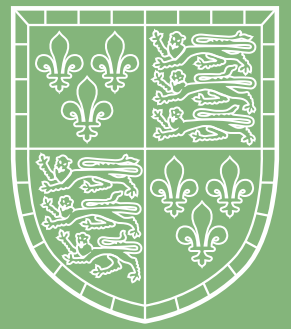


pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 18 Michaelmas Term 2010

Still Waters

The Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool

Nice Talking to You

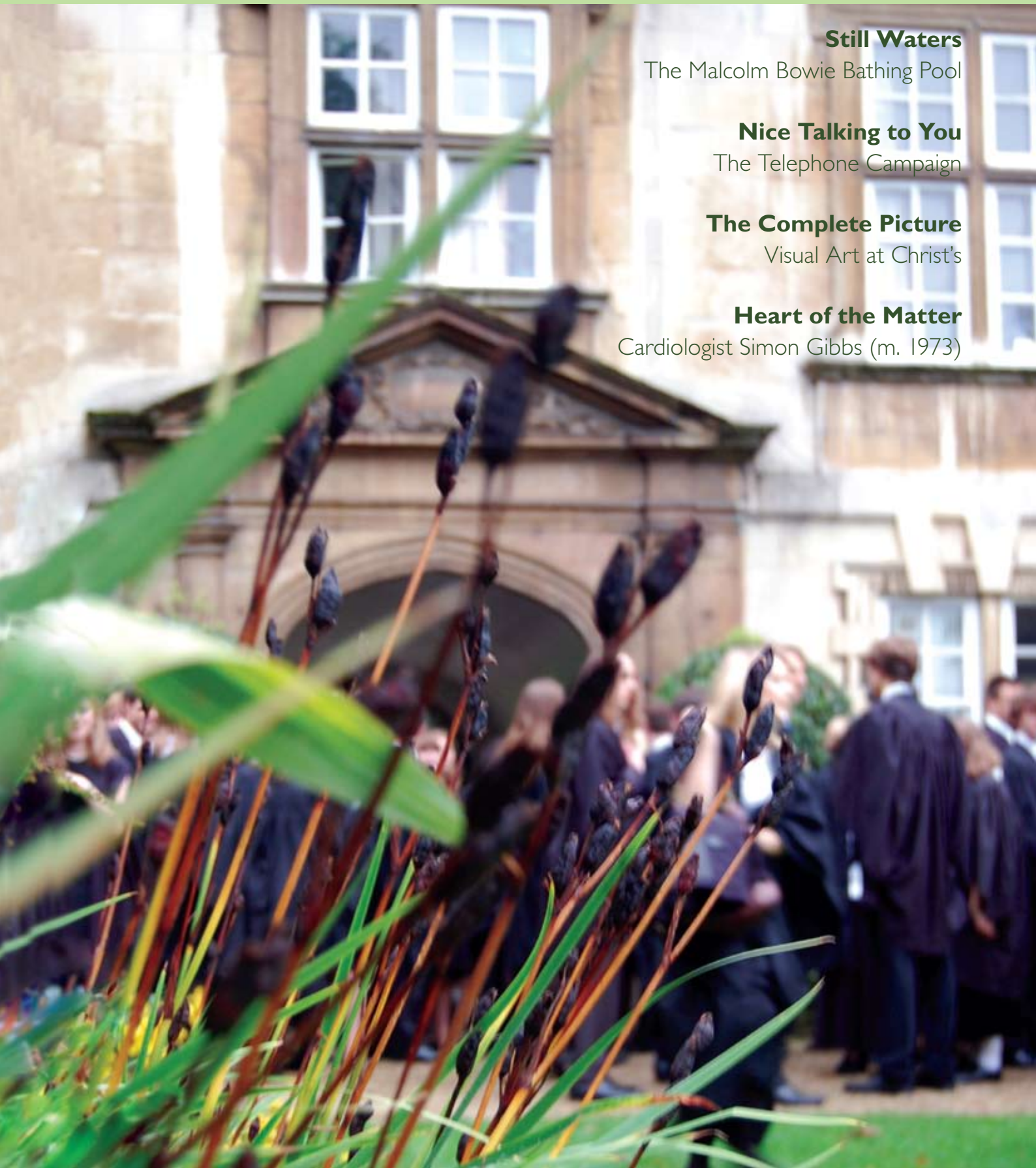
The Telephone Campaign

The Complete Picture

Visual Art at Christ's

Heart of the Matter

Cardiologist Simon Gibbs (m. 1973)





From The Master

As Michaelmas term begins a steady stream of students arrive in College. This afternoon the freshers gathered for the Matriculation photo, embarking on a new life at Christ's. We wish them every success in their future studies.

From study to the world of work, on page 10 alumnus Dr Simon Gibbs (m. 1973) gives us an insight into his work as a cardiologist. Dr Gibbs offered an invaluable work experience placement to Katie Horder (m. 2007) as part of our Alumni-Student Careers and Networking Programme, described on page 11. On page 6 Alex Cullen our Development Officer gives us her report on the telephone campaign that makes network programmes and much of our development work possible.

At Christ's we are fortunate to have a thriving arts community. On page 8 there is an interview with Tom de Freston, our Leverhulme Residency Artist. We also catch up with Naomi Grant on her year as Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Student and welcome the new incumbent Anna Trench.

We also celebrate the past with the opening of the Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool featured on page 6 and on page 12 we turn to some of your reminiscences.

This issue we welcome Tamsin Astbury as the new editor of *Pieces*. She introduces herself and gives her contact details on page 16. If you have any stories or ideas for future editions she would love you to get in touch. I hope you enjoy our Michaelmas edition.

Professor Frank Kelly, FRS

Editor: Tamsin Astbury (Publications Officer)

Cover Image: Students gather for the Matriculation photo (TA)

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The changed aspect of Third Court after the diseased Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Sophora Japonica*) was cut down.

College Catch-up ...

College and Alumni News

Graduation 2010



The students progress to Senate House to Graduate on 25 June

Medical Association Awards

Two awards (£100–£150 each) will be made to Clinical Students among Christ's alumni (currently at Addenbrooke's or any other clinical school), who will be undertaking Elective travel programmes during the academic year 2010/2011.

Written applications should be made by 15 January 2011 to Dr Navaratnam (President CCMAA, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU) and should include details of the programme, anticipated expenditure, other grants (confirmed or in process of application), and a supporting statement from College Tutor (for Cambridge applicants) or Dean of the Clinical School who should verify financial support available to the applicant within that Institution.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a written report to Dr Navaratnam on completion of the relevant travel, and also to give (if requested) a short live presentation at the next meeting of the CCMAA on Saturday afternoon, 17 September 2011 at the College

**Closing date for applications:
15 January 2011**



Peter White and Rex Howe (m. 1958) enjoy drinks before Hall

Alumni Events

The Development Team have really enjoyed meeting with so many of you at various alumni events throughout the year. Most recently, we welcomed around 200 alumni back to College for the annual September Reunion events. These were wonderful occasions and it was a pleasure to see our guests enjoying being back in College.

We are holding a festive drinks and networking evening for Christ's alumni on Thursday 2 December at the Royal Society, London from 6.30pm until 8.30pm: For more information on the event, contact alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk.

Good-Bye Mr Bridgeman!



On 1st October we bid a fond farewell to Chris Bridgeman, Christ's College's Deputy Head Porter as he headed off to a well-deserved retirement. We'll all miss his humour and kindness at the College:

Chris Bridgeman Christ's Own Walking Help Desk: Chris receives message from delivery van which has several boxes for a student. Chris ignores my advice to ignore request as student should have arranged to meet van. Chris rushes off and I spot him on CCTV unloading several boxes from van in car park. He then obviously trundles boxes to student's room. The question is what is student to do with about 144 cans of Jellied Beans sent from some promotion company she has never heard of? – Jeremy Taylor, Head Porter

Chris brought smiles to faces throughout Christ's. He was always a real pleasure to work with and his dependable kindness, tireless helpfulness and support, and contagious good humour is already greatly missed. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we all look forward to seeing him propping up the front desk in the P'Lodge again before too long! – Alex Cullen, Development Officer

Virtual Working at the Summit

On 28 June to 9 July, Penny Pullan (m. 1986) hosted the first Virtual Working Summit with Gareth Kane (m. 1990) as one of her team of experts.



When Penny (pictured left) was looking for an expert on sustainability she came across a familiar name. Twenty years ago Gareth was, as he says, 'a spotty teenager' studying engineering at Christ's and Penny was his supervisor studying for a PhD in superconductivity with

Archie Campbell. Gareth is now a well-regarded eco-guru and author of *The Three Secrets of Green Business*. His interest, first kindled serving as a Green Officer at Christ's, has seen him working with the EU, the NHS, Du Pont and the UK Government through his company TerraInfirma: www.terrainfirma.co.uk. Penny is now in demand as a consultant, author and speaker through her company: www.makingprojectswork.co.uk. Looking back she says the most useful aspect of her PhD was learning to speak without fear. She says 'If you can stand up and give a graduate seminar to a group including Nobel Prize winners, speaking in business is a doddle in comparison!'

Virtual working is becoming increasingly more relevant in a time when we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint and cut costs. Penny will be hosting another summit in June 2011, for people who need to work effectively when they can't meet face-to-face, using methods which will reduce travel costs and help the environment.

To find out more and register, visit:
www.virtualworkingsummit.com

Penny first located Gareth through our **Linked In** official Alumni Group, which allows alumni to connect professionally: <http://linkd.in/Christs>



Third Court from V Staircase

Congratulations to ...

The Times Eureka List 2010

In October *The Times* published a list of the 100 most important figures in British science in its *Eureka* science magazine, including Christ's members at Number 30: Professor Sir Martin Evans and Number 31: Dr Simon Campbell.

Jerome Roche Prize

Dr David Irving has been awarded the 2010 Jerome Roche Prize by the Royal Musical Association for a distinguished article by a scholar in the early stages of his or her career. David's article was entitled 'Comparative Organography in Early Modern Empires'.

American IEE Award

This August Professor Archie Campbell, University Professor of electromagnetism was presented with the American IEE Award (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) at the Applied Superconductivity Conference in Washington. The Award is for significant and sustained contributions in the development of superconducting materials by advancing the science of both low temperature and high temperature superconducting materials.

Lifetime Award

Alumnus Kurt Berger (m. 1942) was recently invited to Malaysia to attend the launch of his book *Quality and Functions of Palm Oil in Food Applications – A layman's guide* and to receive the 'lifetime award for excellent service to the Palm Oil Industry', in recognition of his 8 years in Malaysia at the inauguration and development of the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia, and subsequent consultancy for it.

Eric Gregory Award

Alumna Sarah Howe (m. 2001), previous Levy Plumb Studentship holder has received the Eric Gregory Award for her poetry. This is an annual prize for the best young poet in the UK. As readers will recall, former editor Helen Mort (m. 2004) received this award in 2007. Perhaps a Christ's tradition has begun?

IVF Publication

Former College President Professor Martin Johnson and his colleagues at the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience have published a paper on the history of 'test tube' babies. The paper explores previously unresearched documents to establish why the UK Medical Research Council didn't fund the work of Bob Edwards and Patrick Steptoe, which led to the birth of Louise Brown the first Test Tube baby. Professor Bob Edwards was recently awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize for Medicine. When Bob was recruited to Cambridge in 1963, Martin was his first graduate student.

In Print – A selection of recent publications ...

The Second Best Man by R. P. Nathan – Paul Nathan
(m. 1987) tells us about the novel he has written for charity...

I'd gone on holiday a couple of years ago and hadn't taken a book with me so I decided to write one. I wanted something funny to while away the hours on the beach and since I had recently been a best man I thought a rom-com would fit the bill. It also seemed like an ideal opportunity to try and raise some money for a good cause, so I'm going to be donating all my royalties from the novel to Comic Relief. I'm hoping to raise £1million, a massively ambitious target, but even if we only raise a fraction of that then it will still have been worth doing. You can buy a copy at www.rpnathan.com or www.lulu.com.

'*The Second Best Man* tells the tale of Alan and Hardeep, bosom buddies since primary school, whose friendship

is sorely tested by Hardeep's engagement to the love of Alan's life. While chock-full of splendid comedy moments, the story is underpinned by a melancholic sense of frustrations and missed life opportunities that will be familiar to all. Mix in some lobster flavoured slapstick, a sideways glance at modern race relations and some toe-curlingly awkward chat-up scenarios, and you have a winner. With snappy dialogue and puns to make Andy Saltzman proud, I urge you to buy this book' *Chris Vaughan* (m. 1987)

'Unashamedly touching and hilarious romantic comedy. There are plenty of laughs along the way, it's well written to a classic formula and if you want to laugh out loud and have a tear in your eye at the end, I can highly recommend it' *Alison Bostock (née Williams)* (m. 1987)



Four New Books by Fellows

Meditation in Modern Buddhism – Renunciation and Change in Thai Monastic Life

(Cambridge) by Dr Joanna Cook
Joanna Cook is the George Kingsley Roth Research Fellow. She has written and lectured on the Anthropology of Ethics, Asceticism, Religion, Buddhism, Fieldwork Methodology, the Gift and Gender. This ethnographic account of a Northern Thai monastery examines meditation in detail, and explores the subjective signification of monastic duties and ascetic practices.

Colonial Counterpoint – Music in Early Modern Manila

(Oxford) by Dr David R. M. Irving
David Cook is a Junior Research Fellow, musicologist and cultural historian. In this groundbreaking study, D. R. M. Irving reconnects the Philippines to current musicological discourse on the early modern Hispanic world, proposing that musical counterpoint acted as a powerful agent of colonialism.

Society in Early Modern England – The Vernacular Origins of Some Powerful Ideas

(Polity) by Dr Phil Withington
Phil Withington is a University Lecturer, and History ESRC Research Fellow (2007–2010). This book traces the forgotten history of the phrase 'early modern' to its coinage as a category of historical analysis by the Victorians and considers when and why words like 'modern' and 'society' were first introduced into English in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Art of the Body: Antiquity and its Legacy,

(I B Tauris & Co and Oxford) by Dr Michael Squire
Michael Squire is a Junior Research Fellow in classics and art history. He was awarded the Hellenic Society prize in 2007.

Old Enough to Know Better My Autobiography

by Mal Pope



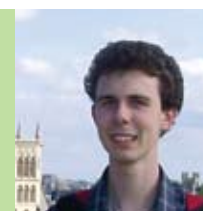
November sees the publication of the autobiography of Maldwyn Pope (m. 1979). Mal from Swansea was discovered by John Peel in 1973 and signed to Elton John's Rocket record label later that year. Mal was still recording for Rocket when

he entered Christ's in 1979 and managed to combine his musical career with a degree in Land Economy and winning the football league and Cuppers in his first 2 years. On leaving Cambridge Mal became a broadcaster for BBC Wales, and now combines a career writing musicals and presenting TV and radio programmes. Mal describes himself as being 'World Famous in Swansea'. 'I might not have won a Nobel Prize yet but I did sing the theme songs to Fireman Sam and Superted!' Mal's daughter Amy also studied at Christ's from 2004–2007. www.malpope.com

Imperial Visions Iain Mansfield

(m. 2002) tells us about his first novel ...

I read Natural Sciences at Christ's, specialising in physics, then joined the Civil Service. A fantasy novel set in a colonial era world, *Imperial Visions* tells of the hill country of Elaran's struggle for freedom from its expansionist neighbours. It's a time of Imperial viceroys, colonial empires and 19th century science, where the forces of magic are thought to be tamed and harnessed – until forgotten prophecies awaken and humble the complacent Imperial authorities. I started writing short stories in my final year at Christ's but starting on a full novel was a much bigger challenge. It took me about 15 months and over fifty rejections to find a publisher. The feeling when I finally got an offer was amazing and to see it out now in print is even better'



Still Waters

Reflections on the opening of the Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool



In *Christ's College Magazine* 1891 there is a description of the College grounds: 'At the south-eastern corner of the garden is a bath, with an elegant summerhouse, and by the water side two or three pedestals, one of which supports a bust of the great poet, and the other an urn to the memory of Joseph Mede.' The Fellows' Bathing Pool, believed to be the oldest in the country dated from the mid-17th century. According to the *College Magazine* of 1937, the earliest reference to the pool is made in 1763 in *Cantabrigia Depicta*: "The Fellows' garden is well laid out, and one of the pleasantest in the University: There are both open and close shady Walks, beautiful Alcoves, a Bowling green, and an elegant Summer house beyond which there is a Cold bath, surrounded by a little Wilderness". The *Magazine* continues that the date of the construction of the pool hasn't been preserved but it 'must have been in Joseph Mead's [sic] time or shortly after'. 'Mead' [sic], the *Magazine* records, died in 1638 and was a tutor at Christ's. The memorial urn on the north side of the pool was erected in his honour.



The Fellows' Pool (1937)
Christ's College Magazine

The pool has recently been granted a new lease of life, richly deserved by its prestigious heritage and has been renamed in honour of former Master Malcolm Bowie.

The recent appeal has refurbished the pool and the pavilion. The pool previously fed by Hobson's Conduit is now fed from the mains, the water filtered and regularly cleaned. At the official opening on 4 September there was a bright start for the Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool, as the sun emerged from behind the clouds and the swimmers took to the water. Alison Finch, their children, Malcolm's parents and his brother and sister-in-law attended the official opening with some of the benefactors who made the refurbishment possible. The appeal has allowed future Christ's swimmers to follow in Darwin's wake and take to the water.



Mark Gordon and Jess Bowie at the official opening

Swimming with Malcolm Bowie

Mark Gordon – Donor

When I was an undergraduate at Christ's in the early 80s, the Fellows' Pool was a weedy unappealing stretch of water only stumbled upon when searching for lost guests at the Marguerites' summer party. At that time I was also a notorious aquaphobe. So why did I recently give money towards its restoration? The answer is that it rather neatly links two of my hobbies of recent years. Ten years ago in an outdoor pool, I was nearly drowned by my daughter. She was eight at the time and thought it would be fun to come up behind her daddy and surprise him. Blind instinct got me to the side along with the resolve to do something about this swimming business. A few months later I answered an ad in the *Evening Standard* for a workshop run by a grizzled French guru who looked like Jacques Cousteau's older brother. He had me ducking my head in a salad bowl and "making a face like a rabbit". It seemed to do the trick. The following year I entered my first triathlon. I recorded the slowest ever swim leg in the history of the sport and my wife nearly had to dive in at one point to rescue me, but a life-long passion was born.

When the call went out in the *College Newsletter* for help towards the restoration of the Fellows' Pool, the name of Malcolm Bowie caught my eye; discussion was underway about naming the pool after him. I had met him at an alumni weekend reception in the Master's Lodge when cancer had visibly taken hold. His wife Alison Finch was also there. Her lectures on 20th century French literature were in the small minority that I bothered getting up for during my first year at Christ's. Engrossing conversation with such a golden couple gave me the inspiration to study for a part-time Masters in European Cultures at Birkbeck College in London. Perhaps unsurprisingly I read richly and deeply from Malcolm Bowie's work; how could I not, having been a precocious reader of Proust and a student of psychoanalysis and philosophy in more recent years. Having waded through an awful lot of turgid tosh in both areas over the years, it was a joy to read his elegant, energetic and lucid prose. So that's how all paths lead to the Fellows' Pool for me. Of course I look forward to the occasional enjoyment of the place myself but my hopes are above all that it becomes a clean (as opposed to green) and pleasant spot for all members of the College. Whether for exercise or contemplation, if what is one of the oldest continuously used bathing pools in England should now be frequently visited at all times of day and in all seasons, I shall be a happy man.

Nice Talking to You

Alex Cullen, Development Officer



At the end of the Lent Term, 16 undergraduates took part in Christ's third telephone campaign. We were inundated with applications from students who wanted to be involved, and, as such, had a motivated call team with across-the-board representation

of subject areas, and the many interests and activities of the student body.

As ever, members of the call team enjoyed many an amusing anecdote from members of Christ's from across the generations! They were also delighted by the largely positive feedback from alumni who enjoyed the opportunity to speak to a current student and, of course, grateful to all those who contributed to the Annual Fund. Many were also very glad to hear the valuable advice of those Old Members of College who had enjoyed successful careers in areas of their particular interest.

I love this College and I really want to put something back into a College that's given me so much... (In-Yong m. 2007)

On this occasion, we experimented with running the campaign just before Easter, rather than over Christmas. We found that this worked well, with the students particularly grateful for the opportunity to access the Library and other facilities available in the run-up to exam term, and we will be doing the same in 2011. This year the emphasis was on raising funds for the College's endowment, which is key to the security of the College's future. Income from the endowment enables us to carry out essential improvements to the fabric of the College, honour our commitment to small-group teaching and supervisions, provide scholarships, bursaries, and sporting and travel exhibitions to hundreds of students, improve access and outreach to schools and support Arts, Music and Sport in College. These are among the many features that make Christ's so appealing to prospective students, and continuing to attract the best, brightest students is one of our strategic priorities. If the College is to be in a position to respond in the most desirable way to the challenges and opportunities that we may face, we estimate that in the long term, we need to raise an additional £20–30m for the endowment.

We were delighted with the response to this campaign, and are most grateful to all the alumni who contributed so generously. Over the course of the busy fortnight, the students spoke to over 800 alumni, 48% of whom chose to make a donation, and collectively raised over £200,000 to date. We are in the process of preparing an up-to-date fundraising report listing all those who have made a

contribution to the College over the course of the past three campaigns, and since the last fundraising report was published (in 2007). Our aim is for this to be included as a feature in the next issue of *Pieces* in the spring.

One of the visible outcomes of the 2009 campaign was that our alumni are as generous with their time and expertise as with their financial support. With this in mind, the students on the call team this year were motivated to encourage alumni to come back and talk about their careers and share their experiences with current students. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of those who were interested in taking part, and it became ever clearer that alumni engagement in the College community is simply invaluable.

I chatted to some great people ... some of whom I've had the chance to meet. (Charlotte m. 2007)

Following the 2010 campaign, thanks to the kindness of our alumni, we have been able to facilitate work experience placements for undergraduates, formal and informal mentoring, and we have a number of careers' talks in the pipeline. These arrangements are enormously beneficial for students, who are able to enter the race for jobs, which has never been more competitive, with the valuable experience that they may otherwise have struggled to attain. Such is the success of this enterprise that we are hoping to expand and increase participation over the course of the next academic year. Please do contact Rosie Applin on alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk if you are interested in volunteering your time.

On behalf of the College and all those who benefit from the support of its alumni, we would like to say thank you, once again, for your support.

Launch of the Leadership Annual Fund

Encouraged by the successes of the two previous campaigns, this year, the Development Office took the decision to launch an exciting new initiative in the form of the Leadership Annual Fund. This is designed to help us recognise those alumni making the most significant gifts to the Annual Fund, and to improve visibility of the impact that alumni support has on the lives of students at Christ's, and the College's future. We are hopeful that the generosity of our first Leadership donors will inspire more alumni to follow their example. We would particularly like to thank the following members of College who made the launch of this initiative such a success:

Caroline Carr (m. 1995)
Richard Fenhalls (m. 1964)
Natalie Livingstone (m. 1995)
John May (m. 1973)
John Snyder (m. 1984)
Ian Strachan (m. 1962)
Simon Wilson (m. 1991)
and Linda Wilson (m. 1990)

The Complete Picture

Christ's benefits from having a thriving Visual Arts Centre with a group of artists working on a range of projects for the College, University and beyond.



Tom de Freston, the Leverhulme award resident, pictured in his studio

The walls of Tom de Freston's studio are covered with paint. It's liberally applied to the walls and floor. Splashes escape from the confines of his rectangles and squares. The surfaces of his paintings have an intricate patina reminiscent of living matter. But beneath this energetic expression is an Apollonian control and clarity, figures cleanly delineated; frozen in a moment of ensuing tragedy. Tamsin Astbury met Tom as he works on projects inspired by 'Paradise Lost' and Shakespeare's plays, supported by the Leverhulme award.

Process – Tell me how you start?

I take a lot of photographs. With this study, *The Fall of the Rebel Angels*, I've taken photographs of various figures on the floor seen from above, mimicking the mechanics of how a figure falls. The photographs led to sketches, which I arranged on photo shop to create a pattern. It's not formulaic but there are normally photos that lead to drawings, drawings that lead to prints.

I almost always start with acrylics because there are certain effects with the first surface acrylics can get that oils can't, they're also faster to work with. Normally skin-like acrylics sit beneath the whole image, almost like an abstract surface, and on top oils, because you can't create flesh with acrylic as well as you can with oils, or light, or depth of space through surface and colour.

Project – How did it begin?

I was working on a project that had a mass of fallers in the sky and on a studio visit Sophie Read (Christ's English Fellow) mentioned *Paradise Lost*. The British Shakespeare Association and a couple of academics at Cambridge University are also running a conference next year, and came up with the idea of creating paintings for Shakespeare's plays, particularly his tragedies.

Tom describes himself as a contemporary History painter. He says in this project he does not wish to illustrate, but the paintings are rather 'Heterotopias' referencing a range of sources. His work seeks to explore whether tragedy is possible in 21st Century painting...

I think tragedy still exists but has shifted, for instance *Hamlet* is a very contemporary tragedy, it plays around with the whole idea of belief and what we think happens after we die and those things if anything seem more relevant now than a time when we were all very certain of a particular god existing. One of the arguments of tragedy having been dead is there's no longer any big absolute ideas for it to play against and it's argued that it's about mortals struggling with this idea, and surely this idea of nothingness is as big an idea as a god or another god. So the point is I think it can exist in a modern sense and a contemporary sense, but with very different ground rules by which it exists.



Detail of 'Elizabeth Siddal as Ophelia'

Tom says his work has a 'strong relationship to the past' and he focuses on images which 'already carry a weight of meaning'. He describes himself as a 'magpie', regularly referencing figures from past images, representing them like Zombies in a new context. ...

I'm interested in creating images which explore a type of tragedy relevant to contemporary life. I see tragedy in painting as the play between the construction of an implied ideal and the realisation of



'The Fall of the Rebel Angels'
Study by Tom de Freston



Detail from 'King Lear'



its falseness. My chief aim is to attempt to create images which ask questions of what it is to be human and what painting is. My inevitable failure to achieve these grand goals may, paradoxically, be the most relevant thing I achieve.

Painting – ‘Elizabeth Siddal as Ophelia’ by Tom de Freston (pictured previous page, bottom left)

I am keen to make a work which taps into a dual reference, that of the character and that of the model, and situates itself in a space between. The confusion surrounding both figures’ death / suicide interests me, as does the eroticism of death by Millais in his *Ophelia*. I think David Lynch was somewhere in my head when making works like this, that uncomfortable voyeurism and that unreality which sits so close to everyday reality. I wanted to give this work a narrative ambiguity and a coldness.

Painting – ‘Juliet’ by Tom de Freston (pictured below)

This came from a drawing which was the product of a large series of carefully staged photographs. The steps are crucially important in terms of the viewer’s relationship to the figure and the space. Barthes’ *Lovers’ Discourse* seemed to be floating about in my head somewhere when I was working on this image; certainly in the manner it talks about the excess anguish for the absent other. The door behind the figure is strangely phallic and I wanted the tone of this area to have the colouration and the mood of Rothko’s *Seagram Murals* whilst also being quite bodily.



Naomi Grant talking to alumni at her exhibition in the Visual Arts Centre on the recent alumni weekend in September

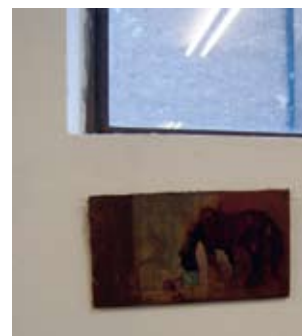
Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Studentship 2010–2011

Welcome to Anna Trench the new Levy-Plumb studentship holder. Anna graduated from King’s College this summer. The *Guardian* has been running a series of her political cartoons, which can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/annaguardian>. We wish her every success in her year at Christ’s.

Naomi Grant – Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Student 2009/10

How have you enjoyed your time on the scheme?

I am extremely grateful to the Levy-Plumb fund for the studentship. I have never had a studio before and I spent a large part of the year working out how to use it. Aside from what I learnt about painting itself, the residency taught me a great deal about how to work alone. It was a very helpful way of understanding the difficulties of being an artist.



‘The Little Horse’ by Naomi Grant

I spent the first few months of the year working indoors in the Christ’s studios. I started arranging simple still lifes because I wanted to construct compositions which would allow me to think strictly in terms of colour and tone. I was aiming for a certain amount of detachment – I knew I didn’t want to make ostentatious paintings about ideas or subjects. The second half of the year was spent outdoors. I set up my easel at various locations throughout the college. I also spent time walking around Cambridge with my sketchbook drawing horses and cows before returning to the studio to make longer paintings either from memory or studies. It was exciting and challenging to draw moving objects after weeks of still life painting. The last part of my year consisted of a trip to Italy funded by the Levy-Plumb Fund. I was based at the Certosa di Pontignano (just outside Siena) with a group of other artists. I divided my time between painting the landscape and visiting museums throughout the country.

Who are your main influences?

Morandi and Corot are two of the most important painters to me. My trip to Italy was largely structured around these figures. I had the opportunity to visit the Morandi Museum in Bologna and to paint the landscapes which inspired Corot.

Can you describe your process?

After I came back from art school in Israel, I began working only from observation. This has meant that a lot of the pictures (the landscapes in particular) are painted in one sitting within the space of two to four hours. I use mostly oil paints and work on a combination of canvas, linen and paper surfaces.

What are you going to do next?

I have just joined the postgraduate programme at the Prince’s Drawing School. I will be spending a year concentrating on drawing in the life studio and museums around London.



‘Landscape 7’ by Naomi Grant

The Heart of the Matter *Profile of cardiologist Dr Simon Gibbs (m. 1973)*



Simon Gibbs studied the Medical Sciences Tripos at Christ's with pharmacology and comparative pathology in his final year. Tamsin Astbury interviewed him after he had provided a work experience place at Hammersmith Hospital (pictured left) for Katy Horder (m. 2007) a Natural Sciences student in her final year.

What were your experiences of studying at Christ's?



There seemed endless opportunity. The Master had chaired the Todd Report on undergraduate and postgraduate medical education which provoked much criticism from the medical profession at the time. It has incidentally taken almost

40 years for some of its recommendations about specialist training to be adopted. The Master and Lady Todd clearly enjoyed interaction with the students and were very much involved in undergraduate activities whenever time would permit. I got involved in extramural activities including the Boat Club, the Medical Society and the JCR. When I first arrived at Christ's the JCR were supporting the Frelimo guerrillas in Mozambique but such foreign policies had mellowed by the time I joined the JCR committee. I enjoyed the wide academic potential at Cambridge and used to attend lectures on diverse subjects including the history and civilisation of ancient China, and urban guerrilla warfare.

How did it influence your future career?

Medicine can be all consuming and it is important to look outside. I wanted to maintain a broad education in internal medicine for as long as possible, a luxury which is no longer afforded by the current system of junior doctor training. I also sought out jobs in different hospitals with some of the best physicians in their field, again something which the current package deals of medical training rule against. Cardiology grabbed my attention: I liked cardiovascular pathophysiology and managing sick patients. When the opportunity to train presented itself I grabbed the bull by the horns and have never thought twice about it since. I went on to do a MD about the pulmonary circulation.

What is your current position?

One of my teachers once told me that specialisation in medicine is measured by what you do not do. Over my time as a consultant I have progressively given up practising many aspects of cardiology so that I could spend more time developing my own subspecialist area. I am a Senior Lecturer in Cardiology at Imperial College London and Consultant Cardiologist at the Hammersmith Hospital where I lead the Pulmonary Hypertension Service. The Service is designated

by the Department of Health and is one of eight centres in the UK. Pulmonary hypertension is a rare disease in which the blood pressure in the lungs is elevated. It was literally a dead subject when I studied medicine. It affected young people, the prognosis was lethal and there were no treatments. That has all changed in the last fifteen years with dramatic advances in basic science and randomised clinical trials. It has offered wonderful opportunities for translational medicine. My research is entirely clinical and I collaborate with colleagues in Europe and the United States on new treatments for different types of pulmonary hypertension. Pulmonary circulation research has also taken me above the snow line to work at high altitude which I can combine with my recreational interest in ski mountaineering.

Could you describe a typical day?

My day is never predictable and I would be easily bored if it was. I go to work to obtain best outcomes for patients. The number of patients in the clinical service doubles every three years so there is no shortage of clinical work to do. Clinical medicine and research turns up many unexpected problems, so I just go with the flow. There is always too much to do so it is a matter of prioritising what really matters.

Can you describe some of the principles behind good working practice in cardiology?

It is essential to focus on evidence-based clinical practice and audit one's outcomes. I am lucky because I have been involved in writing guidelines which means that I have had to study the evidence more closely than I might otherwise if I just read them. I also lead a national audit.



Simon doing an echocardiogram at the Capanna Regina Margherita at 4559 metres on the summit of Monte Rosa in the Alps

Careers Networking Programme – Work Experience Scheme

His View: Dr Simon Gibbs



How can anybody really know what a given career is really like? Mostly we imagine the career of our dreams through rose tinted spectacles. We are influenced by fiction or macho television productions. But it never works out like that. The imagination fails to recognise the daily grind. I think it is a wonderful idea to establish links with Christ's who did after all do so much for me when I was an undergraduate. Although I had never met any alumni at that time I was aware that their donations to the College helped to make life more enjoyable. I wanted to show Katy what real life clinical medicine was like, with all its complexities and frustrations. She just came and joined in whatever I needed to do. I do not think it mattered that I work in a subspecialist area of medicine as so much of the job is generic. I am used to having medical students or visiting physicians and so it was no bother. Indeed it is great fun since undergraduates always ask the most challenging questions, perhaps because they have not yet undergone the information overload which accompanies medical education. Work placements are highly rewarding both to the students as well as the person taking them on.

Dr Simon Gibbs

Christ's College Medical Alumni Association

To provide an opportunity for individuals with common interests to come together, and students and junior doctors to meet people who work in areas related to their career interests Tom Turmezi (m. 1996) has offered to put together a database of members of the Association. The database will contain information about professional positions, achievements, research areas, interests, and, if you would like, personal interests and reminiscences of Cambridge. Initially it is envisaged that members would be emailed a profile list of fellow attendees prior to the next meeting, but a more formal publication may be made available in the future, for example in the form of a (bi)annual e-letter. If you are interested please contact Tom at the email address given below. Any information you do provide is with the understanding that it will only be available to fellow medical alumni and Fellows of Christ's College.
Dr Tom Turmezi BMBCh MA FRCR (m. 1996)
tom@diagnosticradiology.eu

The next Medical Alumni Association Event has now been planned for 17 September 2011. Invitations will be sent out next year, but if you would like to express your interest before then please contact alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk

Her View: Katy Horder



Nearing the end of my third and final year of Natural Sciences at Christ's earlier this summer, I received an email about work experience opportunities offered by alumni. One of the placements available was in medicine, which was fortunate for me, as at the time I was seeking medical experience in order to finalise my decision to apply for graduate medicine.

Several weeks later, I found myself waiting in the reception of Hammersmith Hospital in London. I had arranged to meet Dr Simon Gibbs, Consultant Cardiologist for the National Pulmonary Hypertension Service at Hammersmith and former Christ's student. I was welcomed warmly, introduced to the team that I would be following for the week and informed that Mondays were extremely busy and that my head would be spinning by the end of the day. This certainly proved to be the case; by the end of my first day I had observed an outpatients clinic, met several patients on the wards and attended a multidisciplinary clinical meeting. The rest of the week was equally action-packed. Highlights included observing angiograms and echocardiograms, and a trip to a specialist transplant hospital to discuss how to improve links between the two hospitals in order to advance patient care. During the week, I was able to observe many experienced healthcare professionals at work, including doctors, clinical nurses and social workers. This allowed me to gain a fascinating insight into how effectively staff members work as a team to provide optimal patient care. Through following the team's registrar, Dr Tiffany Patterson, I was also given a clear impression of the day to day roles of a more junior doctor, and have concluded from this that although very stressful and demanding, medicine is an extremely interesting, varied and rewarding career which I am now eager to pursue. I would like to thank Dr Gibbs, the Hammersmith team and the Development Office for providing me with this invaluable opportunity to witness hospital life first-hand. The experience has left me feeling inspired and enthusiastic about medicine and has undoubtedly confirmed my decision to apply. I have recently submitted my graduate medicine application and am waiting to hear about interviews, fingers crossed!

Katy Horder

Of an Original Christian Minstrel ...

Hamish Donaldson (m. 1957)



The OCM 143rd Anniversary dinner 2010 courtesy of JET Photographic.com

The Original Christian Minstrels 143rd Anniversary dinner was held in Hall on 24 September, 2010 with some 40 members and guests. The Club was founded in 1867 by Alfred (later Sir Alfred) Scott-Gatty, composer of many songs (especially Plantation songs), who was to become Garter King of Arms at the College of Heraldry. The aim of the Club was to enjoy convivial company and to sing the ballads of the day. The name was a play on the 'Original Christy Minstrels'. Edwin P Christy founded his minstrel troupe in New York in 1846 and brought his Minstrels to London in 1857, where they were a great success. The 'Christian' in the OCM title refers of course to Christ's College, though we were gratified on advertising a revival of the annual dinner in *The Times* in 1954 to receive a discount as a religious society.

As the OCM was an essentially 'stag' series of private smoking concerts, popular numbers from the Halls gradually crept into the fare. Certain songs were mandatory, surviving in the traditional starter of 'The Yellow Ribbon' which now opens the programme proper. One of the Founder's songs was also invariably sung. The Club Dance (an adaptation of 'When the Foeman Bares his Steel' from 'Pirates') was performed as the College clock struck ten. Any song in the general spirit of the Music Hall tradition was allowed to pass without comment but the choice was fairly liberal. Thus, for instance, some of Tom Lehrer was heard by the OCM before it crossed the

Atlantic to the general public. The club is possibly unique in that all members take three roles – as soloist, as chorus member and as audience. Many members were/are extraordinarily talented but this acceptance of the three roles is essential for its success. Although many members were also associated with the 'Footlights', it was viewed with alarm that the OCM might become too professional or pretentious in its approach. Thus the word 'number' was deemed unsuitable and a song or performance was referred to as a 'rendition'.

Dress was Dinner Jacket or club smoking jacket. The reason for wearing DJs was that it had a salutary effect on the general behaviour which had a tendency to degenerate from the entertaining to the rowdy. There was something irresistible about the traditions, the Victorian atmosphere, the pedantic phrases of the President, the camaraderie and the often remarkable talent of the Minstrels. An ex President once wrote: "Of all the friends I made in my undergraduate days and still have today, the majority were members of the OCM. It was a Club very close to my heart, and I strongly believe it is a treasure well worth passing on to a new generation."

The next meeting of the Minstrels will be held in college on 15 November. To show interest please email Hamish: donaldson@haslemere.com

Of Whitby ... Alumnus John Woolley (m. 1957) has written *Cars Looked Peculiar* an account of a childhood in Whitby and the surrounding area 1936–1950. The book is available from: The Garden Flat, 2 Upgang Lane, Whitby, YO21 3EA for £10.99 or £13 inc. P&P cheques payable to J. J. Woolley.

1973 Year Group News...

Christopher Rees (Year Group Representative)



Your correspondent seeks to achieve a degree of even handedness in compiling the entries for this column, but John Makinson's appointment to succeed Sir Hayden

Phillips as Chairman of the National Theatre means that John once again gets star billing for this year's report. John now has a close connection with 2 of Denys Lasdun's architectural legacies: The National & Christ's College theatres. It remains to be seen if he can persuade the National to put on a performance of *Comus* in recognition of the College connection. In any event John might be able to offer a personal insight by way of a comparison of the 2 buildings. To retain the College angle he may wish to borrow from CP Snow and call it "The Two Cements". Andrew Tattersall is rightly proud to mention the graduation in June 2010 of his son David with a degree in Computer Science from the College. Amongst his many other interests, David served as Vice President of the JCR so we can safely assume that whatever class of degree the examiners saw fit to bestow on him he will enter the world having enjoyed the benefit of a well rounded Christ's education.



Speaking of the JCR, Vincent Zappatta has been in touch from his Santiago base to say that he took strong exception

to the comment in last year's entry that no one from our year could claim responsibility for the Global Financial Crisis. Vincent tells me that his Chilean Denominated Rolos (which became known as CDRs once they began

trading on the world's exchanges) started the whole contagion in the money markets. Vincent's approval of the resulting collapse of global capitalism is touching in its boyish enthusiasm. Yet he still found the means to make a further contribution to our 1973 Bursary Fund which now stands at just over £19,000. You are cordially encouraged to join the Great Socialist in his generosity.



Students of the law will be interested to learn that Paul Reacher (aka Barney Rubble) remains in rude good health, kept young no doubt by his beautiful

Brazilian wife Brenda and their 5 year old son Henry. Your correspondent had the pleasure of visiting them in Pennsylvania in April and can report that Paul has set out to conquer the New York Bar exams later this year. When President Obama is next required to bring in new blood to the Supreme Court, he could do worse than to turn to a man who spent so many fruitful hours perfecting his craft in the College Law Library. Mike Sandberg has returned to Hong Kong to conquer the Chinese market, John Sauerman continues to thrive at the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, but sad to report, Anjum Latifi remains unwell in his care home near Secunderabad.

Your correspondent has relocated for a year to Saudi Arabia. An initial impression of expatriate life in Riyadh in 2010 is that it bears a remarkable number of similarities to life in 1973 Cambridge. Life is carried on in a gated community, religion is built into the curriculum, sport takes place most afternoons, and there is a total absence of women. I have not found a Boat Club though.

Contributions for next year's magazine are invited as the spirit moves you during the course of the year. You can send them to me either c/o the College, or by e-mail to Christopher.Rees@herbertsmith.com.

(The Editor sincerely apologises for the absence of the 1973 year group news letter from this year's 'Magazine')

Reflections on a Marguerite... David "Dave" Double (m. 1958) was very interested to read Ian Smith's piece on the Marguerites in the Easter edition of *Pieces* (Issue 17), as on p.13 he found the sketch of a 'rather skimpily clad' Lady Margaret perched in the niche above the gate, the sketch he drew for the June 1961 edition of the *College Magazine*. He recalls that the Editorial Committee prevailed upon him to produce a lampooning cartoon entitled 'Scholarship Candidates', to which he should sign his name, something he regretted too late. Not only was Dr Pratt Senior Admissions Tutor, but also his Director of Studies. He spent many sleepless nights considering the 'diabolical liberty' for which he would be called to answer. Fortunately, and testament as he says to Dr Pratt's 'good humour and tolerance', that call never came. If any of our stories bring back memories for you that you'd like to share please contact the Publications Officer in the Development Office (contact details on the back cover).

Christ's Football



James Revell with a supporter at the Plate Competition Final

We're hopeful for a good season following a promising recruitment of freshers. James Revell (3rd year) looks set to play for the Blues and congratulations should go to Stephen Harrison (pictured above) for scoring his 50th competitive goal for the club at the start of the season. —*Graeme Cade, Captain*

Christ's Rugby

This September, the Christ's College Rugby Football Club went on a successful tour to Cyprus, playing two matches. In the first match we came up short against strong opposition from the Episkopi Eagles – a British Army team featuring some very skilful Fijians! The next match was versus the Paphos Tigers, the Cyprus champions. The match ball was skydived into the grounds and a crowd of 3000 watched the CCRFC come out narrow losers. The tour was great preparation for the current season, and with the strong fresher intake we can take the club forward.

—*Rob Courtney, Captain*



www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/societies-and-clubs/sports/

Peking to Paris Motor Challenge 2010

On 10 September Hugo Upton (m. 1982), Nigel Gambier and Louisa their 1934 Lagonda participated in the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge 2010. They negotiated a 9000 mile route to Paris through Mongolia, the Gobi desert to Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy and finally Paris. They took up the challenge to raise money for Help for Heroes and Air Ambulance. Donations can be made online: For East Anglian Air Ambulance www.justgiving.com/PekingtoParis2010 and Help for Heroes www.bmycharity.com/PekingtoParis2010. Or cheques can be made out to the charity of your choice and sent with a gift aid form to: Peking Paris 2010 Charities c/o Park Farm, Herringswell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6SR.

Blades



On 17 and 18 June four members of Blades, the Christ's College Boat Club alumni organisation, sculled a coastal quad from Bedford to Cambridge, in aid of funds for the rebuilding of the Boat House. The total distance covered was 60 miles which took two 11-hour days, chiefly because of the time required (up to half an hour) to traverse each of the 18 locks. The crew, comprising Chris Lloyd (m. 1959), Robin Kerr (m. 1962), Gavin Suggett (m. 1966) and Tom Swallow (m. 1965) were coxed by Debbie Lloyd.

Alumnus Member for Christ's College Boat Club Steering Committee

A new alumnus member is sought for the Boat Club Steering Committee. The duties are not onerous, consisting of attendance at a meeting in College on a Saturday at the beginning of each term.

Your knowledge and wisdom, with other alumni members, will serve to advise the student officers of the club, who are elected annually. They are a remarkably mature bunch, full of ideas and effervescent humour. You will contribute to the committee whatever your skills and interests dictate. There is scope for recording the history of the club, encouraging members to contribute to the endowment and Boat House Redevelopment and for helping to build on the current excellent performance of the Club. Whatever your background, it's your enthusiasm for Christ's rowing that will carry you through the four-year term of office. If you want to know more about this position, please contact Tom Swallow, Chairman on tom.swallow@csiltd.co.uk, Tel 07718 581286 or our President, Professor Nick Gay, 01223 334976 njg11@mole.bio.cam.ac.uk



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Tamsin Astbury – Editor and Publications Officer

Letter from the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed this Term's edition of *Pieces*. I would like to introduce myself as the new editor, replacing Helen Mort (m. 2004) who has taken up her place at Grasmere with the Wordsworth Trust as poet-in-residence. Like Helen I'm also a writer but I started my Cambridge life as an English student at St. John's (m. 2001), Lady Margaret's other College.

I look forward to editing future editions of *Pieces*. If you have any questions about this, or any of our other publications, or suggestions for stories, please contact me:

publications@christs.cam.ac.uk.

Christ's College, Development Office,
Cambridge, CB2 3BU



Christ's College University Challenge Team 2010

Natasha Simonova (captain), Joe Walmswell, Alex Greaves, Jack Belloli and Charlie Bridge (reserve) scored 220 points to beat Edinburgh University in University Challenge broadcast on Monday 1 November by BBC2 at 8pm.

Dates For Your Diary

2 December

Alumni London Winter Drinks Reception at the Royal Society

12 March

Dinner for Economists

20 March

Friends of the Old Library Event

26 March

MA Congregation Day for those who matriculated in 2004

25 June

Reunion Buffet Lunch and Garden Party for those who matriculated 1970–1974

For more information on any of these events, please contact Rosie Applin,
Alumni Officer alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk 01223 768276

