

pelican

The newsletter of Corpus Christi College Cambridge

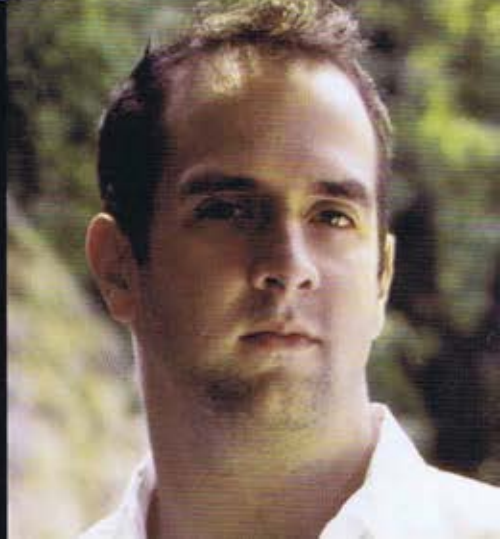
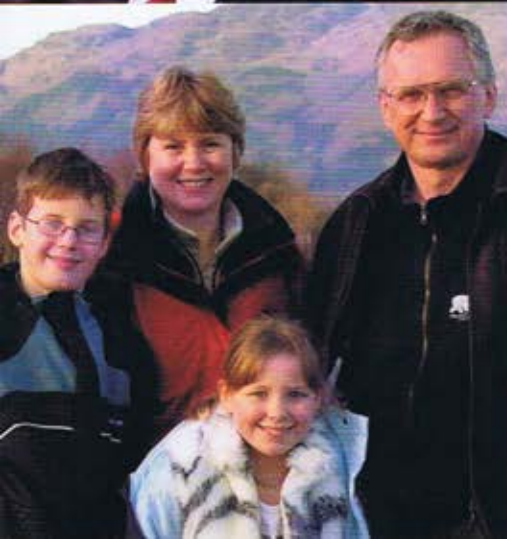
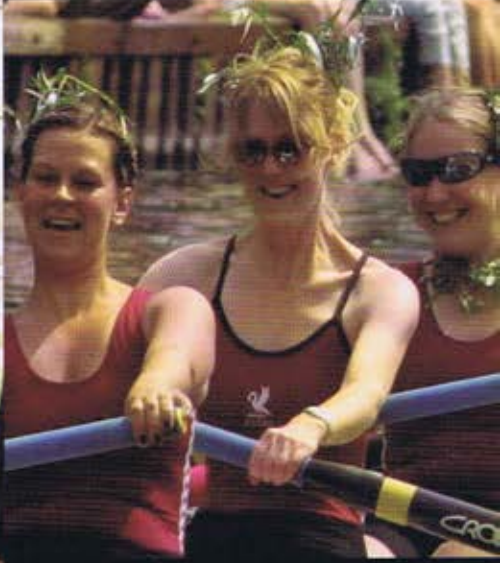
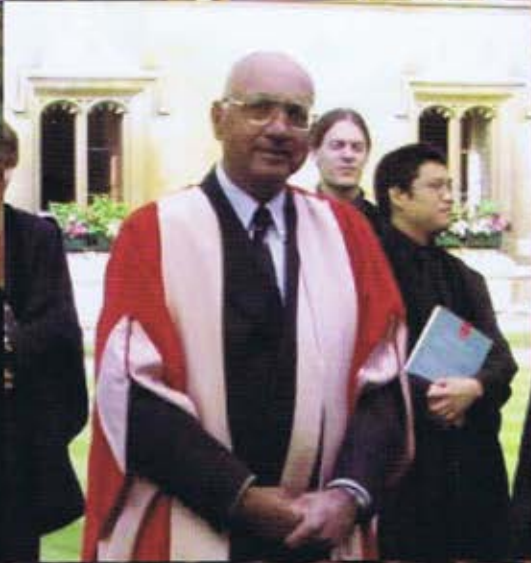
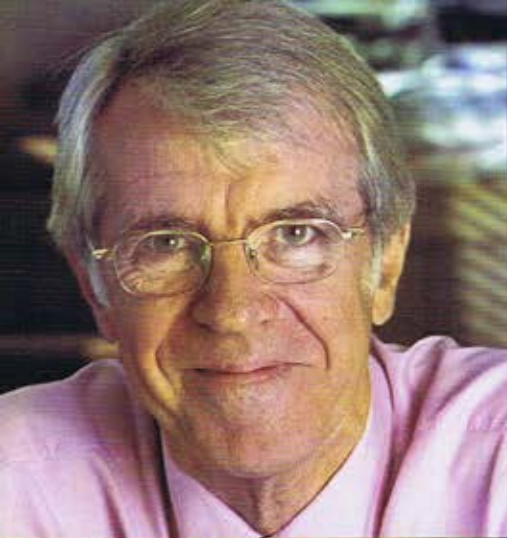


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In this issue of the Pelican we welcome our next Master, Sir Alan Wilson, FBA, FRS who takes up his post in October. The current Master, Professor Haroon Ahmed, shares some of his favourite moments of his mastership in an article on page 10. We have an eclectic spread of College news; Professor Andy Hopper is elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Boat Club invites Old Members to come back for a day's rowing and socialising, and we celebrate the musical talents of Corpus. Old Members are flourishing at Glyndebourne and across the musical landscape. We have also arranged for Old Members to enjoy free receptions at all Britten Sinfonia concerts this autumn (see page 21).

As we go to press, the Royal Society has announced that Professor Jean-Pierre Hansen FRS, Fellow of Corpus and Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, has been awarded the Rumford Medal for his pioneering work on molten salts and dense plasmas 'that has led the way to a quantitative understanding of the structure and dynamics of strongly correlated ionic liquids.' The Rumford Medal is awarded biennially to a scientist working in Europe in recognition of an outstandingly important recent discovery in the field of thermal or optical properties of matter. We will have an interview with Professor Hansen in the next issue.

The increasing need to support students has prompted a group of lawyer Old Members to create a bursary fund for law students. Read about this inspirational drive on page 8.

Finally, if you are interested in supporting any of these ventures – the library, the boat club, the law fund, or indeed, anything else on behalf of the College, remember that we now have a secure online donation facility on the College website.

Liz Winter

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Professor Sir Alan Wilson elected new Master

Professor Sir Alan Wilson, FBA, FRS, was elected unanimously in May by the Fellows of the College to be the new Master of Corpus Christi. Sir Alan is currently the Director General for Higher Education, a post he will leave at the end of September in order to take up his new office on 1st October.

An undergraduate of Corpus, he matriculated in 1957, reading Mathematics. After graduating he worked at the Rutherford Laboratory at Harwell on computational bubble chamber physics. He moved to Oxford's Institute of Economics and Statistics in 1964, and then to London as Head of the Mathematical Advisory Unit at the Ministry of Transport.

He made his academic reputation with his seminal paper '*A statistical theory of spatial distribution models*', which although published in 1967, continues to be essential reading for researchers in fields where flows of people, goods, information or money need to be predicted.

The following year he became Assistant Director at the Centre for Environmental Studies in London. During this time he laid the foundations of rigorous, mathematical analysis of geographical systems, an approach which he pioneered and promoted for the next twenty years.

During the 1970s and 1980s he was Professor of Urban and Regional Geography at the University of Leeds, where he was one of a small number of academics with a truly international reputation. He was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1991. During his 13 years at the helm Leeds University increased its student numbers, its turnover and research income several times over.

It was no doubt his intimate knowledge and understanding of the university sector that led to his appointment as the first Director General for Higher Education, a post which he took up part-time in February 2004 and full-time in June the same year. His role made him key adviser to three education secretaries, firstly


Charles Clarke, then Ruth Kelly and now Alan Johnson. Sir Alan played a critical role in the government's drive to widen participation in higher education and maintain a world-class education system.

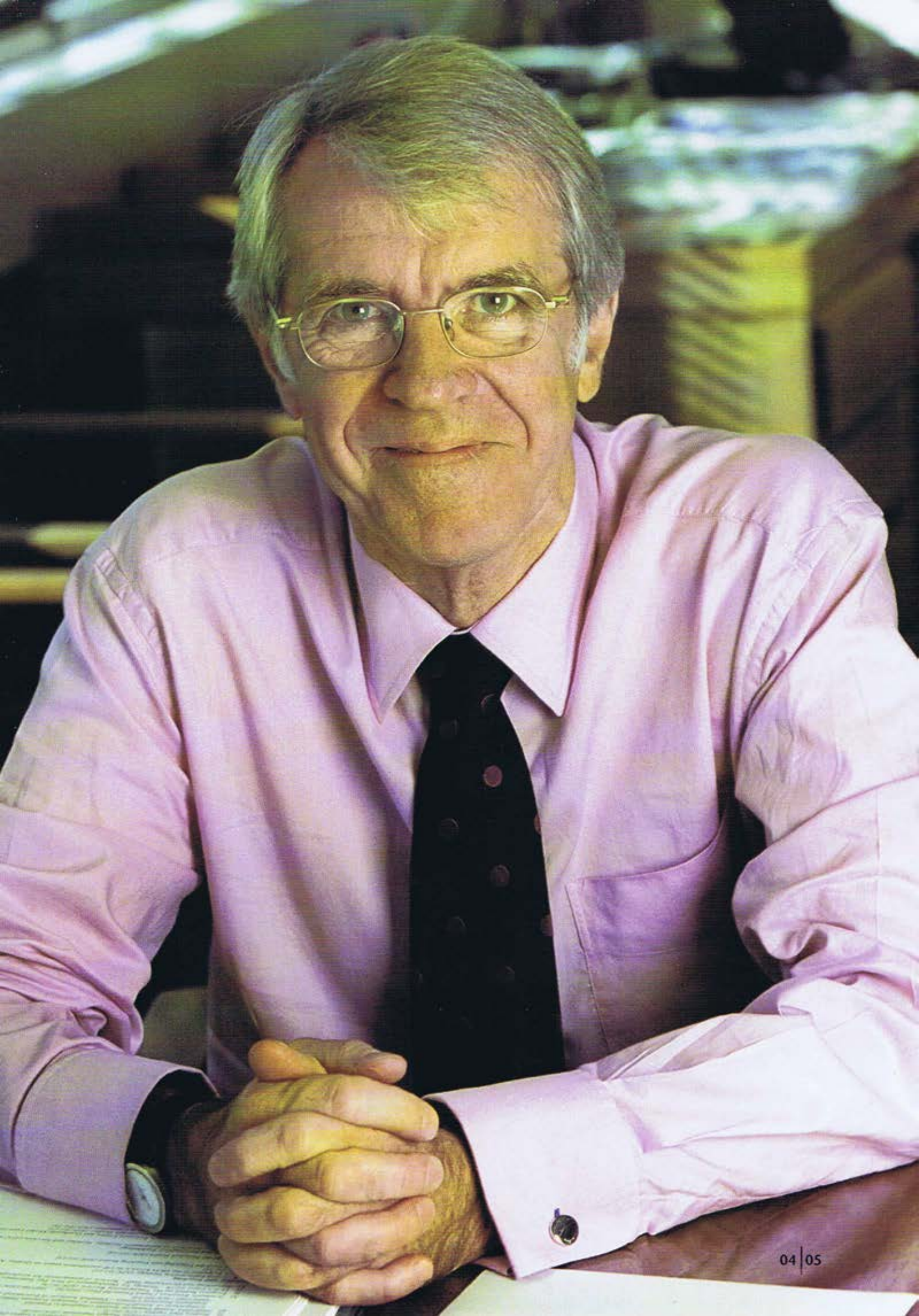
He is a passionate supporter of the drive to open the doors of opportunity. Together with Sir Robert Ogden, he launched a scholarship scheme to encourage 16 year olds from disadvantaged areas in South Yorkshire to stay on at school and enter higher education. This scheme, later extended to North Yorkshire with help from the County Council and the Skipton Building Society, was the precursor of the Government's Education Maintenance Awards.

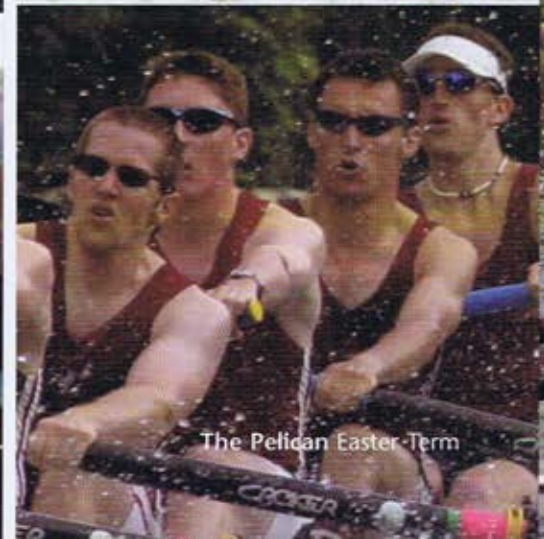
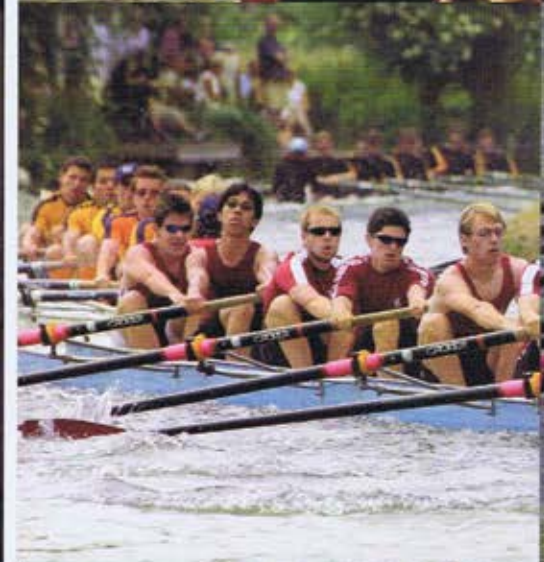
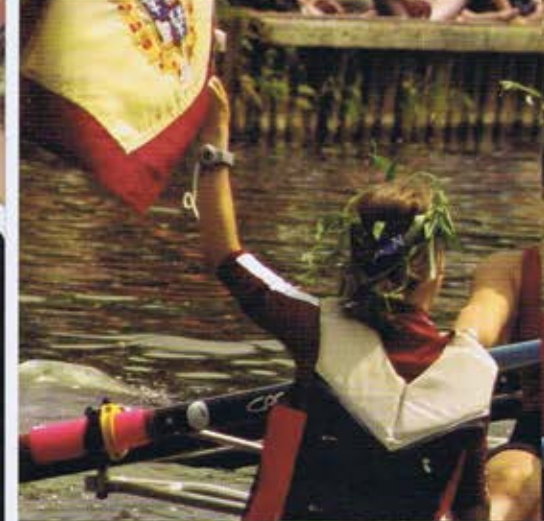
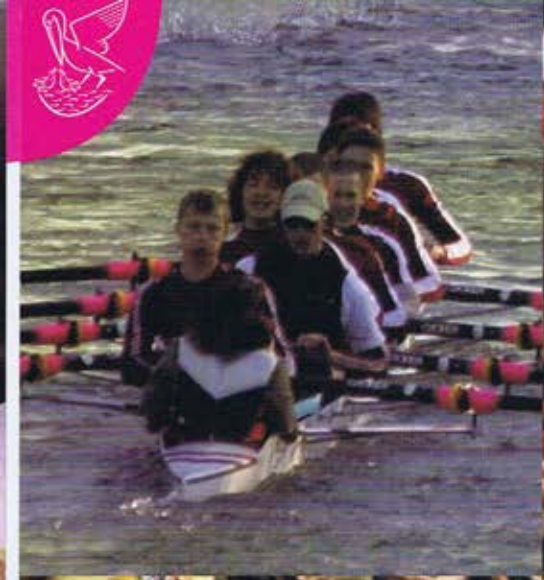
Sir Alan was elected to the Fellowship of the British Academy in 1994 and knighted in 2001. He was awarded the *Laureat d'Honneur* by the International Geographical Union and the 2004 Prize in Regional Science by the European Regional Science Association. He was made an Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi College in 2004. This year he was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, thereby achieving the unusual distinction of being one of only a handful of people to be elected Fellow of both the Royal Society and the British Academy.

The permanent secretary at the Department of Education, David Bell, described Sir Alan as a man who had made an outstanding contribution to the department, and 'whose breadth of knowledge of higher education, coupled with his deep wisdom and insight have made him an invaluable asset to ministers and colleagues alike.'

Sir Alan commented that he considered there was no greater honour than to be invited to be Master of one's old College. 'I accept this appointment with great pleasure. Corpus has been progressing through an impressive period of development and I very much look forward to working with the Fellows, the staff and the students to help ensure its continuing success.'







The Pelican Easter Term

Boat Club Day for Old Members

At the end of August Corpus Christi Boat Club held a reunion event for Old Members in the form of a fun day's rowing with current Boat Club members, followed in the evening by a reunion dinner. The aim was to have an enjoyable day on the river and at the same time help the Boat Club to raise much needed funds for the boats. Spouses and partners came too and former Boat Club members who decided that their rowing days were over still enjoyed cheering on from the banks. The Club hopes to make this an annual event, so look out for further details, and check the web site for updates.

This event was planned at very short notice, so it wasn't possible to contact all Old Members as we normally would. If you didn't receive details of the day, and would like to be notified in good time for next year's event, please let us know and we'll make sure we contact you as soon as the date is fixed.

Rowing remains Cambridge's most popular and traditional activity (with the possible exception of academic study) and the Club is eager to give Old Members of the College the opportunity to revisit and share their memories of Bumps races past. However experienced or inexperienced the oarsman, nothing beats a day on the river.

The morning session was designed to give Old Members a chance either to reacquaint themselves or to learn afresh with current members of the Club and their coaches. After a barbeque lunch at the boathouse there were regatta races throughout the afternoon, rowing side by side down the famous Long Reach. The day concluded with drinks followed by a relaxed three-course meal in Hall.

The current students greatly enjoyed meeting Old Members and sharing their interest in the sport. We are keen to establish close links with all those who enjoyed rowing whilst at Corpus and would like to stay in touch with current Boat Club news and events. The Development Office will liaise between Old Members and students, and help to arrange reunions. The College web site is being updated soon and will include regular news on student events, including the Boat Club.

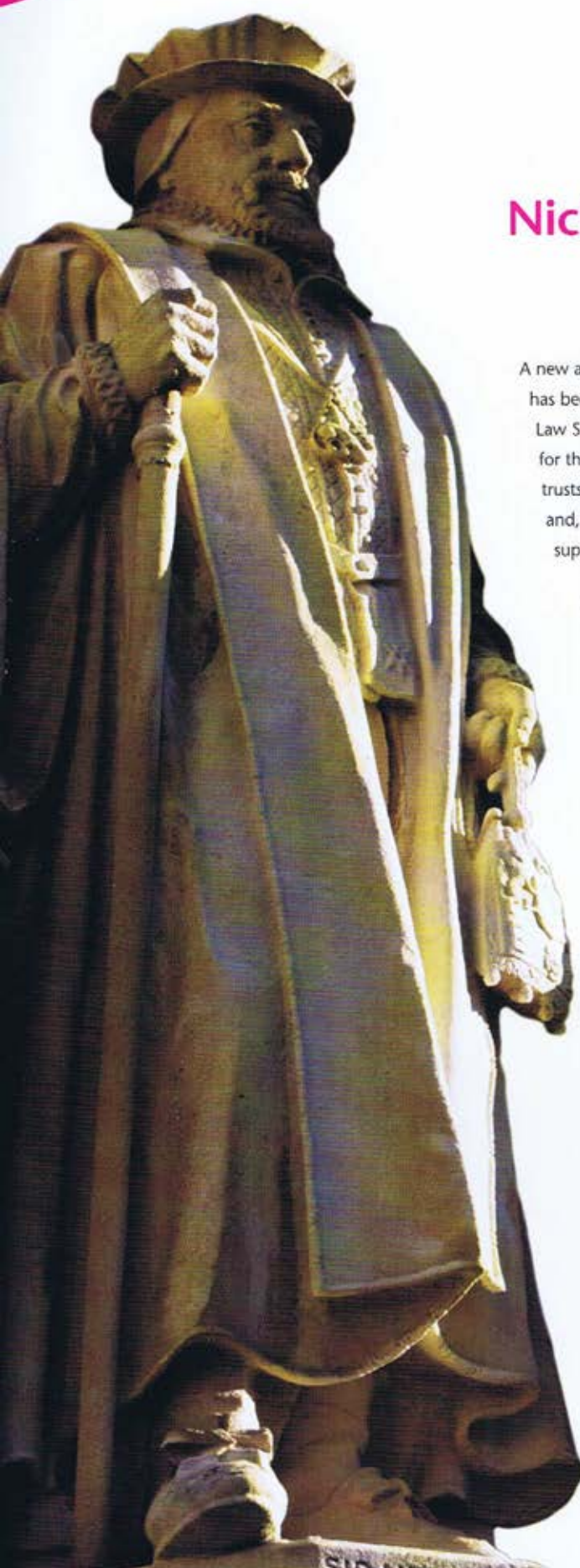
The Boat Club membership has grown dramatically in recent years, with five eights competing in the May Bumps races this summer. Unfortunately, the Club's equipment is unable to cater for so much new interest in the sport, and we are currently fund raising for a new boat for the 1st men's VIII. If you would like to contribute you can send a donation to the Development Office, marking it for the Boat Club, or donate online via the College web site.

We hope to see many of you at next year's Old Members Boat Club Day and thank you for your support.

**Emily Pollock (Captain of Boats),
Jenny Brown (Women's Captain),
Patrick Coen (Men's Captain).**



NB: Due to publication deadlines, this article was written before the event.
A review of the day will be published in the Michaelmas Pelican.



Nicholas Bacon Bursary Fund

A new and unique endowment, the Corpus Christi College Nicholas Bacon Fund, has been established on the initiative of members of the College's Nicholas Bacon Law Society. The primary objective of the Fund is to provide financial assistance for those wishing to study law at any stage of their time at the College. The trusts and powers of the Fund are not, however, restricted solely to that purpose and, if the Fund is sufficiently endowed, extend to the giving of financial support for students in other disciplines as well as research.

The Nicholas Bacon Law Society was founded in 1972, with the primary purpose of providing a means of contact between those currently studying, researching and teaching law at the College and those who have been at the College (whatever their subject) and are in practice or have been in practice as lawyers or are legal academics. The Society also welcomes those who studied law at the College, but have subsequently pursued careers in other areas. The current President is the Hon. Sir Terence Etherton, who is also the chair of the steering committee for the establishment of the Fund. The Society holds a dinner each year at Corpus, usually in early March, which is attended by a wide range of ex-Corpus lawyers working here and abroad, as well as those currently studying, researching and teaching law at the College. It is always a lively and enjoyable occasion. The Society also organises other events, such as annual mooted competitions for first year and second year undergraduates, court visits, and talks, as well as career advice and assistance to undergraduates.

The initiative for the Nicholas Bacon Fund has been prompted by the deterioration in the funding of university students and higher education in general, the increase in top up fees to £3,000 in 2006 and the expectation of future rises, and the University's 800th anniversary campaign. That campaign is to raise £1bn by 2012, of which some £300m is intended for needs-based student bursaries. Contribution towards college schemes will count towards that total.

A detailed briefing note about the Fund, and the need for its creation, has been prepared and may be obtained from the College's Development Office. The figures are stark. Where total parental income exceeds £37,425, no grant is available to meet maintenance costs and tuition fees. Accessing available loan facilities, the student would graduate with debts of about £22,000 and would have to find in addition about £4,000. This is, of course,

SIR NICHOLAS
BACON.
LORD KEEPER
1558-1579

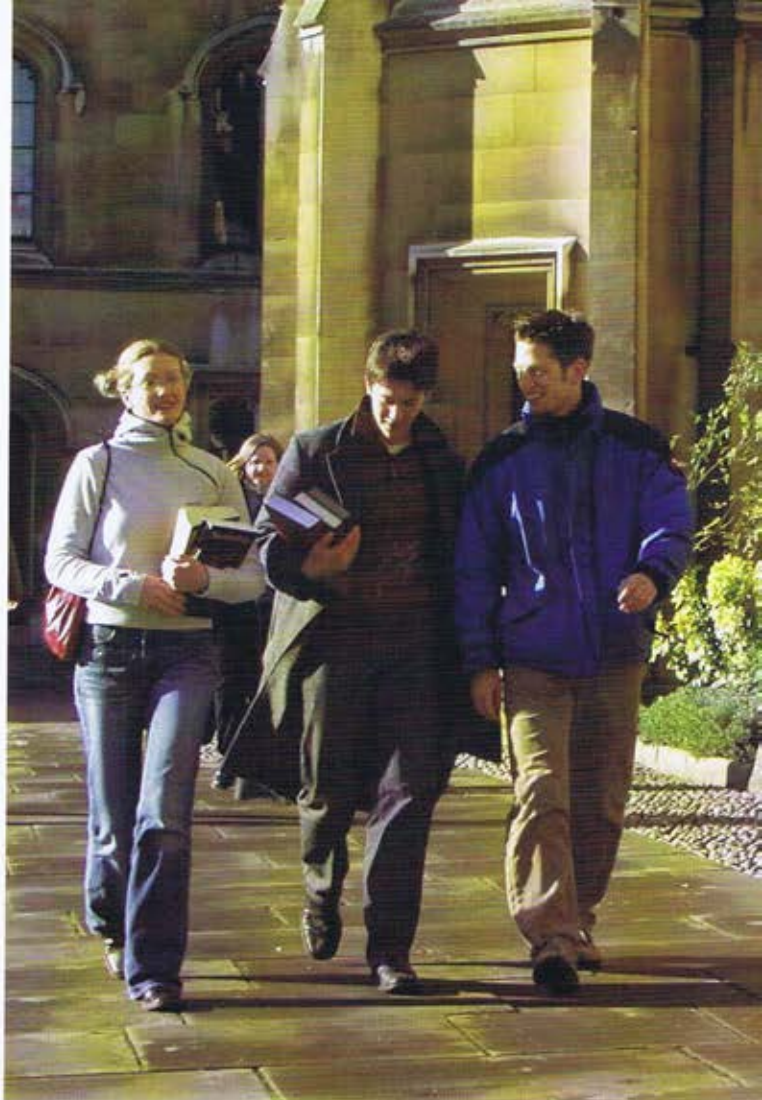
before the costs of professional training. The deterrent effect on those from modest backgrounds considering higher education is obvious.

In order to achieve the twin objectives of, firstly, reinforcing ties between ex-Corpus lawyers, and between them and the College, and, second, marking the launch of the Nicholas Bacon Fund, a series of dinners were held at the end of January and the beginning of February this year. The dinners were well attended and extremely successful and enjoyable. The response to the initiative from ex-Corpus lawyers and those who studied law, whether or not they have practiced law, has been very enthusiastic. The steering committee has, however, set an ambitious target of £1m over the next 10 years and is keen to encourage further donations.

The members of the steering committee for the Fund comprise:

The Hon. Sir Terence Etherton, m.1969 (Royal Courts of Justice), the Hon. Lord Patrick Hodge, m.1972 (Court of Session), Michael Fletcher, m.1976 (Lee Bolton & Lee), Robin Holmes, m.1972 (Travers Smith), the Hon. Philip Havers, m.1969 QC (1 Crown Office Row), Alexandra Lawton, m.1996 (Trowers & Hamblins), Tony Morris, m.1995 (Linklaters), Christopher Vajda, m.1974 QC (Monckton Chambers), Mark West, m.1982 (11 Old Square), Professor David Ibbetson, m.1973 (Regius Professor of Civil Law, Cambridge), Dr Nigel Simmonds, m.1985 (Law Director of Studies, Corpus Christi) Dr Paul Schofield, m.1990 (Senior Tutor, Corpus Christi) and Elizabeth Winter, m.2003 (Director of Alumni Relations, Corpus Christi).

Donations can be made online:
www.corpus.cam.ac.uk or posted to the College.





Professor Haroon Ahmed, Master

Memories of my Mastership

There are moments in my Mastership which will remain memories forever as I leave my position after a little over six years. It was by a fortunate chance that I was elected Master as the College approached its 650th year, and the memory of leading the procession from the College to Great St Mary's of past Masters, Honorary Fellows, and Fellows accompanied by the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Cambridge, who had joined us at the Guildhall, is unforgettable. We arrived at the University Church to be greeted by the Vice-Chancellor, senior University Officers, the Proctors and Heads of House before proceeding to a Service of Thanksgiving. The cameras of perhaps a few thousand tourists to Cambridge recorded the scene in some disbelief, and for a memorable moment Corpus enjoyed world-wide celebrity status.

The College was given an immense responsibility by its 14th Master, Matthew Parker, when it became the custodian of the Canterbury Gospels and, as a consequence, another memorable moment was the presentation of the Gospels at the enthronement of Archbishop Rowan Williams at Canterbury Cathedral in 2003, an important event in the history of the Anglican Church. Not every Mastership includes this solemn duty, which was not without its lighter moments. The Service was ecumenical and widely attended by religious representatives from all parts of the world. Wearing the scarlet robes of a Cambridge doctorate, I was, for a memorable moment, taken to be a Cardinal while in brief conversation before the Service with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. The occasion has been commemorated in a watercolour of the Cathedral by David Birtwhistle, which I have donated to the College.

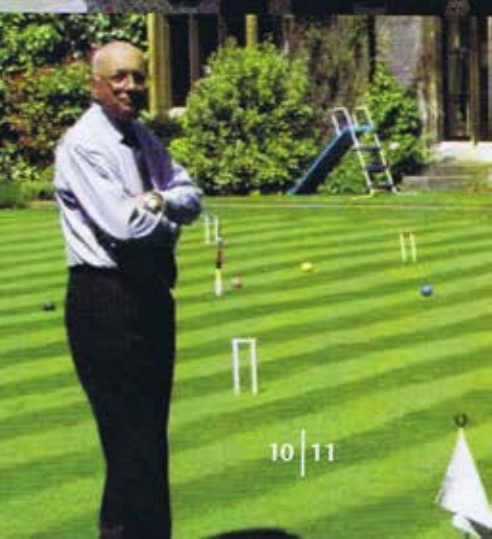
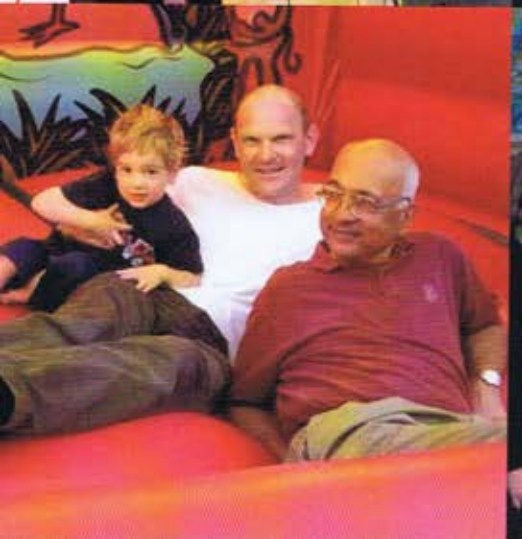
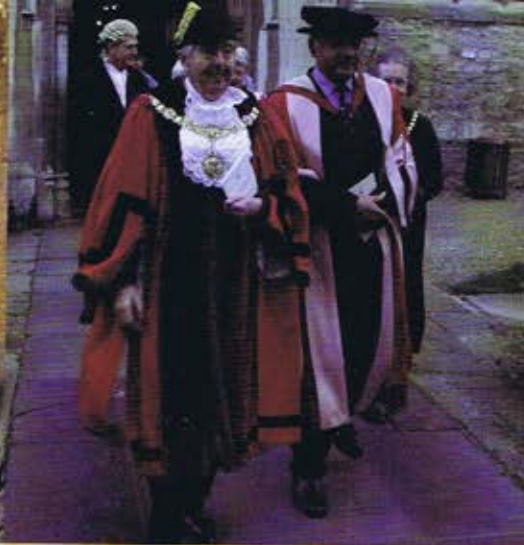
Following this event, the Mere's Sermon was preached in 2004 by the Archbishop, The Most Reverend Rowan Williams. After his compelling and powerful sermon, he was interviewed in the Lodge garden by the Times religious affairs correspondent, and the next day Mere's Sermon, for perhaps the only time in its long history, became the headline of *The Times*.


The defining moment of my tenure came at an early stage when the Governing Body, after six or seven years of divisive debate, decided finally to undertake the Library Court Project. The completion of this

project next year, six years after the decision, will be followed by the final phase of the Parker Library expansion into the ground floor under the Wilkins Room, thus completing the largest building project the College has undertaken since the New Court was completed. Although it has taken us six years to reach this stage, the pace is not slow by our standards, set by our tradition of debate and democratic decision making.

On its social side, the Mastership brings with it innumerable formal and informal events. For my wife, my constant companion on all such occasions, and me, the annual Bouncy Castle Party in the Lodge garden will stand out. Our guests spanned nearly a century in age by including our most senior Fellow as well as the newly-born baby of a very junior Fellow. This family occasion epitomised to us the closeness of the Corpus community, despite the changing social fabric of Cambridge as traditional events such as high table dining continue to decline in their appeal.

The Choir dinner of 2005 brought an unexpectedly pleasurable moment. A vigilant chorister had noticed that my birthday fell on the same day as the occasion, and much to my surprise and gratification, a most tuneful rendering of "Happy Birthday" was a surprise present for me after dinner. The evening concluded with a Scottish ballad sung by my wife with the choir joining in with the chorus: a truly memorable Corpus occasion.





The Name Day Feast of 2004 was another special occasion. As I received guests in the New Court, I beheld with ever increasing surprise a succession of spouses of senior and Honorary Fellows dressed in the elegant shalwars and sarees of Pakistan, the country of my birth. I was extremely touched by this personal demonstration of goodwill towards me and the College; I will not forget their kind gesture.

As is inevitable, there were moments of some poignancy. Michael McCrum celebrated his 80th birthday with a lunch, hosted by my wife and me, in the garden of the Master's Lodge and he spoke movingly of his life and times. It was to be his last formal appearance in College. Geoffrey Styler came to the Lodge in a wheelchair to celebrate his 90th birthday with a few special College friends. This was to be his last appearance at the College where he had been a Fellow for more than 50 years. His funeral was held in the College Chapel, attended by a full complement of Proctors and Constables in recognition of Geoffrey's own service as a Proctor in the 1950s. There have been many funerals and memorial services, but among so many, the service for Lady Lee, widow of the late Sir Frank Lee, Master (1962 to 1971), who died in her 94th year after 30 years of widowhood, remains particularly memorable. I recalled at the Service that it was her husband who admitted me to the Fellowship in 1967.

A modern Master must inevitably pay heed and devote time to fundraising for the College. I well remember the day when John Taylor came back to Corpus for the first time since graduating nearly five decades earlier. He introduced himself not only as an Old Member but also as the inventor of the switching system for the cordless kettle, which is now ubiquitous. He had created a highly successful business and now wished to repay the College which had educated him. His generosity has been the cornerstone of the Library Court project and has funded many initiatives undertaken by the Senior Tutor, the Tutor for Advanced Students and the Donnelley Librarian over the last five years. His visit to the Spencer Room was indeed a memorable occasion. With his support as the nucleus, the fundraising for this project moved ahead in a remarkably short period of time, and we are now in the final stages of the project.

There were also memorable moments with the undergraduates and postgraduate students. The sporting contests with Corpus Oxford, the Boat Club dinners, the golf matches at which I played for the College staff against the students, and the Leckhampton croquet tournament

were all a great deal of fun. The Boat Club, flushed by their success, gave my wife and me a memorable ovation at our last dinner with them in 2006, a year in which they achieved a double over bump and the women's eight won their blades.

The College staff have been tremendously helpful and loyal all through my Mastership. The period in which I acted as both Master and Bursar would not have been possible without their help. I was properly reprimanded by maintenance when I changed a light bulb in the Spencer room without asking for help. Even my claim that I was a chartered electrical engineer was properly rejected because I had not had 'ladder training' before reaching the chandelier by climbing on a chair.

Towards the end of my Mastership, the ceillidh in the garden was a special event with unexpected and surprising dancing prowess exhibited by several Fellows. The dinner in our honour given by an Honorary Fellow with several Honorary Fellows and personal friends attending was another special occasion which we will remember with affection. The words of the Grace before dinner and the kindest of speeches by the host will linger in our minds.

My wife and I leave the Lodge with much to remember. The unique experience of being Master of Corpus is wholly memorable. We will no doubt miss the busy life and the constant excitement for a while, but leave the Lodge with the quiet feeling that we have tried to do our best for Corpus.



Beldam Dinner



This year's Beldam Dinner proved to be the most popular to date, with 200 Old Members attending. On 8th April 2006, all those who matriculated up to and including 1956 were invited back to the College by the Master and the President. The occasion provided the opportunity to renew friendships in the nostalgic surroundings of the College and to catch up on all that has happened in the last 50 years or more.

The evening began when Gill Cannell, Parker Sub-Librarian, opened the doors of the Parker Library to give guests the chance to view a selection of the ancient manuscripts the College holds. The Master and his wife then held a drinks reception for all guests in the Lodge. This started the evening wonderfully as excited chatter took place in every inch of the lodge and guests tested their memories, putting names to faces of old friends. Hall continued to buzz as tales of College adventures were exchanged throughout dinner. A splendid feast was enjoyed by all with an impressive display of efficient and polite service by all the catering staff involved. The reminiscing carried on into the night as guests gathered in the MacCurdy and Parker Rooms for after-dinner parties.

Time may have changed the appearance of many Old Members, but their spirit and enthusiasm for College days remains as strong as ever!

"I had not been up to the College for some years and perhaps for this reason was more than usually appreciative of the collegiate atmosphere, so rare in today's world and I was also grateful for the opportunity to converse with old friends. What can I say as regards the splendid hospitality and magnificent organisation of the evening. Even a long list of superlatives would not be sufficient to convey my thanks." His Hon Judge Anthony Diamond (m.1949)

"It brought home what a privilege it was to spend four years in such surroundings, and how doubly fortunate I was in acquiring (and retaining) such a superb group of friends." Mr Tony Cullingford (m.1954)

"It is always a pleasure to return to Cambridge but never more so than on the occasion of a reunion of old friends. I greatly enjoyed the Beldam Dinner and through you (the President) may I thank the Master and Fellows for the splendid hospitality which the College provided, conscious, as we all are, of the indebtedness we owe to our benefactor Mr. Robert Beldam." Mr Keith Goddard (m.1954)

"It was a great pleasure to return to the College on the occasion of the Beldam Dinner after 61 years." Dr Geoffrey Vint (m.1944)

"The Beldam Dinner was, by common consent, a delightful and vivid evening for many of us after half a century – and more." His Hon Judge John Bull (m.1955)



Professor Andy Hopper

Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society

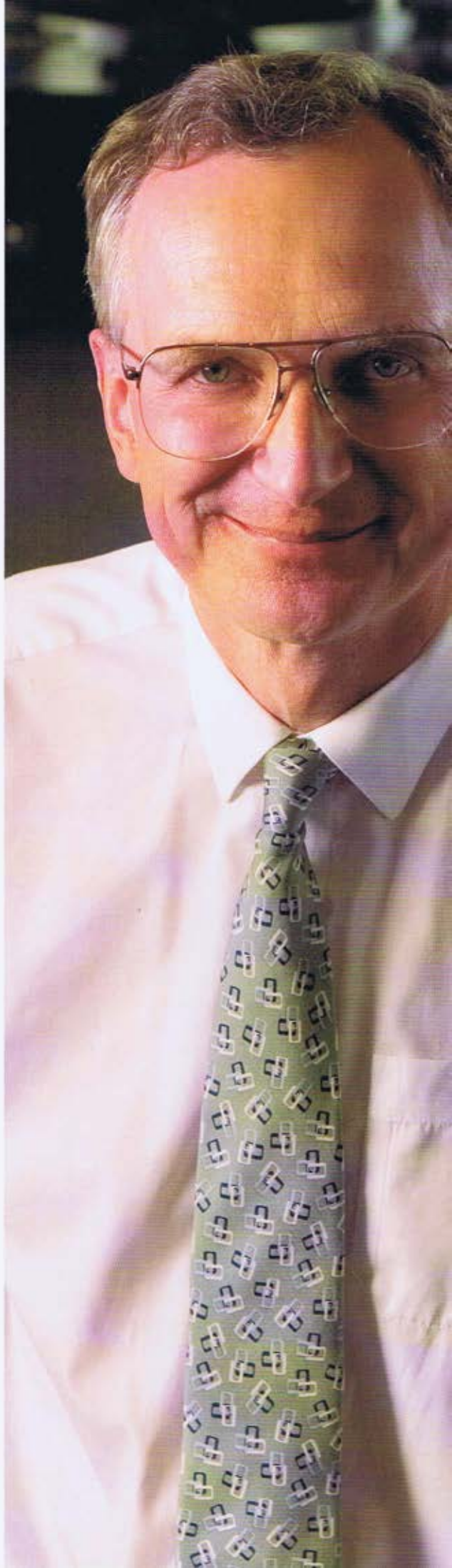
On his laptop on his desk in the Computer Laboratory, Professor Andy Hopper has a slide show of places to which he has flown his 6 seater Cessna plane. The pictures range impressively across the globe, from family holidays on safari in Africa, to snow-covered airfields in Greenland where fuel has to be delivered to icy wastelands in advance. He keeps the plane on an airstrip at home, a small reminder that he enjoys unusual parallel careers in both academia and business.

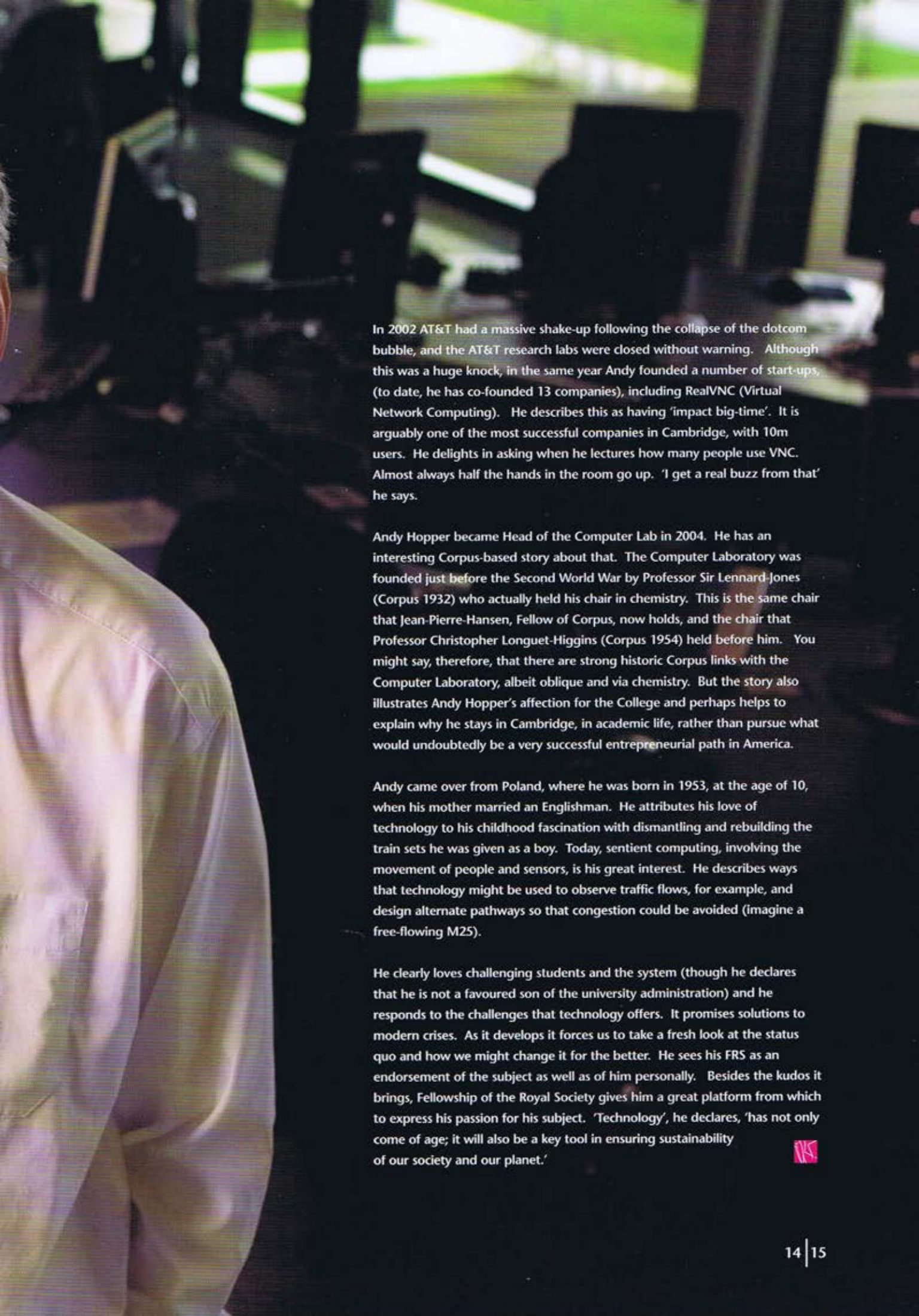
Success and acknowledgement in academic life have been recognised recently by his election to a Fellowship of the Royal Society, the most prestigious honour that can be conferred on any scientist and one that is rarely given to computer technologists. His election makes Andy Hopper only the sixth FRS in his field and only the fourth to hold both the FRS and the FEng. He is also currently only the third FRS in Corpus, with Professor Jean-Pierre Hansen and Professor Sir Alan Wilson. Andy gives Corpus a lot of credit for his success, because, as he puts it, the College took a chance on him a long time ago, offering him a fellowship and academic credibility, yet also giving him space to develop his entrepreneurial interests.

'The system that made me,' he says, 'is both rich, flexible and encouraging. I was supported by my peers and by the university. I was given time to be creative and my students benefited because they learnt from seeing what my start-ups were doing. It was an unusual way of teaching, but it got super results.'

In 1978, the same year he was awarded his PhD, Andy was a founding director of Acorn Computers, the phenomenally successful PC company that went public and was later bought out by Olivetti. When the Italian giant bought Acorn in 1985, Andy set up and ran the Olivetti Research Laboratories, later acquired by the American conglomerate AT&T. It was during this period that his entrepreneurial skills meshed most happily with academic development. The labs funded 120 PhD students, produced over 200 academic papers and spawned numerous start-ups in leading edge technologies. Andy at this point was already a Fellow at Corpus – indeed, this year he and two others, Brian Hazelman and Paul Mellars, celebrate their 25 anniversary as Corpus Fellows. He had also met Alison Smith, a biologist and Fellow at Corpus (see *Pelican* Lent Term 2006). They married in 1988 and have two children.

The Pelican Easter Term





In 2002 AT&T had a massive shake-up following the collapse of the dotcom bubble, and the AT&T research labs were closed without warning. Although this was a huge knock, in the same year Andy founded a number of start-ups, (to date, he has co-founded 13 companies), including RealVNC (Virtual Network Computing). He describes this as having 'impact big-time'. It is arguably one of the most successful companies in Cambridge, with 10m users. He delights in asking when he lectures how many people use VNC. Almost always half the hands in the room go up. 'I get a real buzz from that' he says.

Andy Hopper became Head of the Computer Lab in 2004. He has an interesting Corpus-based story about that. The Computer Laboratory was founded just before the Second World War by Professor Sir Lennard-Jones (Corpus 1932) who actually held his chair in chemistry. This is the same chair that Jean-Pierre-Hansen, Fellow of Corpus, now holds, and the chair that Professor Christopher Longuet-Higgins (Corpus 1954) held before him. You might say, therefore, that there are strong historic Corpus links with the Computer Laboratory, albeit oblique and via chemistry. But the story also illustrates Andy Hopper's affection for the College and perhaps helps to explain why he stays in Cambridge, in academic life, rather than pursue what would undoubtedly be a very successful entrepreneurial path in America.

Andy came over from Poland, where he was born in 1953, at the age of 10, when his mother married an Englishman. He attributes his love of technology to his childhood fascination with dismantling and rebuilding the train sets he was given as a boy. Today, sentient computing, involving the movement of people and sensors, is his great interest. He describes ways that technology might be used to observe traffic flows, for example, and design alternate pathways so that congestion could be avoided (imagine a free-flowing M25).

He clearly loves challenging students and the system (though he declares that he is not a favoured son of the university administration) and he responds to the challenges that technology offers. It promises solutions to modern crises. As it develops it forces us to take a fresh look at the status quo and how we might change it for the better. He sees his FRS as an endorsement of the subject as well as of him personally. Besides the kudos it brings, Fellowship of the Royal Society gives him a great platform from which to express his passion for his subject. 'Technology', he declares, 'has not only come of age; it will also be a key tool in ensuring sustainability of our society and our planet.'





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New conservation centre

Melvin Jefferson, Conservation Officer

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, officially opened the new Conservation Centre at Corpus on 21st April. A number of guests were invited including the Masters, Bursars and representatives from all the consortium member colleges. An exhibition of conserved items from each of the consortium colleges was arranged by Dr Christopher de Hamel, the Donnelley Fellow Librarian, in the Parker Library and guests were invited to view the exhibition prior to the opening ceremony. A celebration dinner was held in the Parker Room after the opening ceremony.

The work of the new Conservation Centre will focus on the conservation of the Parker manuscripts and rare printed books. It will also be the new base for the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium. The Consortium was set up at the end of phase one of the Parker Library conservation project in 1987 when Corpus opened up its expertise, which had been hitherto only available to the Parker Library, to other Cambridge colleges. There are now eight full members of the consortium and several associate members. The formation of a consortium of colleges sharing resources and expertise was a very innovative idea and has been copied many times by institutions and organisations throughout the country.

The Corpus Conservation Centre is state of the art and the newest of its type in the country. It occupies the upper floor of the new building in the area formerly called the 'elephant pen'. The Consortium employs two conservators, Melvin Jefferson and Elizabeth Bradshaw. The centre has an air conditioned studio, which has been equipped with new benches, plan chests, cupboards and several items of new equipment. The adjoining room is a multi-purpose area which functions as an office, meeting room and also incorporates large storage cupboards for stocks of paper, board and leather.

The new Conservation Centre is a welcome development and will ensure that the conservation and preservation of the Parker manuscripts and rare printed books as well as those from the other consortium colleges will continue long into the future.





Photography by Mike Hoban

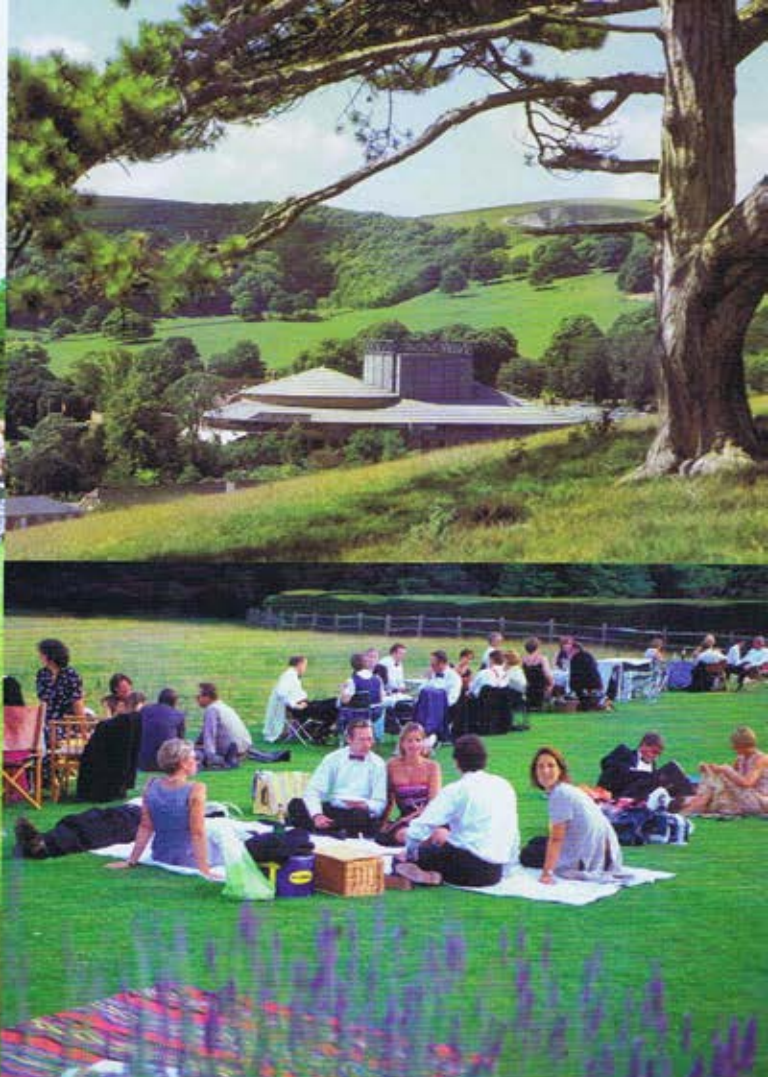
Corpus at Glyndebourne

For a relatively small College, Corpus boasts a surprisingly distinguished musical history. Many former students have gone on to hold important positions in the worlds of Cathedral music – Sir John Dykes-Bower (St Paul's), Boris Ord (King's College, Cambridge), and Edward Higginbottom (New College, Oxford); opera and orchestral conducting – Nicholas McGegan (Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Artistic Director, International Handel Festival), Mark Elder (Music Director, Hallé Orchestra), and Martin Pickard (Opera North); and artistic administration – David Pickard (General Director of Glyndebourne). That Corpus provides a training ground for some of the country's finest musical and administrative talents is confirmed by there being no fewer

than four Old Members taking on key roles at this year's famous Glyndebourne Festival.

Glyndebourne Festival Opera was founded in 1934 by John Christie. In 1931 he married the opera singer, Audrey Mildmay, who encouraged his ambition to create a small opera house in the grounds of their Sussex manor house.

The theatre opened in 1934 for a two-week season of *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*, conducted by Fritz Busch and Carl Ebert. Since the Second World War the repertory has enlarged to include operas by Monteverdi, Handel, Rossini, Tchaikovsky, Janáček, Strauss, Britten, Stravinsky, Verdi and Wagner. The London Philharmonic Orchestra is Resident Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment also appears regularly as Associate Orchestra. In 1992 building work began on an entirely new theatre, seating 1,200 and opening in 1994 with *The Marriage of Figaro*. Sir George Christie, son of the founder, retired as Chairman at the end of 1999 (after 41 years) and has been succeeded, as Executive Chairman, by his son, Gus Christie.



David Pickard

David Pickard (m. 1979) has been responsible for all artistic matters at Glyndebourne since 2001. His appointment at such a young age to one of the top jobs in opera came perhaps as a surprise to some, but his previous stints as Managing Director of Kent Opera, Artistic Administrator of the European Arts Festival, and his eight years as Chief Executive of the Orchestra of the

Age of Enlightenment more than proved his credentials and demonstrated his more general commitment to innovation and serious music making. His first few years in charge at Glyndebourne have been marked by several bold decisions to appoint a series of young conductors; first Vladimir Jurowski as Music Director of the Festival, and, in turn, Edward Gardner and Robin Ticciati (both recent graduates of Cambridge University) as Music Directors of Glyndebourne Touring Opera. So far, these risks have all paid off and it is to Pickard's credit that he sees the fostering of young talent as essential to the health and vitality of the company.

As well as ushering in the new generation of opera conductors, David Pickard also has at his disposal this season the vast experience of another Corpus Old Member, Mark Elder (m. 1966). Mark Elder has been at the forefront of the international opera and orchestral scene for decades. His recent appointment as Music Director of the Hallé Orchestra caps a

glittering career that has included the Directorship of English National Opera from 1979 to 1993, and numerous guest appearances at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera New York, the Bayreuth Festival and with orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, BBC Symphony, and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. This season sees him return to Glyndebourne for the revival of Deborah Warner's production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*. One of the most difficult and powerful works in the repertoire, Elder's performances of Beethoven's towering masterpiece promises to be one of the musical highlights of the year.

For the performances of Smetena's *The Bartered Bride*, another Old Member, Martin Pickard (m. 1974), brother of David and his



Mark Elder

Photography by Mike Hoban

predecessor at Corpus, will conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Martin has been involved with Opera North since 1989 and has conducted more than 20 different productions for them, including *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Rusalka*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto* and, most recently, Kurt Weill's *One Touch of Venus*. Previously at Glyndebourne he has acted as Assistant Conductor for productions of *Tristan und Isolde* in 2003, *Carmen* in 2004, and, last year, for *The Bartered Bride*.

The most recent graduate of Corpus in our Glyndebourne quatuorvirate is the director Daniel Slater (m. 1988). Like Martin Pickard, Dan Slater has previously enjoyed a fruitful association with Opera North having directed their productions of *Manon Lescaut*, *The Bartered Bride*, and *L'elisir d'amore*. Other

recent credits include *Die Zauberflöte* with English Touring Opera, *The Cunning Little Vixen* in Bregenz and San Francisco, *Don Giovanni* for Grange Park, and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Berlin's Komische Oper. This season marks his house debut at Glyndebourne and in a work heard rarely in this country – Prokofiev's *Betrothal in a Monastery*. Of the opera itself and of his first opportunity to work at Glyndebourne, Slater says: '*Betrothal in a Monastery* could well claim to be Prokofiev's greatest opera. As exciting on the musical as on the theatrical level, as lyrical as it is comic, this piece oozes charm and vitality. To bring out all the joys of the score needs a conductor with a genuine love of this music. I can think of no better collaborator than Glyndebourne's Music Director, Vladimir Jurowski. Prokofiev runs in his veins.'

As we celebrate the musical successes of our distinguished Old Members we also look forward to sustaining and building upon their achievements as Corpus enters a new era of music making. All Old Members will have the opportunity to reunite and witness our current musical talent at a large-scale event planned to take place next year in London.

Dr Ryan Wigglesworth, Director of Music



Corpus and Britten Sinfonia for Old Members

Corpus and Britten Sinfonia are teaming up to bring the opportunity for Old Members to meet at a series of concerts in London.

Britten Sinfonia, one of the most highly regarded chamber orchestras in Europe, has Cambridge as its home city. Made up of first rate chamber players and renowned for its innovative and energetic approach to programming and performing, Britten Sinfonia presents concert series in Cambridge, Norwich and London as well as touring in the UK and abroad.

The series of concerts at London's South Bank Centre reflects the eclectic and entertaining outlook of this forward thinking orchestra. Alumni of the College are invited to attend drinks receptions before the concert and in the interval, with a chance to mingle with fellow Old Members and to meet some of the musicians. In brief the concerts, all held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, are as follows:

Monday 2 October Imogen Cooper directs Beethoven piano concerti

Undoubtedly the most elegant and sensitive interpreter of the classical keyboard repertoire, Imogen's joyful demeanour and warm playing create a wonderful rapport with both musicians and audience.

Monday 6 November World premiere of John Tavener's Kaleidoscopes

The best known living British composer, Tavener became a household name when his music was performed at Princess Diana's funeral. Expect to be impressed by the sheer theatricality of this unusual work, for four string quartets, percussion and oboe.

Wednesday 15 November Bach meets Moondog

Britten Sinfonia's fourth consecutive appearance at the London Jazz Festival will change your perception of classical music forever. This show matches the music of breezy, bluesy American street musician Moondog with the master of minimalism, JS Bach, with surprising results. Renowned breaker of musical boundaries, pianist Joanna MacGregor, leads a host of world class soloists, including jazz saxophonist Andy Sheppard.

Thursday 1 February The Fiddlers

Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto is delighting audiences all over the world with his natural sense of relaxation and fun and a raw energy that comes from his absolute love for the music. The programme includes Mahler's stunning arrangement of Schubert's Death and the Maiden Quartet.

For details of concert dates and how to buy tickets go to www.brittensinfonia.co.uk/programme/londonseason.html

When you have bought your tickets, contact the Corpus Development Office to receive your invitation.





Rob Taylor

Head Porter

Rob Taylor joined Corpus as Head Porter in 2004, only his second job in a College and a far cry from industry and the Fleet Air Arm where he had spent most of his working life.

With industry in decline I had reached a point where I needed a change in direction. We lived in a village in south Cambridgeshire, and it was my daughters, one of whom had been at Cambridge (the other at Durham) who suggested I should think about working in the University. In January 2004 I started work with Girton as college porter and I entered a new and more entertaining world.

One of my first experiences of student humour was at Girton when I was asked to contribute a short biographical piece for the college magazine, together with a photo. When the article appeared it was my photo in it, but the caption read 'Beware – this person may have the look of a mild mannered individual but he is a former KGB assassin.' The matter was even more amusing when I was approached a week or so later by a young undergraduate who asked me, with perfect seriousness, what it really had been like in the KGB.

When the position of Head Porter came up at Corpus I was won over by the magic of the place as soon as I stepped into Old Court. I really felt it was a college I would be privileged to work in. My new role brought greater responsibilities, one of which is student discipline. I'm not a great believer in fines; I prefer to give extra duties as punishments. One of my first experiences of this was when a group of students, having drunk far more than was wise, acted completely out of character. Together with the Dean, we gave them extra cleaning duties as a fine. When they graduated, I received a very nice letter thanking the Porters' Lodge for all its help and occasional corrective guidance.

On another occasion I got a phone call from the police who said they had just stopped a young woman in Free School Lane in the middle of the day, wearing only a dressing gown with a towel wrapped round her head. She told them the unlikely story that she was a student from Corpus going for a shower. I confirmed that she was who she claimed to be, to which the policeman answered sarcastically, 'Does Corpus only have one shower?'

Before I came here I felt every time I came into Cambridge that I was a visitor. Now when I walk through the town I see lots of faces I know, and I feel like I have become a member of a family that grows bigger every year.





Mark Cox

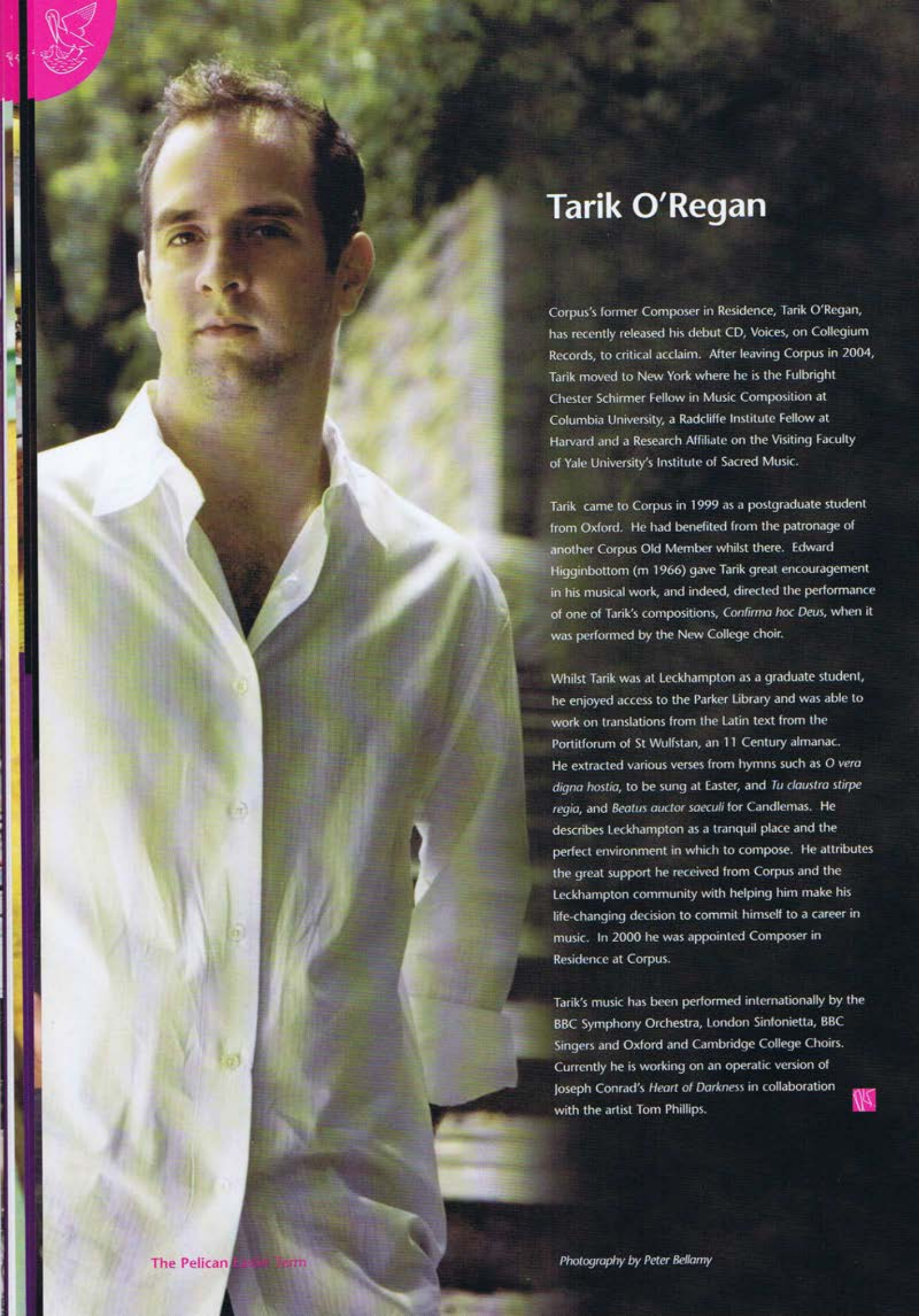
College Steward

Mark Cox first came to the College as a callow youth of 16. He started his working life as a general domestic assistant; today he is the College Steward, a role that draws on his considerable experience of how the College runs, his knowledge of the Fellowship and the staff and his long acquaintance with generations of students.

When an Old Member returns to a Beldam or MacCurdy dinner, it's likely that Mark will be the first person he or she sees. As Steward, he will greet Old Members, ensure that they are well looked after, and make certain everything goes smoothly. Behind the scenes, he will be involved with the planning and organisation of events for Old Members and Fellows from the first stages through to the evening or day itself. Mark also retains a senior role in the catering department.

When Mark first turned up at Corpus he had no idea what he wanted to do. 'I was glad to have a job, and I didn't mind what it was.' He was quick to learn and benefited from the opportunities the College presented. 'I've done just about everything from duty porter to deputy butler under Ron Storey. I've been involved as deputy catering manager in the rise of the conference business, and while I'm pleased to have worked in that field and seen its success, my heart is in the College. I'm very glad to be appointed College Steward as it gives me an opportunity to use my knowledge of how the College works, who people are, even what particular Fellows or Old Members like to eat. I remember most of the students when they come back, even if they've changed drastically in appearance, and I think they are always pleased to find someone still here who remembers them from their undergraduate days.'





Tarik O'Regan

Corpus's former Composer in Residence, Tarik O'Regan, has recently released his debut CD, *Voices*, on Collegium Records, to critical acclaim. After leaving Corpus in 2004, Tarik moved to New York where he is the Fulbright Chester Schirmer Fellow in Music Composition at Columbia University, a Radcliffe Institute Fellow at Harvard and a Research Affiliate on the Visiting Faculty of Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music.

Tarik came to Corpus in 1999 as a postgraduate student from Oxford. He had benefited from the patronage of another Corpus Old Member whilst there. Edward Higginbottom (m 1966) gave Tarik great encouragement in his musical work, and indeed, directed the performance of one of Tarik's compositions, *Confirma hoc Deus*, when it was performed by the New College choir.

Whilst Tarik was at Leckhampton as a graduate student, he enjoyed access to the Parker Library and was able to work on translations from the Latin text from the *Portiforium* of St Wulfstan, an 11 Century almanac. He extracted various verses from hymns such as *O vera digna hostia*, to be sung at Easter, and *Tu clastra stirpe regia*, and *Beatus auctor saeculi* for Candlemas. He describes Leckhampton as a tranquil place and the perfect environment in which to compose. He attributes the great support he received from Corpus and the Leckhampton community with helping him make his life-changing decision to commit himself to a career in music. In 2000 he was appointed Composer in Residence at Corpus.

Tarik's music has been performed internationally by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, BBC Singers and Oxford and Cambridge College Choirs. Currently he is working on an operatic version of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* in collaboration with the artist Tom Phillips.



Ryan Wigglesworth

Before arriving at Corpus as Director of Music in October 2005, Ryan studied at New College, Oxford, where he was Organ Scholar, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and St John's College, Oxford where he read for his doctorate.

As a conductor he has recently made his debut appearances with groups such as the Ensemble Intercontemporain at the Cité de la Musique, Paris (French premiere of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Pulse Shadows*), Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt and Paris, and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, as well as performing the world, UK (Aldeburgh Festival/ Almeida Theatre) and Austrian (Bregenz Festspiele) premieres of Birtwistle's latest opera *Io Passion* with Aldeburgh Almeida Opera. This season he also conducts several world premieres by young British composers at the Aldeburgh Festival.

As a composer, both his Purcell Room/Park Lane Group debut playing his *Coleridge Fragments* in January 2001, and his Wigmore Hall debut performing his *Paradise, Sopot*, and *Coda* in May 2004, met with widespread critical acclaim. The Choir of New College, Oxford recently commissioned and premiered his *Missa Brevis* as well as recording his *Libera nos, salva nos* for the Avie label.

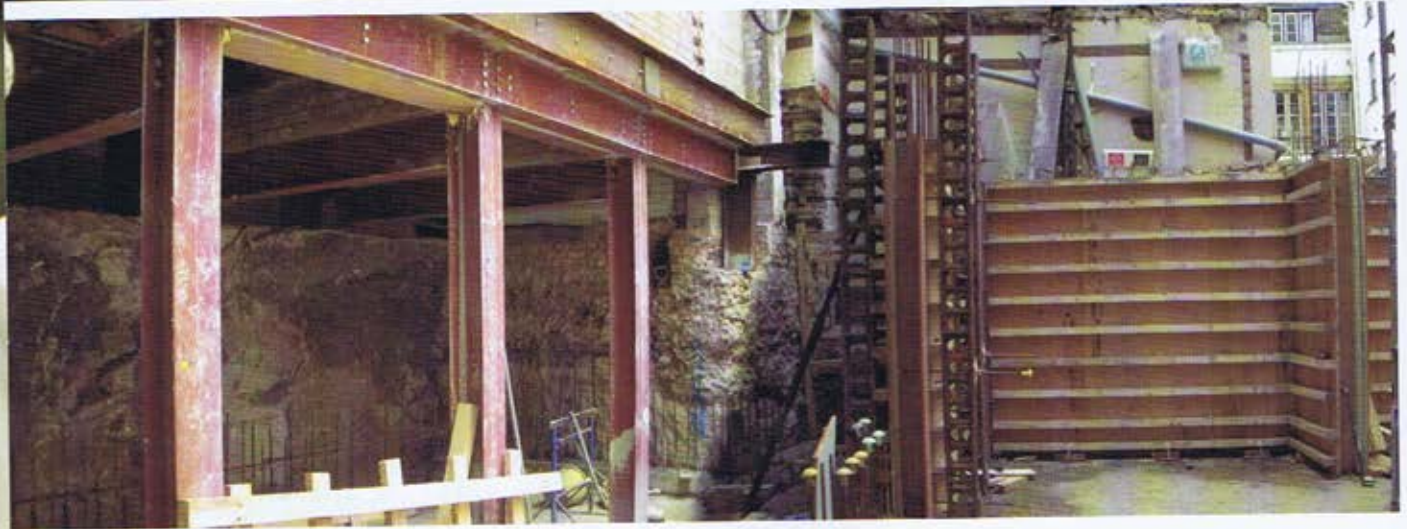
Ryan writes: 'This is an exciting time for music at Corpus. The Choir is about to tour Dublin with a further tour to Jerusalem and a concert appearance in London planned for 2007; the Bene't Club continues to provide a platform for student performances; and the College boasts an admirable number of gifted composers (one gaining a postgraduate place to further his studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama), conductors, singers and instrumentalists. Also, with the arrival of the beautiful new Steinway concert grand in the Chapel we now have a world-class instrument that will act as a focal point for the College's burgeoning musical activities, as well as attracting internationally renowned artists from outside Cambridge. After the success of James Bowman's recital last term we look forward to welcoming the London Philharmonic Chamber Group, the soprano Claire Booth, and the 'cellist Jonathan Cohen for recitals and workshops in the coming year.'





Library Court Project

What's happening?



It is now 12 months since work began on the Library Court project. No one who walks about Cambridge can have failed to notice the building site on the corner of Bene't Street and Trumpington Street. To the naked eye, it may seem as though nothing much changes, but behind the barriers a great deal is happening. Bob Aldrich, project manager, describes the key things that are going on.

The vast majority of the demolition has now been completed and now only the old ground floor slab remains. The upper floors of the building are currently supported by a maze of temporary steelwork, which will be removed once the new cruciform steel structure is fully in place. You may have seen the 8m lengths of steel being man handled onto the site.

Work within Hostel Yard has also made good progress and the new basement box structure that will become the bar is now clearly visible.

On a more dramatic note, Cambridge Archaeological Unit had to be called back to the site after a number of bodies were discovered in an excavation in Bene't Passage. However, it was established that they were extremely old and did not represent a Cambridge variation of Inspector Morse. All the bodies have now been removed.

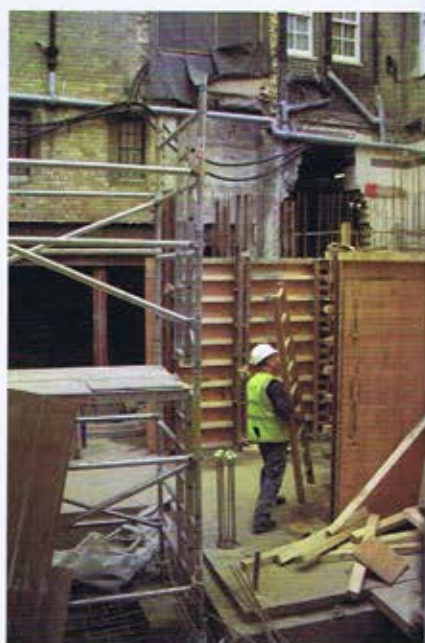
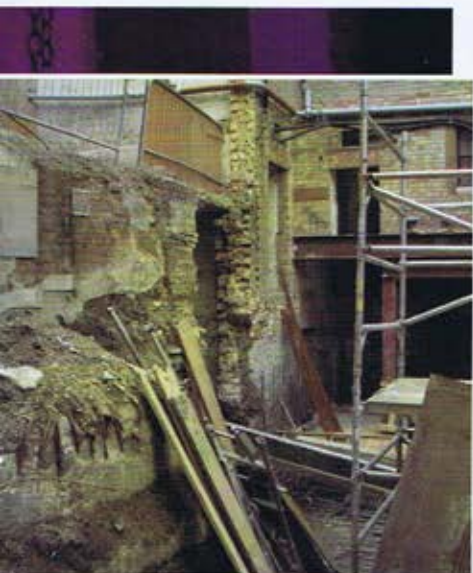
As for the JCR and bar, the JCR committee has been closely involved in the design and facilities planning, including commenting on areas such as catering and audiovisual equipment. Designs for the various pieces of artwork to be incorporated within the scheme have also been developed over the last few months.

The extreme attention to detail and long term vision of this project will ensure that students in generations to come will enjoy the great benefits of the new library and social facilities and Corpus will enjoy its third court.



This project, which has benefited so much from the generosity of Dr John Taylor and many other Old Members, still needs funds. If you would like to donate to help us complete the fund raising, please consider using the online giving facility we now have. All donors will be named in the Book of Benefactors, unless they request anonymity.

One of the new initiatives that Corpus has been involved in is setting up online giving. We now have a secure online giving facility run by the Charity Aid Foundation (CAF). This can be accessed via our web site www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/develoffice/contribution.htm. By clicking on the link you will be taken to the secure site that enables you to give a regular donation as a direct debit or a single donation using your debit or credit card. CAF collect and process your donation, add Gift Aid where appropriate, and pass this on to the College. It makes online giving safe and secure for you and the administration simple for us.





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