Welcome to the Lent issue of the Pelican in which Dr Oliver Rackham, Senior Fellow, writes an appreciation of the Master, and Simon Heffer (m 1979) interviews Professor Christopher Andrew. We also cover Roman history with Dr Christopher Kelly as he takes up his prestigious Leverhulme Research Fellowship, and learn ways in which algae are similar to animals from Dr Alison Smith. Her research was published recently in the eminent science journal, Nature and demonstrates that over half of all algae require vitamin B12 in order to survive, like animals. Even more fascinating is that they obtain the vitamin from bacteria. Corpus was able to boast that two of its Fellows had papers published in the same issue of Nature (November 2003); Professor Paul Mellars also published a second paper on his research into the emergence of Homo sapiens and a more highly structured language and has since published a third paper in Nature.

We welcome Lucy Gowans as our new Alumni Relations Officer. Lucy joins us from the Leys School in Cambridge and we are delighted that she is part of the Development Office here. She has already organised the Beldam Dinner and has been introducing herself to Old Members over the past few months. If you have any queries about alumni relations or want to visit Corpus, please do contact Lucy directly. Latona Forder Stent takes over as Development Officer and Legacy Manager.

Finally, Mark Cox, who has been a familiar face to so many Old Members over the past 25 years, takes up his new position as College Steward. This will bring Mark into closer contact with the Development team as he will head up events. Mark’s long knowledge of Corpus and its Old Members will prove invaluable to everyone involved in organising and attending reunions, dinners, celebrations and feasts.

Contents

1  Welcome
   Liz Winter, Development Director

2  Profile of the Master
   By Dr Oliver Rackham

5  Lucy Gowans – Alumni Relations Officer

6  New York – visit to the Big Apple

8  Interview with Professor Chris Andrew
    Simon Heffer

12 Dr Christopher Kelly
    Awarded Leverhulme Trust Fellowship

14 Dr Alison Smith – Nature paper published

16 Students’ News
    Kenya Project Partnership

Editor: Liz Winter
Managing editor: Latona Forder-Stent
Assistant editor: Lucy Gowans


Development Office
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge: CB2 1RH
Tel: 01223 339731 Fax: 01223 337014
Email: development@corpus.cam.ac.uk
www.corpus.cam.ac.uk

Produced by Cameron Design & Marketing Ltd
Tel: 01353 860006
Professor Haroon Ahmed, Master

By Dr Oliver Rackham

In time past many Masters of colleges moved on to higher things, often church preferments. The last Master of Corpus to do so was Edmund Pearce, who left us to become first Bishop of Derby in 1924. Now Haroon Ahmed will be leaving us at the end of September to reorganize the teaching of science and engineering in Pakistan.

Haroon, son of a Pakistani engineer, was brought up in Karachi. As a young University Lecturer, he came to us in 1967 as a Fellow to teach engineering. His love for the College was soon confirmed by an interview with the College Ghost in person. He rose to be Warden of Leckhampton, and gained a reputation as a sportsman, a generous friend and courtly host.

In a lifetime of research he has built up the science of microelectronics, of which he became personal Professor in 1992. His aim has been to produce ever-smaller electronic components, getting down towards the atomic scale. It is due to his efforts and those of his colleagues that my computer goes into a satchel rather than a large building and performs within seconds rather than weeks. He used the skills acquired in imaging manuscripts to initiate the digital imaging of the Parker manuscripts.

The College elected Haroon as Master in 2000, at a difficult time. Our over-ambitious plans for the Parker Library had brought lengthy, expensive, and fruitless grant applications, leading to disension among the Fellows. This has now passed into history. Haroon soon won the confidence of Fellows and benefactors alike. As readers will know, we are halfway through a much more practical scheme beginning with the needs of students. The College will soon have one of the best undergraduate libraries in Cambridge, after which we shall be re-housing the Parker manuscripts. Haroon presided over the College’s six-and-a-half centenary. Although we failed to toast an ox as in 1952, he got us to do several things that were even better, notably the publication of several books about the College.

It often happens that the deepest appreciation of English cultural traditions comes from people who were brought up outside them. Whether presiding at a Corpus Christi feast, or sitting in the Master’s stall.

The Pelican Lent Term
in Chapel evensong, or (as Vice-Chancellor’s deputy) admitting members of the College to their degrees, or negotiating with the unpredictable [censored], or reminding the Keeper of Records to clear snow from the gutters over the Archive Rooms in the Christmas vacation. Haroon has set an example as head of a College that his successor will not easily follow.

The call of patriotic duty now pulls him in a new direction, as Higher Education Adviser to the Government of Pakistan. His brief is to guide the setting-up of five new science and engineering universities, each with an industrial park. Each university is to be sponsored by a partner university in Europe, and will have an exchange of staff and students. He will spend some of his time in Islamabad, and the remainder in Cambridge while negotiating with partner countries in Europe.

We are sorry to lose Haroon a year before his expected retirement, but we reflect that founding five universities is something that few Cambridge dons get round to achieving. (Even St. John Fisher was co-founder of only two colleges!) We wish him and Anne well in their new environment. We shall welcome them back to Cambridge after about three years of commuting between Pakistan and Europe.
Professor Haroon Ahmed
Career at a Glance

Born in Calcutta in 1936 and brought up in Delhi and Karachi.

Came to England in 1954.

Graduated from Imperial College, London in 1957 with a BSc in Engineering.

Research Student at Kings College, Cambridge leading to PhD (1963).
ScD from Cambridge University (1996).

Lectureship in Engineering 1966 and Fellowship at Corpus 1967.

Reader in Microelectronics (1984-1992) and later Professor of Microelectronics (1992-2003), at the Cavendish Laboratory.


Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and of the Institute of Physics.

Head of the Microelectronics Research Centre, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University.

Served as a Syndic of the Cambridge University Press and as editor of both teaching and research book series published by CUP.

Former non-Executive Director of Addenbrookes NHS Trust.
Former President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.

During his 40-plus years at Cambridge University Haroon Ahmed has published several hundred research papers and written or edited books on electronics. In recent years, he has given the Kelvin Lecture at the Institution of Electrical Engineering and the Larmor Lecture at the Cambridge Philosophical Society. He has worked closely with industry throughout his career, both as a consultant and as a director of commercial high technology companies.

I have recently joined the Development Office here at Corpus Christi as Alumni Relations Officer. There is already plenty to keep me busy with the organisation of alumni events such as the Beldam Dinner, the Corpus Association Garden Party and the MacCurdy Dinner. I am also pleased to learn that so many Old Members keep in touch with the College and am happy to receive news of your endeavours and accomplishments.

My previous role was as Development Officer for The Leys School and I am excited to have been given the opportunity to 'climb the academic ladder' and become part of the Corpus Christi community. My role here will be very similar to that at The Leys where I managed the alumni database and organised events for Old Members.

My main aims are to continue to build on relationships between the College and Old Members and to introduce some new events to Corpus alumni - watch this space!

I am looking forward to working with Liz and Latona who have already made me feel so welcome in the office and made settling into a new job that bit easier. Things have been especially busy here from the start and I have already received letters from over 500 Old Members in response to the Beldam Dinner Invitation - and with over 180 set to attend it looks like it will be a fantastic event to begin with!
New York Trip

Towards the end of November last year, Liz Winter and Professor David Ibbetson, Warden of Leckhampton, visited New York with the joint purpose of meeting Old Members and participating in the University’s 800th Campaign launch in New York.

The highlight of the trip was the dinner at Neil Westreich’s apartment in Park Avenue. Neil, who was recently admitted into the Fellowship as the College’s first Guild Fellow, opened his beautiful home to Old Members and their partners for a wonderful evening of a gourmet dinner (cooked and served by Daniel’s, one of New York’s top restaurants), music and most of all, friendship and conversation. Many guests had had little contact with the College since leaving, and most didn’t realise that other Corpuscles lived nearby in New York so the evening brought surprises as well as a renewed enthusiasm for Corpus and relived memories of youth. Guests varied in age from their 70s to 20s, making an eclectic and interesting mix.

Earlier in the week, Liz and David visited International House, the graduate centre in the city that houses graduate students from a variety of universities in New York. The President, Don Cuneo, hosted a delightful lunch that included students from countries as far apart as Nigeria, China and Belgium. Also at the lunch was Old Member Adam Quinton, who is a trustee of International House and who made the introduction. There was considerable similarity of purpose between International House and Leckhampton, and a good deal of discussion about common agendas and shared missions took place, to the benefit of all.

The trip was also an opportunity to strengthen the friendship with Mrs Mary Insall, widow of Old Member John Insall. Mrs Insall has been a generous supporter of the new library in memory of her husband, who read medicine in 1950 and who later went to live in the US and became an eminent orthopaedic surgeon. Mary entertained David and Liz to lunch, showed them some of the sights of the city and was able to join them at Neil’s party. It is hoped that she will come to Cambridge to attend the opening of the new library next year and enjoy a little College hospitality in return. David and Liz were also able to meet up again with Bill Taubman, who was a graduate student at Leckhampton in 1981 where he did an MPhil in philosophy.

The Cambridge in America Day at the City of New York Graduate Centre was a stimulating palette of lectures from eminent speakers, with topics ranging across Cambridge’s medieval origins, journeys to the centre of the earth, stem cell research, and the birth of human happiness. A number of Old Members attended the day, and it was an opportunity to meet up and exchange news. The Vice Chancellor and US campaign director Bill Janeway reminded alumni and friends of the University’s campaign goal to raise £1 billion by 2012. As Alison Richard put it, ‘The Cambridge 800th Anniversary Campaign is about securing the edge of excellence at Cambridge, ensuring that we continue to provide the outstanding opportunities that enable individuals who work and study here to make their mark in the world.’

The Pelican Lent Term
Interview

Simon Heffer interviews Professor Christopher Andrew

Simon Heffer came up to Corpus in 1979 to read English. He has been deputy editor of the Spectator, a columnist on the Daily Mail, and is now the Associate Editor of the Daily Telegraph. He is one of the most prominent journalists and commentators writing today.

Chris Andrew is an instantly recognisable figure to any Corpus man or woman below retirement age. First as undergraduate, then research student, then fellow, then director of studies in history, then Senior Tutor and, lately, as President of the College, his links with Corpus are almost unbroken since he came up in 1959. The only aberration was two years at Caius as a research student in the mid-1960s – something of which he retains happy memories after almost 40 years back at our College.

Professor Andrew – he has held the chair of Modern and Contemporary History at Cambridge since 1993 – is also well known to a wider audience. The author of several books and presenter of BBC radio programmes, his name was sealed in 1999 with the publication of The Mitrokhin Archive, which used documents smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to tell for the first time something like the authentic story of the KGB’s role in the west during the Cold War. A second volume of Mitrokhin has just appeared, and Professor Andrew is working on the official history of MI5: it would have been impossible to find a better man for the job.

I first met him nearly 27 years ago, when coming up to Corpus as an undergraduate, and he looks remarkably unchanged since those days. His appearance only emphasising the continuity in the College that he seems to embody. He tells me he came to Corpus after his careers master at his school, King Edward VI, Norwich, drew the College’s name ‘out of a hat’ – the school was keen not to send too many applicants to the same college. On the same day that Corpus offered him a scholarship to read history, Merton College, Oxford, offered him a place. ‘My interview there went so well,’ he recalls. ‘Providence only allows you one interview like that in a lifetime.’

‘My interviewer went out of the room and I pulled down from his shelves Maurice Ashley’s book The Greatness of Oliver Cromwell. It just so happened I had read C. V. Wedgwood’s review of it in The Telegraph on the train going to Oxford that day. Inside this copy of the book was a carbon copy of the review of it written by my interviewer. When he came back into the room he asked what I was interested in, and what I had read lately. I answered “Cromwell” and “Ashley”, and told him selected parts of what I knew he thought of it. Young and innocent though I was, I could tell he was impressed.’

The Andrew family – his father was an accountant with the Norwich Union and a former World War II RAF navigator in Sunderland flying-boats – had just returned home from a celebratory fish and chip lunch in Great Yarmouth to mark his offer from Merton when they found a telegram from Corpus. It had only recently been clear, however, that young Chris would be a historian: his intellectual odyssey had earlier suggested something far different.

His father had, he said, ‘a respect for learning without interest in any broader culture’, and Chris had always been encouraged to pursue learning himself. At the age of seven, when being interviewed for a junior school, he had borne in mind his father’s injunction, using a traditional Norfolk phrase, to ‘do different’. When asked by his future headmaster (the
last headmaster to play Christ in a passion play at the Maddermarket theatre, stripped to the waist, and with the boys at the back of the audience not quite daring to call out "crucify him" what he wanted to be when he grew up, Chris replied: 'A member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I am told it is an excellent career for an ambitious young man. He duly won his place, for exhibiting what he now calls his 'first independent thought'.

He took his O levels young, his main interest being in the sciences - 'it was an age when scientific advance was less taken for granted than it is now, and it was therefore more exciting'. He had a chemistry set at home. 'The Health and Safety Executive wouldn't allow it now. I had a Bunsen burner in the breakfast room. I loved experiments.'

Professor Andrew attacks the 'late 20th and early 21st century impertinence of disregarding the experience of so many previous generations', which he feels has accelerated the advance of secularisation and the casual disregard in which religion is now held. 'Centuries of religious belief,' he adds, 'are not explained by the idea that adults needed to believe in Father Christmas until they have grown up a bit. We forget that extraordinary faith can achieve extraordinary things - such as transforming people's health. There may be such things as miracles. But miracles are not important to me one way or the other. They don't lead one to a particular truth.'

Earlier generations, he feels, better educated and with a knowledge of the classics and the Old Testament, knew that the latest idea was not necessarily the best idea. Every generation is faced with the decision of what to hold on to and what to lose. His own regret that the present generation seems to have decided to lose religion is palpable. Yet he had, by the time he took his A levels and was contemplating Oxbridge entrance, abandoned any idea of the Cloth and instead focused on the study of history. 'I realised that what really interested me was the human experience, and at looking at the present from a long perspective.' His mind had also been turned by listening to a 'hellfire' sermon in the abbey church at Bourne in Lincolnshire, his mother's home town and the place he was born in 1941. 'The idea of God building a giant Auschwitz in the sky for the punishment of sinners was not my idea of religious belief. From that point on, I have lacked certainty."

Then, at the age of 15, came a great intellectual, and spiritual, shift in his life. He 'terribly admired' the clergyman father of his closest friend and 'I decided I wanted to be ordained. I had some sort of conversion.' So he dropped sciences for the arts, including starting Greek at the relatively late stage of A levels. He had always had a religious faith but, at this stage in his life, 'was converted from a respect for the beauty of holiness to a belief that the Christian faith was the most important thing in my life'. As with so many profoundly significant things that he and I discuss, Professor Andrew has a down-to-earth way of registering his religious feelings: in this case a Snoopy cartoon of the eponymous dog lying on his back on the roof of his kennel, looking up at the universe, and uttering that 'either there's folks up there, or there ain't. Either way, it's amazing.' For him, the key event in his conversion was reading C S Lewis. His history master - 'not a particularly good teacher, by the way' - lent him a dozen books for holiday reading, one of which was Lewis.

He recalls how different, in other respects, the world was that he grew up in during the 1950s. He recalls watching with his family Richard Dimbleby's legendary Panorama spoof about the failed spaghetti harvest - which suggested it grew on trees - and hearing his mother say, when it had finished, that 'it is a pity they don't have more films
like that. It was only the next day when the Telegraph revealed the practical joke that much of the country realised they had been had. He was not only the first member of his family ever to go to university, he was also the first to cross the channel in peacetime, when he went in 1959 to visit his French pen-friend. 'The night before I went,' he recalls, 'I was almost sick with excitement. However, my parents thought that France was a place of acute moral danger. I recall my father coming into my bedroom the night before I left, which he never did, adjusting my curtains, which he also never did, clearing his throat, which he also never did, and warning me of the dangers of homosexuality.'

His experience as an undergraduate was mixed. He found some of the teaching poor: 'I was so disappointed by the quality of the lecturing that after my first term I didn’t go to any more until my third year'. He was more fascinated by the idea of research itself than by exploring any particular topic, and for 'mechanical reasons' chose to explore the background to the Entente Cordiale and the role of Delcasse. He had also married on graduating, and he and his new wife reasoned that it would be more fun to spend time in Paris than in Italy or Spain, which were two other options. He also thought he would have easier access to French archives than to those in the other countries, but even they were 'difficult'.

He has clearly loved every second of his time at Corpus since taking up his fellowship in 1967, including his seven years as Senior Tutor in the 1980s. His chair, though, is the acme of his academic achievement, placing him at the pinnacle of what he calls 'one of the best history faculties in the world'. His association in the 1950s with Vasili Mitrokhin has given a whole new, and more popular, dimension to his work. Mitrokhin, who was marked down as a member of the Soviet 'awkward squad' and relegated to a job in the intelligence archive, smuggled papers out of the Lubyanka when his department was relocating to another building. He then took the documents to his weekend dacha and hid them in milk churns. Once the border controls came down in the early 1990s, he disguised himself as a tramp and took them in a suitcase to the British embassy in one of the newly-liberated Baltic republics. As a result of Mitrokhin's courage - he could have been executed if his theft was ever discovered - Professor Andrew has been able to fill in one of the great historical blanks of the Cold War.

Mitrokhin died two years ago, aged 82. Professor Andrew recalls him with fondness. 'I never lost my admiration for him. He was not an easy person to get on with. But then only a minuscule proportion of difficult people are heroes, but a large proportion of heroes are difficult people.' The second volume of his work on Mitrokhin’s archive illuminates the KGB still further. 'It is the cold war with two hands clapping. Histories of the period have had much in them about the CIA, but Soviet intelligence used to be left out. No historian of the Second World War would think of leaving out Ultra, but many Cold War historians simply don’t mention intelligence. What we now know of the Soviet Union opens up a different world to us. It is the Upper Volta with thermonuclear missiles. We also now know that the US defence industry was central to the Warsaw Pact. They obtained more secret scientific and technical information from America than from the rest of the world.'

But then he registers an ambivalence about America, a country where he points out you can find Alger Hiss professorial chairs. 'Imagine us having a Kim Philby Chair,' he muses. 'And with his customary mischief, adds that 'but then perhaps there might be something along those lines one day at Trinity College. After all, just as that college has produced more Nobel prize winners than the whole of France, so it has produced more world class traitors than the whole of Oxford.'
Fellows' News

Dr Christopher Kelly
Awarded the Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship

Christopher Kelly, Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at Corpus, has been awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship. His project (which will lead to a book to be published by Harvard University Press) is entitled *Cavory to Constantinople, the Conversion of the Classical Past in late Antiquity*. It focuses on the way in which Roman history was re-written in the century after Constantine, the first Roman emperor publicly to embrace Christianity.

“My Major Research Fellowship explores the ways in which the classical (and defiantly non-Christian) past was understood in a newly Christian Roman Empire. It is concerned with a broad range of startling juxtapositions; in history-writing, in sculpture, in panegyrics, in poetry, in the planning of Constantine’s new imperial capital, Constantinople (modern Istanbul).”

For Dr Kelly, who was educated in Sydney, Australia, this two-year fellowship marks a welcome return to pure academia, away from the demands of being the College’s Senior Tutor, a post he held for five years, from 2000 to 2004. Free (at least for a while) from the demands of university and college teaching, he will be able to immerse himself in the delights of his wide-ranging interests in the ancient world.

Christopher Kelly first came to Cambridge in 1987, following an undergraduate career reading law and classics at Sydney University. While at Sydney he won the World Inter-Varsity Debating Championships; at Trinity, he was the first graduate President of the Cambridge Union Society; he then held a Research Fellowship at Pembroke College. He is an experienced broadcaster and writes widely on Roman matters.

Most recently, in 2004, he published (with Harvard University Press) an important book – *Ruling the later Roman Empire* – which offered a highly original interpretation of the operation of this vast imperial superstate, recapturing the experience of both rulers and ruled under a sophisticated system of government regulated by networks of personal influence and the payment of money. His *A Very Short Introduction to the Roman Empire* will be published by Oxford University Press in August this year.

At present, Christopher is compiling a book for Jonathan Cape (in London) and Norton (in New York) entitled *Atilla the Hun and the Fall of the Roman Empire*. He takes up his Leverhulme Fellowship in October and looks forward to the opportunity to devote himself entirely to the pursuit of all things Roman.

---

Right: Mid fourth-century mosaic roundel of Christ from a Roman villa at St Mary, Dorset

Far right: South face of the Arch of Constantine in Rome, dedicated AD315

The Pelican Lent Term
Fellows’ News

Dr Alison Smith – Algae need vitamins too

Dr Alison Smith, Fellow since 1984 and Director of Studies in Biology, has for many years studied how plants and microorganisms make vitamins. Her most recent work has resulted in the discovery that over half of all algae – simple aquatic plants – are like animals in that they require a supply of vitamin B12. Even more remarkable is that they obtain the vitamin from bacteria, with which they have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship. This work was published in the journal Nature in November last year.

Most vitamins are plentiful in fruit and vegetables, but vitamin B12 is not made by higher plants, since they don’t need it in their metabolism. Consequently, strict vegetarians are at risk of deficiency, and are often recommended to eat seaweed (macroalgae) such as nori, which is used to wrap sushi. This has as much vitamin B12 as does more commonly eaten sources of the nutrient such as liver, but until now it was not known why algae contain this compound, nor where it comes from. Algae have colonised all aquatic environments including the oceans, rivers and lakes, and they live by photosynthesis, harnessing the sun’s energy to convert CO2 from the atmosphere into sugars. A natural assumption therefore was that they made the vitamin themselves, since photosynthetic organisms do not generally require organic nutrients. On the other hand, there were reports in the early literature that suggested that many algal species were unable to grow in the laboratory unless they were supplied with vitamin B12, a conundrum that Alison had debated several times with her colleague, Professor Martin Warren from the University of Kent. They were able to start investigating this experimentally with the appointment of a joint PhD student, Martin Croft.

Together the team studied a range of algae and were able to demonstrate that none of them were able to produce their own vitamin B12. This was confirmed by looking at the available genome sequences for algae – none have any vitamin B12 biosynthetic genes. Instead, algae could be divided into three groups: those completely dependent on B12 for growth, those that could use it if it were available, and those that did not require the vitamin at all. In addition, the genome sequences revealed that the major metabolic process requiring vitamin B12 in algae was the same as in animals, namely synthesis of the amino acid methionine, which can be made via either a B12-dependent or independent enzyme.

One further mystery remained. The doses of vitamin B12 needed to support growth of marine algae in the laboratory were way above those present naturally in the oceans. A clue to what was going on came when the researchers found that the algae could not grow in ordinary seawater if it had been filtered, unless the vitamin was supplied. In other words, the source of vitamin B12 was something that had been filtered-out. The most likely candidates were bacteria. Sure enough, Martin Croft was able to isolate bacteria from the surface of seaweed grown in the laboratory, when added to the filtered seawater, supported algal growth. But this phenomenon proved to be more complex because the conditions provided no carbon source for the bacteria, yet they too survived, presumably growing on sugars produced by algal photosynthesis. Thus the two organisms have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) arrangement.

“You can even get the bacteria to grow more quickly and to produce more vitamin B12 than usual by exposing them to a commercial algal extract” Alison observes. “This shows how intertwined the lives of the two types of organism have become.”

Corroborating pictorial evidence came when the researchers studied the algae under the microscope. They could clearly see bacteria closely associated with the outside sticky layer of the algae, and even repeated washings failed to dislodge them.

Vitamin B12-requiring algae are responsible for an estimated 25% of global carbon fixation. This means that these hitherto unrecognized algal-bacterial relationships are crucial to the planet’s wellbeing.

Alison Smith is Reader in Plant Metabolism at Cambridge. She is married to Professor Andy Hopper, Head of the Computer Laboratory, who is also a fellow of Corpus Christi. They have two children.

The Pelican Lent Term
Students’ News

Kenya Project Partnership

As the project takes shape, three Corpus undergraduates are focusing on building smaller, (but no less important), libraries. This summer, we (Isabel Barter, Jayne Earl and Clare Foster) will be living in Kenya for 10 weeks, as part of the Kenya Project Partnership, which is a student-led, volunteer organisation that aims to improve the quality of education in rural secondary schools in Kisii, southwest Kenya. With only ten places available Corpus has shown itself to be an important charitable college, despite its size.

Why is this work necessary?
In theory, the Kenyan government should provide teachers for each school, and students’ fees should supply funds necessary to buy equipment. In practice, schools typically only collect between 25-50% of their fees, which finance (often untrained) teachers the government has neglected to employ. The resulting inadequate education is directly linked to poverty and to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

What does the Kenya Project do?
It provides sustainable help to each school over a three-year period. Twenty volunteers (ten from Cambridge, ten from Oxford) work in pairs. Investing £1500 in each school, fundraised in the UK.

In partnership with teachers, governors, parents and children we negotiate the most effective use of the money. Past investment has ranged from science equipment to windows; but a large proportion inevitably purchases books. Over the three-year period, we try to build up a mini-library of vital textbooks for each form, without which students stand little chance of doing well in national exams.

Does it work? The charity’s research shows investment in education leads to improved examination performance, increased student enrolment and acceptance of students into higher education, often for the first time in the schools history. Most importantly, schools continue to grow and achieve good results long after leaving the Partnership; so we are truly building the capacity of schools to succeed on their own.

News
We hope to keep Corpus up-to-date, and will send back some pictures of the new libraries to be displayed in our own!

Jayne - “My motivation for volunteering in Kenya is simple... I love visiting new places and experiencing different cultures (that’s why I’m a geographer!). I am excited at this opportunity to help Kenyan students, and I will also take this chance to study development issues more closely, in preparation for a future career”.

Clare - “After spending seven months doing HIV/AIDS work in Tanzania and two years as Chair of the Cambridge Student Stop AIDS Society I’m looking forward to the chance not only to expand my knowledge and experience of development issues that surround education and HIV/AIDS but also to actively help combat these problems at a grassroots level”.

Isabel - “Girls are often withdrawn first from education if there are familial financial difficulties, and are less likely to experience post-educational opportunities. So for me, Kenya Project Partnership’s emphasis upon girls’ education is really important. A raised level of female literacy and education has been shown in recent studies to have a direct impact upon reducing levels of fertility, improving levels of child health, and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS.”

We will be busy this term! Besides lengthy training we have to raise the £250 we invest in the school and the further £1250 to cover travel and living costs. You might see us pounding Cambridge’s streets, preparing for the Silverstone Half Marathon. We are holding various events, including the infamous Corpus Promise Auction (we will be slaves for the day to the highest bidder) and, of course, shaking buckets at passers by in town!
To make a donation or sponsor us please contact Clare (crl26@cam.ac.uk), or post cheques made payable to The Kenya Project Partnership to Clare Foster, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, CB2 1RH.

We would love to keep you updated now and in Kenya.

For more information, see www.kenyaproject.org.uk, or contact us at the above email address.