Corpus Christi Newsletter
Issue One Michaelmas 2001

pelican

In this issue
Message from the Master
Page 2
Access and admissions
Page 4
Royal visit
Page 10
Message from the Master

I hope that this first edition of the Pelican, the newsletter of Corpus Christi College, will be welcomed by all Members and friends of the College and particularly Old Members with whom we are always keen to stay in touch. We expect to bring out the Pelican once each term to keep you up-to-date with news from the College as we approach the 650th year of our Foundation in 1352.

We have planned a very full year of events for our anniversary and details of all these events will be included in this and future editions of the newsletter. It is gratifying to note how many Fellows and Old Members have already expressed their willingness to help with the events. There will be lectures by the distinguished historian, Professor Christopher Andrew, known to many Old Members as their supervisor in history and as Senior Tutor. He will tell us about his research interests which include the activities of the Secret Services, intelligence gathering and code breaking.

The newly appointed Donnelley Librarian, Dr. Christopher de Hamel will be speaking about the incomparable treasures in our Parker Library and there will be an opportunity for alumni to view these books and manuscripts in the newly refurbished Wilkins Room. The 650th Anniversary Ball in 2002 will be a special College Ball and we hope that many Old Members will return to revive their memories and renew their connection with the College at this evening, which we hope to make a College-only event if we can sell enough tickets to current Members and Old Members.

We are particularly keen to invite younger generations of our alumni to events in 2002 and have arranged garden parties at which it will be possible for families to be present. There are plans for musical events, including a concert at the Purcell Room in London's South Bank Centre given by Andrew Quartermain who is a former Choral Scholar of Corpus. There will also be several sporting functions and a Service of Thanksgiving in the University Church of Great St. Mary's.

This newsletter will not only give readers news of the College but we also hope that it will become a forum for current Members as well as for those who have left Cambridge to tell us about themselves. We are planning regular features with news of recent Corpus successes and we hope that people who make the news will be able to tell us their news, or better still, find the time to write for the newsletter. It has been suggested that we launch a website, accessed via a password, which will be a Who's Who of Corpus. The Corpus Association has welcomed this suggestion and we should be able to implement it in our anniversary year.
This year has been a special one for Corpus with visits to our library by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Chancellor of the University, and by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, in March. These visits were in support of our fund-raising for the Libraries. The opportunity to build a new College Library in place of the cramped Butler Library will be welcomed by many Old Members who I am sure will remember the days of revision just before examinations when the Butler Library was overcrowded. Our efforts to increase our scholarships and studentships have been greatly helped by a recent generous donation from Dr. John Taylor (m.1956) and we are making very significant improvements to the College's admission prospectus and website to encourage more applicants from all sectors of secondary education.

Other plans for the immediate future include building a gym in the College. Gyms have become popular not only nationally but also in Cambridge and many Colleges have now installed these facilities. Corpus is in real need of a gym if it is to retain its popularity with applicants to this University.

Our plans for taking the College into the future extend into all areas of the College's activities and forthcoming editions will continue to report on our progress.

Haroon Ahmed
Master
Access and admissions
news from the front line

Along with other higher education establishments in the United Kingdom, Corpus is currently facing two serious problems: access to higher education and rapidly changing structure and content in secondary education syllabuses. These present distinct but related challenges.

The Laura Spence affair of last year acutely focused our attention on the problems of access to higher education and Oxbridge in particular. Despite the best efforts of the press to revive the old ‘Brideshead Revisited’ image of Oxbridge, with its ‘inside track’ and implications of social exclusion, the whole scandal collapsed in the face of today’s reality: that Oxford and Cambridge are full of students from a wide range of social, ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds. Many students found the contention that Oxbridge discriminates in favour of independent school students, or makes a special case for state school applicants, patronising and offensive.

Removing barriers
However, our contacts with state schools and their pupils still suggest that the image of Oxbridge persists in the media is a significant factor dissuading them from making an application. This kind of disinformation is a key problem standing in the way of access to the unique educational experience we offer in Cambridge. We find other problems of communication with teachers in some secondary schools, many of whom find even the application procedure mysterious. They are distrustful of an increasingly complex system, especially now that we are facing the added complications of AS levels and A2s as the old system of A levels is swept away this year.

If we are to attract the very best students to Cambridge and to Corpus, we must address these problems head on and remove what I might call the ‘attitude and information’ barrier to access; this is a real barrier and stands in the way of many able students realising their potential.

Speaking the teachers’ language
We have been able to appoint a Schools’ Liaison Officer this academic year. Dr Barrie Fleet. Barrie was head of Classics at the Leys School in Cambridge before retiring five years ago. This puts him in a unique position to fulfil his role, which is to visit state schools, talk to teachers and organise visits to Corpus over and above our usual Open days. Having been a teacher himself and being Principal Examiner with the AQA and UCLES, Barrie speaks the same language as the teachers he visits and we are already seeing the benefits of new relationships with schools he has visited.
So far this academic year, Barrie has covered 40 schools and HE Fairs in places as far apart as Norfolk, Cumbria and Somerset. All this is in addition to school visits by Directors of Studies and Fellows. Corpus is not like many colleges, focusing entirely on inner city schools; we are also visiting schools in rural areas, often neglected by other colleges and universities, with a real store of potential talent.

**Revamping communications**

We are closing the loop by asking teachers from these schools to join us for a series of workshops in College where they can meet Fellows and undergraduates to find out more about Cambridge and about Corpus. After the first of these sessions, we are convinced that this is going to be a powerful way of getting our message across and informing schools about the College. The role of our undergraduate Access and Admissions working group has become very important — students with a particular interest are working with the Admissions office by attending Open Days and meetings, running the Schools Shadowing and GEMA (ethnic minority access) schemes, visiting schools and providing material for our web pages and the prospectus — all with great enthusiasm! The way in which we deliver information is very important. We have been able to make use of the generous gift of Dr. John Taylor this year for, among other things, the preparation of a new high quality prospectus, and reformatting of the web site to make it a rich and accessible source of information on the College and our academic life. The web is particularly important for those who cannot find time or are geographically unable to visit us, so it is full of images of Corpus and information on College, academic and social life. The web site can be found on [http://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk](http://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk) and now features a web cam pointing at New Court!

**We’re ‘surprisingly normal’**

It is always heartening to find out that one’s efforts are being rewarded. Last term the College hosted eight state school pupils who shadowed an undergraduate each for two days, attending lectures and supervisions, and socialising with other students. At the end of the session we asked them to tell us what they thought of us. The first question was how their experience of Corpus and its students compared with their expectations — the first feedback form gave the answer ‘surprisingly normal’! Experience is the best communicator and if our efforts have begun to break down the prejudices and preconceptions that many have of Oxbridge, then we are going in the right direction to improve access and to attract the most able students to study here.

*Dr. Paul Schofield*
*Tutor for Admissions*
It is a great pleasure to be able to start this section by conveying the gratitude of the Leckhampton community for the generous gift from Dr John Taylor, of which you will have read more elsewhere in this newsletter. His gift means that the College can greatly increase the provision it makes to help the most outstanding graduates to come here. The money will be used to provide support for UK as well as non-UK graduates, and will offer much-needed relief in areas where funding is particularly difficult. In addition, it will allow us to expand the help we can give for our graduates to travel as part of their studies, and to enhance the facilities (in computing, for example) we can offer them back home in Cambridge.

Corpus continues to attract the best of graduate students, many of whom go on to Research Fellowships and other prestigious appointments – in the last year our graduates won significantly more Research Fellowships than would be expected from the size of the community. One of the current year’s intake of Research Fellows at Corpus, Beatrice Schlaf-Ridley, is just such a ‘home-grown’ Leckhampton person (although by coincidence both she and Christian Urban, our other new Research Fellow, are originally from Germany).

Corpus postgraduates continue to make their mark across the board. This year we welcomed our first (I think! – readers, please correct me if not) Composer in Residence, Tanik O’Regan. Tanik was a Masters student last year, and remained with us this year with funding from the Hamilton Trust, keeping up a prodigious output. One new work (a Magnificat) was premiered at the Spitalfields Festival in London last December, and reviewed by Paul Driver in the Sunday Times as ‘skillful and elegant’. Another new work (‘Columba Aspexit’) was premiered on BBC2 on Christmas Eve, and his ‘Gratias Tibi’ received its premiere on BBC Radio 3 with the choir of New College, Oxford, under Edward Higginbotham (old Corpus). Tanik has also composed for the College a Communion Setting for the C of E’s new ‘Common Worship’, and is working on a new set of Canicles. So we should soon have a complete collection of ‘Corpus Settings’ for morning and evening services.

On the sporting front, Corpus postgraduates seem to have particularly dominated the ice hockey scene. Mark Hughes, Per Kalblad and Curt Schmitt all played with the Blues’ team last year, won their Half-Blues and toured in Switzerland with CUIHC in January of this year. Mark played in his second Varsity Match this season, with the Cambridge team soundly defeating the Dark Blues 12-5. Fiona Robinson won her Half-Blue shortly after arriving last year, and is Assistant Captain of the Women’s Club.

On the domestic front, we are starting a systematic and thorough programme of restoring and upgrading the Leckhampton campus: 17 Cranmer Road is first in line, and as I write this next door in number 15, I look across to a building site which is a sea of mud. However, when refurbishment of No 17 is finished, we will have a splendid house with accommodation much more suited to the needs of today’s graduate students. We are working hard on the gardens as well, with a carefully planned schedule of tree surgery and maintenance. The driveway onto Grange Road, which had become overgrown with ivy to the point of being seriously oppressive, is being cleared and we are planting it with a mass of bulbs. I hope that in a year or two it will be able to rival anything along the Backs, and raise the spirits of even the most stressed student or member of staff. Sadly the rose garden, beloved of so many Leckhampton residents, is in a poor state. Roses have been grown there for so long that the soil is now in very poor condition. We are faced with the choice between replacing the soil (costing several thousands of pounds) or replanting it with other perennials until the accumulated parasites have died away. Even at Leckhampton, life is not always a bed of roses!

Dr Christopher Howe, Warden
David takes centre stage at opera house

Old Member David Pickard takes up new post as General Director of Glyndebourne

David Pickard, who matriculated in 1979, has been appointed General Director of Glyndebourne, the world famous opera house in Sussex. This job is a fulfillment of his love of opera, which goes back to his childhood, and also enables him to continue to work with his current orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, which will be playing at Glyndebourne this season. Sir George Christie, President of Glyndebourne commented, ‘David Pickard comes straight from the OAE where he has had extraordinary success, not just financially, but particularly in artistic achievement. With his appointment, at the age of 40, together with those of our new Music Director, Vladimir Jurowski, and Gus Christie as Executive Chairman, the company looks forward to a new and rejuvenated future. We welcome David’s appointment wholeheartedly.’

A lover of opera and music since his early youth, David had always wanted a career in this highly competitive arena. For his gap year, he decided to approach the Royal Opera House to see if there was anything he could do. ‘Rather to my surprise, they wrote back and offered me a job putting out the music for the chorus. I had a wonderful time there.’ After leaving Corpus, he returned to the ROM, but this time as assistant company manager, responsible for the day to day scheduling.

Within two years, he had become the company manager, which allowed him to work closely with conductors and singers, and to arrange tours to the Far East and Los Angeles. It was a fascinating five years but by the end of it, he felt the need for a change. He went to work at the Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre which was, he says, a rather unusual direction to take, but a very happy one. However, he soon turned back to opera and ran Kent Opera as the managing director for a brief while. ‘After that, I spent two years on festivals – great fun. I ran the 1991 Japanese festival which focused on Japanese culture in the UK, and then ran the European Arts Festival with John Drummond. He is a wonderful inspirational man and it was a great privilege to work with him.’

David has already worked at the Glyndebourne Opera House with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, which has been performing there since 1989. The OAE will continue to play a significant role as the Glyndebourne Festival’s Associate Orchestra, while the London Philharmonic Orchestra will retain its prominent position as the Festival’s resident orchestra.

I am looking forward enormously to working with the new team at Glyndebourne. I feel privileged, after eight years with the inspirational musicians of the OAE, to be moving to another organisation of such outstanding artistic quality.

In response to the College’s plans to celebrate its 650th Anniversary, David has arranged for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to perform a concert of Handel’s music in Cambridge. The Corpus links are strengthened further by the fact that the conductor will be Nicholas McGegan (m.1969). This concert will be held at the Corn Exchange on March 7th, and tickets can be obtained through the box office there. By next March, David himself will be at Glyndebourne, but he hopes to make it to Cambridge to join other Old Members for what promises to be a memorable evening.

news in brief

Guild of Benefactors dinner

On what was probably the finest evening of the year, the Corpus Guild of Benefactors met for a special dinner in aid of the Parker Library. The event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Professor James Morrow, and the wife, Dr. Emily Rose. Guests began their evening in the McCrum Theatre with a lecture on the origins of art in England, by the Donnelly Fellow Librarian, Dr. Christopher de Hamel. The lecture was followed by a performance by the Chapel choir of pieces from the Winchester Troper, one of the oldest existing pieces of English music.

The guests, who numbered about 130 in all, visited the Parker Library to see the books and manuscripts for themselves, and enjoyed the barmy May evening in the Master’s garden, before going into Hall to dine. The evening brought in a donation of £100,000 from Robert Beldam and the offer of £50,000 from Melvin Seiden, to be matched by further fundraising.

Nicholas Danks

Nicholas Danks (m.1993) has just been appointed Director of Music at St Martin in the Fields. Nick, who has been the Assistant Director of music, was appointed against stiff competition for this prestigious position. Nick will be performing in a recital of piano and organ music, with Andrew Quartemine (m.1993) in the College Chapel, on Saturday 13 October this year. There will be a reception afterwards and dinner in the Hall for Old Members. The concert is in aid of the Student Access Fund.
The Parker Library

Matthew Parker did not look like a seditious revolutionary. Gloom-faced and tight-lipped portraits of Archbishop Parker around the College show a middle-aged man dressed as a clergyman of the Church of England. He is famous for his library of theological books, not the usual attributes of a red-hot radical. His badly-shaven cheeks in the more careful portraits are hardly the wild whiskers of Rasputin.

In England, at least, we tend to associate the Anglican Church now with the conservative establishment, and with cucumber sandwiches on the vicarage lawn and choristers in the cathedral close. In the sixteenth century, however, the whole idea of an independent English Church was breathtakingly revolutionary.

Recent politics in the Balkans and the Middle East should remind us that religious differences can tear nations apart. Western Europe in the sixteenth century was almost destroyed by wars of religion, as the balance between Protestants and Catholics swung wildly back and forth, with appalling massacres and public burnings and the wanton destruction of property and art.

When Queen Elizabeth summoned Parker down from Cambridge to London in 1559, she appointed him as her first archbishop with orders to make Protestantism irrevocable. That was the revolution which he was commanded to lead. Only a year earlier, England had been Catholic. Parker's friend and predecessor, Thomas Cranmer, had been burned at the stake. Matthew Parker wrote the Thirty-Nine Articles, the declaration of independence of the English Church (the original drafts are in MS.121 at Corpus). He claimed for the new Church principles such as that the English could legally defy the pope (this seemed like treason after a thousand years of Catholicism in England), that the sovereign was the head of the Church, that the Bible and preaching could be in English, that clergy could marry, and so on. We might take these as uncontroversial and normal, but that simply shows Parker's achievement.

The trick of any skilful revolutionary is to pretend that what is being promoted is not new but merely a restoration of the old order of things.

We may look back with nostalgia on Elizabethan England as the golden period; the Elizabethans looked to Anglo-Saxon England. Suddenly, this explains Matthew Parker's library, and the reason he entrusted it to his old College. He argued that the extreme radicalism of the new Protestant Church was simply a return to the old English way, before the Norman conquest in 1066. About a quarter of all known Anglo-Saxon books are in the Parker Library, including all the oldest. Parker ransacked them for precedent. There is the Bible in Old English language (MS.140), promoted by King Alfred, no less. Parker found many accounts of English churches answering to the king, not to any pope. He annotated Aelfric's homilies (MS.198) to show that the Anglo-Saxons did not believe in transubstantiation at Mass. He marked up his books tirelessly with red chalk, underlining references to English priests with wives and to preaching in the English language, not Latin. He convinced himself that the English Church was more authentic and older than the papal Catholicism of the late Middle Ages.

Parker's Anglican Church was extraordinarily radical in the 1560s and 70s, but he justified it so carefully with his library that it virtually slipped through without seeming controversial. That is the mark of a supreme political genius. The Church of England has been one of the longest lasting revolutions of western culture, so long that it now seems completely normal. The Thirty-Nine Articles are still upheld by English law. The Parker Library was assembled to furnish evidence which made revolution possible.

Dr. Christopher de Hamel, Donnelley Fellow Librarian
Chapel news

Members of the College past and present gathered in Leckhampton gardens last September to celebrate the 40th birthday of the Dean of Chapel, Mark Pryce. The weather was sunny, the setting idyllic, the wine flowed freely, and – as ever in Cambridge – there were madrigals sung by an impromptu choir of organ scholars and choral exhibitioners (pictured).

Bach by popular demand
At the close of the Lent Term the choir and College orchestra gave a devotional performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion, directed by the junior organ scholar Philip White-Jones. The candle-lit Chapel was full to capacity for the occasion with members of College and University, and also folk from the City and neighbouring villages.

Composer's anthem success
Music in Chapel has benefitted from the contribution of our first Composer-in-Residence, Tarik O'Regan. Tarik has composed a congregational setting for the new Common Worship Order of the Holy Communion Service, and an exquisite anthem 'Song for Nobody' – a setting of a poem by Thomas Merton – first sung by the choir in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin last summer. Tarik's compositions have been sung by the choirs of New College Oxford, Clare College and Caius College, and have been broadcast on Radio 3.

Christian Union
The Christian Union is thriving at present, and members are much encouraged by the triennial CICCU mission event 'Revelation' in the Lent term, when the City's Guild Hall was packed each evening to hear talks by Rico Tice of All Souls, Langham Place.

Chicago links
Corpus strengthened its Chicago links in January when the Reverend Sam Portaro, from Brent House – the Episcopalian chaplaincy at the University of Chicago – led the College retreat at Hengrave Hall. Among those present was a former Donnelly Scholar to Chicago, and people from a range of denominations and nationalities.

Friends in India
As part of his work with the Cambridge Committee for Christian Work in Delhi, Mark Pryce, Dean of Chapel, spent time with the Delhi Brotherhood in December, visiting their education, health and welfare projects in East Delhi, and attending the bi-annual Teape lectures at St Stephen's College. Whilst in Delhi he was delighted to attend the wedding of Unmish Parthasarathi (m.1995) and his fiancée Bansuri (pictured). Mark enjoyed the splendid hospitality of Vibotha and Ashok Parthasarathi (m.1960), especially the Gujarati folk dancing in their garden! Among the guests was Professor T Krishnan (m.1952), who recalled fond memories of Corpus, including cricketing days with Mr Styler.
Prince of Wales
visits the College

Corpus Christi was the centre of attention on Tuesday 27th March when the Prince of Wales came to see the Parker manuscripts.

The Prince was greeted by the Master and Dr Christopher Kelly, the Senior Tutor, at the College gate and then taken to the Library where Dr Christopher de Hamel showed him some of the rarest books and manuscripts in the country, including the sixth century Gospel Book sent by Pope Saint Gregory to St Augustine. This is the oldest illustrated Latin Gospel book in existence, and has been in the country longer than any other book. It is used to this day by the Archbishops of Canterbury when taking their oath of office. Prince Charles spent about twenty minutes viewing the beautiful illuminated manuscripts and books. The College silver was displayed by Dr Oliver Rachham and the Prince demonstrated as keen an interest in the horn as his father had done previously on his College visit.

Karen Aarestad, Director of Development, and Sally James, Bursar, explained how the new library building project will work, a subject on which the Prince, as a keen follower of architecture, had a few tips.

Prince Charles went to the Master’s Lodge to take tea with the Master and his wife, Fellows and students. He chatted for some time to the handful of Corpus students who were still up, and no doubt caused a certain amount of consternation among the visiting school pupils who had come for the Open Day. However, the quiet dignity of the visit was lost when he finally left the College and tried to get into his waiting Jaguar – outside on Trumpington Street was a crowd of several hundred (mostly tourists, it has to be said) who screamed his name. The Prince was eminently professional and pleasant and shook hands relentlessly for several minutes, delighting the hordes of French school children who were on a daytrip to Cambridge and found an unexpected gem in the midst of all the splendid architecture.

The Development Office

The Development Office has seen a number of changes over the past few months. The new Director, Karen Aarestad, took up her post in January and has since been busy with future planning.

Karen, who recently got married back home in New England, comes to Corpus from the Development Office at Oxford University. Karen has an MBA from the London Business School and considerable experience in university fund raising and in development planning.

Alumni relations are now the responsibility of Latona Forder-Stent, who has recently joined the development office from Gonville and Caius, where she managed the database and fund raising projects. Latona’s main focus over the coming year will be on improving links with old members and the College. She will also build on past relationships and is keen to develop alumni involvement, interest and commitment to the College. She is especially looking forward to meeting as many old members as possible at the various reunions and events planned for the 650th anniversary next year.

Liz Winter is the new events officer and Pelican magazine editor. Liz’s background is as a journalist and editor working most recently for the Financial Times, although for the past two years, she has been an events planner and fundraiser for a cancer charity. She will be working on the events for the 650th celebrations for the College, which range from specialist lectures, recitals, concerts, dinners, reunions, services and the May Ball.

The College would like to welcome back every Old Member to at least one event next year. The diary contains an enormous variety of events - concerts, lectures, reunions, services, exhibitions and dinners. On June 28th, there will be an Anniversary Ball, based on the traditional May Balls, but with slightly more decorum . . . Come and enjoy a five course dinner, dance to a superb band and relive your memories with your old friends from College. A limited number of rooms will be available as part of the ticket, so you can have somewhere to change and rest, and even, to sleep.
650th Anniversary Events

Highlights of the main events taking place in 2002

Boutwood Lecture series
21-23 January
The Second Way, presented by Professor Roberto Unger, Harvard Law School.

Origins of Corpus Christi
2 February
Presentation on the Origins of Corpus Christi College Cambridge by Dr Oliver Rackham followed by lunch in Hall and a special Thanksgiving service in Great St Mary's Church to mark the College's second Name Day.

Donnelley Fellow Librarian Presentation
9 February
Presentation by the Donnelley Fellow Librarian, followed by a visit to the Parker Library and an Old Member reception.

Words and Music Event
15 March
Words and Music event, featuring current Corpus students performing some of the great works of Old Members of the College, followed by a reception dinner.

Musical Performance
14 September
Andrew Quarrington performing at the Purcell Room, South Bank, special reception for Old Members of Corpus Christi College.

The Future of Cancer Care by Professor Karol Sikora
3 October
Old Member lecture by Professor Karol Sikora on The Future of Cancer Care. In the McCrum Theatre, followed by dinner in Hall.

Marlowe Symposium
27 April
Marlowe Symposium, seminars, presentations and panel discussions led by Dr Mara Kalnins.

650 Years of Vision: The History of Understanding Seeing by Professor Colin Blakemore
10 October
Old Member lecture by Professor Colin Blakemore. In the McCrum Theatre, followed by dinner in Hall.

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Concert
7 March
Concert by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, conducted by Nicholas McGegan (1969). An evening of music by Handel, including the recently discovered Gloria, in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge.

Marlowe Outdoors
17-19 June
Fletcher Players in Old Court, performance of a Marlowe play by current students.

Cambridge Spies by Professor Christopher Andrew
17 October
Old Member lecture by Professor Chris Andrew on Cambridge Spies. In the McCrum Theatre, followed by dinner in Hall.

Anniversary Ball
28 June
Anniversary Ball for Old Members. A special celebration Ball in the College grounds. Bands, dancing and dinner. Rooms available.