

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 16 Lent Term 2010

Well Connected

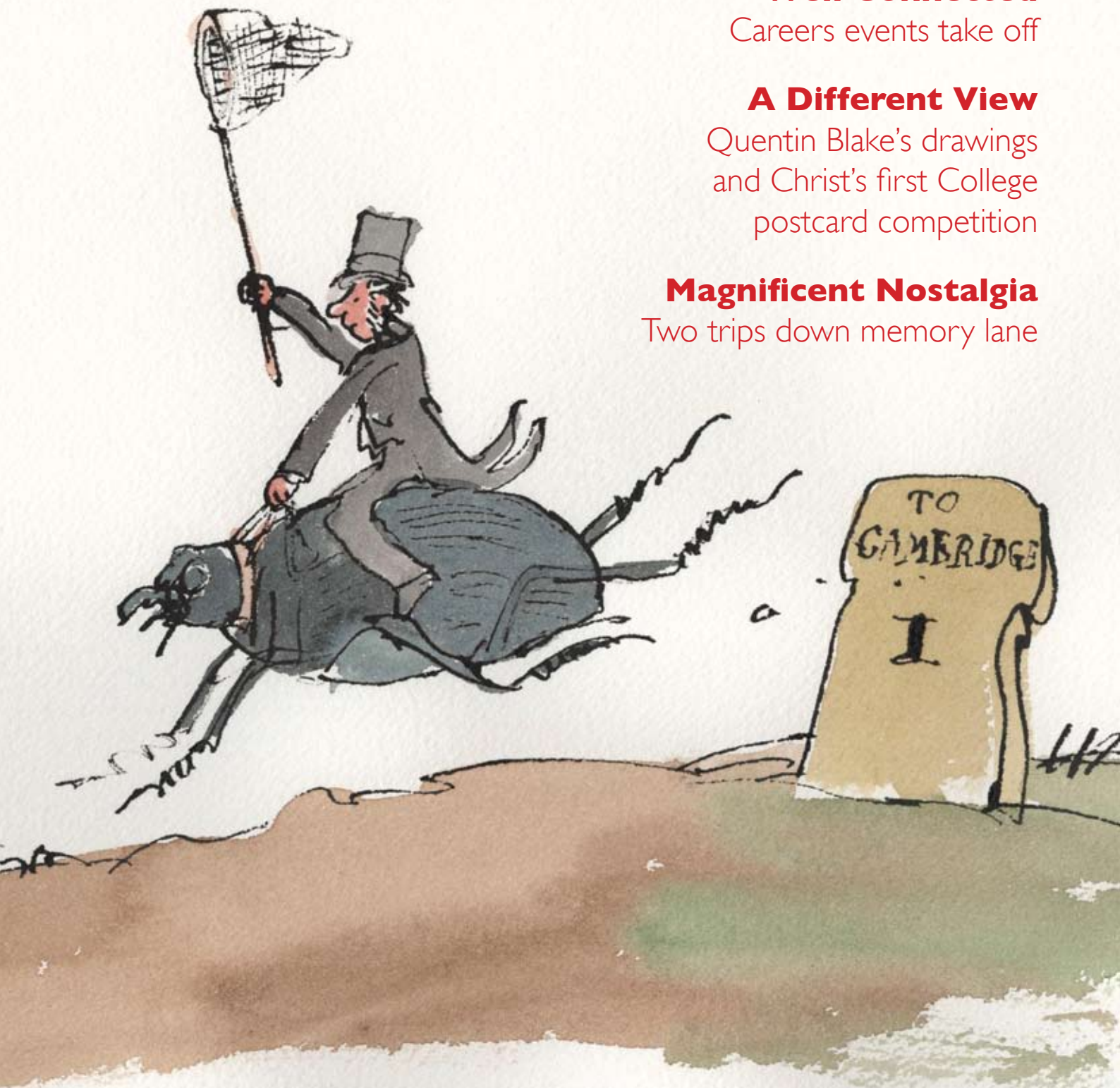
Careers events take off

A Different View

Quentin Blake's drawings
and Christ's first College
postcard competition

Magnificent Nostalgia

Two trips down memory lane





Frank and Jackie Kelly with Yusuf and Farida Hamied

Photograph: Michael Cameron

From The Master

Warmest greetings from Cambridge. This term I am on leave from the College and the University, so the Editor of 'Pieces' has invited me to write briefly on what I am doing. My research is concerned with the mathematics of networks, working on both novel theoretical techniques and on their applications to communication and transport networks. This term I will be taking part, as scientific advisor, in an exciting programme at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences. There are fascinating parallels between behaviour in communication, transport, power and even financial networks, and one aspect of the Newton programme is the development of theory able to provide insight into common features of large-scale systems, such as, for example, the phenomenon of cascading failure.

Whilst on sabbatical leave, I shall also be taking the opportunity to visit Singapore, Hong Kong, Chennai and Mumbai, where, as well as giving lectures, I look forward to meeting alumni to let them know of news from College, and to learn of their experiences since leaving Cambridge.

The College has elected Dr David Jones as Acting Master while I am on leave. David has long experience as a fellow, director of studies, tutor and member of the College's Council, and will be well known to many of you: the College is undoubtedly in very good hands! Turn to page 9 to read a letter from Dr Jones about his role and work. I hope that you enjoy the issue.

Professor Frank Kelly, FRS

Editor: Helen Mort
(Publications Officer)

Cover image: Quentin Blake's drawing of the young Charles Darwin, riding into Cambridge on a beetle. Image © Quentin Blake.

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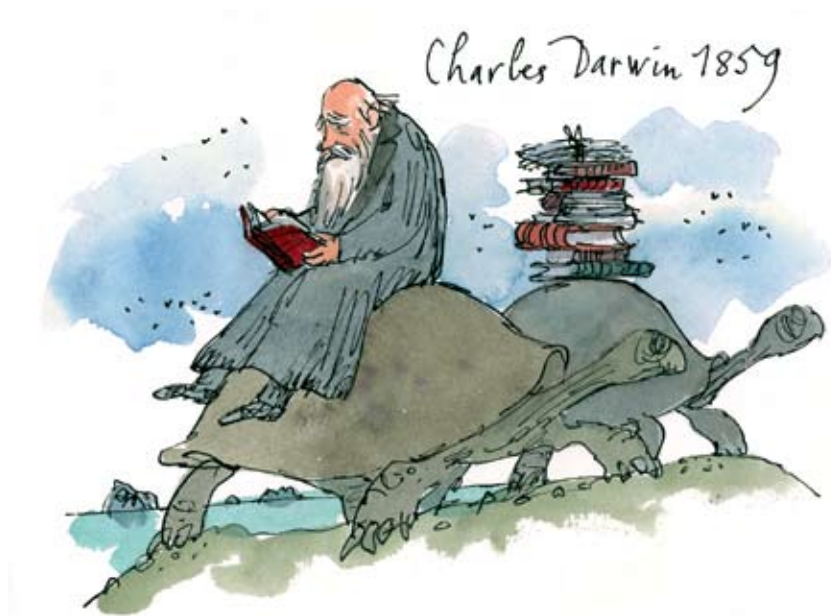
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Dates for Your Diary



Wintry scenes from Christ's



New Views of Milton and Darwin

As part of the University's 800th anniversary celebrations throughout 2009, renowned artist Quentin Blake produced a series of images depicting famous Cambridge alumni, including, of course, Christ's very own John Milton (1608–1974) and Charles Darwin (1809–1882). With Quentin's kind permission, the images are reproduced here and on the Christ's website (www.christs.cam.ac.uk).

The images were originally displayed on a large banner across King's College and proved a fitting landmark for the University's anniversary year.

All images are copyright Quentin Blake.



Transmutations workshop

Artist in Residence Issam Kourbaj and Poet in Residence Ruth Padel ran a joint workshop in word and image on 10th November, inspired by Darwin and the idea of 'change'. In the words of one participant: *"The Transmutation workshop was certainly, as the name suggests, a change. There was nothing better than unleashing yourself, under the genial eyes and thoughts of Issam Kourbaj and Ruth Padel, into a world of science and art, and a playground of pritt sticks, paper cups and overhead projectors. A truly memorable experience!"*



Christ's College Playing Cards

The College has received a kind donation of a set of Christ's playing cards, now housed in the library. The cards were discovered by Mrs Jean Parratt from Farnham and sent to the Honorary Keeper of the Archives, Professor Geoffrey Martin, in November. The cards belonged to Reverend Percy William Gliddon Clough (a student at Christ's during the First World War) and were passed on to Mrs Parratt by a relative of Reverend Clough's.

A Visit from the Archbishop

It is not often that students of theology get to spend two hours with one of the world's greatest living theologians. But that's just what happened when Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and an honorary fellow came to College on Friday 13 November. Sixteen Christ's students joined Archbishop Rowan (m. 1968) in the Chaplain's rooms, for lunch and to talk about theological issues of concern and interest. The Reverend Christopher Woods, Chaplain, said, "This was a rare opportunity that went by all too quickly, but one which was most enlightening, refreshing and energising, for which we were very grateful. I think Archbishop Rowan, who is both an alumnus and honorary fellow of the College, knows he has a welcome home here in Christ's at any time."

Remembering Dr Pratt

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Dr C L G Pratt was held on Saturday 10 October 2009 in the Chapel at Christ's College. Tributes were given by Dr Alan Munro (Master; 1995–2002) and by Mr Anthony Lewis (m. 1959). Mr Christopher Pratt and Dr Suzie McRitchie Pratt read Legend Lucan – Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. On the occasion of Dr Pratt's 100th birthday in 2006, the College established the Lucan Pratt Fund to support students in need of extra financial or tutorial assistance and for sport at Christ's. Many alumni supported the fund at the time and we welcome contributions in his memory. For more information, please contact cmt23@cam.ac.uk.

Alfred Einstein Award

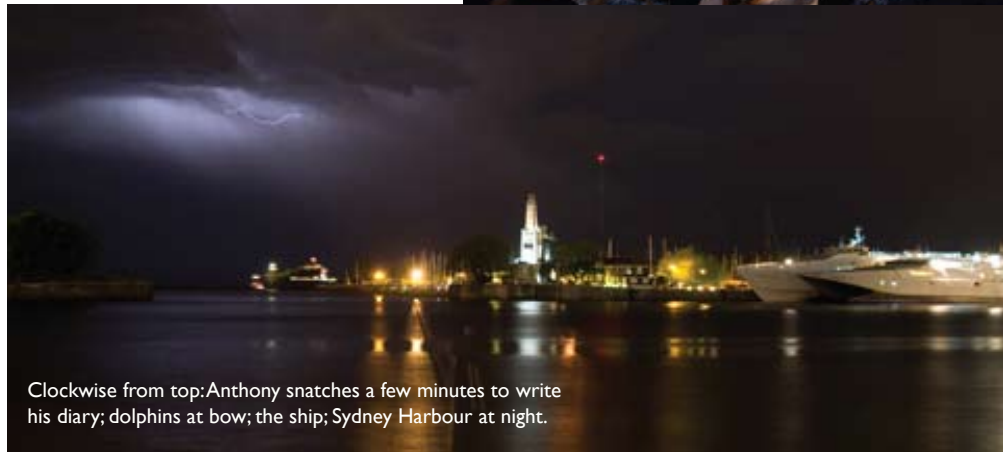
Congratulations to David Trippett (Junior Research Fellow) on being awarded the American Musicological Society's Alfred Einstein award. David received his award at the international conference, held in Philadelphia, of the American Musicological Society. The award is for an article (concerning music) published last year in any language by anyone before they tenured.

Ahoy from Argentina!

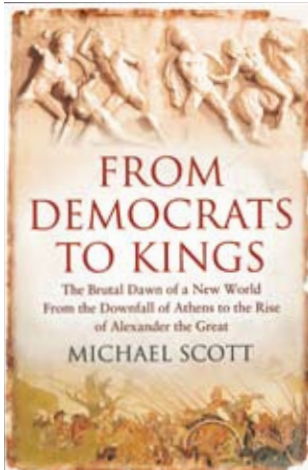


Artist Anthony Smith (m. 2001) is retracing the journey of *The Beagle* around the world. He reports:

"We've already seen and done so much on this trip it's difficult to know where to start! Lots of great visits from dolphins (see attached for my photo of them from the bow-sprit of the ship). Went up El Teide on Tenerife, and drove around Santiago in Cape Verde (surprisingly beautiful). Fernando de Noronha was probably the most beautiful island I've ever been to (swimming with turtles, view of sharks, rays, and hundreds of spinner dolphins...). Brazil was interesting too – went up the Sugarloaf in Rio. And we had a nice few days in Montevideo and Buenos Aires too – very nice cities. It's been really fascinating to visit some of the same places that Darwin visited, and see just how much has changed. A LOT in most cases! Although we visited an isolated beach cliff here in Argentina where he collected some fossils, and it was nice to see somewhere that had the same feel as when Darwin was here."



Clockwise from top: Anthony snatches a few minutes to write his diary; dolphins at bow; the ship; Sydney Harbour at night.



Books Round Up

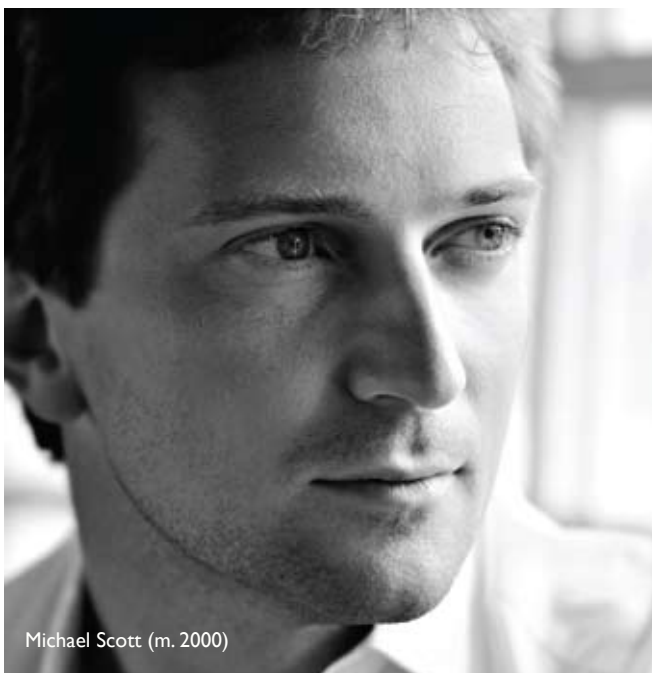
FROM DEMOCRATS TO KINGS: The Brutal Dawn of a New World from the Downfall of Athens to the Rise of Alexander the Great

Christ's alumnus Michael Scott (matric. 2000), now Moses Finley Fellow in ancient History at Darwin College, has recently published a

new accessible history of radical upheaval and bitter power struggle in the ancient world.

From Democrats to Kings tells the dramatic story of how, in a brutal power struggle whose outcome would define the world for centuries, and over the space of just a single lifetime, the ancient world was turned completely on its head. In 404 BC, Athens, the democratic city-state par excellence, had been ravaged by a long and bloody war with neighbouring Sparta. The search for scapegoats began and Athens, liberty's beacon in the ancient world, turned its sword on its own way of life. Defining moments of Greek history, culture, politics, religion and identity were debated ferociously in Athenian public spaces, back streets and battlefields. By 323 BC, less than 100 years after Athens' downfall, Athens and the rest of Greece, not to mention a large part of the known world, had come under the control of an absolute monarch, a master of self-publicity and a model for despots for millennia to come: 'megas alexandros', Alexander the Great.

From Democrats to Kings has attracted a good deal of press attention. Michael spoke on Radio 4's Today Programme and the book was featured in a number of articles in the national press as well as in newspapers in Greece, Brazil, Russia and Australia.



Michael Scott (m. 2000)

ARENA OF AMBITION: A History of the Cambridge Union
by Stephen Parkinson (Icon Books £25)

Charles Lysaght (m. 1962)

The Cambridge Union was founded in 1815. This book covers its history until its 175th anniversary in 1990. Its treatment of the period until 1939, the subject of Sir Percy Craddock's earlier history, is condensed. Most of the text is devoted to the next fifty years. The author, Stephen Parkinson, who was president in 2004, supplements his own extensive research with the memories written by participants, such as Douglas Hurd, Norman Lamont and Arianna Huffington. The emphasis throughout is on politics although union debates deal with many other topics.

Christ's has not been a major player in the Union. It has provided presidents in only fifteen of the 500 or so terms covered by this book, beginning with an Irishman called Charles Granby Burke in 1834. It had a golden period in from 1920 to 1927 when there were five Christ's presidents, including Denis Johnston, Patrick Devlin (later, as Lord Devlin, High Steward of the University) and David Hardman, the first labour president and a junior minister for education in the Attlee government. He gave many years of service to the Union as its treasurer after he had gone down.

Johnston, later a barrister, playwright, war correspondent, author of a celebrated memoir of those years and pioneer of BBC television, was the most interesting. In his first term, listening at the Union to fellow Christ's man and committee member Lord Louis Mountbatten, Johnston dismissed him as a bloody fool. Johnston wrote later that being president had made him less not more ambitious for high position as he realised 'how boring achieved dreams can be, how getting to the top is a long sordid wearisome battle with nothing at the end for the victor save great responsibilities and nagging worries.' Sadly none of this is noted; Johnston's name is mentioned only in the list of ex-officers.

Between 1927 and 1990 there were only three Christ's presidents, Paul Curtis Bennett (1948), the present writer (1964) and Peter Heslop (1971). Unusually both Curtis Bennett and I were elected president without having held a junior office. Also unusually, Miss Daniel (1990), the first Christ's woman to be vice-president, did not go on to be president. Dom Raphael Appleby, one of the long succession of Downside monks who graced Christ's is noted in the early 1960s as an active committee member and a speaker whose warmth and sincerity endeared him to the Union.

Fellows of the college, such as Paul O'Higgins and the Rev. Stanley Booth-Clibborn have served as trustees or senior officers. Simon Schama was Steward for six terms having failed to be elected to the committee when he was an undergraduate. Despite the subsequent achievements highlighted in this book of many who starred in the Union, it is not the only path through Cambridge to life's glittering prizes.



Anne McLaren

The reproductive dilemma

Many of our students and alumni confront difficult choices about whether or not to delay making their family to fulfil educational and career aspirations. Increasingly, educated professional women are delaying child-bearing into their thirties or later. Although it is well established biologically that fertility of both men and women declines with age, the media are full of stories about the possibilities of high tech science coming to the rescue! It often seems easier to banish the thoughts of fertility decline to the future, where, we are promised, advances in IVF, egg freezing and storage, and even making eggs de novo from stem cells derived from a woman's skin cells, will offer limitless procreational opportunities. What are the facts? What are the realities of experience? What are the treatments? Can fertility decline really be prevented or circumvented or managed effectively? These are some of the issues to be covered in the first Anne McLaren Memorial Fund public discussion event to be held in Christ's on 10th March led by a distinguished panel of doctors, social scientists and anthropologists. For more details about the event and about the Anne McLaren Fund see website details.

www.christs.cam.ac.uk

Marguerites Dinner

On Saturday 23rd January Marguerites past and present came together for the first Marguerites Alumni Dinner. The evening started informally in many of the finest pubs the city has to offer before the more than 60 esteemed members of the club gathered for a champagne reception in the OCR. What followed was an evening of stories and tales on how the club has changed over the last half a century, with many guests impressed to see the finest traditions of the club still being upheld. The evening was a tremendous success and will hopefully become a regular highlight of the club's year.

'Exiles' by Tom de Freston

Between April 6th and 12th, Brick Lane Gallery in London will be hosting an exhibition of work by Tom de Freston, emerging artist and former Levy-Plumb Visual Art Studentship holder at Christ's. Tom is an exciting emerging artist who has already been the subject of significant critical and press acclaim, especially in the wake of the exhibition Reflections at the Christ's Visual Arts Centre.

"For all their challenging and sometimes disturbing flourishes, [de Freston's] canvasses invite us to recognise ourselves in them, in all our moments of heroism and vulnerability, triumph – and failure. Embrace the pants they say. Kick off those trousers. Make yourself comfortable. Dive in."

– Mike McCahill, the Sunday Telegraph

There will be a special Arts Networking Event for Alumni on Friday April 9th, to which all are welcome. For more information, contact the Development Office.



Icing on the cake

The University 800th Anniversary Culinary competition was held at Senate House in November 2009, capably organised by a team including Christ's Catering Manager Kevin Keohane. The competition saw success for Christ's, with Head Butler Paul Davis (pictured centre) winning both categories of the Front of House section, Table Laying & Waiting Skills and Table and Decorations in the theme of the University's 800th Anniversary. Apparently, Paul couldn't be faulted. You can now download a brochure about catering at Christ's from the College website here:

<http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/conferences/dining/>

Coming up in the next issue of Pieces: Recipes from the kitchen at Christ's College and interviews with culinary alumni

Chapel
500

The Early Years of Christ's Chapel

Frank Woodman

The Chapel of Christ's is not as Lady Margaret intended. Incomplete on her death, last minute alterations would change it considerably. As designed in 1505, it would serve both the College and her private residence. Hence the odd placing of the Lodge against the chapel so that her first-floor oratory (and bedroom?) could overlook the altar. Lady Margaret was obsessed with taking communion regularly, though exactly how often is a matter of debate. More than once a year was then uncommon – so Lady Margaret's practice was probably considered excessive. The (concealed) door from the chapel to the Lodge back stair straight up to the Oratory provided a speedy route for the Host without the need for Lady Margaret to 'set foot' in the chapel. It was never needed, Lady Margaret dying before the chapel's consecration.

The Lodge's new upstairs occupant was the first Visitor, bishop John Fisher. He could walk into the chapel, but as a bishop 'resident' in another's diocese, the obligation to say his daily private mass would require endless permissions from bishop Stanley of Ely, Lady Margaret's step-son, who was currently proving difficult over Fisher's attempts to establish St John's, Lady Margaret's other intention.

Thus it is probable that the ante-chapel was ceiled to create an upper space connected to the lodge by means of the external elevated gallery seen on Loggan's print (1690). This space undoubtedly acted as Fisher's private oratory, elevated

in the common Episcopal manner and overlooking the chapel from the west. Redundant after Fisher's martyrdom, it was boxed in to provide rooms. The present 'Georgian' paneling of the antechapel screen must conceal a hefty structure given that it supports both the substantial ceiling timbers and the existing upper wall. That the upper chapel room was a late addition is demonstrated by the continuation of the original high chapel roof, now concealed in the attics of set O.

Another early pre-consecration alteration is in the antechapel – a second altar space against the screen. The evidence is concealed behind another movable panel on the south wall and consists of an early piscina, used for the washing up during mass. The piscina matches the one concealed south of the main altar and is undoubtedly pre-Reformation. In the antechapel floor immediately below lies the double tomb c.1520 of Edith Fowler and her husband – surely an unique lay burial of a married couple in a pre-reformation collegiate chapel? Mentioned in Lady Margaret's will, they were valued household members. The piscina doubtless served their chantry so that more than one daily mass was said in Christ's until the abolition of chantries under Edward VI.

One final 'loss' must surely lie behind Finch and Baines' double monument (1684) north of the main altar. The arched recess accommodating it is the perfect place and shape for an Easter Sepulchre, the housing for the consecrated Host during the final days of Lent. Lady Margaret being obsessed with the Blessed Sacrament, could gaze from her Oratory window upon the altar and, if resident at Easter, the Sepulchre. Such fittings vanished with the reformation, the space later coming in handy for the famous Restoration monument. Two men coupled in death is but one of a line of 'innovations' in the early architectural and liturgical history of the 500 years of Christ's College Chapel.



The author,
pictured in Chapel

Turning Leaves

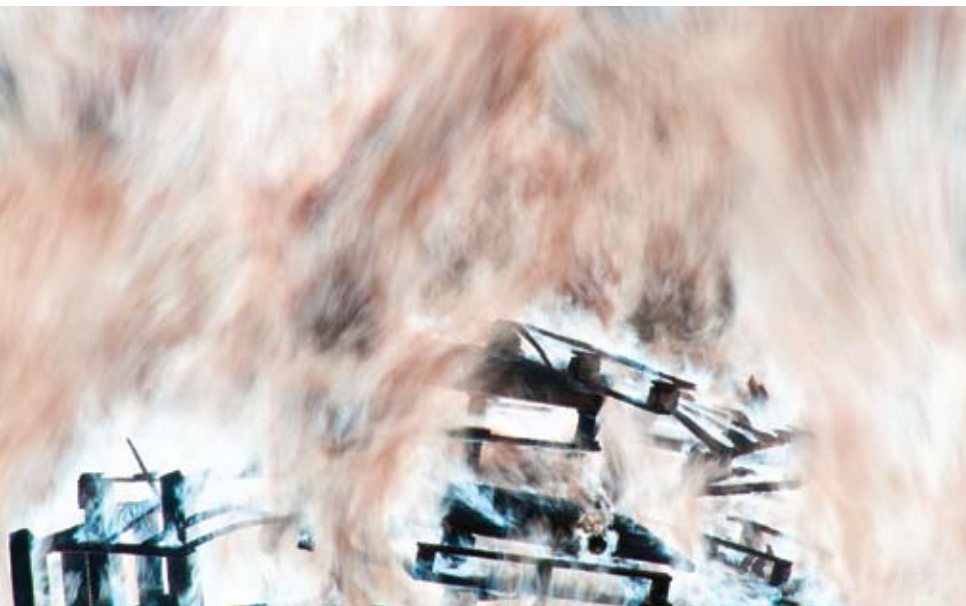
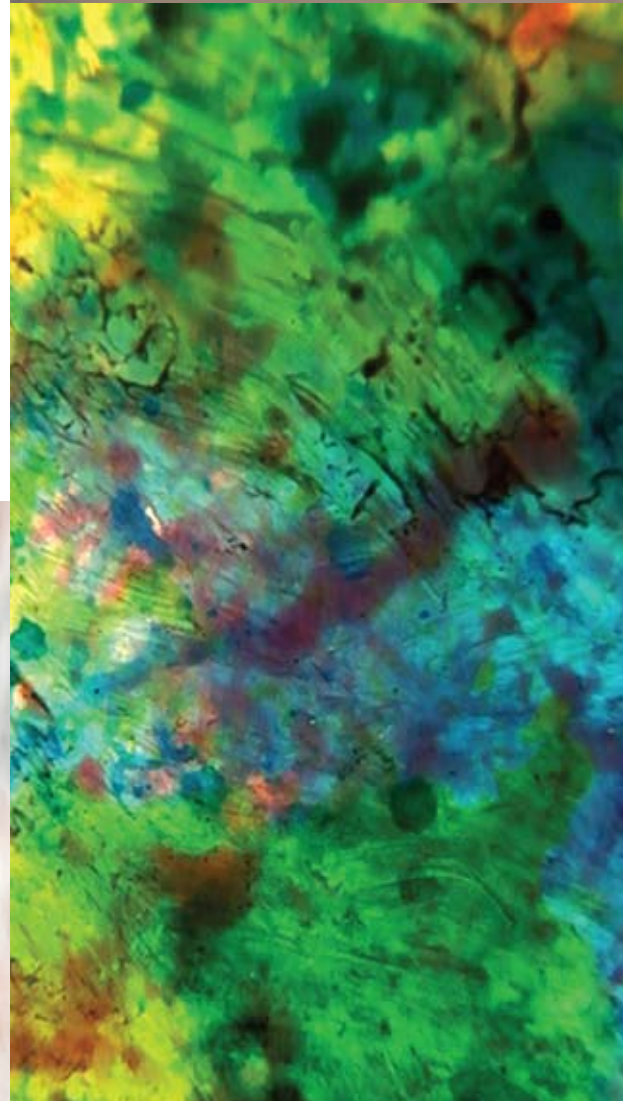
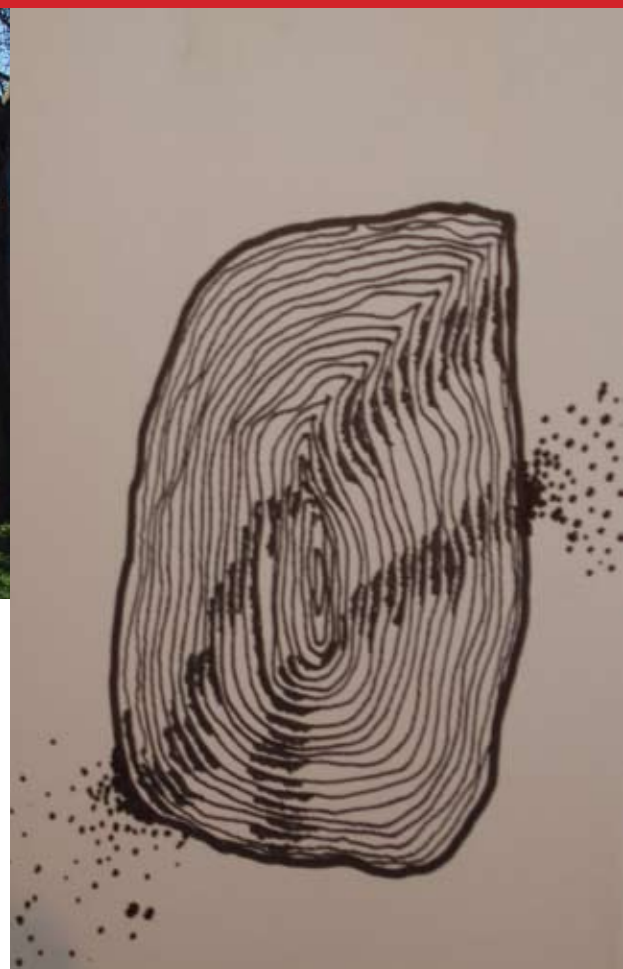
This autumn, as befits the season, Christ's College Visual Arts Society launched 'Turning Leaves': a College postcard competition, open to all. College members were given blank postcards and invited to decorate them in a way that reflected the theme of the competition, 'Turning Leaves'. Entries could be in any media (paint, collage, pencil, photography, poetry, limericks, jokes, prose) provided they fitted on a postcard.

The competition, judged by Artist in Residence Issam Kourbaj and Poet in Residence Ruth Padel, attracted a range of inventive responses, and the judges had a tricky job deciding how to award the two £50 prizes. The entries showcased some of the many artistic talents in College, from unusual photographs to delicate sketches.

The winning entries are pictured here.

First prize was College nurse Gillian Craig (pictured above) for her photograph of trees and James Crosby (pictured below) for his photograph of bonfire night. **Runners up** were Tom Tydesley (top right) for his drawing, Jonathan Taeë for his painting (bottom right) and Katie Lewis for her poem 'Turning Leaves'.

The competition aimed to raise awareness of the Visual Arts Society and Centre as well as allowing students, staff and Fellows alike the chance to express their creativity. The Visual Arts Society hopes that this will become an annual event.



Letter from the Acting Master, Dr Dai Jones



Dr Dai Jones in sunnier climes

As the Master explains on page 2, the College has appointed me to be Acting Master for the Lent Term while he is on sabbatical leave. I first came to Christ's as an undergraduate in 1964, and have been very lucky to stay here ever since – as graduate student, Research Fellow, Director of Studies in Engineering and Tutor. My recent research is concerned with analyzing failures of large steel structures, which are still surprisingly vulnerable to catastrophic collapses caused by the growth of fatigue cracks. This builds on a long period of interest in the failure mechanisms of engineering materials, which also generated a new journal in the subject (Engineering Failure Analysis), a regular conference series (International Conference in Engineering Failure Analysis) and two textbooks (Engineering Materials 1 and 2, by Ashby and Jones). I took early retirement from my post in the Engineering Department five years ago to develop my advisory work for industry and the legal profession. This has provided (probably too much!) excitement and variety: being grilled for days in the Supreme Court of Queensland about the fine details of fracture mechanics; crawling around in the double bottom of a 180,000-tonne bulk carrier at the world's largest shipyard near Shanghai; climbing 200 feet to the top of a blast furnace brought near to collapse by a major explosion. Certainly not an ivory-tower existence, but all in a day's work for an engineering academic!

It is a great pleasure and privilege to be able to serve as Acting Master, especially as the College has been central to my life for so long. Sian and I are particularly enjoying meeting both present and past students. The Marguerites' dinner in January has been one of the highlights, and it was wonderful to see student contemporaries, old tutorial pupils and the present generation of students together, with the common college bond completely transcending any age differences. I was even heckled in my speech for admitting to being a sailor, which was not considered to be a suitable sport, and especially so for one from the Pratt generation! We are also entertaining many of the undergraduates and graduates in the wonderful Tudor drawing room and library in the Master's Lodge – at no more than 50 at a time because of the maximum floor loading above the ancient beams! Another delight is being able to listen to the organ scholars playing the great 17th and 18th century repertoire from the shadows of Lady Margaret's oratory. I have to be careful not to email them too many YouTube clips of my favourite interpretations, but then it is hard to resist the pull of an earlier life as a baroque oboist! All in all, this is proving to be a most exciting and enjoyable time, and a unique opportunity to engage with the whole of our College community.

Christ's Calling

Student interest in this year's Telephone Campaign has been better than ever; and the Development Office was absolutely delighted by the volume and calibre of the applications received from undergraduates wanting to work on the Easter campaign.

Positive feedback from students who have worked on previous campaigns who found it rewarding, plus the chance to stay in College over the Easter vacation, and the prospect of earning some much-needed cash, has made working on the telephone campaign an attractive opportunity to today's students. Alex Cullen, the Development Officer, interviewed no less than 36 students over the course of two days in February, and was suitably impressed by all, and left with some very tough decisions to make regarding who made the cut for this year's team.

Competition for the 16 places on the call team was very intense, and we are delighted with the breadth of subjects, backgrounds, interests and activities represented by the members of the student body who, during the Easter Vacation, will be calling members of alumni about fundraising, recent news and forthcoming developments in Christ's.

What this year's student callers had to say:

"I think the telephone campaign plays an important role in maintaining the strong sense of community which I feel particularly strongly about, and I think I would find it interesting, stimulating, and enjoyable." (Stephen, m. 2006)

"I am having an amazing time at Christ's and I would really love to have the chance to give something back." (Holly, m. 2008)

"I think this would be a great opportunity to network and find out about future career moves by speaking to alumni. In my third year this all seems pretty daunting, but I think that speaking to people about their careers will be extremely useful." (Charlotte, m. 2007)

"I worked on the telephone campaign last year and really enjoyed the experience. I think making links with College alumni is incredibly worthwhile and really enjoyed the conversations I had with them. It was an interesting experience and is very useful to the College." (Patrick, m. 2006)

Well Connected

Careers networking events take off at Christ's

On November 20th, Gordon House (previous Head of BBC Radio Drama) and Colin Cameron (Journalist for the Financial Times and author of 'You Bet: The Betfair Story') returned to Christ's to speak to current undergraduates about their colourful careers. The event was the first in a series of forthcoming talks aimed at linking undergraduates and alumni interested in the same fields. Modern languages student Louise Floyd commented: "The speakers were excellent – very informative and entertaining."

The past academic year has also seen several alumnae speakers returning to College at the invitation of the Lady Margaret Society'. President Charlotte Verrill (Medical Sciences, m. 2007) says:

"Christ's is distinctive amongst the Cambridge colleges in being one of the few to have a female benefactor. With this in mind The Lady Margaret Society was established in 1997 to celebrate the valuable contribution female members have made to college life and their success once they have graduated. Following its resurrection in 2008, the past year has been very busy and exciting for the Society. In Lent term last year we held an informal speaker event in the OCR, which allowed students to have intimate discussions with the speakers. We were very lucky to be able to invite back two alumni, both excellent speakers. The first of these was Linda Crow, who read Natural Sciences and now works as an investment banker, and the second was Jo McIlvenna, who read Modern Languages and now has a career in broadcasting.

In Easter term we held a formal dinner in hall, at which Helen Atkins (matric 1996) spoke. Helen read law at Christ's and now works for a charity called the Poppy Project, helping women who have been trafficked into prostitution in Britain. It was an engaging evening that sparked much debate. Our after dinner speaker for Michaelmas Term was Ann Kramer, who read Natural Sciences. Ann is now Head of Business Development for Oxitec Limited, a company founded in 2002 to develop and commercialize leading-edge science and technology invented at the University of Oxford. An enjoyable evening became even more interesting when, to the shock of many of the guests, Ann released mosquitoes into Hall!"

Work experience is another great opportunity for students to learn from alumni established in their chosen career. Jasmine Birtles (m. 1981), entrepreneur and founder of moneymagpie.com, reports on the experience of having a Christ's intern this year:



Jasmine Birtles (m. 1981)

"At Moneymagpie.com we're constantly writing and updating content, technology and design as well as our PR, marketing, Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), social media strategy and more. No wonder we love having bright, creative, go-getting interns helping us on a regular basis. That's why I



Gordon House (m. 1968) pictured at the Careers Talks in November

got in touch with the Development office earlier this year to find out if any Christ's undergraduates (or graduates) would like to come and do an editorial internship. One of the promising responses was Rob Bartlett, a languages student, who had already done some journalism in his year in South America.

Rob helped us by writing articles for the site (go and have a look for his byline on www.moneymagpie.com), researching and writing up deals for my Daily Express column, checking savings and other financial rates each week, writing an article for The Sun on behalf of Moneymagpie and coming up with ideas for our editorial meetings.

As we are a small team there is always a lot of hands-on work. Editorial interns in my office get to write articles from the start. I have also managed to get paid work for some of my best interns on national newspapers and radio stations. The best I keep on as freelancers and I can usually find them something else at another media outlet after a while. We're surrounded by other small media operations and the area is really vibrant. It may be noisy, and there's not much privacy, but it's a lot more fun than working in the City."

Rob Bartlett (m. 2005) says: "Having worked as a journalist on my year abroad in South America, I had known I loved the unpredictability of the job. And so it proved with Moneymagpie – an office in a nightclub under a railway arch was certainly not what I was expecting. The atmosphere in the office was great, however, and I enjoyed getting involved straight away.

It was quite a learning curve. Having worked for print papers, as well as writing countless supervision essays, I knew I would be able to craft an article but there was far more to the job than just rushing out copy. Online and print writing might seem similar, but they are in fact completely different skills, and ones that had to be learnt very fast. I learnt about HTML code, search engine optimization, affiliate marketing and that was just the first week.

It was undoubtedly a great experience that broadened my knowledge base and proved good preparation for the world of work. Having now begun a job as a PR consultant at The Wrigglesworth Consultancy in the city, I find I am using skills developed at Moneymagpie all the time."

Meanwhile, Clementine Beauvais (education and English, m. 2006) was invited to an internship earlier this year at Dorling Kindersley with Peggy Vance (m. 1983). Here, Peggy and Clementine reflect on the experience of working together:

Peggy says: "I'd never get into publishing these days – far too stupid. In fact, how on earth I got into Christ's in the first place with two As and a big fat E is a testament to the broad-

mindedness of revered admissions tutor, Dr Bowkett.

Andrew Carnegie (who made a bob or two) said that you should never hire anyone less intelligent than yourself. For old publishing folks like me – even those with glossy results – this is remarkably easy to put into practice. To its detriment, publishing is horribly competitive today. Earning nothing for endless toil seems an eternally popular road to damnation and for a number of years I have lured wonderful, talented, spirited geniuses to help me earn my keep: Alison Effeny as an editor who metamorphosed into an author; Kit Whitfield, who did the same, and, most recently, Clementine Beauvais, who came as an intern to my department at non-fiction publisher Dorling Kindersley and blew us all away with her calm assurance and nifty ability to research almost anything. Being an intern isn't all quotidian drudgery. Quite often tricky thinking jobs that nobody has time to get their heads around are given to the fresh brain on the block. This was certainly true for Clementine, who was utterly unfazed by the complexity of the gazillion miscellaneous demands we made of her.

The impact of the publishing house Penguin has sometimes been likened to that of a great university and I think that it's equally true to say that Dorling Kindersley (part of the Penguin Group) is like a great museum, chocablock with visual wonders. Clementine's beautiful mind got to work on all manner of subjects and she fearlessly tackled anything that was chucked at her, from history to pregnancy, popular culture to fitness. My future boss, perhaps? It's looking more than likely..."

Clementine says: "Even before I started my degree at Cambridge I knew I wanted to work in publishing – but I had no idea about the variety of tasks, jobs and responsibilities that the word 'publishing' encompasses. I did not know then that working in publishing can mean anything from production to design through to marketing and foreign rights. I was also unaware of the astonishing breadth modern publishing has, ranging from international companies to tiny houses, and spans all types of literature.

When Peggy Vance offered me an internship with her team at DK in London, I had already completed work experience with a small children's publisher. It was an illuminating experience for me to observe how dissimilar the two companies were, and how differently they produced books. DK is a huge publishing company in London – working there, I was truly sucked into an energetic, creative work atmosphere based on teamwork and team spirit. Everyone's input is valuable, and the end product – the book – is an acknowledgement of this shared work.



Peggy Vance (m. 1983)



Clementine Beauvais (m. 2006)

I worked for DK for two weeks but during this short time I was given a lot of different tasks. One in particular involved looking for potential articles for a book project which spanned the whole of DK, not only the department I worked for. This task fits closely with my conception of this company as a collective enterprise, looking for contribution from each of its members. This internship gave me priceless insight into large-scale publishing, its people and its methods. It is a busy, communal industry, very different but just as fascinating as the more intimate, small-scale approach to publishing I was familiar with. And I now have a much clearer idea of what working in publishing means.

If you are interested in offering work experience to a current Christ's student, or would like more information about careers networks. Please contact Rosie Applin: ra371@cam.ac.uk

Christ's and Beyond

Sarah Ellson (m. 1990) is a partner in law firm Field Fisher Waterhouse. Here, she discusses how her time at Christ's influenced her career path.

Between 1990 and 1993 at Christs College (in Cambridge) I studied Social and Political Sciences (Sociology/Psychology/Politics). After Cambridge I went on to two 2 years studying law (a law conversion course and a legal practice course). I am now a partner in a European law firm Field Fisher Waterhouse (www.ffw.com).

Graduates from Cambridge and 3 or 4 of the other top Universities probably still have competitive advantages in the job market – at least in terms of getting through the paper application stage. However that will be related to having good school exam results and still usually means having a 2:1 degree. In specialist areas other Universities offer more practical courses and sometimes that is what employers are looking for so a Cambridge degree is not always a passport to a job.

I am lucky that my area of law – regulatory law has remained busy during the global recession but law firms in the UK have had to reduce the size of some departments particularly to reflect lower activity in real estate and corporate transactions.

I think Cambridge valued and taught a questioning spirit rather than practical skills. Some of the tutors really are the best minds in the world and they must think some of their undergraduates, when they first arrive, really do not know anything, but over three years you begin to develop these invaluable skills. I do think if I returned to Cambridge now I would make a much better job of it than I did at 19.

I do think University is about developing thinking and learning abilities and I don't think it matters too much which subject you study (except perhaps if you want to be a doctor!). My own degree gave me the chance to gain new perspectives and I picked up the legal training later. In the current environment, with so many graduates, it does seem crucial to have a 1st or 2:1 degree at the end of your studies.

Magnificent Nostalgia

Bikash Sinha (m. 1964) on Christ's College, past and present.

Way back in 1962, travelling with my family from London, the train stopped for a short while at an almost deserted station called CAMBRIDGE – the land of Newton, Rutherford, Dirac and so many icons of history. I fell in love with the manicured natural beauty of the legendary “backs” and the hauntingly beautiful Colleges. Surely, I thought to myself – this is one of the most incredibly romantic places in the world.

Two years later, I arrived to study at Christ's College. What was incredible was that no one told us what to do and what not to do after lectures, one was totally and wholly free. Beetlemania was at the top of our social agenda, long hair and jeans, red flags in Petty Cury with the firm conviction that communism is the only answer to the world order crowded our minds. Come summer, the prospect of examination loomed large, but with it the enticing possibility of May balls and elegant summer evening parties. Some of us were reckless enough to even come back to the college at dawn, immediately being asked by the cheekiest and naughtiest porter “are you coming in or going out Sir?”

Towards the end of the first year, the great Professor Pippard chided me, ever so gently, dropping hints that I was wasting my time and the incredible opportunities Cambridge had to offer. My tutor at Christ's, a frustrated nuclear physicist, even suggested that I go back to India and sit on my laurels of a first I obtained in India. Sir Neville Mott, the Cavendish Professor and later a Nobel Laureate (and, in every sense my mentor in England) merely commented that he didn't see me much in his lectures – “is there any problem dear boy?”

Our master and Nobel Laureate the formidable Lord Todd, the great historian Jack Plumb, the glorious history of Newton Milton, Rutherford, Dirac, Darwin, Crick and Watson stared at me uncompromisingly. I woke up and never much veered from that awakening. Nothing is impossible, I thought, and you must strive for the best under any circumstance.

After tripos (the final examination) we all got down from Cambridge and plunged ourselves in different currents of life, in my case, King's College, London, arranged by Sir Neville within days after tripos. Cambridge slowly faded away, a fluctuating sense of nostalgia lingered on; for floppy bow ties, Byronic melancholia, swimming nude in the river... Come December 2008 my memories were unexpectedly re-awakened when I returned to Christ's to celebrate the life of the unparalleled prince of nineteenth century Indian science, Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, an undergraduate at Christ's from 1881 to 1884. [green](#).

We all trooped into our college on a cold, but a sparkingly sunny morning. The entire function was hugely successful with excellent talks by mathematicians, plant scientists, physicists, even climate scientists. Cambridge luminaries, past and present attended followed by a high quality evening party hosted by the gracious master, Frank Kelly. A bust was made to mark the 150th anniversary – Sibaji Raha, Director,

Bose Institute Calcutta arranged for the bust to be sculpted and very graciously brought it along to Cambridge. By the end of the day, every nook and corner of the college came alive with memories – I walked through the same front court, the discrete entrance, the same third court where one touched adulthood from boyhood. I had to pinch myself to remind that I was no longer militantly exuberant like in the sixties, no longer an irresponsible twenty one.

This year, end of September, I am visiting Cambridge, once again, as a so called distinguished visiting scholar of my college, Courtsey, Master, Frank Kelly. As I write this page, sitting in our flat, 66, Jesus Lane, memories like old faded photographs, flash through my mind, as if those forty years have evaporated in a magic touch. I recall the joy and the pain of growing up at Cambridge. I realize that my digs in the last summer in the last year at Cambridge was just a few yards away from my present abode of Jesus Lane. Everything has remained the same, yet, everything has changed at the same time. The college buttery (bar) is not so attractive now. “Nobody wastes time drinking these days”, someone commented in the buttery; the controversial memory of the two cultures of C. P. Snow has surfaced again. The master, now, is at his charming best; the procedure at the high table remains exactly the same. The church bell tolls every hour; an all pervasive tranquillity prevails.

Now, the bust of Sir Jagadis rests peacefully looking pensive under the incense cedar, surrounded by trees of heaven and mahonia at the newly established Yusuf Hamied Court. The penetrating gaze of another very famous Christ's man, Charles Darwin settles on Jagadis, fifty years younger. Bronzed at an exuberant age of twenty two, Darwin sits on a bench with mischievous brilliance in his eyes. We are celebrating two hundred years of the first evolutionary, Charles Darwin.

A few nights ago, I heard Professor Stephen Hawking perform with the aid of a voice tape and visuals; he referred to flash of ideas as Eureka moments. Cambridge is the mother of “Eurekas” for eight hundred years, the hauntingly beautiful monuments, the colleges, have been the witness through the ages, from Newton to Hawking, Rutherford to Dirac, Milton to Keynes... Standing there in solitude, in the company of two icons of the college in Hamied Court the extraordinary serenity made me feel magnificent with nostalgia, timeless, ageless. Nothing changes very much in Cambridge yet, many things have changed in the world because of Cambridge.

Do you have a memory of Christ's you'd like to share? We're always looking for new contributors to 'Pieces'. Contact the editor, Helen Mort at hm317@cam.ac.uk



A Brief and Hazy History of 'Christ's Pieces'

by John Rees-Osborne (m. 1953)



'Christ's Pieces' theatrical group was founded in late 1953, when a member of the chapel choir was asked to organise a cabaret for the annual dinner-dance of the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union. Thanks to an abundance of musical and writing talent (Ted Taylor, Bill Rowlinson and Michael Shorter writing original sketches and Malcolm Sircom among others providing music), the evening was a great success and we suddenly found ourselves in demand for cabarets. As the only competition at the time came from The Footlights, who were notorious for trotting out the same few faces and the same tired material, the demand was high and our social life blossomed.

Dazzled by our success in cabaret, we decided to put on an end of year revue, using the YMCA hall then across the road from College. I think it was called 'Bits and Pieces' and Roger Roe designed the poster. The show was hugely successful and featured a memorable parody of the ill-fated musical 'Zuleika', based on Max Beerbohm's 'Zuleika Dobson'. Our version was titled 'Eureka' and celebrated the Oxford femme fatale Eureka Fyshwick, together with some easily recognised Cambridge figures of the time. Later there were cabaret engagements at the Liberal Party Green Ribbon Ball (second on the bill to Humphrey Lyttleton's Jazz Band), at a USAAF officers' club dance (some polite bafflement over our humour) and at the Festival Hall for one of the London University colleges (a total disaster; ten of us crowded around a single microphone in a venue the size of an aircraft hangar; with a largely indifferent audience sitting about 200m away).

The 1955 revue, 'Pieces at Eight', was memorable on several counts. Robin Chapman had just played the lead in the ADC centenary production of 'Hamlet' – a production voted far and wide as one of the most hilarious travesties in theatrical history. Let me stress that this was no fault of Robin, who was a fine actor, but entirely the fault of the director, one Henry Burke, whose name said it all. Denis O'Meagher, also a member of the Pieces, was playing Second Gravedigger and regaled us with near-incredible stories of the rehearsals. Poor

Robin was forced to wear motley for the mad scenes and to mount a small rostrum downstage centre for every soliloquy. The set consisted of a vertiginous arc of steps reaching almost into the lighting bars and all exits began with a move to left or right, followed by a dramatic about turn in the opposite direction. This, it was claimed, was 'significant movement'.

It was too good a target to miss. Our revue opened two or three weeks later and featured a first act closer of the well-known tragedy 'Othmaclet', starring Robin Chapman in a quite brilliant parody of his own performance as Hamlet. His entry was stunning – a dramatic slide on his knees to dead centre stage framed in a single spotlight, dressed in the ADC motley costume! The sketch was a show-stopper every night and the audiences were almost hysterical. There was an exception on one night – a stony-faced Henry Burke in the fifth row. From memory it was on the same night that Tim Berington, then President of The Footlights, rushed backstage after the close to insist that everyone should join. This was a bit of a gaffe, as The Footlights still had not admitted women and our stunning female performers were understandably not amused.

The picture is of a sketch called 'The Old Elizabethans', from the 1955 revue. It shows Bill Rowlinson as the Mitre Tavern barman and would-be playwright William Shakespeare, with Ben (?), Robin Chapman and me as his mentors Jonson, Marlowe and Webster. The sketch was written by Ted Taylor, I believe. Most of the audience recognised the costumes as those of the Ambassadors in a recent Marlowe Society production of 'Volpone', whose cast included Daniel Massey, Peter Woodthorpe and Jonathan Miller.

John Rees-Osborne emigrated to Australia in 1966. Now retired, he occupies much of his time in performing in community theatre on Queensland's Gold Coast. He is about to appear in a production of 'Our Country's Good' the story of the first-ever theatrical production in Australia, the 1789 performance of Farquhar's 'The Recruiting Officer' by a cast of convicts.



Kat with the Christ's rowers

Farewell to the Boathouse

Kat Astley, Boathouse Manager

With a tear in my eye it's time to let you all know that, as of December 2009 I am no longer the Boatman of Christ's College Boat Club. It's been a big decision, but it's time to move on. And of course there is never a 'right time' or such a decision; I've anguished about the fact I shall miss the new Boathouse coming to fruition, I shan't be in post when our University Triallists race their Boat Races in 2010, to name but a few. There's really far too little space to detail all the remarkable things that are afoot here in the Club at present; suffice to say that my time here has been a pleasure and a privilege, and I shall be incredibly sad to leave. It would be impossible to identify the best moment, but all of my favourite memories have been about people, rather than events. Vivid recollections of the emotions and relationships that characterise the best teams, the best performances, the highest endeavours. Joy in the fellowship and camaraderie and closeness that 'messaging about in boats' engenders. Thank you to everyone who has helped or encouraged me since 2006, particularly to Robin Kerr whose support and friendship I value beyond measure. I shall be forever a Christ's girl, and shall be whooping, hollering, whistling and cheering my way along the riverbank at every possible opportunity in support of our crews! Hope to see you there!



Left to right: Alex Cullen (Development Officer), Rowan Kitt (m. 1991), Andrew Brooke (m. 1989) Rosie Applin (Alumni Officer), Duncan Johnson (m. 1989)

Rugby Success

The Varsity rugby match at Twickenham on December 10th saw some 90 Christ's alumni and guests gathering for lunch and to watch the historic game, in which Cambridge defeated Oxford 31–27. Due to the popularity of this year's event next year we hope to advertise the event earlier and book a larger room for Christ's so that more alumni will be able to attend.

Sport in Brief



A group from Christ's (pictured above) spent part of the Long Vacation cycling in the Loire Valley with a college travel grant. They covered the distance from Orleans to Nantes along a new cycle route, La Loire a Velo, staying in campsites for the most part. Here they are shown at the Chateau de Chambord near Blois on 23rd June.

Hippolytans News

by President Rachael Stubbins

The new committee (Rachael Stubbins as President, Pippa Hammond as Secretary and Gen Gotla as Treasurer) took over after an election at the Hippolytans Annual Dinner on 7th March with high hopes of raising the profile of female sport both within Christ's and throughout the university. At the end of Easter Term we received applications; we now have 10 new members who we hope will continue to help support Christ's best sportswomen and to encourage the rest of the female student body to get involved in this part of College life. There is certainly no shortage of female sporting talent to go alongside those of their male counterparts; current Hippolytans members include University Lacrosse Captain Genevieve Gotla; Sammy Jones, member of the 2nd team University Badminton team; 2 members of the University lightweights Varsity 09 rowing crew, Eddie Surtees and Mary Bjorkegren, and Liz Box, Cox of the University Men's Lightweight Crew Varsity 09; and Penny Thuesen, who is currently trialling for the University rowing squad.



Christ's College Cambridge

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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.

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- ☐ I would like information about leaving a bequest to the College
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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: ra371@cam.ac.uk; phone 01223 768276

Wednesday 3 March

Lady Margaret Lecture by Professor Tanya Luhrmann in the Yusuf Hamied Centre

Tuesday 16 March

College Open Day for Prospective Students (all subjects)

Saturday 20 March

Friends of The Old Library Spring Event – “I was never intended for a traveller”: travel and exploration by members of Christ's College

Saturday 27 March

MA Congregation for alumni who matriculated in 2003. Lunch, tea and dinner in Hall.

Saturday 10 April

Meeting of Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (open to all Christ's graduates and members in the Medical and Veterinary Sciences and allied Natural Sciences)

June 19

Garden Party and Buffet Lunch for alumni who matriculated in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 or 1964

June 26

The Annual Christ's Association Dinner – open to all members of College

July 10

Family Day and Summer Garden Party – an opportunity to bring your family to College – open to all alumni

September 11

Reunion Dinner in Hall for those who matriculated in for alumni who matriculated in years 1940 through to 1950, or in years 1965 or 1966

September 25

Reunion Dinner in Hall for alumni who matriculated in 1967, 1968 or 1969 or from 1949 or before

More ways to connect with Christ's Alumni...



Social networking on **Facebook**



Connect professionally on **LinkedIn**



News updates on **Twitter**

COMING SOON IN PIECES....

College in Harmony

Music at Christ's

Food for Thought

Recipes from Christ's and profiles of alumni who've cooked up a storm.

Next issue out in Easter term

A Parting Shot...

A view of First Court, by Artist in Residence Issam Kourbaj.