Contents

3 Welcome – Liz Winter, Development Director
4 The Library Court Project – The plan for the future
6 The heart of the College – Dr Paul Schofield, Senior Tutor
8 A small and friendly place – Dr Melanie Taylor, Admissions Tutor
9 Changeover at Leckhampton – New warden elected
10 An imaginative plan – Tony Coleby (m 1955), Corpus Association Committee
13 Why a new JCR? – Alex Lawton (m 1996), Corpus Association Committee
15 An essential space – Rachel Irwin, JCR President
17 An excellent alternative venue – Michelle Butler, MCR President
19 Ways to support the Library Court Project

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Welcome

Liz Winter – Development Director

Since the last edition of the Pelican, the Library Court Project has made great strides. Planning permission has been obtained in full, the contractors appointed and the archaeologists are hard at work on the site near Old Court. The fundraising so far has been supported with great generosity by Old Members with the result that we now have in place over two thirds of the funds needed for the total project. A significant milestone was the decision by the Governing Body to support the completion of the entire project in one phase, thereby ensuring that Corpus will benefit from vastly improved facilities, both social and academic, within just a few years.

In this edition of the Pelican we look at the Student Centre and hear the voices of undergraduates and postgraduates, tutors and Old Members. All describe from their different perspectives why they want to see the Student Centre built and the tremendous benefits it will bring to those living and working in College.

To achieve our goals we need to raise the final third - £2.8m. If you have not yet had a chance to contribute to the campaign, please consider doing so now. Your gift will enable us to complete the Library Court Project in the most effective and cost efficient time frame. This project will equip Corpus with state of the art facilities, in the beautiful setting of a fourteenth century College and ensure for generations ahead that their life here is supported at the highest level both academically and socially.

Eizabettn Winter
The Library Court Project

The plan for the future

July 2004: Governing Body voted unanimously to complete the whole project in one phase.

Work progress
- Design completed
- Planning permission obtained
- Contractors appointed
- Archaeological excavation in progress

Fundraising
- Main fundraising campaign started beginning of 2004.
- 68% of funds for entire project already raised.
- Generous contributions by Dr. John Taylor (in 1956), Atlantic Philanthropies, Donnelley Foundation, and many other Old Members.
- £2.8m left to be raised.
- College cannot use endowment to fund work.
- Fundraising success is imperative.

How you can help
- We need to raise £2.8m to complete the project.
- If you have not already given to the campaign, please consider helping us now.
- There still are many opportunities for naming parts of the building, from rooms to bookcases.
- All donors will be recorded for posterity in a special Benefactors’ Book unless they request anonymity.
- Please read pages 18-19 for further details on how to support the Library Court Project.

What will we get?
1. A modern library
2. A centre for students
3. A new court

Conservation Centre
Offices
Parker Library Expansion

The Pelican Student Centre Edition
Since mediaeval times, the library has been the heart of the College and the initiation of the Library Court Project represents one of the most exciting and far-reaching developments in the history of Corpus since the completion of New Court in the nineteenth century.
The heart of the College

Dr Paul Schofield – Senior Tutor

Since mediaeval times, the library has been the heart of the College and the initiation of the Library Court Project represents one of the most exciting and far-reaching developments in the history of Corpus since the completion of New Court in the nineteenth century. Not only do we urgently need more space for books but, with the continuing revolution in e-learning, the provision of state-of-the art multimedia facilities, wireless networking and electronic access to publications means that as well as room for paper, we also need new spaces for 21st century technology to access electronic media and internet resources.

Like New Court, Library Court will encapsulate not just the intellectual and social aspects of collegiate life, but also essential organisational and administrative activities in a space underused for many years. The placing of this new development on the Bene’t Street side of the College refocuses the natural axis of the whole Old House site back towards Old Court and our last building project, Beldam Court.

The new Student Centre will add immensely to the quality of life of our students, who have had a great deal of enthusiastic input into the project already. It will produce a much more sympathetic, larger and useful space for student social life, which will not only benefit our undergraduates but outshine the facilities offered at many other colleges and thus have additional advantages for recruitment of applicants.

The academic achievements of the College have gone from strength to strength in the last few years and I am both proud and excited to be taking over as Senior Tutor at a time when, thanks to the generosity of our Old Members, we will now be able to provide the kind of resources which make a huge difference to the learning environment. By making the best use of the great opportunity offered by the Library Court Project for support of the intellectual growth of our community of scholars, we can ensure that the library continues to provide the College with the life-blood of academic success.
A small and friendly place

Dr Melanie Taylor – Admissions Tutor

Students who apply to Corpus often say that they were attracted by the small size and the friendliness of the College. It is clear from student (and parent) feedback that facilities are another important factor for potential applicants to Cambridge and, in this respect, the creation of a new Library and Student Centre at Corpus is going to have very positive implications for our admissions work.

A large part of this work takes place when students, parents and teachers visit Corpus, either informally or to attend Open Days, and during school and college liaison visits across the UK conducted by Dr Barrie Fleet and myself. When we speak to potential applicants about applying to Cambridge, we highlight the benefits of the collegiate system, both in academic and social terms, and emphasize the extensive resources and facilities that this system makes available to students who study here.

We also recognize the need for undergraduates to balance study with recreation, and talk specifically about the facilities we can offer students at Corpus and the relaxed, welcoming atmosphere they will find here. The creation of a new College Bar and Junior Common Room will enhance further the social environment of the College enormously.
Changeover at Leckhampton

New warden elected

Dr Christopher Howe, Fellow and Reader in Plant and Microbial Biochemistry, handed over his duties as Warden of Leckhampton to his successor at the beginning of Michaelmas Term 2004. Dr Howe had held this office since 1999.

The Governing Body of the College elected Professor David Ibbetson (on the left), Tutor and Regius Professor of Civil Law, as the new Warden of Leckhampton. The Steward of Leckhampton, Dr Jonathan Burton, handed over his office to Dr Cugliee Carlo Verdrame, Fellow and University Lecturer in Law.

Professor Ibbetson will be the ninth Warden of Leckhampton. Other well-remembered fellows in this position include Dr Patrick Bury (from 1969 to 1975), Sir Barry Cross (from 1975 to 1980) and the current Master Professor Haroon Ahmed, who held this office before Dr Howe.

Leckhampton House was built on Corpus land in 1881. Its owner and constructor was Frederic Myers, a Fellow of Trinity and later HM Inspector of Schools, who modelled his new home on a type of manor house common in the Cotswolds.

In 1961, after Frederic Myers’ lease had expired, the College gained possession of the house and its beautiful surrounding gardens. In the following years, Leckhampton was transformed into the first dedicated postgraduate campus in the United Kingdom. Today, Leckhampton House and the adjacent properties are home to about 140 research and postgraduate students from all over the world.
This imaginative plan promises great benefits for the social cohesion of the College and for the enjoyment of all who study there.
An imaginative plan

Tony Coleby (m 1955), Corpus Association Committee

I attended the Open Day presentation of the College’s development plans. What was immediately striking was the coherence of the plans as a whole. The space made available in the northwest corner of the College’s site by the expiry of the bank’s lease can be used to meet several needs.

More spacious housing is urgently needed for the Student Library. Relocating it in the new area enables the long-standing need for more suitable accommodation for the display and preservation of the Parker Collection to be provided in the New Court, where Wilkins intended it to belong. The new area can also house various College offices, such as the Development Office, enabling them to migrate from New Court. Can it do more?

The plans give the answer. By excavating beneath where the Student Library is to be at the northern end of Library Court, a large amount of space can be created at basement level. Into it will fit very comfortably a range of social and recreational facilities, including an enlarged College Bar. Together with the relocated JCR, on the ground floor but with direct staircase access, it will form a self-contained Student Centre for the use of both undergraduate and graduate members of the College. This imaginative plan promises great benefits for the social cohesion of the College and for the enjoyment of all who study there. It is also an admirable complement to the earlier parts of the project, helping to restore New Court to its originally intended academic use.

Self-evidently, undertaking all parts of the project at the same time will economise on both its cost and the disruption to the working life of Corpus. The College has made the brave decision to do so, even though funding so far in place would be exhausted by the Library developments alone. We must ensure that their confidence that the balance can be found is not misplaced.
Excavations in Hostel Yard

As part of the enabling work for the College’s Library Court Project, archaeological excavations are being carried out at the northern end of Hostel Yard.

As shown in our photo, members of the Cambridge University Archaeological Unit are sifting through the ground underneath the former Crystal Palace. They have made some rare and interesting finds. Amongst them are a 16/17th century Bellarmine jug, named after Cardinal Bellarmine, and a near complete tumbler from the 15th or 16th century. The oldest finds so far are some fragments of 13th century pottery.

The pit is already several meters deep. Alison Dickens, Senior Project Manager at the Cambridge University Archaeological Unit, says: “We have not reached the bottom layer yet, but we’re hoping to go as far back as to Norman activities in the 11th century. This has been a place of human activity for many centuries.”
Why a new JCR?

Alex Lawton (c 1996), Corpus Association Committee

During the summer, I and other members of the Corpus Association were able to meet with the architects responsible for the design of the new Library facilities and to consider the plans and design of the new buildings in more detail. Seeing a model of the new Library and having its various features explained by those people who designed them certainly made it easier to visualise what the new Library Court will look like when complete.

I don’t think anyone who suffered the Butler Library during exam term will deny that Corpus is long overdue new, expanded library facilities to cater for the growing number of undergraduates and postgraduates who use them. The new Library will provide more space to work in, more books, better IT facilities and, quite simply, will be one of the best college libraries in Cambridge — a vast improvement on what is currently on offer.

Work is well underway on the new Library, and archaeologists have started to excavate the area that will become the new JCR and bar. I must admit to being slightly sceptical about why a new bar was required (having very rose-tinted memories of the current one), and why it was being put under the library, where the noise would surely disturb those upstairs. After discussions with the architect, it is clear that any concerns are unfounded. There will be sufficient sound-proofing to ensure that even the most raucous evening does not disturb people studying, and the new bar and JCR will be a great deal more spacious and offer a great many more opportunities for use than at present.

So when all the work is complete, and Corpus has its first additional court since New Court was built in the 1860s, Corpus students will have some of the best facilities in Cambridge on their doorsteps.
An essential space
Rachel Irwin – JCR President

I am tremendously excited about the plans for the new Student Centre. As any alumnus or undergraduate at Corpus will testify, it is an extremely friendly and tight-knit College. It is also a hard-working College, and students deserve to enjoy the time they have free from study – to spend an enjoyable and relaxed evening in the JCR has an immeasurably restorative effect after a long day of note-taking!

The JCR and bar are currently in New Court, at the physical heart of Corpus. Their relatively small size precludes any social or musical events that involve many students from other colleges, and this is a weakness. I hope that, as well as providing an essential space for relaxation and socializing during the frenetic Cambridge term, the new Centre will make Corpus a more suitable venue for inter-collegiate events. Currently we cannot compete with colleges such as Clare, Queens, Kings and Emma in terms of the events we put on. These colleges are extremely popular both among undergraduates and among applicants. They all have large, well-designed and decorated social areas.

As an addition to the new Library and Library Court, the Student Centre will contribute the final polish in rendering Corpus one of the most desirable colleges to apply to and to visit, without detracting from its vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

All of the students and other members of the College with whom I have spoken have expressed their wholehearted support of the project. I am sure that a nice balance will be struck between modernisation and the maintenance of a welcoming, close-knit collegiate community. We are extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to the project so far, and we hope the support of the friends and Old Members of Corpus will enable the College to raise the remaining funds in due course.

Rachel Irwin, third year Archaeology and Anthropology, JCR President.
An excellent alternative venue

Michelle Butler – MCR President

I believe that the Library Court Project will be a great improvement for undergraduates and postgraduates at Corpus. The new Library will have a larger capacity for both books and students, and it will contain project rooms where groups of people can meet to discuss ongoing work. The new Student Centre and Court will provide a larger venue for postgraduates and undergraduates to meet and interact.

Since arriving at Corpus Christi last October, I have noticed that it can be difficult for a postgraduate to join in and become an integral part of the student body. Leckhampton can easily become something of a “postgraduate island”. This clearly has its benefits, as it promotes social interaction and the exchange of ideas amongst the postgraduate community. However, it lessens the opportunities for undergraduates and postgraduates to intermingle.

When I started on the MCR committee as social secretary seven months ago, I realized that what was required were more joint JCR and MCR social events, to help develop more friendships. Since then we have held a number of events together with the JCR, and they have been very successful. The problem, however, is the lack of a suitable location. The only venue large enough for holding joint MCR and JCR events is Leckhampton House. Unfortunately, the number of events we can host here can only ever be very limited.

For these reasons, I believe the addition of a new, larger-capacity bar will provide an excellent alternative venue. The sound-proofed construction should eliminate any possibility of noise disturbance to other people. Another great advantage of the new venue is its versatility. Students will be able to meet for a quick coffee during the day to discuss their work, or for a glass of wine in the evening to talk about the latest College news. The friendly café layout of the venue can be changed to a night-time bar setup within a few minutes, and for bigger events there can even be a dance floor and a DJ desk.
Student Centre

1. New JCR
2. New College Bar: games area and dance floor/multi-purpose space
3. New College Bar: TV Room
Ways to support the Library Court Project

Due to the support of Old Members and friends of Corpus Christi College, fundraising for the New Library Court Project has been extremely successful. Over two thirds of the funds are now in place.

To fund the remaining proportion of the Library Court and the Student Centre, we need to raise a further £2.8m.

The College will contribute towards the building of administrative offices and the modernization of the Crystal Palace bathrooms with a sum of £1m from its own resources.

Fundraising success

We are now inviting all our Old Members to join us in this campaign. Every individual donation, however large or small, will help us to achieve our shared goal and take this project forward to completion.

How you can help:

- By giving a single donation.
- By giving a regular amount.
- By giving shares.
- By pledging a legacy for the future.

Please refer to the enclosed donor list and gift form for further information.

Book of Benefactors

To express our gratitude, we will enter the names of all donors to this project in a magnificent, leather-bound Book of Benefactors, unless you wish to remain anonymous. The Book of Benefactors will be kept in perpetuity by the College as a permanent record of the generosity of our benefactors. The book will be displayed on special occasions.

For larger donations, the College would be happy to discuss naming opportunities. If you are interested, please contact:

Elizabeth Winter, Development Director and Fellow
Tel: +44 (0)1223 338048 or email: ejw39@cam.ac.uk

We hope you will decide to support the vision of the College and join us in what is surely the most exciting development project in generations. Thank you to all those who have already given; your gifts have enabled us to reach this point and inspired and encouraged us to complete the entire project in one phase. Your generosity is appreciated by everyone who works and lives in Corpus, and indeed, by all those who know and love the College.