

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 17 Easter Term 2010

If Music be the Food of Love....

Music and gastronomy at Christ's

Career Profile

...with James Strachan (RNID)



From The Master

Summer in Cambridge is, of course, exam season for students. But outside the library and study rooms around College, it's also a time of relaxation, and in this issue we profile music and food at Christ's. Catering at Christ's has been the focus of much attention recently, after Head Butler Paul Davis was nationally commended for his skills in the annual CUBO (College and University Business Officers) catering completion: on page 6, author Richard Harden (m. 1978) discusses his career as a restaurant critic and Anne McHale (m. 1999) shares her favourite seasonal wines. Then, on page 8 Dr David Rowland, Dr David Irving and Matt Doggett (m. 2007) introduce the College's vibrant musical tradition. The Chapel is currently celebrating its 500th anniversary, and this has been a time of contemplation but also one of celebration and song – the Chapel Choir is now busier than ever, having completed a tour of the USA last summer, supported generously by many of our alumni along the way.

This issue of Pieces is the last that will be edited by Publications Officer Helen Mort (m. 2004) who is leaving the Development Office in June to take up the position of Poet in Residence at the Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere. We congratulate Helen on her remarkable achievement in winning this highly sought after position. Her successor, Tamsin Astbury, will continue to work with alumni, students, fellows and staff to gather stories and news from Christ's and beyond: if you have an idea for something you'd like to see covered, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Professor Frank Kelly, FRS

Editor: Helen Mort
(Publications Officer)

Cover image: Photograph of Spring flowers
by Dr Alan Winter

3–5

What's New?

Articles, stories and book reviews

6–7

In Good Taste

Food and drink at Christ's

8–10

College Harmony

Fellows and students report on recent musical developments

11

A View of My Career

Helen Mort talks to RNID Vice President James Strachan (m. 1972)

12–13

Memories of an Elderly Marguerite

Professor Ian Smith reflects on the history of the club

14

Sports Round Up

15

Making a Gift

16

Dates for Your Diary



Spring shots from Christ's

MA Congregation

On March 20, alumni who matriculated in 2003 returned to Cambridge to proceed to the MA degree at the official ceremony in Senate House. The occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for friends to reconnect with each other and the College. The group began their day with a formal dress inspection from the Praelector Professor David Sedley in the College Chapel. Despite a few erroneously wacky socks, the inspection went smoothly and was followed by pre-lunch drinks in the Master's Garden. After lunch, the procession began moving through the town centre towards the Senate House, ably led by Head Porter Jeremy Taylor. After the ceremony, afternoon tea was enjoyed by alumni and their guests in Hall, and then later in the evening the group re-convened for a traditional dinner in Hall where Senior Tutor Dr Robert Hunt gave an entertaining speech, and the day was formally ended with a toast to the College. More photographs of the day can be found on the Alumni Gallery on the website:

www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-galleries/



A work of art

On 9 April, an Arts Networking Event was held at the Brick Lane Gallery in London, hosted by the President and attended by members of the College as well as many alumni, giving the opportunity to meet others with an interest in the arts, establish contacts and view new works by emerging artist Tom de Freston (Christ's College Levy Plumb Studentship holder, 2008–2009). It is hoped that this event represents the start of a bigger programme of arts events in College and beyond.



Clare Burnett (m. 1983) and Duncan Kenworthy (m. 1968) viewing work by Tom de Freston



A Flying Visit

Dr Yusuf Hamied and Mrs Farida Hamied (pictured above) visited Christ's in April 2010 to see how the new Yusuf Hamied Centre is thriving as a centre for College activity.

CUBO Success

Very many congratulations to Paul Davis (Head Butler) who came third in the CUBO (College and University Business Officers) catering competition held in Blackpool on 23 March 2010. He was invited to take part having won the University competition in October last year. The competition was extremely fierce and we understand that the final placings were very close.



Farewell

The College has said goodbye to Marleine Wood, Senior Accounts Clerk, who has retired after nearly 20 years. We all send Marleine our very best wishes for a happy and restful retirement and also our thanks for her support over many years.



Volcanology

Dr Rob Martin, former Research Fellow at Christ's, was in Iceland in April, sampling emissions from the Eyjafjallajökull eruption.

Rob now works at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, and writes:

"The research was carried out by a team from the Cambridge Volcanology Group, which had a continuous presence in Iceland from March 24th until April 29th. A range of samples were collected throughout the course of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption, including volcanic gas and ash, snow and glacial meltwater. These samples are currently being analysed.

The results will be supported by remote sensing measurements to monitor the amount of gas being released by the volcano. This research will offer a better understanding of how large volcanic eruptions develop through time, and also how eruptions impact upon the local and regional environment."



Four Bikes and Five Ferries

Robin Kerr (m. 1962) reports on his annual cycling adventure

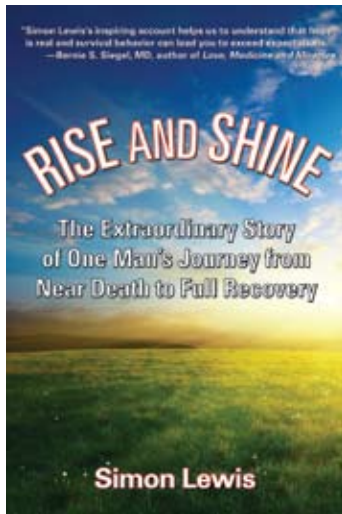
In April, my brother, Andrew (m. 1958), and I renew our obsession with biking through the Hebrides – this time with our wives. Launch point is Ardrossan, on the Clyde, and first island is Arran, a wondrous mountain mini-kingdom with its own distillery and castle. We take the afternoon to ride over to the far side and catch the ferry to Kintyre. Early arrival at Kennacraig for ferry #3 to Port Ellen, in Islay, reveals cancellation (damaged screw), forcing a change of plan and a pleasant walk. Instead, we catch the afternoon ferry to Port Askaig (also in Islay), with Jura close by and its spectacular mountains, the Paps. The old hotel nestles below a cliff from which they have blasted 300,000t of rock over the last 8 years – all in order to create a larger car park for the ferry, thereby nearly bankrupting our hotel! Next day we bike to Bowmore to visit its lovely round church (1767) and Scotland's oldest distillery, now owned by the Japanese. In the evening we catch ferry #4 to beautiful Colonsay, 56 years after my first visit. 2 days allow us to bike and walk to most of the wonderful beaches and tour the lovely gardens of Colonsay House. Then ferry #5 takes us back to Oban and the rail journey home after bright, cold weather and stunning views (and only half a day's rain). Next year it's the Small Isles, which are further north.



Bose Revisited

On February 16th, the College received a visit from Dr Romola Sanyal, the granddaughter of the niece of alumnus Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose. Dr Sanyal came to Christ's to present us with the pocket watch, chain and fountain pen which belonged to Sir Chandra Bose and is pictured here next to the statue of her relative at the back of Third Court.

Books Round Up



Rise and Shine

"When I was thirty-five, my wife and I were both reported dead by the first paramedics to arrive at the scene of a seventy-five-mile-an-hour hit-and-run. My wife Marcy died instantly that day. With brain damage from a massive stroke and my body broken, I wasn't expected to survive either."

So begins 'Rise and Shine', the dramatic story

of alumnus Simon Lewis and his remarkable recovery from a horrific car accident. Simon's book, released in June, is a first-person account of unexpected tragedy and life-affirming courage, about what it means to return from a near-death experience.



Simon Lewis,
photo by Fred Greaves.

Born in London and educated at King's College School Wimbledon, Simon Lewis is a film and television producer and writer. After reading law at Christ's (m. 1978) and Boalt Hall, Berkeley (1980), Lewis moved to Los Angeles, where his Hollywood experience includes producing *Look Who's Talking*, critically acclaimed films such as *The Chocolate War*, the Emmy award-winning international co-production for HBO and ITV Central *A Month of Sundays* (*Age Old Friends*), and variety specials starring Howie Mandel. Amongst leaders of the medical community who have invited Lewis to speak are the Immediate Past President of the American Rehabilitation Providers Association, who heads Congressional lobbying for the care of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, where brain trauma is the signature injury.

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen from the Department of Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology in Cambridge said of the book: "Simon Lewis has transformed his own personal tragedy and pain following a horrific car accident by documenting his adjustment to the double challenge of losing his wife and discovering his own disabilities. His autobiography will inspire other neurological patients and their families and give them hope."

Rise and Shine came out in hardcover on June 1st. For more information, visit www.riseandshinethebook.com or www.simonlewis.us.

Books news in brief....

Intelligent Faith

Alumnus John McDonald (m. 1947) has co-edited 'Intelligent Faith', a volume commemorating the Darwin bicentenary and 150th anniversary of *The Origin of the Species*. The book unites contributions from eighteen scientists and theologians and includes a preface by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams (m. 1968). Distinguished contributors include Cambridge life scientist Professor Simon Conway-Morris and Richard Harries, retired Bishop of Oxford.

Wild Romance

Chloë Schama's first book, 'Wild Romance: The True Story of a Victorian Scandal: A Victorian Story of a Marriage, a Trial, and a Self-Made Woman', was published by Bloomsbury in April 2010. Chloe (m. 2007) dedicates her book to her father (Simon Schama, m. 1963, and Honorary Fellow) saying: "For my father, who taught me how to tell a story." The 26-year-old Harvard and Christ's graduate is following in her historian dad's footsteps by publishing *Wild Romance*, which explores the 19th-century romance between Theresa Longworth and William Charles Yelverton, Viscount Avonmore, and the resultant "Yelverton Bigamy Trial", a scandal that attracted front-page attention for weeks.

In Good Taste

Christ's culinary reputation is growing with College scoring highly in the Cambridge Colleges chefs competition in the last few years. Recently, butler Paul Davis was placed third in the CUBO (College and University Business Officers) catering competition held in Blackpool in March 2010. Our alumni take food seriously too:



Richard and Peter Harden

Richard Harden (m. 1978) co-edits the Harden's restaurant guides – celebrating 20 years of publication this year – with his brother Peter.

“A new graduate who follows the well-trodden path from Cambridge to London today nowadays will take it as read that good and interesting restaurants are among the capital's leading attractions. Twenty years ago, when my brother Peter (Trinity) and I set up the guide book business which bears our name, it really wasn't so. Restaurants were still often seen as a minority interest for a subset of the professional classes. Concepts which seem commonplace today – celebrity chefs in the style of Gordon Ramsay, ‘quality’ chains like Wagamama, or upmarket international restaurant brands like Nobu, to name but three – would have been inconceivable then.

It really was only twenty years ago. No one, including us, ever foresaw the transition which has taken place since. Similarly, no one could have foreseen that the business model which has worked for compilers of information for 250 years – we research it, you buy it – was about to be torn up. The worldwide web was launched at almost exactly as the same time as we published our first guide in 1991. People nowadays tend to assume that everyone always understood that the subsequent march of the web was obvious and inevitable. It didn't seem so at the time.

In many ways, then, our business today – one of the few own-name-brand (or ‘vanity’) enterprises launched by Oxbridge graduates? – survives in an environment which is in many ways entirely different from 20 years ago. Curiously, however, our original research model – which involves ordinary restaurant-goers trading their views for ‘free’ guides – always had a web-like interactivity about, and it has therefore survived fundamentally unchanged.

Our challenge now? Well, it's fundamentally no different from that faced by publishers from Mr Murdoch downwards. How to make a go of quality independent non-fiction publishing in an era where the ‘model’ is constantly evolving. Our current suspicion is that ‘apps’ of the nature we've recently launched for BlackBerry and iPhone are going to play a big part in this. And probably with some more obvious ‘ecommerce’ angles than we have at the moment. But what's the ultimate end-point? After two decades, it's still much too early to say.

We always welcome newcomers to our annual survey, incidentally, and Christ's alumni would be particularly welcome take part. Please register at www.hardens.com, and we'll be in touch.”

Anne McHale (m. 1999) works for the UK's oldest wine merchant, family-owned Berry Bros. & Rudd, in London SW1. She teaches wine courses and co-ordinates events in their historic 300-year-old cellars, and is currently studying to be a Master of Wine.



Anne McHale

“Picture this: you are an apprehensive final year undergraduate, reluctant to leave the sheltered academic bubble of Cambridge and still without a clue as to how you will actually make your way in the Big Bad Real World. I'm sure many of us have been there. In the hope that they will come up with an on-the-spot magic prognosis of your perfect career, you visit the Careers Office a few weeks before graduation. The reality is, however, that they do not keep an Albus Dumbledore-style crystal ball hidden in there – you are much more likely to leave the meeting with a fairly long list of sensible options suited to your personality and strengths. Yet not once have I heard of ‘wine’ ever appearing on this list. So how on earth did I end up making my living from this marvellous drink?

Wine has always held great interest for me. My father has been a particular influence, having established the first Wine Society at Queen's University in Belfast during his own student days. This passion for all things vinous certainly rubbed off on me: one of the first stands I visited at the Freshers' fair was the University Wine Society's. Throughout my four-year French & Latin degree I was a regular attendee at the Society's events, and was privileged enough to try some amazing wines, culminating in a series of great vintages of Château Margaux at the Annual Dinner in my final year. I must confess, however, that at that stage it was much more about drinking the wine than paying attention to intricate details – and it certainly didn't cross my mind that I could make a living out of it.

So wine as a career was not a deliberate plan. After graduation I moved to London with a few other Christ's friends; slightly directionless, I applied for a range of jobs in which I could use my French (sadly not Latin) skills. Very luckily for me, the first one I got offered was assistant in a London-based French wine agency, where I was required to liaise with French wine producers and carry out general administration. The company sent me on my first wine course with the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) and from then on I was hooked. I joined Berry Bros. & Rudd two and a half years later, and have been building up my knowledge of (and passion for!) wine ever since.

You never forget your student days, however, and my interest in wine at university means that many of the wines I encounter in my job remind me of those very happy years in Cambridge. Here's my choice of the most nostalgic:

Winter warmers

None of us will forget how truly chilly a Cambridge winter can be. Far more tempting for me in my final year than the library was the prospect of snuggling up in my cosy room (C4 in second court) with a few friends and a rich, warming bottle of Australian Shiraz, always a favourite of mine as a student. In those days I tended to go for whichever one was on discount in the offers section at Sainsbury's; nowadays I usually opt for something a little more complex, and if the budget stretches to it, a wine like Giaconda's 2006 Warner Vineyard Shiraz from Beechworth, Victoria: a decadent red with lush aromas of black fruit & spice, yet overlaid with a savoury elegance – one of Australia's finest. Another fond winter memory is of the brisk, cold walk to Chapel Choir practice on dark evenings, all made worthwhile at the end of the week by the glass of Sherry enjoyed by everyone in the ante-chapel after Sunday evensong. We were always offered a choice between a medium Amontillado (nicknamed 'Armadillo') or a classic dry Fino; my choice was usually for the sweeter Amontillado but ever since a visit to Sherry's homeland in Andalucia, my palate has preferred the Fino style, or an even crisper, more delicate version in the form of La Seguidilla Manzanilla – one of the best value wines on the planet and perfect with Spanish tapas. Let's not forget either that other College classic, the decanter of Port passed round at the end of special meals and a perfect way to keep warm in the winter. My favourite style of Port is a complex, nutty, Christmas-cake-esque classic 20-year-old Tawny like Berry Bros. & Rudd's William Pickering. A wine like this can go equally well with both cheese and chocolate desserts, and can even be enjoyed (as the Portuguese do) chilled for a refreshing summer drink – perhaps more appropriate for the weather at the moment!

First of the summer wine

What feeling is there to equal those heady days of May Week, after the strains & stresses of exams? Strawberries & cream at garden parties puts me in mind of a delightfully grapey, floral, subtly sweet & gently sparkling classic from Italy: Moscato d'Asti from winemaker Braida in Piedmont. Perfect with fruit desserts or just to sip on its own in the garden whilst

reminiscing about carefree Cambridge summers. And at a sprightly 5.5% alcohol, there's no need to share the bottle! Or, perhaps even better than a garden party, the pleasures of punting to Grantchester with friends. I remember laughing at people falling into the river whilst sipping a Pimms & lemonade, a gin & tonic, or a crisp, refreshing white like Sauvignon Blanc – I'm a big fan of some of the more niche New World styles like an Argentinian example from Pulenta in Mendoza, or a classic Old World minerally Sancerre from top-class producer André Dezat in France's Loire Valley. Another of my all-time favourite summer wines is a dry Spanish rosé like Artadi's Garnacha from Navarra – bone dry to match food perfectly, but still brimming with luscious strawberry fruit character.

I feel very fortunate to be making a career in something I am so passionate about. One of the things I love most about wine is that more often than not it is linked to some of our happiest memories, and even the merest whiff of a favourite from the past can bring back the moment in all its vivid colours. At no time is this truer than in my cherished memories of Christ's.

For more information on Berry Bros. & Rudd's extensive range of wines, courses, tastings & dinners, please visit www.bbr.com or contact bbr@bbr.com/0800 280 2440.

VOX POP: What taste do you associate with Cambridge?

"I suppose cheese, as it was the only thing I joined a club specifically to venerate. And swan. Not being a Scholar I never actually had swan, but I do remember being chuffed when the Steward suggested it for a Boat Club dinner. Fortunately I had been briefed by brainier friends that swan's exclusivity as a dish had nothing to do with its inherent attractions of taste or texture, so I was able regally to decline. I've still never tasted it."
Richard Harden (m. 1978)

"'Fitzbillies' Chelsea buns – they are, after all, the only thing I've seen persuade my Grandma to break a rule instilled in her around 1934, when her education at a Lancashire girls' school began with certain refinements and rules: hats on till you get home; preserve a cordon sanitaire between you any passing boys; and, of course, never eat out of doors. 'Just imagine', she said, some bites in, and a half-alarmed glance at daughter and granddaughter: 'three generations of Bolton School girls eating in the street! What will become of us?'"

Helen Crawforth (Fellow)

Musical Tourists and a Very Grand Tour: *More than Three Centuries of Social Music-Making at Christ's*

Dr David R. M. Irving (Fellow)

Christ's College has celebrated some significant anniversaries over the past few years. John Milton turned four hundred in 2008, and it was Charles Darwin's bicentennial last year. This year, we commemorate the five-hundredth anniversary of our Chapel. Liturgical and devotional music has now been performed in the Chapel for half a millennium, since the Chapel's consecration in 1510, but social music-making in other parts of the college (whether in a secular or sacred vein) is something else. Of course, social music-making at Christ's has traditionally been an activity that overlaps with music-making in the Chapel, since musicians who sing in the choir and play instruments have usually held key roles in fostering and promoting musical activity throughout the whole College. But it's time to recognize yet another landmark anniversary: Christ's College Music Society has now been flourishing for at least three hundred years!

One of the earliest pieces of substantial evidence we have for organized social musical activity in Christ's dates from 1710: the diary of the German traveller Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach (1683–1734), who toured England to search out manuscripts and books. He provided the first reference to the existence of a 'music club' in Christ's, rather than describing its official foundation, so obviously the 'club' was already thriving in 1710. (David Butterfield has recently drawn my attention to a testimony of 1719 that could push back the chronology of social music-making even

further, to the middle of the seventeenth century! Watch this space. . .) On 30 July 1710, Uffenbach wrote: 'Dr. Ferrari came for us, and took us to the *Music club*, in *Christ's college*. This music meeting is held generally every week. There are no professional musicians there, but simply bachelors, masters and doctors of music, who perform. . . . It lasted till 11 *p.m.*, there was besides smoking and drinking of wine, though we did not do much of either. At 11 the reckoning was called for, and each person paid two shillings.' Christ's College Music Society has come a long way since that initial observation: members no longer smoke (although we certainly still quaff) and no longer have to pay two shillings. But more importantly, CCMS has been the launching pad for the careers of many professional musicians.

Tourists noticed this kind of activity when they visited our college in the eighteenth century, but it seems that the impact (to use that loaded word) of music-making at Christ's was also felt even further afield, as I was recently pleased to discover. I should preface the second half of this story with a bit of background context: around three years before I came to Christ's, I ran into David Rowland in the University Library and we had a short chat about Pieter Hellendaal (1721–99), an eighteenth-century Dutch violinist who had lived and worked in Cambridge, and who is buried at Little St Mary's. David mentioned to me that there was a famous engraving of Hellendaal playing a concert with several other musicians at Christ's College in 1767; this was a caricature drawn by Thomas Orde and engraved by Sir Abraham Hume – a fascinating picture. We pulled out a relevant volume from a nearby shelf and examined the engraving together. (Hellendaal is the violinist on the far left.)

Several months later, this image caught my eye again. In June 2005, I was chairing a panel on musical exchanges between China and the West at a Study Day on Music



These Chinese bowls show scenes of musicians playing at Christ's in the 18th century.

and Intercultural Contact in the Early Modern Period, when a friend and colleague of mine, the ethnomusicologist François Picard from the Sorbonne, showed us the same engraving before displaying a photograph of a beautiful porcelain punch bowl that reproduced it exactly! The punch bowl had been made in China in the late eighteenth century. Not only does it feature the musical group performing at Christ's, but it also juxtaposes a Chinese musical ensemble playing Chinese instruments. In the late eighteenth century there was a thriving trade in personalized Chinese porcelain for the export market. Well-to-do Europeans would place their orders with traders going to Canton, who would take with them whatever images (often coats-of-arms) that the patrons wanted to be reproduced on porcelain. Someone must have loved the Orde-Hume engraving so much that an order was placed. It might well have been someone with a Cambridge connection, but at this point we have no way of knowing.

Just before Easter this year I was carrying out some archival research in Paris, and decided that in my spare time I should finally go and see this remarkable specimen for myself. One of the curators of the Musée Guimet, Jean-Paul Desroches, kindly agreed to my request, and was very pleased to hear that I was from Christ's. He told me that he knew of only two specimens in existence: the other is held at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. I went with him into the most extraordinary store-room of the Museum, which was filled from floor to ceiling – and seemingly as far as the eye could see – with rare and fascinating specimens of porcelain, of all sizes and ages. The bowl was much larger than I expected (it would hold a lot of punch). The painted reproduction of the engraving was superbly executed and the gold paint used in the decorations remains vivid. We don't know what the Chinese artist thought or felt about painting these Western musicians and instruments; after all, this was just one sphere of cultural life that was regularly depicted in Asian reproductions or adaptations of European artworks. (In late sixteenth-century Japan, for instance, there was a whole school of painting that reproduced Portuguese artworks, often featuring musical instruments.)

Given that my current research is on the early modern globalization of music, I was delighted to find such a poignant example of iconographic comparison between two distinct musical cultures, made in the late eighteenth century. One of these days I hope to track down more details about the identity of the person who sent or took the original engraving to China, and to find out whether there are any other copies of the bowl in existence.

Dr David Irving gave a popular series of lectures on the globalization of music at Christ's throughout 2009 and 2010.



Christ's Choir in fine voice at the Lady Margaret celebrations in 2009.

Christ's On Song

An overview of the College Choir

Dr David Rowland

This year the college celebrates 500 years of the life of the Chapel. My experience of being Director of Music since 1984 (with a one-year break in 1989–90) is tiny by comparison, but some significant things have happened in the period nonetheless. When I first arrived the College had only just celebrated the renovation of the organ. The work that took place in the early 1980s served to restore part of the instrument to its original 1705 state. Other eighteenth-century pipes were brought in to complement what was already there, as well as some new ones. The instrument has served us well since then, with only minor alterations.

The choir that I inherited in 1984 numbered about 20 singers, of whom less than half were choral exhibitioners. We now have a much higher proportion of exhibitioners and over the years we have augmented the numbers to 28 or so, particularly in order to cope with some of the external activities that we now undertake. The 'external activities' are mostly concerts – we perform between about 20 and 30 each year. One of the more significant recent developments has been the number of concerts that the choir performs with professional orchestra, most of them in London. Works such as Bach's B Minor Mass and Mozart's Requiem in some of London's bigger churches need bigger forces than are necessary week by week in the College chapel, but even with the bigger choir numbers we usually augment the sound by inviting back former members to sing. Other concerts are mostly those that we do on tour. Since the end of the 1980s we have toured outside of England each year. Over the last 20 years we have made several visits to Australia and New Zealand and regularly visit the USA and Canada. We also visit Europe occasionally – as we are planning to do this year.

Of course, the main reason for the choir's existence is to sing in the Chapel. As long as I have been in College there

have been two choral services a week, on Thursday and Sunday evenings, with occasional extra events including a few broadcasts in recent years. There have been changes, though, mainly to the repertoire that we sing, which is much more demanding now than it was in the 1980s. As a rule, I aim to mix the repertoire to include music from the mid sixteenth century to the present, although since my own preferences lie in the eighteenth century I try to keep works such as Bach's motets in the repertoire. Recently, however, we have been performing some new student works, not least as a result of the generosity of Vincent Lam, one of our former choral exhibitors. We expect to be singing some externally-commissioned music for our main anniversary event in November.

Take 5... Christ's Musical Alumni

Matt Doggett is a 3rd year Natural Scientist and current Chairman of Christ's College Music Society. Here, he introduces some of Christ's famous musical alumni.

DR JEFFREY TATE (m. 1961) read Medicine, specialising in eye surgery and worked at St Thomas's Hospital London. In 1970 he gave up medicine and became a répétiteur at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, before making his conducting debut with the Gothenburg Opera in Sweden in 1978. In 1979 he was asked at 3 hours notice to conduct the opera "Lulu" at the Metropolitan Opera, New York as the conductor, James Levine was ill. He conducted many other operas in New York. He was principal conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra (1985–2000), the principal guest conductor of the Orchestre National de France and since 2008 has been the chief conductor of the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra. Jeffrey was born with spina bifida and has been the president of the UK spina bifida charity ASBAH since 1989.

SIR HUGH ALLEN (m. 1891) was organ scholar at Christ's College, and later Cathedral Organist at St Asaph's Cathedral, Ely Cathedral and in 1901 became organist of New College Oxford. Following Sir Walter Parratt's resignation, Hugh became Professor of Music at Oxford in 1918, a position he held for the rest of his life. In the same year, he also became director of the Royal College of Music, after Sir Hubert Parry's death. According to the Times he was for a time "the acknowledged but unofficial head of the music profession in this country". He modernised the curriculum at both institutions, which led to the foundation of a Faculty of Music at Oxford in 1944. He was made an Honorary Fellow of Christ's in 1926.

Born Reginald Moxon Armitage, **NOEL GAY** was one of the most successful British composers of popular music in the 1930s and 1940s. His interest in musical comedy grew

while at Cambridge, and he began writing popular songs in revues. His career blossomed and he is the only composer other than Andrew Lloyd Webber to have had four shows running at the same time in London's West End. His most famous show *Me and My Girl* contains the song "The Lambeth Walk", the only popular song to be the subject of a leader in the Times in October 1938 "While dictators rage and statesmen talk, all Europe dances – to The Lambeth Walk". He later wrote songs for artists such as Gracie Fields and George Formby, as well as popular World War II songs such as "Run Rabbit Run".

JONATHAN SELLS (m. 2001) studied Music and Musicology at Cambridge and then completed the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is currently a Guildhall Artist Fellow. He has performed a huge variety of music, from the earliest polyphony to World Premieres, such as Rachel Stott's *Companion of Angels*. He has recorded the rôle of Plutone in Monteverdi's *Ballo dell'ingrate*. He made his solo debut in Wigmore Hall in March 2009 performing songs from the 1880s by Duparc, Debussy, Mahler and Wolf.

ANNILESE MISKIMMON (m. 1992) read English before studying Arts Management at London City University and working as a staff producer at the Welsh National Opera. She has travelled the world working with conductors including Rattle, Gardiner, Elder, Jurowski, McGegan and Mackerras. She is currently Artistic Director of Opera Theatre Company Ireland and has worked with the English National Opera, at Glyndebourne and with the BBC Orchestras and Proms. She has directed operas with the San Francisco Opera, Bologna, Toronto, Le Châtelet (Paris), Oslo, Glyndebourne and Frankfurt. In 2008, she directed the performance of *Comus* at Christ's as part of the Milton 400 celebrations.



CCMS play at the opening of the Yusuf Hamied Centre in 2009.



View of my career

James Strachan

In your varied career, you've worked as an investment banker, photographer, CEO and a visiting fellow, to name but a few. Which role have you found most challenging?

They all have their different challenges and satisfactions. Investment banking, less maligned when I started out, was a fascinating mix of intellectual competition and the need for street-smarts. Having freelanced for the BBC and studied film production straight after Christ's, I wanted to make documentary films, but I lacked the confidence not to earn a safety net first. I always planned to apply to the National Film School but fell more and more in love with photography, and so when I left Merrill Lynch I went to the London College of Printing instead (now part of the University of the Arts) to study photojournalism. 8 years of hunting for images from Fiji to Guatemala gave me the thrill of the chase, but also the hard slog of homework and logistics without which the luck never comes. The charity world is so rewarding like no other job, and the public sector is the trade-off of potentially a far broader impact weighed against the sometimes deadening effect of bureaucracy.

What do you consider your biggest professional or personal achievement? Without question, being able to help create a revolution in audiology in this country and beyond. As a direct consequence of RNID's work, both as a campaigner and as a service provider project managing the modernisation of all NHS audiology clinics, almost 2 million people now have a cutting edge digital hearing aid for free from the NHS. Having a mini computer in their ear compared to the old analogue aids – 'glorified little ear-trumpets wrapped in plastic' – has radically changed the

quality of life of so many. We drove very hard bargains with the suppliers in a way that the NHS had not previously procured. There are so many more areas of Government where greater bang for buck can be achieved, which is what attracted me to the Audit Commission where I was Chairman from 2002 to 2006.

How did you become involved with the RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf people)? I was born deaf. I have been lucky and so many people have helped me overcome this problem, which it certainly is. Incidentally something very valuable to me at Cambridge was the small group tutorial system which is a great blessing for deaf people unable to lipread faraway lecturers. When I was in my early 40s there was a perfect coincidence of my wondering how I could give something back and a rather hectoring female Chairman of the RNID demanding to know why I was not involved! It's the best thing I have ever done, first on the Board then running it and then back on the Board as Chairman for 12 years in all. It was a great team and we doubled the size to £50 million revenue with 1500 staff and 300,000 volunteers and donors.

You read both English and Economics at Christ's. Which discipline are you most drawn to? I am so grateful to the American banker for whom I was working during my first Summer at Christ's. He had read economics at Wharton and then switched to English, and I took his advice to do the same after two years. He said at Cambridge you are covering in your first year of Economics what many universities stretch out over three. More importantly if you ever need more specialist economics, you can always acquire that knowledge later. But you may never again have the chance to read so much great literature surrounded by so many lively and bright people, all eager to discuss it with you. He was absolutely right, and I have never regretted the choice.

What's your most enduring memory of Christ's College? Of Christ's itself, I have many images in my mind: beautiful wisteria over the Master's Lodge, Jack Plumb exclaiming at a rather grand dinner that he thought he had lost another taste bud, the strange but actually helpful idea of having a moral tutor (Simon Schama) and binge-snacking from the M&S next door while writing essays at the very last minute. Of Cambridge in general, wall-crashing May Balls and continuously disappearing into the dark of the Arts Cinema, where I addicted myself to film.

What's next for you in your career?

Now I am enjoying a portfolio of different directorships, in finance, the water industry, healthcare and social enterprise. In particular over the last 5 years it has been quite fascinating to be involved with the Bank of England and the FSA. But if I am honest I would love nothing better than to have a final career writing bestselling thrillers in the Mediterranean sun.

James Strachan (m. 1972) is Vice President of the RNID. He studied English and Economics at Christ's.



The Marguerites, 1959–1960

Some Memories of an Elderly Marguerite

by Professor Ian Smith

At the recent Marguerites Dinner, I was not (quite) the most elderly member present but I was, I think, the most senior *resident* Marguerite. In consequence, I have been ‘invited’ to contribute a short article to Christ’s Pieces recalling how the nature of the club has changed over the 50 years that I have been associated with it.

Changes in the nature of the Marguerites reflect changes in the College, and indeed the University, community. To take one instance, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the University Rugby team was one of the strongest teams in the British Isles with a very impressive fixture list. In my first year as an undergraduate, they went to Twickenham unbeaten – having disposed of most of the strongest club sides in the land – and then lost to Oxford! Likewise the University cricket team played a string of fixtures against the first-class counties who generally brought something like their first teams to Fenner’s: in part to enjoy the wonderful wickets prepared by Cyril Coote, but also because they expected a competitive game. Perhaps only on the river are University teams/crews stronger than they used to be – and very few undergraduates seem to find their way into the Blue boat.

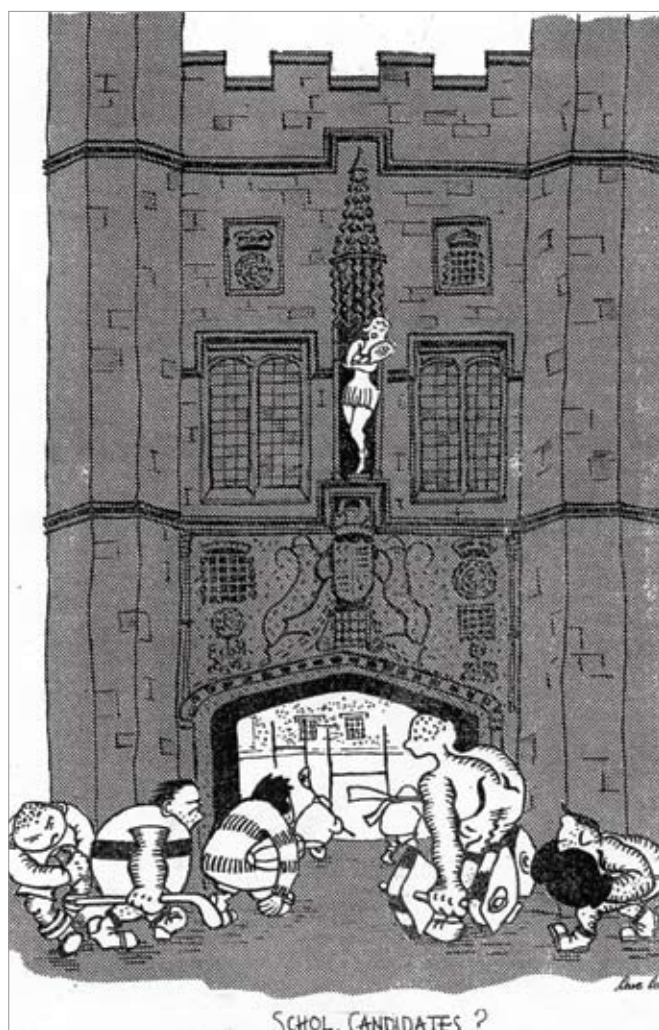
My years as an undergraduate (1957–1960) and post-graduate (1960–1963) student coincided with the period when Christ’s were famous, some would say notorious, for

excellence in the major team sports. For several of these years we provided around half of the University Rugby side and even a greater fraction of the football team. My own sporting prowess, such as it was, was in cricket and rugby. In rugby, I managed occasionally to make the College fifteen during the Michaelmas Term but in the Lent Term the College was represented by a team almost entirely comprised of players who had in the previous term represented the University and LX clubs. The rugby strength of the College at that time is perhaps best demonstrated by memory of the *College* freshman’s trial where 30 plus players turned up for the match. I played fly-half on one of these sides. At half-time I asked one of my team mates if he knew who the open-side wing forward was who was marking me (almost literally). It did my fragile confidence no good when he replied “Oh, that’s Dave MacSweeney – he played for Ireland last year.” This makes a sharp contrast with the remarks of Andrew Nowell, this year’s Marg’s President, who bemoaned at the recent Dinner that only one fresher had expressed an interest in playing College rugby.

As an undergraduate, I did play regularly for the College at cricket and presumably it was chiefly this activity that got me elected to the Marguerites. I am quite unsure what year that happened, since I continued to play cricket for the College, though less regularly, when I was a research student, a research fellow, and a full fellow and tutor. It might have been my longevity rather than the quality of my contributions that got me elected to the Marguerites. I have several memories of College cricket – two involved future England cricket captains. I played for the College with Tony Lewis (later, 1972–73, captain of England) on one of

the very few occasions when he was able to play for the College – though the memory is somewhat spoilt by the fact I ran him out (sorry Tony, one of us had to go!). More happily, I recall trapping Keith Fletcher lbw when he was playing for Royston against the College – I suspect that he was aged about 13 at that time!

Maybe I have over-emphasised the differences between 'then and now'. But there is one constant. Undergraduates and post-graduates, now female as well as male, continue to derive great pleasure from the games that they play. Striving to improve at your chosen sport and playing it to the limit of your innate ability can be a constant source of satisfaction and pleasure. Moreover, playing sports brings you into contact with people that you otherwise might not meet and is a way of making friendships that can last far beyond your days of participating in the more vigorous sports. The recent Marguerites Dinner provided me with plenty of evidence that the sporting fraternity in the College, now represented by the Hippolytans, as well as the Marguerites are in as good heart as ever they were. Long may that be the case!



If you are a Marguerite and would like to be on the mailing list for future events, please email alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk

Sweet Charity

Christ's alumni and staff like a challenge...

Christ's alumnus Alex South (m. 1990) and fellow Cambridge graduate Oliver Rundell have set themselves a hefty challenge. This summer, the pair will be cycling 1500 miles from Gothenburg to the North Cape (the northernmost point of Europe), in order to raise money for the National Deaf Children's Society and a new film about the profoundly deaf Scottish cyclist James Duthie, who cycled solo to the Arctic Circle in the 1950s. For more details about the trip, visit www.ollyandalex.com. Alex read Natural Sciences at Christ's and did his PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry. He now lives in Glasgow, where he works as a musician.



Alex South (m. 1990)

Meanwhile, Kirsten Simmons (m. 2002) will be running the Cheltenham Marathon in June to raise money for Kisiizi Hospital (Uganda) where she will be going to work as a volunteer for a year.

Good luck to members of the Maintenance Department, Mark Fearn (Buildings Supervisor), Wayne Bell (Maintenance Manager) and Matthew Woosnam (Handyman/Carpenter), who are attempting the Yorkshire Three Peaks on 10th July to raise money for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Walkers aim to complete a gruelling 37.5 km (23.3 miles) to 42 km (26 miles) (depending on route) circuit of all three peaks with nearly 1,600 m (5,249 ft) of ascent and descent within 12 hours. Anyone who might be willing to sponsor them should contact Mark on mf351@cam.ac.uk.



Hockey Flair

Adrian Wallis (m. 2007) and David Tattersall (m. 2007) on the fortunes of the Christ's College mixed hockey team

Sunday 18th April 2010 saw the Christ's College Mixed Hockey Club embark on their first ever club tour at Iffley Road, Oxford. The main event of the day was a match against Lincoln College and was fiercely contested. The final score, 4–2 to Lincoln, was certainly an unlucky result and doesn't reflect the quality of the hockey on display from the Christ's team.

Tour organiser, Chloe Hole, said: "It was a good result against a strong team and most importantly it was a fun game with some real flair moments from Christ's." The Tour tops off a very successful year for Christ's Hockey. The Women's team have been promoted to the 2nd Division and had a good run in Cuppers, narrowly missing out in appearing in the final of the Plate. The Men's team remains strong in the third division. Many thanks go to Lincoln College, Oxford, for their hospitality and to Chloe Hole for organising a fantastic tour and a brilliant end to a great season for Christ's Hockey.

For more information about the club, visit:
www.christshockey.co.uk

Cricket Victory

Christ's Cricket team defeated Churchill in the semi-final of Cuppers on Saturday 5th June. 'Defeated' is something of an understatement: according to our Hon. Cricket Correspondent, who notes that 'crushed' would be more appropriate. Christ's amassed 185 for 1, off 20 overs whilst Churchill made 101 all out, off 19.3 overs. At the time of going to press, the club were busy preparing for the final, taking place on Friday 11th June.

Tennis Win

In early June the Christ's men's tennis team won tennis Cuppers, beating John's 7–2 in the final.

The trophy is currently in the Porters' Lodge.

The Master, Professor Frank Kelly, writes: "We had a very strong side in Cuppers this year, and they did not disappoint, beating our old rivals in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Fenners."



Stephen Blyth pictured with The Master.

On Friday 23 April the Master and Fellows gathered in the Chapel to admit Dr Stephen Blyth (m. 1985) as a Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow. We were delighted that Stephen's parents and a number of his College friends were able to join us for the occasion, with Rebecca Duckworth (née Bright) (m. 1983) performing 'O to be in England', accompanied by our Junior Organ Scholar. Stephen is currently Managing Director at the Harvard Management Company, and is a faculty member in the Department of Statistics at Harvard University.





Christ's College Cambridge

Personal Details

Name _____ Matric Year _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 Email _____ Tel No _____

From time to time we publish lists of donors, please tick this box if you wish your gift to be anonymous ☐

Gift Aid Declaration

I am a UK tax-payer and would like Christ's College to treat all donations I made on or after 6 April 2000 as Gift Aid donations.

Signature _____ Date _____

Regular Gift

Standing order mandate
 Name of your bank _____
 Address of your bank _____

 Postcode _____

 Sort Code _____
 Account No _____
 Account Name _____

Please pay the sum of £ _____ on the same day each
 month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) on the _____ (day)
 of _____ (month) _____ (year) until further notice OR
 until _____ payments have been made (delete as appropriate)

For Office Use: Please make the payment to
 Christ's College Acc No 03322253 at Lloyds TSB,
 3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BQ
 Sort code 30-91-56 quoting reference no. _____

Online Giving

Christ's College website now carries online facilities for single and regular gifts. If you would like to make a gift online please visit www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/supporting-christs/donations and follow the appropriate link.

Legacy

- ☐ I would like information about leaving a bequest to the College
☐ I have included a bequest to the College in my will

Single Gift

- ☐ I enclose a cheque / CAF donation payable to Christ's College
 Cambridge for £ _____

Please charge £ _____ to my:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number _____
 Expiry Date _____
 3-digit Security Number* _____
 Signature _____
 Date _____

*Located on the signature strip on the back of the card. For security reasons you may wish to phone, email or send separately.

Please return this form and direct any enquiries to:

The Development Office
 Christ's College
 Cambridge CB2 3BU
 UK

Tel: +44 (0)1223 766710
 Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711
 email: campaign@christs.cam.ac.uk

For more information about any of these events, please contact Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer: e-mail alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk; phone 01223 768276

Saturday 11 September

Reunion Dinner in Hall for those who matriculated in 1950 or earlier, or in years 1965 or 1966.

Saturday 25 September

Reunion Dinner in hall for alumni who matriculated in 1967, 1968 or 1969.

Saturday 13 November

Choral Evensong and Reunion Dinner in Hall to launch the Christ's College Choir Association.

Thursday 9 December

Varsity Rugby match at Twickenham.

B & B Booking System

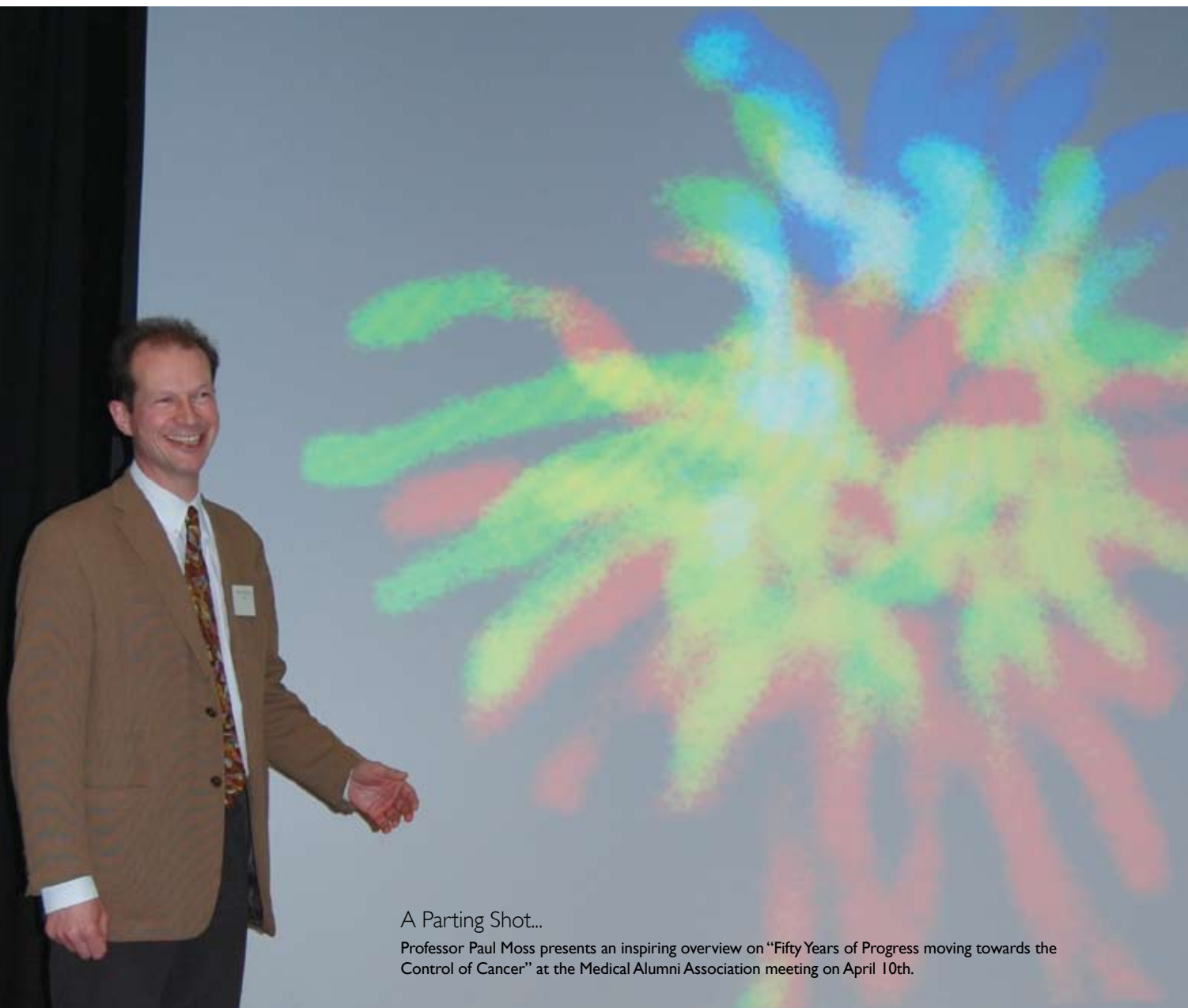
Alumni can now book accommodation at Christ's during the vacation online thanks to a new page on the Alumni Section of the website:

<http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/accommodation/>

To receive a promotional rate (the rate we charge for other alumni events), all you need to do is enter the code:

chralum10.

This is the code for 2010, which will change to chralum11 in 2011 and so on.



A Parting Shot...

Professor Paul Moss presents an inspiring overview on "Fifty Years of Progress moving towards the Control of Cancer" at the Medical Alumni Association meeting on April 10th.