corporate Communion etc), our choir members put in a prodigious amount of work. It can easily add up to eight hours a week, if you include rehearsals, private preparation, singing lessons and the services themselves. It's exhilarating, but it can be a lot of pressure. The annual choir tour and Saturday trips in term time are therefore a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved to relax together and make music in a less pressured way. In the last couple of years, the choir has sung at Grantchester (a College living* since 1380, which happens to be my home village!), and at Fulbourn (which is in the same benefice as our living of Little Wilbraham). In Michaelmas Term 2010 we shall be singing at Fulmodeston in Norfolk, another Corpus living. These visits are hugely appreciated by the parishes and also by us, as they are a way of keeping up our historic connections, and having a great day out in the process.

A choir tour has long since become very much part of the annual pattern too. Last year, we all went over to the Collegio Borromeo in Pavia, near Milan. In the previous year, 2008, Corpus and the Collegio had signed an exchange agreement, and I was keen for us to get to know our new Italian partners, and if possible to sing there. The Master of the Collegio, Don Ernesto Maggi, was enormously generous, and invited us all to stay at the Collegio for three nights, during which we sang for the Sunday Mass (at which he very kindly invited me to join him at the altar), performed a concert in the Collegio's

stunning frescoed hall, and sang Choral Evensong in the nearby parish church of St Luke. The Collegio was founded by one of the leading figures of the Italian counter-reformation, St Carlos Borromeo. It was a magical experience to stay in its wonderful seventeenth century buildings, where we were incredibly warmly welcomed by the students (all young men when we visited - it went 'co-ed' in 2009!).

We continued our tour by singing for a concert and the Mass in the ancient church of St Ambrose, Milan, and then staying for a relaxing couple of days at Stresa on the shores of the incomparably beautiful Lago Maggiore. We even sung, by permission of Prince and Princess Borromeo themselves, in their splendid baroque palace on the island of Bella. Thanks especially to the Collegio Borromeo for its delightful welcome and to Nicholas Danks, Director of Music for the arrangements for the trip, and of course to the choir members themselves - many of those who attended the concerts and services at which the choir sang, told us how moved they were by what they heard.

Overleaf, Nicholas writes about this year's trip to Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern. As for next year, I am hoping to arrange for the choir to stay at the Abbey of Bec in Normandy, picking up on the College's connection with that community, which goes back to the 1970s.

**Livings' are parishes of which Corpus is the Patron. In former centuries, livings provided an income for a parish priest (often an Old Member of the College), as well as income for the College itself. Sadly, this no longer applies (!), but we continue to value the historic connections.*

Chapel Choir trip to Germany: June 2010

by Nicholas Danks (m1993), Director of Music

THE CHAPEL CHOIR SPENT FIVE VERY ENJOYABLE DAYS IN SOUTH-WEST GERMANY THIS SUMMER. WE DIVIDED OUR TIME BETWEEN THE CITY OF HEIDELBERG AND THE TOWN OF KAISERSLAUTERN, SOME 40 MILES TO THE WEST.



The inspiration behind the location was choir member Maria Helmling (m2007), then in her third year as a music undergraduate at Corpus, now CUSU's Education Officer. Kaiserslautern is Maria's home town and thus the location promised the best type of choir trip - one where local connections are already established and the choir can, for its short stay, strongly integrate with the host community.

The outside portion of the trip was spent in Heidelberg itself - a beautiful and historic university city (it is twinned with Cambridge, and the University is one of Europe's oldest, being founded in 1386) situated on a picturesque forested curve on the Neckar River. We were fortunate to stay in a delightful hostel in the centre of the 'Old Town' - the ancient heart of the city with a fine main square dominated by the impressive Heligeistkirche and overlooked by Heidelberg's famous castle. During our stay we were given a bespoke tour of some of the more important university buildings - including the old and fascinating (and now redundant) student jail and spent a very enjoyable afternoon visiting the castle. As well as picnicking in the castle grounds, admiring the largest wine barrel in the world (almost as big as Corpus Chapel) and taking in the extensive panorama from the castle's terrace, the choir also enjoyed running races through some large

water sprinklers and playing other assorted games on the castle lawns, taking advantage of the hot and sunny weather which was present throughout the trip. We gave one concert in Heidelberg, performing a mixed programme of acapella sacred and secular music in the charming Providenzkirche, also situated in the old town. This was well received by a small but highly appreciative audience.

The main musical activities of the tour centred on Kaiserslautern, where we spent the weekend portion of the trip. Kaiserslautern, which dates from the 9th century, received its name from being the favourite hunting retreat of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa who ruled the Holy Roman Empire from 1155 until 1190. The small river Lauter made the old section of Kaiserslautern an island in medieval times. Ruins of Frederick's original castle, built 1152-1160 can still be seen in front of the city hall and it was here where we began our stay in the town, with a guided tour around what remains of the castle and associated underground escape passages and a very informative talk about the area's history. This was followed by lunch in the pretty town centre before we were given a private talk and peal on the new carillon which had been installed in the historic Stiftskirche.



We sang for two services at the large Marienkirche (Maria's home church), the first on the Saturday evening and the second the main Sunday morning parish mass. Music sung included William Byrd's 'Mass for Four Voices', Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass', various motets by Tallis and Byrd and Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' - which reverberated wonderfully in the generous acoustic. Another particular highlight was hearing the voice of our soprano soloist in the Haydn mass (Louise Bowmaker) soar effortlessly through the lofty space of this impressive church. We were made to feel extremely welcome by the church - clergy, musicians and congregation alike - and it was a privilege to share in their worship that particular weekend.

On the Sunday afternoon we caught the bus out to a village called Dansenberg, located just outside Kaiserslautern. This is Maria's home village and we had been invited to sing madrigals at the local church's festival (which seemed to be a parish barbecue / fete kind of affair). In the continuing glorious weather we were generously fed - the selection of cakes on offer was particularly mouthwatering - and in return we sang a selection of madrigals and part-songs including favourites by Morley, Dowland, Elgar and Sullivan. The only downside to the afternoon was that the village had kindly hired in a big screen on which we could watch, live, the England-Germany World Cup football match with our German hosts. A thoughtful gesture...a pity about the actual football! The

good news, however, was that a member of Corpus Choir did win the 'guess the number of sweets in a jar' competition, so we were able to restore some English sporting pride.

We were fortunate in having Maria as a knowledgeable local guide. This meant that we could take a leisurely 2 hour walk through beautifully scenic woodland back to the train station in central Kaiserslautern. The scenery was stunning, with extensive panoramas over the whole of Kaiserslautern. We all slept well on the train back to Heidelberg!

Tuesday morning gave us a chance to explore Heidelberg a bit more - lots of excellent shops, historic buildings and riverside walks to enjoy - before departing for the airport and home.

This was a hugely enjoyable trip and particular thanks must go to Maria Helmling and her family for all the help they gave me in organising the visit - particularly for arranging accommodation for us amongst the local community of Dansenberg on the Saturday night. Heidelberg is highly recommended as a place to visit. The Choir benefitted greatly from the opportunity to sing and socialise together in such historic, welcoming and inspirational surroundings and from spreading the musical reputation of Corpus to these local communities.

Dr Sarah Fine

Research Fellow in Politics and Sociology



I certainly cannot claim that I have wanted to be an academic from a young age. At different times during my childhood I was fairly convinced that I would grow up to become a novelist, recorder player, comedian, or hairdresser. Furthermore, I had no notion that academics existed until I encountered

some in the flesh in Cambridge during my undergraduate admissions interview at Jesus College. The combination of research and teaching seemed like an extremely appealing prospect, so much so that by the second year of my degree in Social and Political Sciences I was determined to stick around in a university for quite some time. After graduating, I went to the University of Oxford to pursue an MPhil and then a DPhil (PhD). In 2009 it was my great good fortune to be offered a Research Fellowship at Corpus.

My subject is contemporary political theory, and I have wider interests in the history of modern political and social thought, social theory, and ethics. I specialise in issues relating to migration and citizenship, as well as democratic theory, nationalism and patriotism, sovereignty and territory, multiculturalism, theories of rights, theories of justice, and feminism and gender. The overarching theme inspiring all my research to date is a preoccupation with the relationship between states and individuals who are not their citizens.

At present, I am completing a book for publication with Oxford University Press, entitled *Immigration and the Right to Exclude*. Immigration is undoubtedly one of the most hotly debated and controversial topics in contemporary politics across the world. However, despite its unquestionable importance, relatively little has been written about immigration in Anglophone political theory. The book, based on my doctoral thesis, explores the complex issue of whether liberal democratic states (or their members) have a moral right to exclude would-be immigrants from their territory and from obtaining citizenship status. This is a fundamental moral and political

question, and yet to date it has received limited attention in the academic literature, not to mention wider political discourse. While there is lively disagreement regarding the lengths that states may go to, and the methods that they may employ, in the quest to keep unwanted immigrants at bay, and what is owed to immigrants once they have crossed into the state's territory, the belief in the general right to exclude would-be immigrants usually goes unchallenged. The immigration policies of liberal democracies certainly reflect the widespread assumption that these states enjoy a general moral right to exclude would-be immigrants. I separate out the different components that together comprise the idea of the liberal democratic territorial national state, and critically examine the ways in which the concepts of democracy, nationality, state and sovereignty, freedom of association, and territorial rights might provide the justificatory foundations for the right to exclude. I argue that the various conceptual components, considered both individually and in combination, fail to support the state's (or its members') general moral right to exclude. Furthermore, I contend that the democratic and territorial elements of the amalgam actually call into question the very existence of such a right. Having challenged this dominant presumption in favour of states' exclusionary rights, I assess the implications of my conclusion with respect to immigration policy. The denial of a general right to exclude does not entail that any and all barriers to admission are unjustifiable, or that all individuals should enjoy a human right to immigrate to the state of their choice. However, my argument emphasises the fundamental and urgent need to revise some of the most longstanding and entrenched assumptions about the legitimate role and activities of liberal democratic states, in line with their expressed regulative ideals.

My next major research project at Corpus will examine the historical and current status of non-citizens more broadly, drawing on nineteenth and twentieth century political thought and contemporary political theory. Their precarious political status vis-à-vis the state has far-reaching implications for the lives of non-citizens, and raises a number of complicated questions for political theorists.



In Cambridge, I teach undergraduates studying Philosophy, and Politics, Psychology, and Sociology (PPS), as well as postgraduates at the Department of Politics and International Studies. In Oxford, while I was a doctoral student, I was employed as a College Lecturer in Politics at St Edmund Hall for three years. In that role I taught undergraduates studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), and History and Politics. I have benefited immeasurably from the support, kindness, and encouragement of some inspirational teachers over the years and I am well aware of the essential role that teaching should occupy in the job of an academic.

My first year at Corpus has been fantastic, thanks to an exceptionally warm welcome from people across the College. I have very much enjoyed participating in the Gerard Duveen Social Sciences Society and in the College's Access activities. I am extremely impressed both by the enthusiastic efforts to widen participation, led by Dr Melanie Taylor and Dr Juliet Foster, and by the excellent school groups that visit us here. It quickly transpired that my carefully compiled quiz using photographs of national politicians was a bit too easy, and so I tried to shake it up a bit. However, it turns out that the visiting pupils also recognise Angela Merkel and Benazir Bhutto. This is enormously encouraging, but it does make quiz writing difficult.

I have been delighted to discover that I share a lot of common ground with a number of people around the College. For example, philosopher Dr Michael Tanner, Life Fellow at Corpus, taught philosophy to my doctoral supervisor, Professor David Miller. Moreover, I was born a mere three miles away from Wembley Stadium, in the London Borough of Brent, in the very same hospital as our own Director of Music, Nick Danks. I am a long time supporter of Arsenal Football Club and have found fellow travellers in Dr Lizzie Boyle (Director of Studies in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic) and historian Professor John Hatcher (Life Fellow). I was honoured to join Professor Hatcher for a trip to the Emirates Stadium to witness Arsenal take on Braga in the Champions League. Best of all, Arsenal triumphed 6-0, breaking my run of bringing bad luck upon the team whenever I attend matches. I should not take any credit for the result, though; it is probably explained by Professor Hatcher's strict adherence to his tried and tested pre-match winning rituals. Meanwhile, in other news, I am keen to help initiate a Fellows' karaoke evening, though the heady enthusiasm that greeted this announcement has dwindled since Dr James Warren (Fellow and Director of Studies in Philosophy) started playing up my youthful forays into musical theatre. Believe me, a parentally acclaimed performance as Yente the Matchmaker/principal (only) clarinettist in an undergraduate production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' does not a Celine Dion make. Watch this space, though!

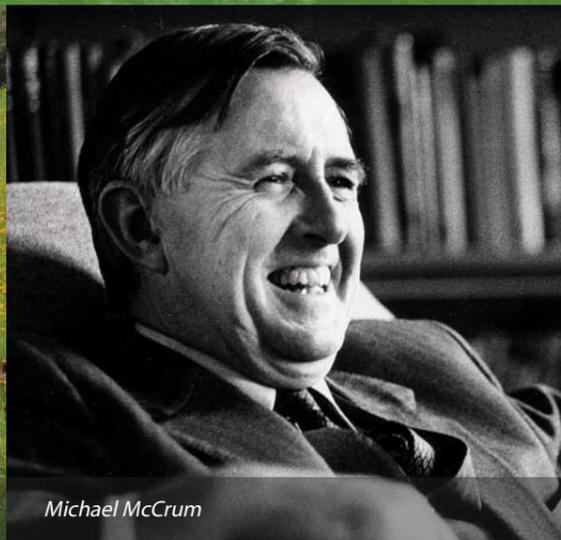


Leckhampton Garden

ON SEPTEMBER 4 THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PRAIRIE GARDEN AT LECKHAMPTON, DESIGNED BY TOM STUART-SMITH, WAS ENJOYED BY STUDENTS, FELLOWS AND FRIENDS. THE OCCASION PROMPTED CHRISTINE MCCRUM TO RECALL THE BEGININGS OF THE LECKHAMPTON CAMPUS IN 1961, ALMOST FIFTY YEARS AGO.



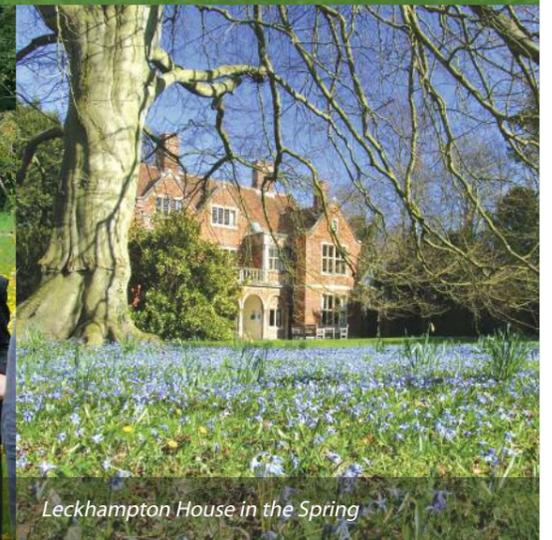
Walking through the Prairie Garden



Michael McCrum



Students and Fellows



Leckhampton House in the Spring



NEXT YEAR MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LECKHAMPTON HOUSE AS THE GRADUATE CAMPUS OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE. AS A YOUNG SENIOR TUTOR IN THE 1950S, MICHAEL MCCRUM SAT ON THE UNIVERSITY'S BRIDGES SYNDICATE ON POSTGRADUATE CARE AND BECAME A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR THE CREATION OF A DEDICATED GRADUATE CAMPUS. IN 1961 LECKHAMPTON HOUSE WAS REACQUIRED BY THE COLLEGE AFTER THE DEATH OF ITS TENANT AND THE GOVERNING BODY AGREED TO ESTABLISH IT AS A RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AND FELLOWS.

The process of clearing the wonderful but wild garden fifty years ago was a collegiate and memorable one in which Christine McCrum and her young children played an active part. Today, the garden has been transformed by a design by Tom Stuart-Smith (m1978), the award-winning garden designer and Corpus alumnus, who was commissioned by Michael and Christine to redesign the rose garden into the spectacular prairie garden it is today. To celebrate Michael's 80th birthday in 2004, the McCrums donated the designs to the College. Here, Christine remembers how Michael first discovered the garden, as an undergraduate.

Michael's first encounter with Leckhampton House and its garden was as a trespasser. At that time Leckhampton was rented out by the College to Louis Clark, the elderly Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. The only part of the garden he used was the terrace, then surrounded by a yew hedge, so it was easy after a game of rugby or tennis on the playing fields to climb the fence and explore. Of course, like many others since, he fell in love with it; the wonderful collection of trees planted by Frederic Myers, the original builder of the house, the bluebells under the copper beech, the cowslips and the lupins among the cherry trees in the wilderness contrasting with the tailored croquet lawn. At the

far end of the garden was the folly, built, or so I was told, so that Myers could commune with his late wife. Beneath that was a tangle of overgrown shrubs and bushes. Poking around down there on one of his intrusions into the garden Michael discovered the irregular-shaped pool – perhaps originally designed as a lily pond – hidden under these.

Always full of ideas, these moments of much-needed peace in the garden after his arrival in January 1946 as a 23 year old released from four years of very active war service, gave Michael a chance, among other things, to develop his private vision of a graduate centre, an integral part of the Old House, but with a surrounding campus offering better provision for postgraduates.

Back then it was just a dream. He had no idea that after going down in 1948 to become a classics schoolmaster, he would be invited back as a Fellow and Senior Tutor only two years later, or that as a somewhat rebellious young don, gain experience of the workings of the University through service on the Council of the Senate and the General Board.

So when, in our early married days, Louis Clark invited us to an elegant lunch in the house filled with his own treasures, neither he nor his white-gloved manservant were aware that he was entertaining an illicit trespasser or someone with a secret plan of how the house and garden might be developed. However, in 1960 Louis died and the property returned to the College

and Michael was ready to present the Master, George Thomson, with his ideas of how Corpus might be the first college to have a graduate campus in parallel with the Old House. The Master was an immediate enthusiast. With his encouragement the concept was put before the Governing Body and developed, with the addition of a Warden and 11 new Fellows specially associated with Leckhampton, ready for opening in 1961.

One of the practical tasks that involved both of us and our young family was the clearing of the pool. Several people present on September 4 this year had memories of that process, not least Neil Dunlop who remembered clearing the tangle of shrubs and the enormous bonfire on which he and the other student volunteers cooked sausages and potatoes. Our youngest son's carrycot was cheerfully placed alongside the clearance site while our eldest son and daughter assisted by their three year old brother thoroughly enjoyed helping, not only with the picnic but also acting as latterday chimney sweeps, exploring the smaller, darker areas which others could not reach. How lucky we were that Health and Safety had not yet been dreamed up.

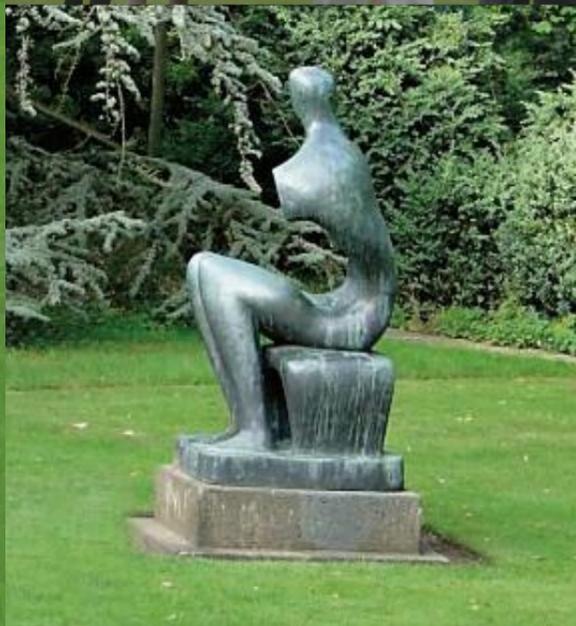
The Fire Service was called into action to suction up the filthy black water remaining and to rinse the bottom of the pool. I remember several afternoons spent on my hands and knees scrubbing the dirty floor with an ordinary kitchen scrubbing brush before the Fire Service returned to refill the →



Stuart Laing, Master



Isobel, Christine and Robert McCrum



The Henry Moore sculpture

The Pelican Michaelmas Term

pool with clean water. There were no fences round it for many years: one could run down the garden and dive into the freezing water or lie floating on one's back looking at the sky framed by the circle of the surrounding trees.

Many memories returned on September 4 of some of the people who had contributed to the growth of the house. Frank Lee (Master 1962-71) and his wife Kathleen, who gave the College 'Fred', the wonderful Henry Moore Seated Man beside the cedar tree; Leckhampton's first Warden, Christopher Longuet-Higgins, who founded the orchestra, and many of his successors; speakers at the Stephen Hales Society, many of them Visiting Fellows from universities around the world; the annual outdoor play during the Long Vacation; Corpus Association garden parties, wedding receptions, birthday celebrations... and in all of these, the garden playing its unique backdrop.

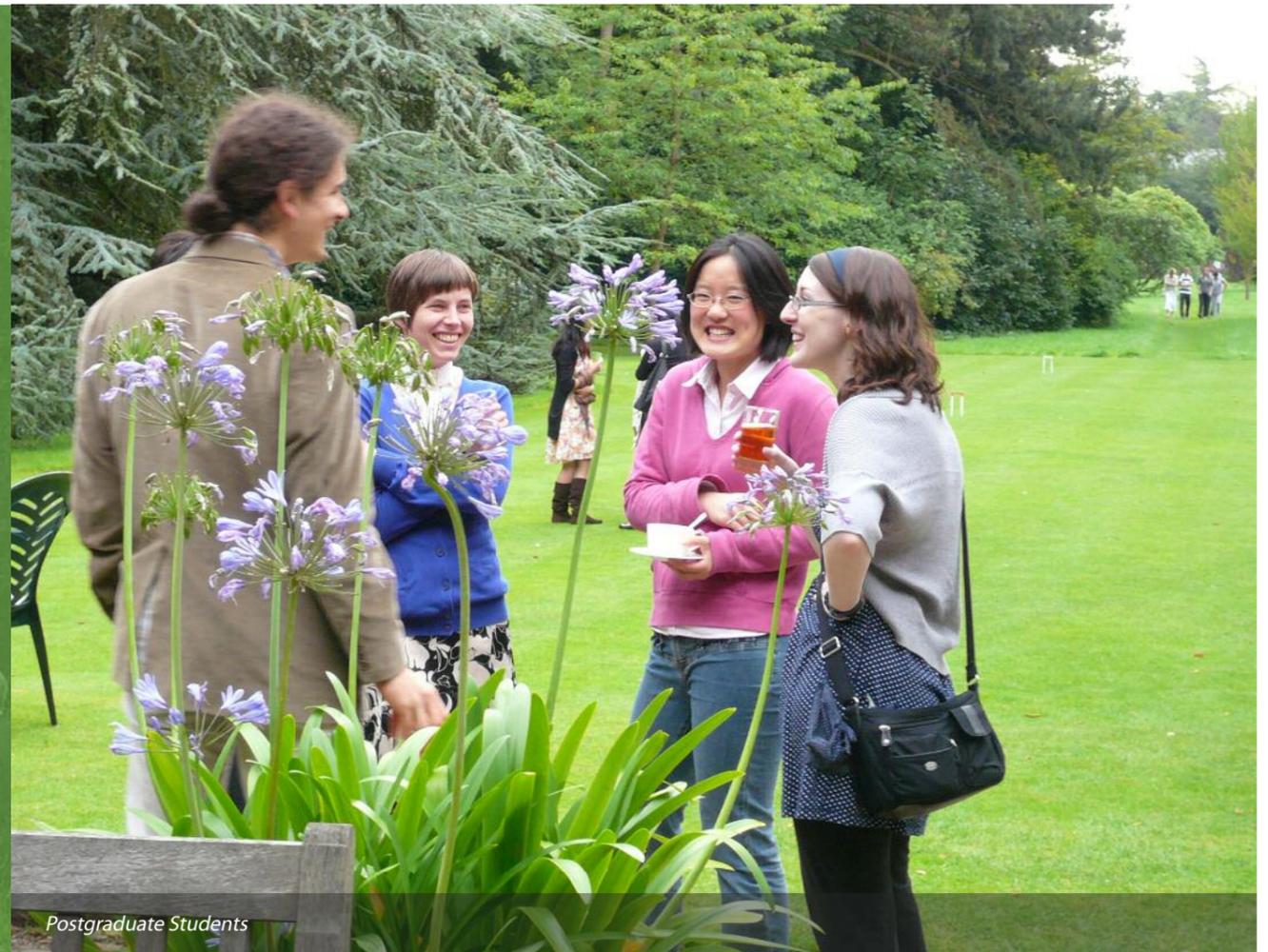
Michael and I left Corpus in 1962 but came back for the opening of the George Thomson building in 1964, designed by Philip Dowson of Ove Arup. All I can remember about that occasion was that Archie Clark-Kennedy, the distinguished Emeritus Dean of the London Hospital, whose eyesight resembled that of Mr Magoo but which never deterred him from cycling well into his nineties, christened the occasion by walking straight through one of the new plate glass windows – luckily and astonishingly emerging unscathed.

After our return to the College in 1980 one of the chief joys of Michael's Mastership was rediscovering Leckhampton and its development, and sharing the pool and garden with our adult children and increasing number of grandchildren. Our eldest son Robert, the only one of our four children able to be there on September 4, obviously shared this feeling as, fifty years after the original picnic day, he rashly plunged into the icy pool in honour of his father and the other workers on that enterprise.

The Master welcomed the Warden's guests beside the Prairie Meadow - part of the design we commissioned from Tom Stuart-Smith to refurbish the garden as it is today. As a winner of countless awards for garden design Tom's promise to Michael to oversee this meant a great deal to us both, and enabled to give the College an 80th birthday present to express his gratitude for what the garden, one of Corpus' greatest treasures, has given us all over the years.'

Christine McCrum

Tom Stuart-Smith read Natural Sciences at Corpus (1978), followed by a postgraduate course in landscape design at Manchester University. He has won seven Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and is one of the UK's leading landscape designers. The Prairie Garden replaces the rose garden and offers a completely different environment more in keeping with the natural wildness of the lupins and long grasses so beloved of Leckhampton. The plants in the Prairie include rudbeckia, echinacea and silphium, bringing a riot of yellows, purples and gold. It requires no watering and is very low maintenance.



Postgraduate Students



Tom Stuart-Smith talking to Christine McCrum

Dr Gerard Duveen

by Dr Juliet Foster (m1992) Director of Studies in PPS (formerly SPS)



undergraduate students here at Corpus, those who had known him as a Director of Studies: some of these students had kept in touch with Gerard, others had not, but I was touched by the number of Old Members of the College who got in touch with me, as Gerard's successor as Director of Studies in SPS (now PPS) at Corpus, to share their stories and memories of a figure who had clearly been an inspiration to many Corpus students, in many different ways.

Their stories often mirrored mine: Gerard became my Director of Studies in October 1994. I had changed Tripos from MML, with a vague and ill-informed idea of becoming a 'child psychologist' at some point in the future. I first met with Gerard in his first office in the College (he was always much amused that he had been given the room Y2B). He listened patiently as I explained my wish to study psychology, before recommending some books I could look at over the summer (very few of them were on any reading list; all of them were fascinating and proved useful in often tangential ways). Over the next two years of my undergraduate degree, Gerard supervised me, guided me and calmly enabled me to untangle my thoughts. As was so often the case with his undergraduates, he kept in touch with me after graduation, and was enormously (although quietly) helpful in advising me on my future career: it was his suggestion that I apply to the LSE for my MSc, and after a truly exciting year there, I returned to Corpus to begin my PhD, supervised by Gerard once again. I was enormously privileged to have him as a mentor and a friend throughout this time, and beyond as I began my Fellowship.

What is notable, however, is that I was anything but unique in this experience, and a very large number of students around the world share these feelings. The connection goes beyond a shared interest in social and developmental psychology, as many of the former students with whom I have spoken specialised in other social sciences during their degrees. The purpose of this short tribute to Gerard Duveen is to celebrate his qualities and enduring influence as a Director of Studies at Corpus for sixteen years. The following contributions are varied: some take the form of anecdotes or specific memories, others are broader reflections. We hope, however, that all capture something of Gerard's very special approach to his students.

When Gerard Duveen became ill and was diagnosed with terminal cancer in June 2008, it became obvious just how valued and admired he was by his many friends, colleagues and former students: it was almost impossible to visit him either at home or when he was in hospital without bumping into a host of other visitors, many of whom had travelled long distances to see him. The party held in Gerard's honour in the Master's Lodge garden in July of that year was attended by well over a hundred well-wishers from all over Europe, and brought together people Gerard had known in a variety of contexts across the years. Typically modest, Gerard was rather surprised by this demonstration of affection and respect.

In the obituaries at the time of his death in November 2008, and at his funeral, much mention was rightly made of his intellectual generosity, and of his particular commitment to his graduate students, both at MPhil and PhD level. What also struck me, however, was the reaction from his former

It is now 20 years since I started at Corpus, and Gerard remains a lasting influence on my three years there and my career development since. I was deeply saddened when I read of his death, and regret that it is probably 15 years since I had last seen him.

Gerard was working as part of the School of Education in Trumpington Street when we meet him. There were just four of us studying SPS that year and we all trekked down to have our first meeting, of our first term and his first cohort from Corpus. I recall the conversation about our first assignment, as he didn't set us a deadline....I was puzzled, surely we needed that discipline, after all, I was fresh out of sixth-form and used to following rules. Gerard was amused by my confusion and talked about the fact he didn't mind when we got work to him - things were in our control now. That first conversation set the tone. Gerard treated us like adults throughout our education - it was an equal as well as an empowering relationship. As one of my fellow graduates, Suzy said to me recently, he always talked about how much he got from us as well as what we got from him.

The four of us, Suzy, Isabelle, Caroline and myself had a great first year with Gerard and I am sure his tutoring on the Part I psychology module was a key reason why we all chose to major in psychology for Part II. At the start of the next year, a vacancy for a Fellow at Corpus came up.... we all supported Gerard to put his name forward, and it was great to have him as part of the College - plus we didn't have to walk so far to have our supervisions!

For me, what was so valuable about Gerard's approach was how he encouraged us to look critically at everything we read, even to be critical of the critics! For example, he wasn't content with us just citing the critiques of Piaget's theory, he wanted us to read Piaget's writings directly and to see how misplaced much of the criticism was - he made studying so much richer.

My time at university wasn't straightforward and as a young woman I think it was hard to recognise then what a privileged experience we had. Now when I look back I realise how lucky I was, but especially fortunate to have been educated, stimulated, valued and encouraged by Gerard Duveen.
Helen Lockett (m1990)



Dr Duveen didn't command respect; it was something which anyone who had the privilege to meet him were eager to give. His phenomenal intelligence, laid-back demeanour and sly sense of humour were definitive and enviable traits. The copy of *A Room of One's Own* which he sent me following our discussion about it in my entrance interview has pride of place on my bookshelf, and remains a happy reminder of Dr Duveen's generosity. As an academic tutor, he was - in a word - brilliant (though his handwriting hilariously illegible, and the long pauses mid-thought were infamous) and he also helped me to gain the confidence to continue with my ambitions within a field which he has also helped to nurture. As I read about Gerard's contributions to social psychology, I am thankful to have been a small strand in an enormous web of influence, and I am thankful to have met such a quietly astounding person.]

Katie Paddock (m2006)

Gerard was a very positive influence on me, laid back, cool, calm and talked to his students as an equal rather than a superior. Though immersed in his work on social representations (which I confess I never quite got the hang of) he also seemed to have a sense of life outside academia. I remember he invited a bunch of us students to his flat for supper, something which went well above and beyond the call of duty as a Director of Studies. It was a relaxed, funny evening. He could talk about everything and anything. He cooked pasta with fresh tomatoes, olives, feta and garlic thrown in once cooked - I still use this recipe by the way.

Even though academia and writing logically didn't come naturally to me he was always very kind and encouraging. He said he thought I would be good at writing letters (I guess that was to compensate for not being so good at writing essays!) and he was knowledgeable about the obscure subject I chose for my dissertation - 'Bereavement among Holocaust Survivors'. He'd seen the 10 hour documentary film 'Shoah' which is a series of interviews of survivors and SS soldiers and so on and recommended I see it which I did. He was very sensitive to the fact that I worked hard on this dissertation which had some personal meaning to me as my grandparents were Jews from Eastern Europe.]

Lucy Taussig (m1992)

From time to time in life you meet someone who changes your course and direction. Someone who has a big impact on the person you become. For me Gerard was one of those people.

Before I went to Corpus I'd never met anyone who had been to Cambridge. I remember being terrified sitting on the train on the way down to my interview - I had no idea what to expect. But when I walked into Gerard's smokey office he put

me at ease with his calm, steady manner. That's my first memory of him - sitting in his chair completely surrounded by scattered papers and books, looking at me through his glasses and taking great interest in my Religious Studies A-level.

Religion was something we came to discuss quite a bit during my few years at Corpus, among many other topics. Gerard never felt the need to speak conventionally about anything. I'll always recall (with a smile) a conversation we once had where I mentioned some folklore about how getting married and giving up smoking were supposedly two of the most stressful things you could do. He cocked his head and with a very slight grin replied that he couldn't possibly comment, having never done either.

Looking back I can't once recall a time when Gerard was judgemental or dismissive of what I had to say in any discussion or tutorial. He was always interested in a new point of view and nurtured all ideas. In doing so he nurtured my confidence and shaped the pattern of my thinking. He was so much more than just a Director of Studies in that respect.

My last memory of him was when we spoke on the phone when I was about to make a career move from Psychology into management consulting. I was a little nervous about telling him, worried that he'd think I was a sell-out and be disappointed. But true to form he didn't judge - he just listened, questioned and encouraged.

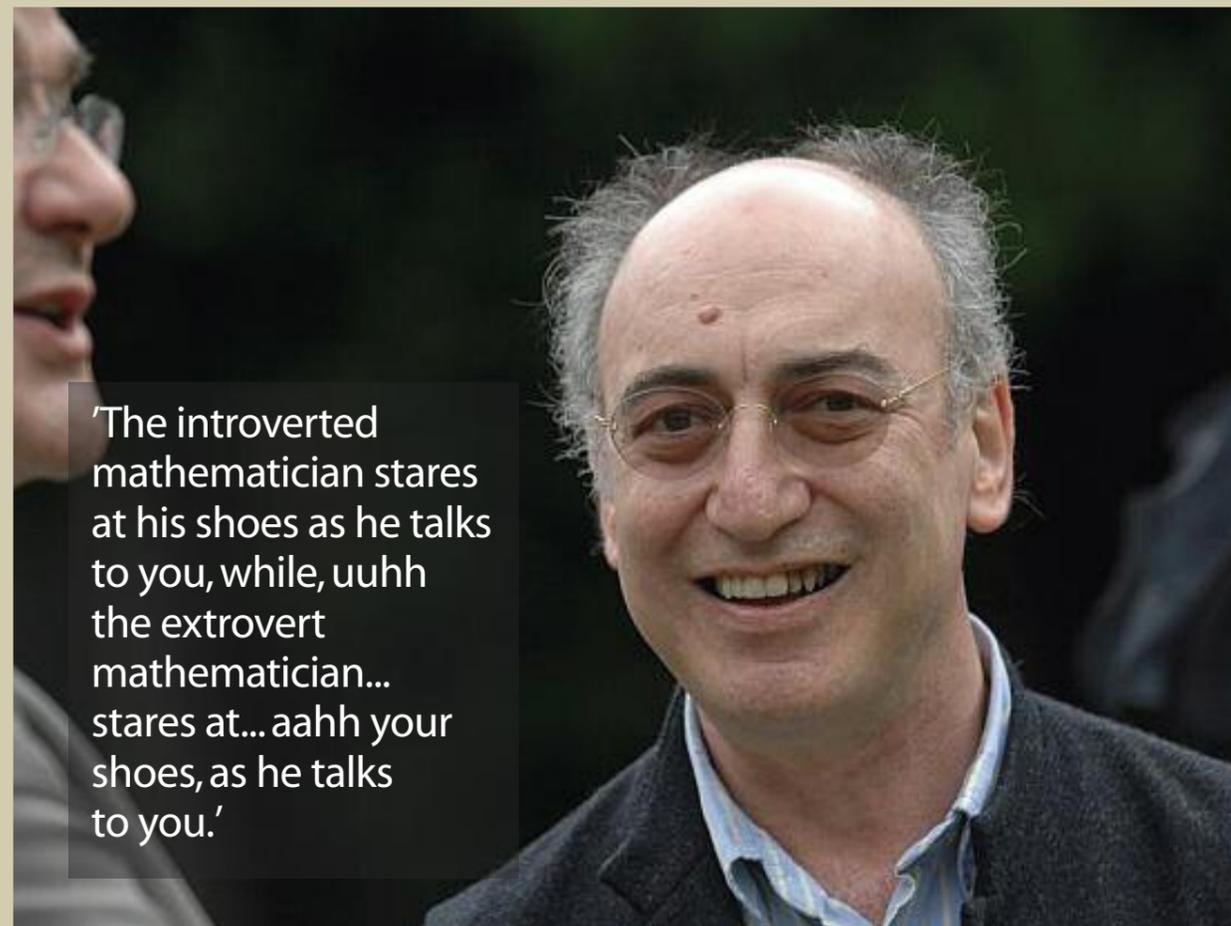
Gerard was always his own person and he built confidence in me to be my own person too.]

Emma Lawrence (m 2000)

What I will always remember Dr Duveen for is, despite being an extremely talented and intelligent man, he never took himself too seriously. He was down to earth with an extremely dry sense of humour. I remember meeting with him at the end of my second year because I was upset that I'd achieved a 2:2 and 'did this mean that I would drop yet another classmark in my third year and graduate with a third?!' He very slowly replied, with that sideways look, 'no' and then added, 'lucky you're not doing a *four* year course.'

I will remember Gerard as the man who truly lived out the proverb 'life is too important to be taken seriously,' and I will always be grateful for the times he reminded me of this.]

Madeleine Teahan (m2005)



'The introverted mathematician stares at his shoes as he talks to you, while, uhhh the extrovert mathematician... stares at... ahhh your shoes, as he talks to you.'

Gerard once invited all of his SPS undergraduates to his flat and cooked a lovely meal for all of us. He finished the meal with some cheese, biscuits and grapes (lots of wine was available throughout...). We felt truly treated! In my admission interview he spoke Italian to me to make me feel at ease, again an unexpected display of hospitality. Ah, and he used to wear red jeans!]

Silvia Miotti (m1999)

My very first memory of Gerard goes right back to my interview, in a very wintery December 1991. Having been made paranoid by 1001 urban myths about Cambridge interviews, I instead met someone who was genuinely interested in why I wanted to study social sciences, and who even in a few short minutes managed to show me that there was much more to learn than I had ever dared to hope.

Looking back at my three years at Corpus I now realise just how valuable Gerard's support and mentoring truly was. He achieved so much more by quietly letting you discover your own interests and path (and supporting you whenever nerves threatened to quash your hopes!) than would have been achieved by someone who forced their interests (and their personality) on you. As someone charged with directing my studies I now also see how much Gerard

supported life outside of study. He was always as passionate about a student's life beyond books as he was focused on helping you to succeed academically. For that, I owe him a great deal.

Sacha Deshmukh (m1993)

An awkward silence descended; half a dozen, hesitant first years looking desperately at the walls for inspiration, and Dr Duveen, smiling to himself and lightly swinging his crossed leg as he ran a hand back over his head. Seemingly oblivious to those tongue-tied around him, he straightened, cleared his throat apologetically, and tapped the table triumphantly with one finger. 'I have remembered a joke,' he announced, with some pride. 'What,' he scratched his ear, 'is the difference, ahhh, between an introverted mathematician, and uhhh, an... extrovert mathematician?' He paused, without looking up for confirmation, and that slow, soft smile spread across his features delightedly in anticipation of the punchline.

'The introverted mathematician stares at his shoes as he talks to you, while, uhhh the extrovert mathematician... stares at... ahhh your shoes, as he talks to you.'

~ With many fond memories,
Miranda Barty-Taylor (m2005)

The Schoolteacher Fellowship Scheme

by Dr Melanie Taylor, Admissions Tutor

The Corpus Schoolteacher Fellowship scheme has been restructured in recent years so that it now offers a valuable complementary approach to the College's outreach activities. The Fellowships enable between three and six state sector teachers each year to come and live with us and become part of the University for a period of between five and ten weeks. They open direct channels of communication between the College and schools which often have little experience of sending students to Oxbridge, and they provide the facilities and infrastructure for defined projects to be undertaken by teachers during a mini 'sabbatical' at Cambridge.

Schoolteacher Fellows for the academic year 2009-10:

Rachel Kirby joined us for Michaelmas term. Rachel teaches history at Queen Mary's Sixth Form College in Basingstoke. During her ten week Fellowship she was able to complete the first draft of a text book on Classical Sparta.

For the first half of the Easter term, the Schoolteacher Fellow was Vivienne Johnson. Vivienne, who works at Buxton Community School, welcomed the chance to re-engage with her academic research on Oliver Cromwell, and also found time to research an article on Jane Austen in her five week stay.

Tom Bennett, from Raine's Foundation School in East London, took up his five-week Fellowship in June. Tom researched and drafted a scholarly article on the philosophies that underpin the aims of modern state education. In his post-Fellowship report, Tom said, 'Having the chance to reflect on teaching produced some of the most deliberate, productive growth I have experienced in my understanding of the aims and ethics of teaching in my career.'

Tom is also the Behaviour Guru on the *Times Educational Supplement* advice forum and has just published *The Behaviour Guru: Behaviour Management Solutions for Teachers*.

In addition to their own projects, all three Fellows also took the opportunity to find out more about the University's admissions process and returned to their schools feeling better able to identify, advise and support potential Cambridge applicants.

For Michaelmas 2010 we welcomed Jackie Kyte to the College as our new Schoolteacher Fellow. Jackie is Head of English at Oakwood Park Grammar School in Maidstone. We asked her what she hopes to achieve while she is here and what difference she thinks it will make to her work at Oakwood Park. This is her response...



Jackie Kyte
Schoolteacher Fellow
Michaelmas 2010

We recently welcomed the new Year 12 students into the Sixth Form of Oakwood Park, a Kent Grammar school with a good academic record. However, despite a team of hard working teachers and some very able students, only two of last year's leavers have places at Cambridge this year.

The selection process operating in our part of Kent means that we have a student community from lower middle and working class backgrounds; this often correlates with limited aspirations and lack of confidence. Getting to the 'grammar' is a proud moment for many families who value education as a passport to a good job rather than for its intrinsic worth and the beginning of a life-long journey.

A significant percentage of our sixth form is eligible for Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), which means that they do indeed come from poorer backgrounds, where the goal of security in employment is itself ambitious. It often seems as if, as a school, we are squeezed between the aspirational comprehensives for whom social

to the thrill and challenge of being taught by academics who are world experts in their fields.

With this in mind, I look forward to many conversations with Fellows about what they require from students hoping to study in Cambridge. My subject is English, so I hope to understand the new approaches to classic literary texts and to compile an anthology or companion, to support the teachers and students on the new Pre-U Literature in English course. I know that intellectual curiosity and the ability to deal with being challenged must develop through Sixth Form studies.

So it will be for me – the teacher turned learner. In itself, I hope this will be an inspiration to our students; perhaps a revelation, that I will be a student of English Literature once again. Alongside my subject, I will be developing extension and enrichment links for our students, outreach and a new understanding of the application processes involved in applying to a Cambridge college such as Corpus.

Jackie Kyte.



mobility is a norm and the heavily funded academies who have to create their own ethos in new, often high tech surroundings. Our students want to do well, but too often, aspiring to go to a top university has not been on their radar.

So, on the induction evening, I spoke to them about ambition and challenge in their subjects, about being prepared to work harder than ever for its own reward (a new idea for many!). I also mentioned exciting plans to visit top universities to sow the seed, but importantly, to convey that an application and admission to a Cambridge College, like Corpus Christi, is achievable. Some of our brightest students are the first in their families to go to university, and I hope to introduce them

Until 2007, funding was available to support replacement teacher costs for applicants from the state sector. Now, without financial support, it is in many cases not possible for schools to release teachers to take up a Fellowship for a full term. In order to ensure the widest possible access to the scheme, we are offering 5-week Fellowships, but for many teachers it is impossible to secure a leave of absence even for a few weeks without funding for a replacement teacher.

If any Old Member would like to find out more about the Schoolteacher Fellowship scheme and how they could support it, please contact the Admissions Tutor, Dr Melanie Taylor.

College trip to the Holy Land

By Sebastian Robins (m2003). Current PhD student

If you walk up Bene't Street towards the Corn Exchange you will see on the wall to your left, next to the entrance to *The Eagle* pub, a plaque, which reads: 'it was here on February 28th 1953 that Francis Crick and James Watson first announced their discovery of how DNA carries genetic information'. The plaque was erected only recently, but I suspect that many of us, as members of the College from which *The Eagle* leases its premises, are nonetheless aware

Corpuscles. When one visits the holy city, where Jesus preached as a young boy, where he prayed with his disciples, and where he was condemned and executed, one is presented with the reality of a man's life: these steps; this olive grove; this steep little path down the Mount of Olives and across the Kidron Valley into the city. But one is also made aware of the extent to which this reality has been shared, interpreted, and fought over.



of this particular connexion. These little blue plaques, many of which can be found in the city, remind us that it is not just the lives, and ideas, and events of the past that interest and inspire us, but also the places in which and with which we can share that past. Indeed, this way of relating to particular places is, anthropologically speaking, one of the characteristics of human behaviour.

Travelling to Jerusalem, then, can feel like travelling to the centre of the world. We are most of us, more or less, familiar with the events of Christ's birth, ministry and passion. We are also aware, I suspect, of the extent to which these events have impacted upon the history of the world: wars have been fought, continents have been conquered, and huge numbers of people from the fourth century AD onwards have been organised and identified under the sign of the cross. It was, of course, in response to the events of Jesus of Nazareth's life that Corpus was founded in the fourteenth century, and these events have played, and continue to play, a significant part in the lives of

Twenty four students and Fellows of Corpus and St Catharine's College, along with the two College chaplains, James Buxton and Anthony Moore, spent ten days in late August and early September visiting the places associated with Christ's life. The party spent six days in Jerusalem, and four in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee. I should stress, however, that this was a journey rather than a pilgrimage. It was an opportunity for us to make sense of these places for ourselves. And so, to list the many sites we visited – the fourth-century Church of the Nativity, the Crusader fortress-church of St Anne, the Muslim Shrine of the Rock, the Herodian Western Wall – does not, I think, say a great deal about our time in the Holy Land. For each of us the experience was complex and wonderful: here, I can only say something of my own response.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the cathedral built, with some archaeological certainty, on the site of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, made the greatest impression on me, and I think it had a similar effect on most of the group. The Sepulchre itself is nothing to write home about: Queen



Helena's magnificent fourth-century basilica was burnt down by the Persians in 614, and again by the Mamelukes in the eleventh century. Most of what remains dates from the Crusader period, although fires, earthquakes, and neglect have changed the appearance of the buildings considerably in the past five centuries. Inside, the Middle East's ancient Christian denominations jostle for space: the Armenians are in the crypt; the Ethiopians are on the roof; and the Copts, Latins, Eastern Orthodox and Russian Orthodox hold their liturgies in competition, from midnight on Saturday into Sunday afternoon. And this, I think, is something that gives Jerusalem its particular feel. For centuries here the same communities have lived side-by-side, struggling to assert their own cultural and religious traditions. The city's modern dynamic is, of course, impossible to overlook: armed IDF cadets, each carrying a battered-looking M16 automatic rifle, inhabit the same spaces as Palestinian Arabs; and each evening Israeli police swagger past the Muslim shopkeepers at the Damascus gate. Modern Jerusalem is a city in tension, certainly, but the same might be said of twelfth-century Jerusalem, divided up into Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian quarters by the Crusaders in a bid to keep the peace, or indeed of first-century Jerusalem, in which the Romans strove to control populations from all over the Middle-East.

It is this sense of continuity, perhaps, that makes Jerusalem so special for those who are lucky enough to go there. In Jerusalem, one occupies a space shared not only with Jesus and Mary, Pilate and Caiaphas, but also with generations of pilgrims, and with so many actors in European and global history. In Jerusalem, one is made acutely aware of the ongoing Arab-Israeli crisis, but in addition to the bullet-peppered Lion's gate – a reminder of the 1967 war – the charred, remodelled buildings, and the winding jumble of streets bear witness to a history of crises and compromises.

And yet, in spite of that history, those same communities continue to live side-by-side. We found ourselves in the holy city during Ramadan, and each evening the Muslim quarter exploded into activity. After dinner, if we wished, we could stroll down to the Damascus gate to shop with the locals, sample delicious Cunifeh (cheese served hot with honey, a local treat), and share a nargileh (the tall Arabic bubble pipe) until well past midnight. At dawn the city is alive with Jews on their way to prayer, and throughout the day Christian pilgrims from all over the world gather at the Stations of the Cross to sing in one of a hundred languages.

Galilee is completely different from Jerusalem. It is, I suppose, the Israeli equivalent to the English Lake District, but hot. Further down the Jordan valley, one comes across some of the first kibbutzim, established in the 1920s, but on the shores of the Sea of Galilee itself little seems to have changed in two thousand years. In these places – Capernaum, Tabgha, the Mount of the Beatitudes – one may connect with the quiet life of a fisherman.

While I have said a great deal about sharing space with and connecting with the past, Israel's present is very real, and holiday-makers and pilgrims cannot help, I think, but be confronted by that present.

The group spent an afternoon at Yad Vashem, the Israeli holocaust museum. In Europe, we are perhaps encouraged to think of the holocaust as a European nightmare; there, we were reminded that the holocaust was a Jewish tragedy. The recollection of that tragedy hangs over the landscape.

And yet today, from Yad Vashem, one can see the security wall that prevents Palestinian Arabs from crossing into Jerusalem – their nearest city – for work, and for medical attention. The New Settlements on the surrounding hillsides, with their security cameras, swimming pools, tennis courts and tree-lined boulevards, overlook Bedouin shanty-towns, and Palestinian building sites starved of building materials.

After two thousand years of longing and conflict, Israel remains a place both of great hope and of great bitterness. I am deeply grateful for the time I spent there. I pray that you, too, are able to go and see it for yourself.





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