

# pelican

The newsletter of Corpus Christi College Cambridge

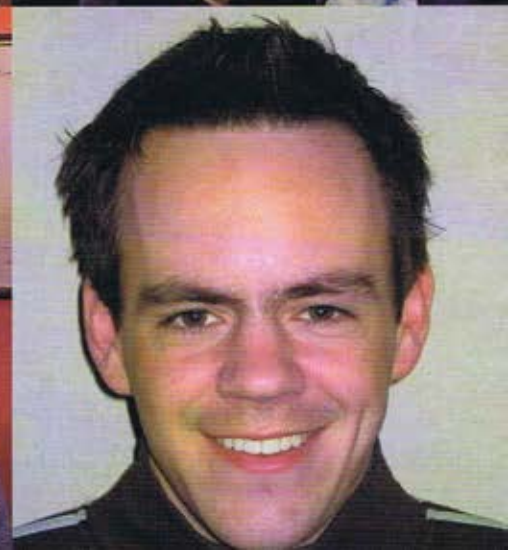
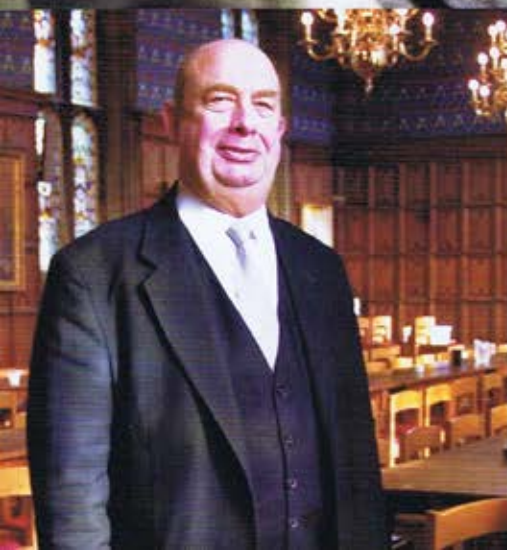
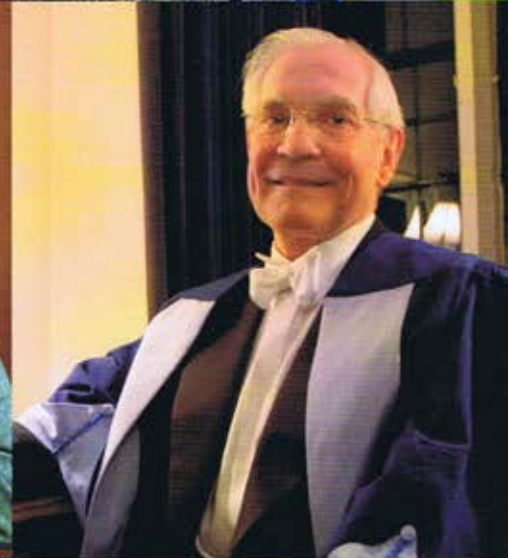
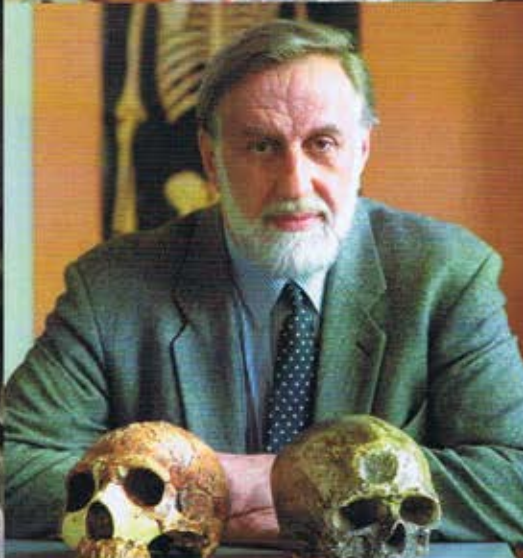
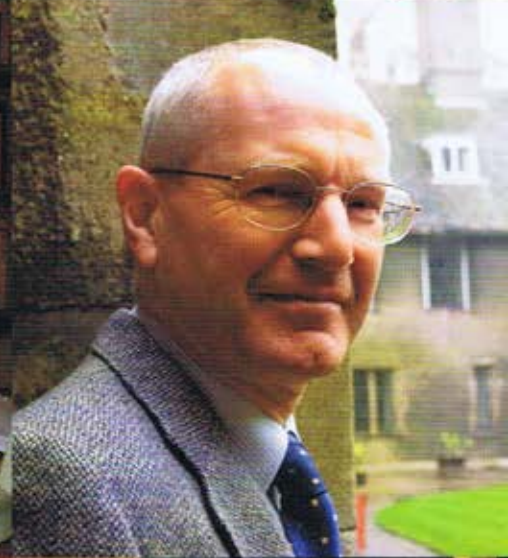


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# Welcome

Liz Winter – Development Director



Welcome to the new Pelican. We are back to our normal format of reporting on College news, but with a fresh design that we hope you will enjoy. The Pelican aims to cover stories about the Fellows, the students and the staff, as well as bring you up to date with progress on our Library Court project and other fundraising issues. In this Easter Term edition, our stories range from groundbreaking research on the Neanderthals and the emergence of Homo sapiens, questions raised by the Epicurean school of Hellenistic philosophy, to news of the first Guild Fellow, and the naming of the new Student Library.

You will also find enclosed in this issue a report from the Development Office, covering activities over the past year. As so much has happened in the past twelve months, not just here in Cambridge, but also nationally and internationally, we felt it more useful to print the report as a separate enclosure. Our fundraising efforts continue energetically and we are enormously grateful to all the Old Members and friends who have contributed so far. We are working to raise £2.6m to complete the entire project and the various initiatives towards that goal will be reported in subsequent issues of the Pelican. In the meantime, building work has begun on the Conservation Centre and the new student library.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to our new interactive alumni database (CorAl), which will be going live in the very near future. This will enable you, via a security password, to put your details on the network, and contact other Corpus alumni who've done the same. The opportunities for renewing friendships, networking and arranging reunions are endless.

Watch the College website for details.

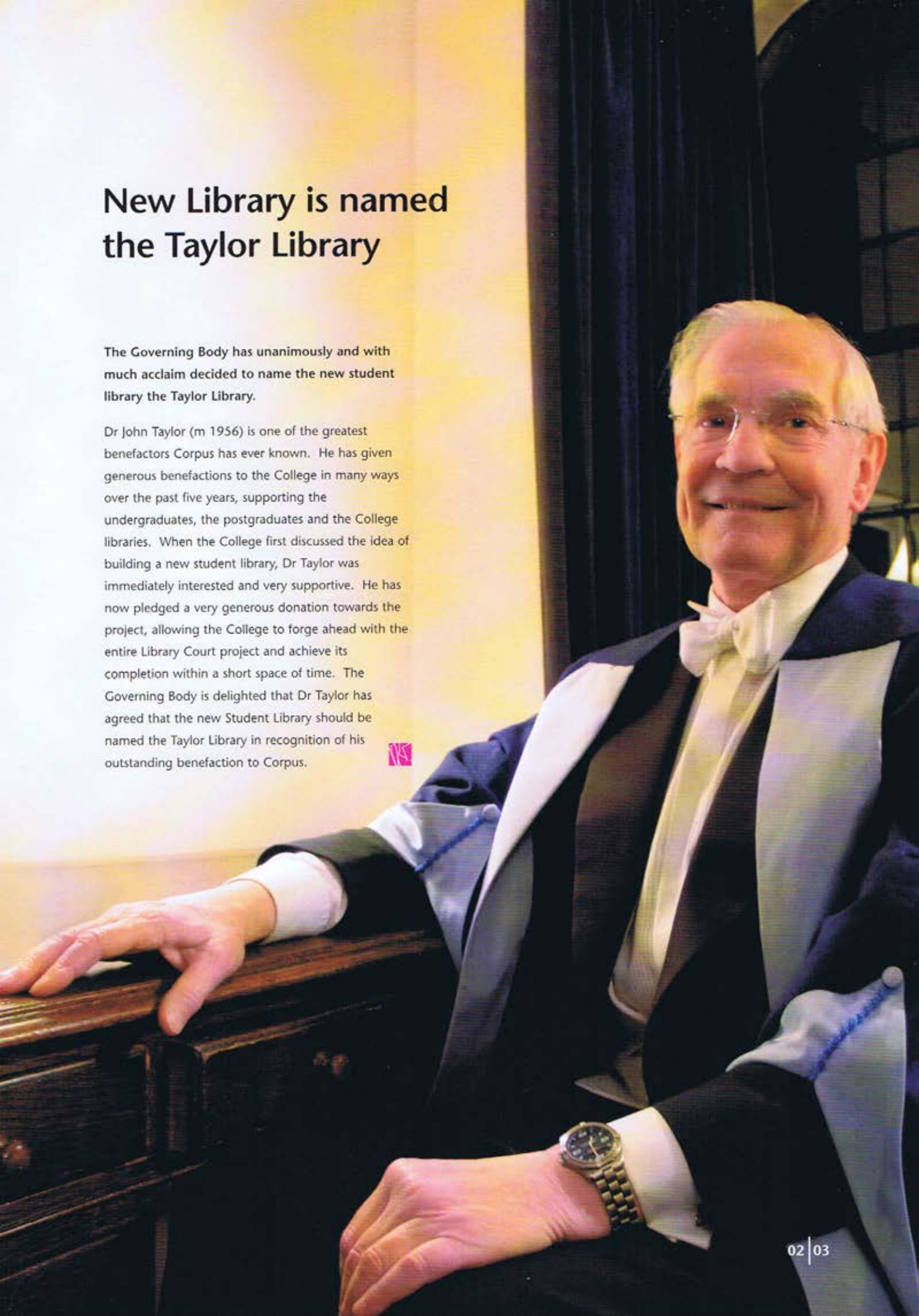


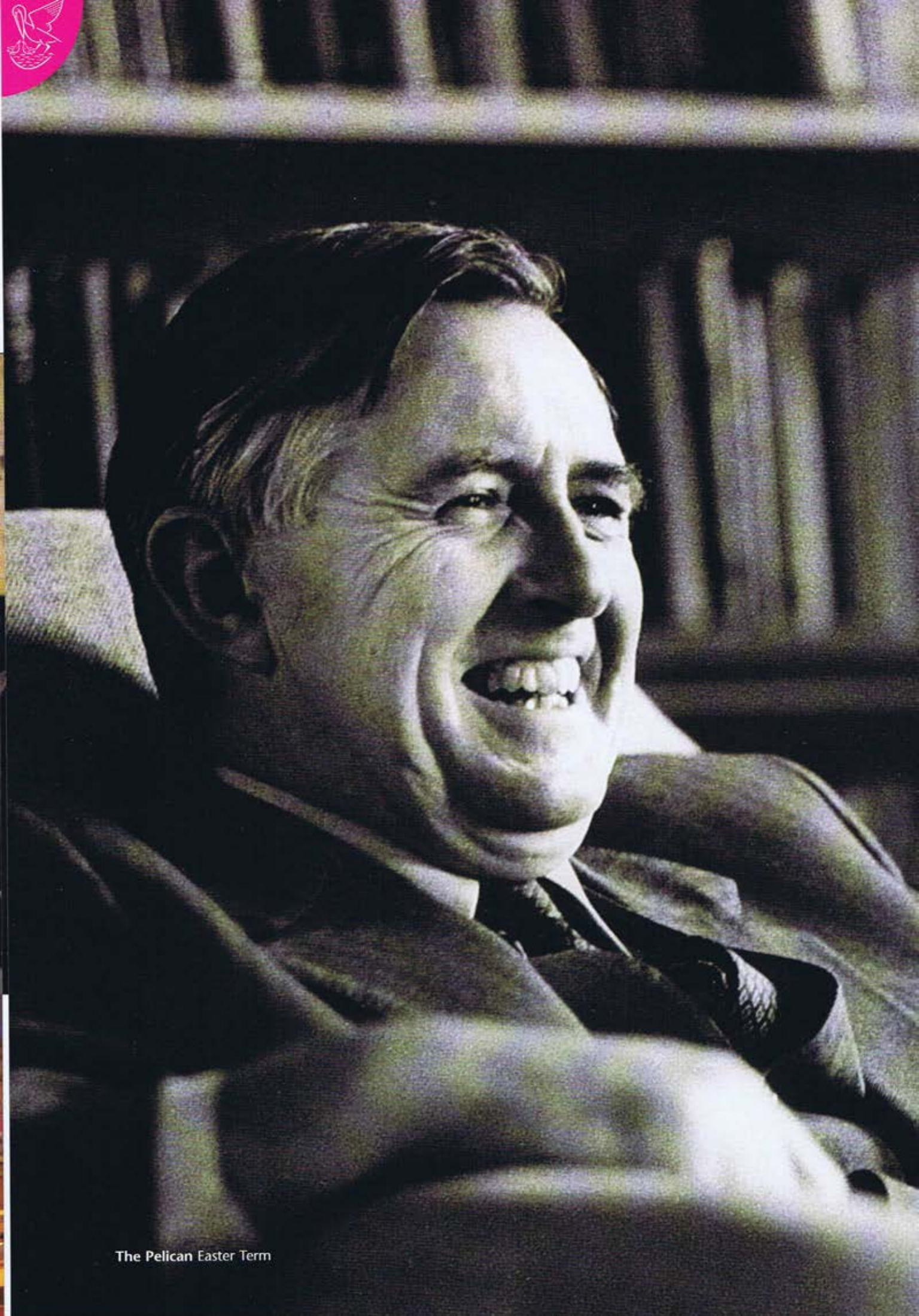
*Liz Winter*

## New Library is named the Taylor Library

The Governing Body has unanimously and with much acclaim decided to name the new student library the Taylor Library.

Dr John Taylor (m 1956) is one of the greatest benefactors Corpus has ever known. He has given generous benefactions to the College in many ways over the past five years, supporting the undergraduates, the postgraduates and the College libraries. When the College first discussed the idea of building a new student library, Dr Taylor was immediately interested and very supportive. He has now pledged a very generous donation towards the project, allowing the College to forge ahead with the entire Library Court project and achieve its completion within a short space of time. The Governing Body is delighted that Dr Taylor has agreed that the new Student Library should be named the Taylor Library in recognition of his outstanding benefaction to Corpus.





# Michael McCrum

Master 1980 – 1994

By Revd. Mark Pryce

There is a pot, an elegant blue jug, which often stood on Michael's desk in the Spencer Room when he was Master. Christine would fill it with flowers at all seasons of the year, and its steady beauty rested there during the committee meetings, interviews, receptions and after-dinner parties over which it was Michael's duty and joy to preside. It rested there during telephone conversations, myriad readings and writings; it was there most mornings in Term as Michael read his Greek New Testament. That lovely blue pot has absorbed a great deal; if it could speak, what stories would it tell?

The blue pot moved with Michael and Christine to Clarendon Street, and on what was to become his last morning, Michael came downstairs to find it filled with yellow tulips which were just at the point of fading, wilting as only tulips do, their coppery petals exquisitely splayed in a special departing grace. 'I feel rather like those flowers' were his words to Christine. The recent years of Parkinson's and cancer had wearied him – he whose energy and physical stature had compelled and impressed so many fellow team-mates, oarsmen and sailors over the years; the daunting Head-Master whose mere presence in gown and square could silence hundreds of rowdy pupils, whose

dignity as Vice-Chancellor and as Master imparted a sense of occasion in every situation – I once heard a fellow of Corpus watching his inimitable glide across New Court comment: 'Look at McCrum: he's a one-man procession' – that morning he was tired. He said so with his usual candour. And yet he set about the tasks of the day, as he did every day, with his characteristic determination and patience. His love of life never left him.

For Michael's strength was personal as well as physical; there was a decisiveness about him which could sometimes be breath-taking in its force, an energy which would carry individuals and institutions forward sometimes despite themselves. Some felt bruised by this, but for himself he regarded rancour as a waste of energy and the approval of others as something to be accepted if it came, but never to be sought as the guiding principle of his leadership. Bishop Peter Walker has called this strength of character his 'stability': there was a deep-rootedness to Michael's dynamism, the capacity to contain and to hold as well as to progress. No mere chance that Michael should have been chosen as the first Chairman of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, charged with over-seeing proposed changes to some of the nation's most important historic buildings.

He could sustain individuals as well as institutions. I recall a former undergraduate saying that he had gone to Michael as Tutor just before his Examinations, in a dreadful paralysis, full of terror that everything was about to fall apart. 'Michael looked deep into me, then said "You will be alright", and somehow I felt I would be. And I was.' Michael could give this sense of assurance; he confirmed ability in others, imparted confidence for individuals and communities. In that sense he was always the true Teacher, the Educationist: drawing out the gifts of others, encouraging them to make music, drama, art, and to play as well as to learn. As well as Michael's contribution to Classics, who could forget his fancy dress parties, his bicycle polo, and his games of Murder in the Dark in the Lodge garden? Who would forget the special procession he made, with Head Porter and College Butler, of ducklings



## Michael McCrum continued

Photograph by Christine Jennings



*The Pelican Memorial in the churchyard at Grantchester where Michael McCrum is buried*

hatched in the Lodge Garden, taking them on a route well away from the College Kitchens and shepherding them to safety on the river Cam?

His love for Christine has been constant, enduring, thrilling. When they met at Rugby School, where Michael was a young teacher and Christine a somewhat sceptical observer as the new Headmaster's daughter, staff were off limits as far as Christine was concerned. Yet Michael won her with his striking looks and sheer goodness of character. For the whole of their relationship Christine's support for Michael has been fundamental in everything he has been able to achieve, and Michael's appreciation of her care and of her own

contributions was unwavering. Through their hospitality and pastoral concern they have fostered true and vital community in each place they have served, with care for all members of the body: students, academics and staff alike.

As a father Michael's love for Robert, Mark, Stephen and Elizabeth has been equally constant, always full of support, concern and admiration for his children. He has been, quite simply, a great Dad: his fun, his enthusiasm, his care. The family holidays in Cornwall were special times, full of days on the beach, sailing, swimming. His love as a father shone radiantly in his eyes, and as a grandfather he delighted in Anna, Matthew, Rachel, Alice, Rosie, Isabel and Paddy. As a father-in-law he has welcomed Robert, Emily and Sarah with warmth and affection. All of them have revelled in his playfulness, his love of games and of the countryside which he first found growing up with his cousins and his brothers Tony and Robert, running free in the wilds of Dartmoor.

Michael's stability has been also, in all things, the stability of faith. He was a devout man: a sincere, honest, convinced Christian, unafraid to ask searching questions as a believer, unashamed to worship every Sunday and to pray humbly each day. Christine says that the very essence of Michael's being is that he was a Christian. This faith has been the source of his energy and courage and sheer enthusiasm for life. It has been also the inspiration for his work in education.

In a Sermon Michael preached in this Chapel in Easter Term 1993, adapting a phrase of Dean Alington's, he said that the purpose of education is to prepare us for life: 'Life here and life hereafter.' For him life in all its fullness was life lived in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the hope of Life Eternal.

At his very best Michael inspired in others what he tried to do for himself: to live his life in such a way as to compose a piece of music which 'will one day be worth inclusion in the music that is offered to the glory of God.'



*Adapted from the address given by the Reverend Mark Pryce at the funeral of Michael McCrum.*

*Mark Pryce was Chaplain of Corpus Christi College 1990-2002. He is now Vicar of Smethwick Old Church, Diocese of Birmingham.*



# First Guild Fellow

## Neil Westreich

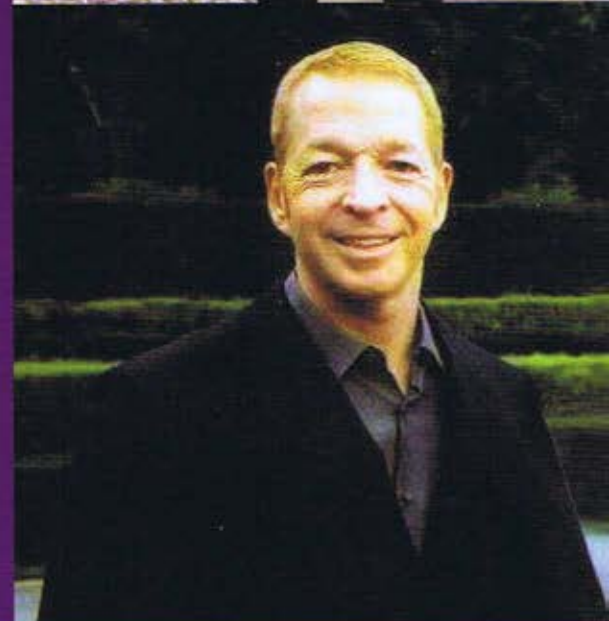
In November 2004, the Governing Body unanimously elected the first Guild Fellow, a category of Honorary Fellowship given in recognition of exceptional service to the College. Neil Westreich (m 1970), a native New Yorker who has been a loyal friend and supporter of Corpus for many years, will hold the title for life, and enjoy all the privileges and rights of Honorary Fellowship.

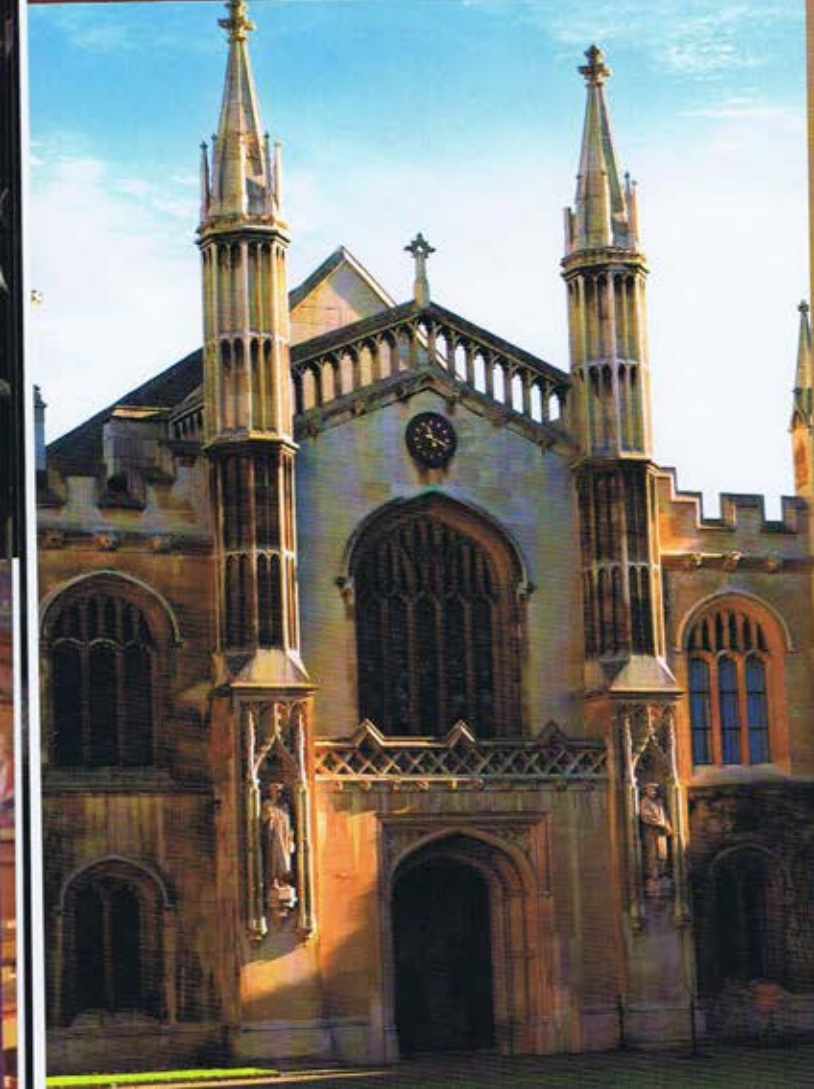
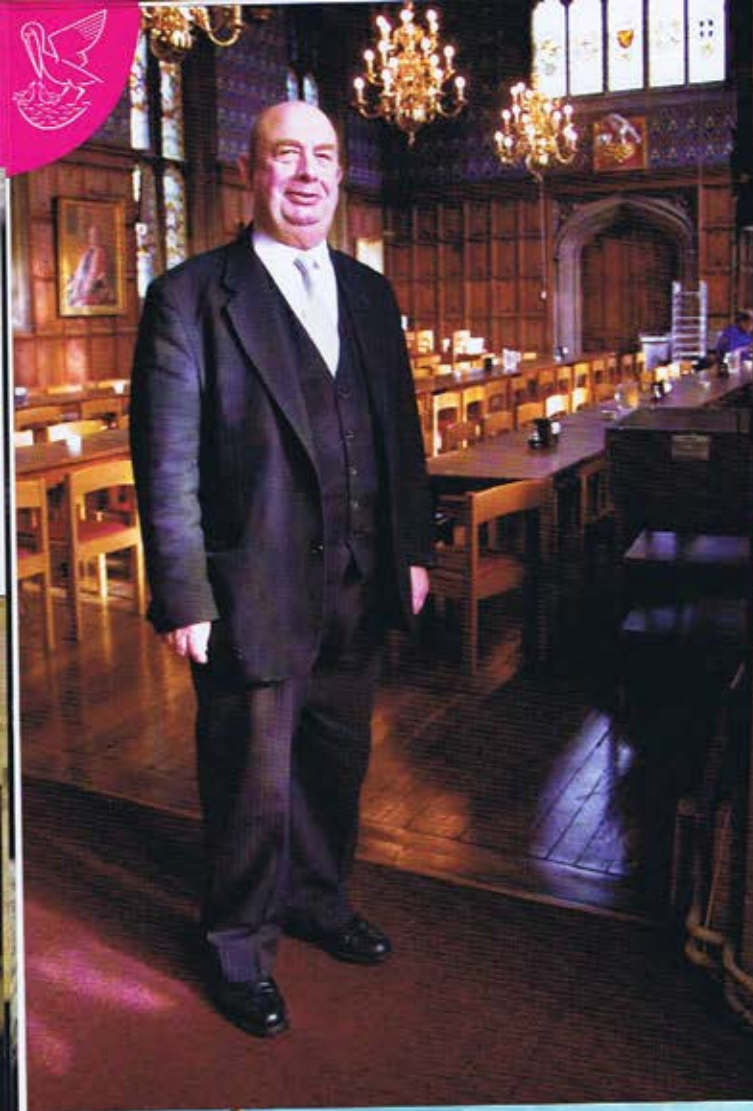
Neil came to Corpus in 1970 following two years at Cornell University. He read history here as an undergraduate, was president of the JCR and was awarded the Spencer Exhibition by Duncan Wilson, then Master. He stayed on for a postgraduate year reading law, gaining a first and coming top in his year in the University.

Having decided on a career as a lawyer, Neil qualified at the London College of Law and was called to the Bar (coming first in the Bar exams out of 800 candidates) before returning to the US to attend Harvard Law School.

He graduated with the JD Magna Cum Laude in 1977. He eventually joined the leading New York law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore and was made partner in 1985.

Neil is passionate about the arts, and has long been a strong supporter of the opera and theatre. He regularly invests in theatrical productions on Broadway and in the West End. He comes over to the UK once or twice a year and stays in close touch with the friends he made at Corpus. The Master and Fellows are delighted that Neil is joining the Fellowship and look forward to welcoming him into the life of the College.





# Ron Storey retires

## Interview

The sun is shining into the room from New Court, wandering across the large Poussin on the wall above us. An 18th century bracket clock is ticking in the background. Other than that, the Old Combination Room of Corpus Christi is quiet. Only faint noises from Hall just beyond the door indicate that the College is going its usual way on this late Monday morning.

Ron Storey, College Butler, cornerstone of daily life in College for the last thirty-four years and the most comforting sight at any banquet or grand occasion, is retiring. What will he miss most when he goes? 'The students', he replies unhesitatingly. 'I have always been very keen that the students are happy. Whenever I hear that they are enjoying themselves or that they've succeeded somewhere, it really pleases me a great deal. If the students are happy, the College is thriving.'

Life at Corpus certainly has changed since Ron first came to Cambridge in 1971. He had been working in the British embassy in Moscow when the Ambassador, Sir Duncan Wilson, was elected the forty-fifth Master of Corpus. 'Sir Duncan asked me whether I wanted to come with him, and I said yes. Little did I know... Corpus was very, very traditional at the time.'

This was a time when the College held formal Hall seven days a week, at least six

or seven fellows dined at High Table every night and the unwritten rules represented a minefield for the uninitiated. Ron was master of the art of tactful correction; 'More than once I had to take a young fellow to one side and ask him discreetly to go back and put on a gown, or tell him that the Green Room really was not for talking,' he comments wryly. 'On the other hand', he adds, 'there is nothing wrong with formality as such, I suppose. And of course the College changed much under Sir Duncan and his successors.'

So does he have a golden period? 'Oh yes. The best time for me was when Mr McCrum was Vice-Chancellor of the University, between 1987 and 89. Corpus was entertaining on a grand scale then.'

How does Ron manage to familiarise junior fellows and students with College customs, orchestrate staff and kitchen at big College feasts, look after the Master and the senior fellows and still never lose his perfect composure? His answer? The RAF and his Geordie background. He enlisted at the age of 17 and worked, amongst other places, at Fighter Command in Bentley Priory, Middlesex. 'I volunteered for overseas service, but the RAF seemed to think that for a Geordie, Middlesex was quite overseas enough, so I left after my five years were over. Shortly afterwards, the position at the embassy in Moscow opened.'

Ron has always been fond of travelling. Apart from Moscow, he has been to the Seychelles, the Maldives and many other destinations. So, will he use the freedom of retirement to see new places? 'Very much so. I'm off to the Maldives again in a week's time. But also, I haven't really seen England at all, so I am looking forward to discovering what treasures we have in this country. I'll stay within reach of the College, though; I'll be living right next door.' Nevertheless, for countless Fellows, students, staff and Old Members, the reassuring knowledge that Ron was in charge meant that no drama would become a crisis, no mishap be allowed to spoil an occasion and there would always be a dignity present that only he could lend.

He will be greatly missed.



# In memory of Bert Lawrence

1912 – 2002



*Bert Lawrence's daughters, Gillian and Liz, and the photo of their father. Donations to the Staff Fund in memory of Bert Lawrence may be sent to the Development Office. Cheques should be made payable to Corpus Christi College.*

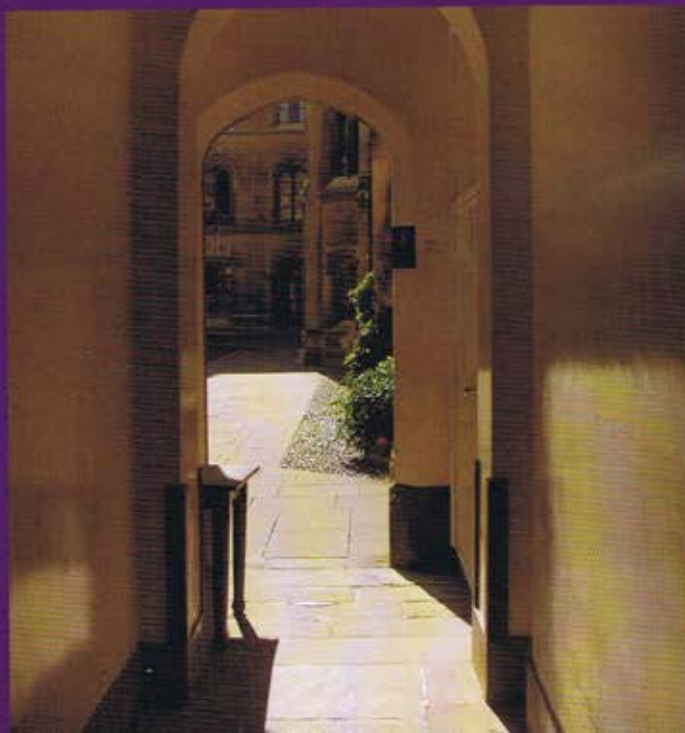
**On 21 January 2005 a photograph of Bert Lawrence was unveiled in the College bar as a memorial to him and the many old members who together raised the money for the Staff Fund in Bert's memory.**

Bert Lawrence joined the College at the age of 14 in December 1926 as an assistant in the College Buttery. By his retirement at the age of 65 he was the Buttery Manager. He had given Corpus 50 years service and was highly respected and well liked amongst Fellows, staff and students during his time at Corpus.

Bert married Winifred who worked at that time in the Lodge for the Master and his family. She later took on the responsibility of hostel keeper at Newnham House, caring for Corpus students as well as bringing up two daughters, Gillian and Elizabeth. As Buttery Manager Bert exercised a discreet control over many generations of thirsty undergraduates through his dry sense of humour coupled occasionally with a more direct approach.

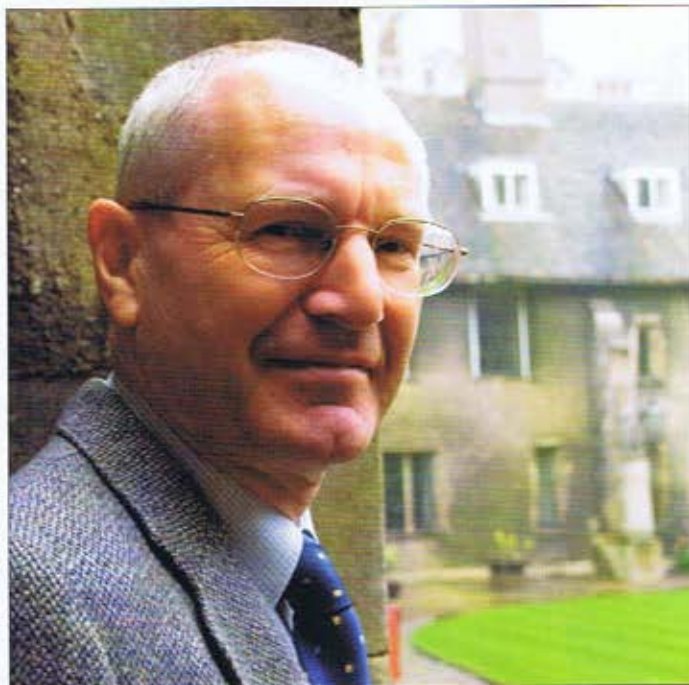
Many old members, Fellows, (including Michael McCrum who died recently – see pages 4–6 for an appreciation) and staff were invited to attend the unveiling ceremony together with Bert's family. The Master unveiled the photograph and made a brief speech about Bert. He thanked all those people, in particular Martin Lee, Michael Gwinnell and the Crookenden family who had worked hard to raise the money towards the Staff Fund and whose enthusiasm had resulted in the memorial to Bert Lawrence.

Bert's daughters, Gillian and Liz, in their speech of thanks, revealed their many happy memories of growing up as part of the College community and felt that the picture was a touching tribute to him. After the unveiling, tea was served in the NCR where everyone mingled to share memories and stories about Bert and College life during his time here.



# Thirty years service

David Camps

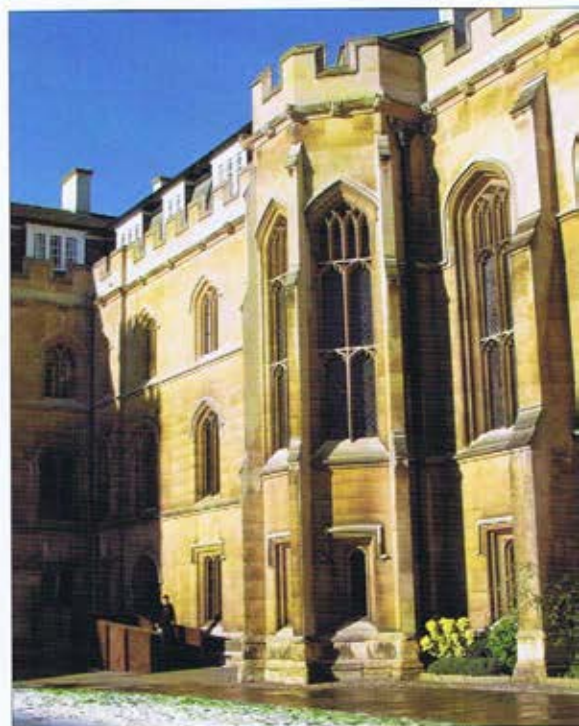


At the end of February, David Camps celebrated thirty years of service at Corpus, a remarkable achievement in today's restless world. David joined the College in February 1975 after being made redundant and worked as a general cleaner. He was soon given extra responsibilities by the then bursar, Chris Taylor and Alec Clark-Kennedy (Steward of Estates) and progressed to become Head of Domestic Services, with responsibilities for the cleaning staff, all College rooms, and with conference room allocations.

Since 2002 David has taken responsibility for the maintenance of the College and its buildings, with a particular brief to collate and update records and drawings. The College is presently building a new maintenance team to undertake the day-to-day problems associated with old buildings. He is heavily involved in the Library Court project, acting as the central liaison person for the main contractors.

Like many who have worked at the College over several decades, it is the contact with the students that gives him particular pleasure. David commented that he 'takes great pleasure in meeting the students when they return to College, seeing them broadcasting on local and national news, writing in national newspapers, or returning to College as Fellows.

'30 years seem to have flown by, but I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Corpus, and look forward to the many challenges ahead.'





# Emergence of New Homo Sapiens

Professor Paul Mellars

In a recent edition of the eminent journal *Nature*, a paper written by Professor Paul Mellars caused a stir amongst archaeologists and the media alike. In his paper, Professor Mellars argued that the emergence of new Homo Sapiens populations in Africa around 100-150,000 years ago was associated with an effective 'revolution' in human technology and behavioural patterns, probably involving the emergence of more highly structured language, and perhaps precipitated by one or more genetic mutations in the structure of the human brain. Equipped with this new technology and linguistic communication, he argued, the Homo sapiens populations were able to expand from Africa and eventually replace the preceding Neanderthals across Europe and Asia. A further paper on the same theme will be published shortly in *Nature*.

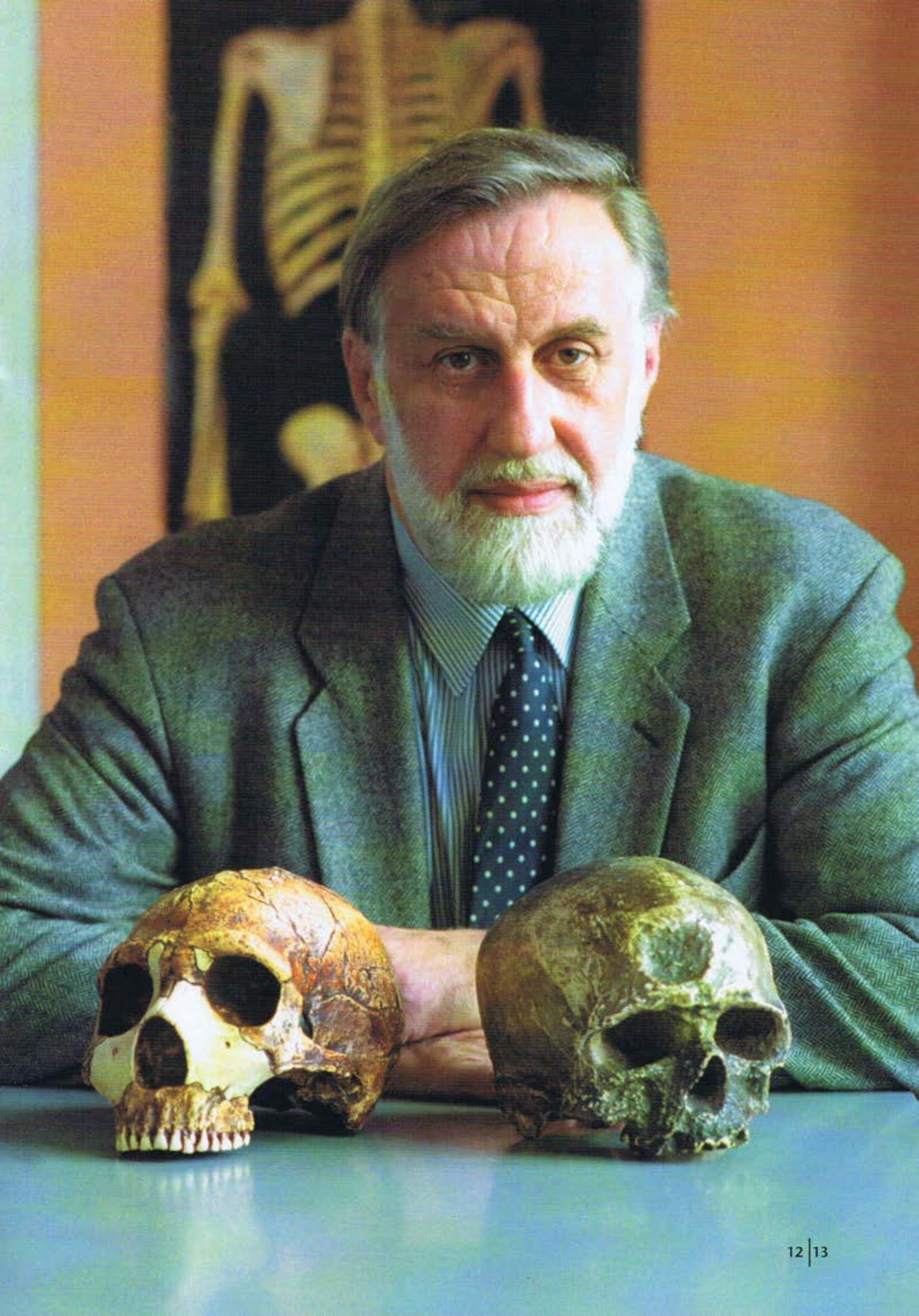
Paul Mellars is a well-known figure in Corpus and Cambridge. He is Professor of Prehistory and Human Evolution in the University, and has been Director of Studies in Archaeology at Corpus since he first joined the College in 1981. He was formerly President of the College

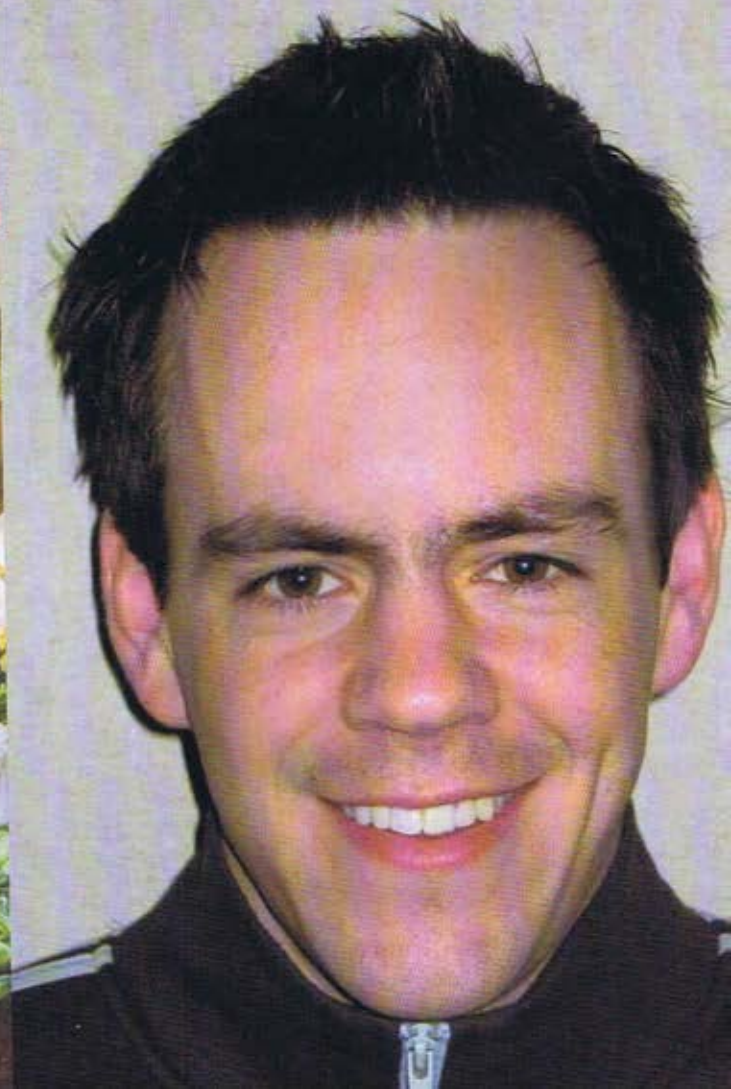
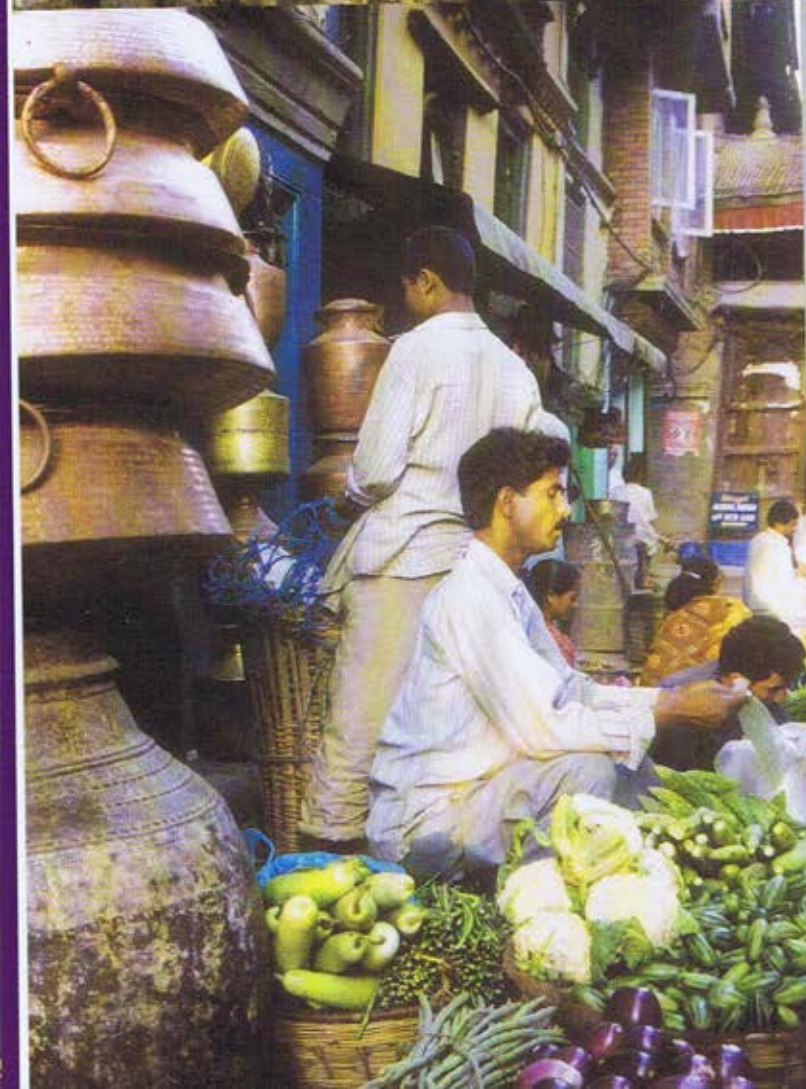
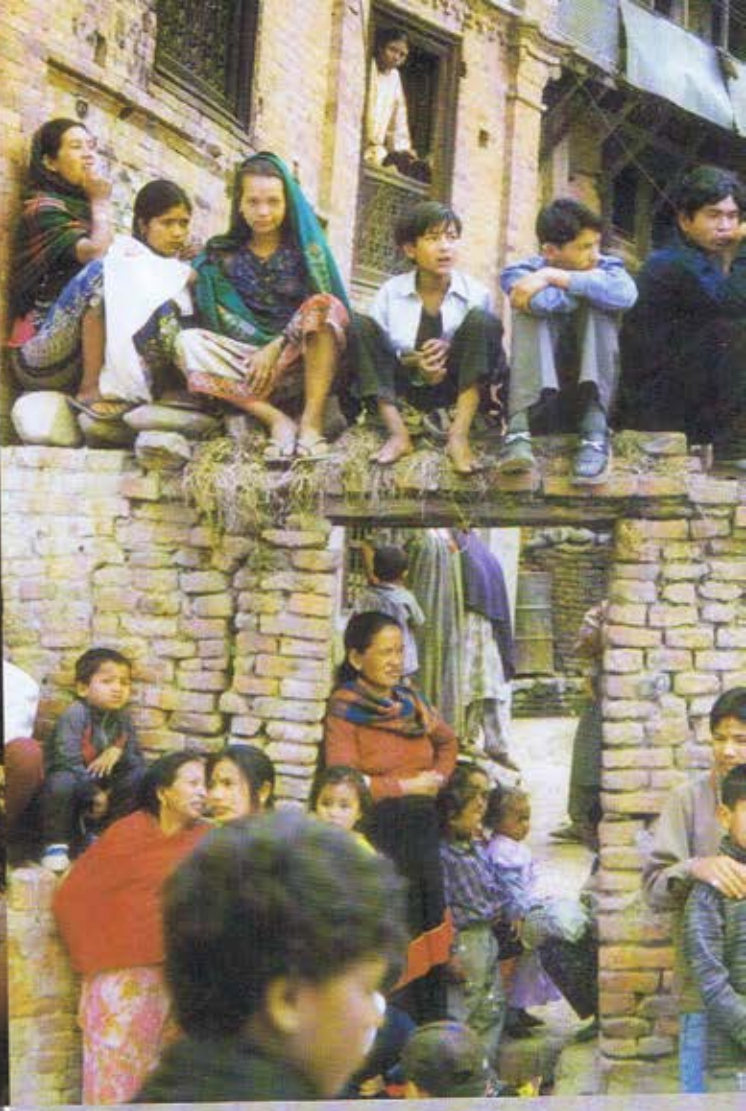
(1992-2000) and Bursar of Leckhampton. Born in Swallow Nest near Sheffield, Paul started his education at Woodhouse Grammar School. His undergraduate and postgraduate degrees were taken at Fitzwilliam College, before he moved to research fellowships at Sheffield and Newcastle universities. He was a lecturer at Sheffield University for ten years. In 1981, he returned to Cambridge to take up the post vacated by his former supervisor, Professor Charles McBurney, another distinguished Fellow of Corpus.

Professor Mellars' research has focussed mainly on the archaeological evidence for the behaviour of Neanderthal populations in Europe – essentially wrestling with the problem of whether the behaviour of these populations was quite as primitive and 'beastly' as most of their popular depictions in the media tend to assume. He wrote what is generally seen as the standard reference work in this field – 'The Neanderthal Legacy: an Archaeological Perspective from Western Europe', published by Princeton University Press in 1996. In his most recent research he has concentrated on the ways in which the Neanderthals were rapidly replaced by fully 'modern' (ie Homo sapiens or 'Cro-Magnon') populations across Europe around 35,000 to 40,000 years ago.

Recognized as one of the leading international authorities on the question of Neanderthal behaviour and modern human origins, Paul is a Fellow of the British Academy, a member of the Academia Europaea (the European Academy of the Arts and Sciences) and has just been appointed an Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the French Government. He met his wife Anny while on field work in France forty years ago, and they both enjoy travelling, visiting art galleries and collecting antiques.









## The T E Utley Memorial Prize winners



The T E Utley Memorial Prize this year has been won jointly by Caleb Ward, a former Girdler Scholar who has turned to medicine having read geography as his first degree, and Beth Stratford, a third year Social and Political Science student. Beth plans to pursue a career in documentary film.

The prize is for a proposal for investigative journalism and is intended to enable the winner to carry out the research and write the article or broadcast programme.

The two winners have chosen challenging topics that cry out for public attention. Caleb Ward's proposal is an analysis of the mental health implications of natural disasters, and Beth Stratford examines education in rural Nepal, looking at the effects of the gender gap and the Maoist insurgency.

Caleb's proposal considers the challenges of responding to the mental health implications of natural disasters, such as the recent Asian Tsunami. When such a devastating event occurs, priority is inevitably and necessarily given to providing clean water, food, sanitation, medical aid and rebuilding the infrastructure. Mental health, so often the silent enemy, is neglected. The reasons for this are complex and many; there is a vicious circle of stigmatisation of mental illness, minimal media coverage, low levels of donor

support and decimated local facilities. The British Department for International Development frequently mentions the mental trauma of those in a disaster region. Nevertheless, it does not mention mental health in its list of financial commitments.

Caleb writes that 'a well-researched, medically informed and yet compassionate account of the struggles that mental health organisations in Asia are facing could serve a number of valuable purposes.' It would address the systemic under-reporting and stigmatisation of such issues and help to create political pressure to ensure adequate resources are allocated to this field.

At the heart of his research will be an analysis of the work carried out by mental health relief organisations operating in the region, taking in the difficulties they face in harnessing adequate resources, trained staff, medical supplies and facilities. They are, he says, truly heroic people.

Beth Stratford's proposal focuses on the cultural and economic factors limiting female access to education in rural Nepal, through extensive interviews with women and young girls in the region. She discusses poignantly the tragic effect on the education system of the war between Maoist insurgents and the Nepalese army.

Beth's inspiration came from the three months she spent in a Nepalese village as a volunteer community mobilizer for Student Partnership Worldwide, teaching and working with the villagers on problems such as waste management, rainwater collection schemes and basic literacy classes for the Women's cooperative. In villages as poor as these, the daughter's education is the first casualty. Girls are less likely to enrol in school, more likely to drop out, and work more hours on top of school than boys. Early marriage for girls exacerbates the problem. Despite vigorous government programs, female literacy in rural areas often remains as low as 17%.

The violent struggle between the Maoist insurgents, the royalist government and the mainstream political parties that have been shut out of power since the King suspended the democratic system in October 2002 is the backdrop against which the issues of culture and poverty play in education. Increasingly, clashes between government forces and Maoists on school grounds have become more common, leaving dozens of children killed or injured, and causing schools to close down. Moreover, there is a trend for more women and young girls to join the insurgents, with the result that female casualties have increased dramatically.

Beth and Caleb will receive their prizes at an award ceremony in London in May, when members of the Utley family will present them with cheques to enable them to carry out their proposed research.





The Pelican Easter Term



## Epicurus and his critics

Dr. James Warren

Can a life we feel no concern about losing also be a life we think worth living? This question is the subject of a recent book by Dr James Warren, Fellow of Corpus since 2001 and Director of Studies in Philosophy.

*Facing Death: Epicurus and his Critics* (Oxford University Press, 2004) is the first comprehensive account of some arguments which were first offered in the third century BC by the Epicurean school of Hellenistic philosophy. They tried to show that no one should fear death because the dead do not exist – there is no afterlife – and therefore cannot be harmed.

These ancient arguments still exercise modern philosophers since they involve deep questions about the nature of harm, the identity of persons, and the specification of what would count as a 'complete' life, issues which span the modern disciplines of ethics and metaphysics.

Dr Warren, who teaches ancient philosophy in the Faculty of Classics, concludes that the Epicurean view can withstand most of the criticisms levelled at it by modern thinkers (many of which, it turns out, were anticipated by ancient critics) but only at the price of offering a picture of an unappealing life.





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