

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 19 Lent Term 2011



Expanding Horizons

Travel Reports from
Christ's

Write of Passage

Interview with a
Screenwriter

Social Networks

Michael Kearns and the
Lady Margaret Lecture



The Master at last year's MA Graduation

From the Master

Welcome to this term's edition of *Pieces*. The first signs of Spring are finally upon us as Crocuses and Snowdrops start to open around the College. In Third Court (page 3) we have the welcome edition of a *Paulownia Tomentosa* to replace the *Sophora Japonica*.

Signs of new growth are not confined to the College gardens: in the Chapel we have the new altar reredos (page 3) and on page 5 we introduce our new librarian, Nazlin Bhimani. Nazlin describes her previous career and shares her thoughts on the future of libraries.

At Christ's we run various schemes to help students in their future careers. In 'Expanding Horizons' (page 6) three Christ's students who have benefited from travel grants describe their experiences. The various funds provided by the College and alumni offer students the opportunity to carry out research and the possibility of valuable work experience abroad. In 'Write of Passage' (page 8) there is an interview with Roger Stennett (m. 1969), a professional dramatist and screenwriter, who volunteered his time to run a writing workshop.

Looking back, we revisit the life of Ian Ramsey, former Chaplain of Christ's, in a review of his biography *The Improbable Bishop: Ian Ramsey of Durham* (page 5) and William Peterson, Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics, reflects on his career at Christ's (page 4). We also look at the connection between Gandhi and a former student the Rev. Phillip Lea (m. 1924) (page 12).

We hope you enjoy the Lent edition of *Pieces*.

Frank Kelly FRS

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- 3 College Catch-up**
- 4 Turning a New Page**
Introducing Nazli Bhimani & Dr Peterson reflects
- 5 Review & Chapel News**
- 6 Expanding Horizons**
Travel reports from three Christ's students
- 8 Write of Passage**
Roger Stennett (m. 1969) on writing
- 10 Social Networks**
Michael Kearns & the Lady Margaret Lecture
- 11 Intimate Distances**
Exhibition, performance & catalogue
- 12 Gandhi and the Rev. Philip Lea (m. 1924)**
- 13 Development News**
- 14 Making a Gift**
- 16 Dates for your Diary**



Students in First Court (above). Flowers in Third Court (Cover Image).

College and Alumni News



(Detail from reredos)

Regrowth in Third Court



A *Paulownia Tomentosa* has been planted in Third Court to replace the diseased *Sophora Japonica*, which was removed.

Rowan Williams to Officiate at Royal Wedding

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams (m. 1968) will perform the marriage ceremony of Prince William and Kate Middleton on 29 April in Westminster Abbey.

St James' Palace has revealed that the ceremony will begin at 11.00. The Dean of Westminster will conduct the service and the Archbishop of Canterbury will perform the marriage, with an address given by the Bishop of London.

Colonial Counterpoint by Junior Research Fellow Dr David Irving nominated as Book of the Year by *BBC History Magazine*

Colonial Counterpoint: Music in Early Modern Manila, featured in Issue 18 of *Pieces*, has been nominated as one of eighteen 'Books of the Year' for 2010 by *BBC History Magazine*. The historian Felipe Fernández-Armesto nominated *Colonial Counterpoint*, saying:

"... it inspires the excitement of a new departure in historical tradition and the awareness of new possibilities for the future. Never before has a writer done such a perfect job of making music a subject of cultural history and writing about it intelligibly for every kind of readership. I've struggled unsuccessfully to get music into my own classes and books; DRM Irving has found the right idiom as if by magic. And, by the way, he has made a fundamental contribution to the study of early modern empires and of the Filipino past."

Unveiling of New Reredos

This Easter Sunday (24 April) Christ's College Chapel unveils the new altar reredos by the current Leverhulme Artist in Residence Tom de Freston.

The service will be Anglican Choral Evensong with special choral music by the College Choir; readings from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible and sermon from the College Chaplain. The service will include an unveiling and dedication of the altar piece and a short conversation between the Chaplain and Tom de Freston about the work of art followed by a champagne reception in Hall.

The Revd Christopher Woods, College Chaplain said: "In this Chapel, we have had the great Caro sculpture of 'The Deposition' in our midst for ten years. Now, in 2011 we also have the de Freston altarpiece: a new reflection for our time on the human reality of falling to the depths of despair, yet rising again abundantly to life and hope again."

A catalogue has been published by Green Pebble to accompany the installation. It includes a foreword by Sir Nicholas Serota and essays by Rowan Williams, Ruth Padel, Graham Howes and Jaya Savige, amongst others.

Tickets for the champagne reception (Evensong is of course free) are £10. There is limited seating available in chapel. For more information please contact Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer, to book a place: 01223 768276 | ra371@cam.ac.uk



New altar reredos in Christ's Chapel by Tom de Freston

Turning a New Page

Introducing Nazlin Bimani, College Librarian



I was born in Uganda, moved to England when I was 10; found England wasn't cold enough and moved on to Canada. My undergraduate degree was in Music and I followed this with a Masters in Musicology, both from the University of British Columbia, though now, sadly, I have to describe myself as a closet guitarist. London, Ontario where I did a Masters in Library &

Information Sciences, proved too cold and I ended up back in London, England.

Although I am a child of three continents, most of my professional life has been in the UK where I have worked at the Royal Academy of Music and the BBC before moving into the Higher Education sector. Most recently I worked at Middlesex University (both in the School of Arts & Humanities – in what was the Hornsey College of Art - and in the School of Engineering & Information Sciences) where I developed expertise in the application of new technologies in library and information management. I also discovered my passion for the 'teacher-librarian' role, and was given a Teaching Fellowship, collaborating closely with academic staff in locating information resources and their effective use at the centre of learning. I enjoy training / consultancy work and have worked with librarians in Syria and Uzbekistan. This year I hope to do similar work in Armenia and Georgia for Tempus, an EU-funded project which aims to modernise higher education in developing countries.

I have two rather feline daughters and two very canine sheepdogs. I live in London and have learnt over the past two months to enjoy public transport – well, to try to. More unambiguously I love my garden, even in winter. My ambition is simple: to work to create an absolutely first class library at Christ's and to make it the heart of the college community. There is much to do in developing the collection, overhauling systems and process in order to make the collections more accessible and to promote their use. With the possibility of a new building, I believe we can look forward to having a college library which preserves and carries forward the College's intellectual history while providing a 21st century state-of-the-art facility.

Did you know the Library now blogs and tweets?

The blog will highlight new acquisitions, inform students and staff about library services, publicise answers to interesting enquiries, particularly those relevant to the Old Library collection, and highlight events and lectures. You can view and subscribe to the blog at: <http://christslibrary.blogspot.com> and follow the Library at Christ's on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/christslibrary>.

William Peterson,

Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics, retiring from teaching this year, reflects on his time at Christ's



One of the enjoyable things about working as an economist is that there are always new problems to think about, or old problems in a new guise. When I studied as an undergraduate in the late 1960's the key issue was how the international financial system would respond to the decline of British economic power. Some would suggest that understanding that episode might now help the US to manage a gradual shift away from the preponderance of the dollar. I was lucky in that I studied Economics at a time when many of those who had been Keynes' pupils and collaborators were still active. In particular soon after I graduated I got a job working with Dick (formally Sir Richard) Stone in the Cambridge Department of Applied Economics. Dick had set up the Cambridge Growth Project, a small group of researchers who were developing one of the first large-scale computable models of a national economy. Like all the best research leaders, he believed in letting his colleagues develop their own ideas freely, while taking care to provide wise advice about what was, or was not, both feasible and relevant to the project's overall aims. Trying to forecast how the British economy would evolve as the exchange rate floated, oil prices quadrupled and inflation rose to 25% was an excellent way to understand macroeconomics.

Although I had been supervising on an informal basis for other Colleges for several years, I only became a Fellow of Christ's in 1976. At the time the College was debating whether to admit women students: more than thirty years later it is hard to understand why this was a contentious issue. One of the things which I have always appreciated about being a Fellow of Christ's is the opportunity to teach a student throughout their undergraduate career. But I also like the fact that teaching enthusiastic students about a wide range of topics is an excellent antidote to the common academic disease of abandoning interest in anything not directly related to a narrow range of research interests. And I've also enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the task of running the College by helping to advise on the College's investments, since this too has provided a link between my academic thinking and the wider economy. Becoming a Fellow of Christ's also brought me into contact with another of Keynes' colleagues, James Meade. Like many of his generation, James had become an economist from a determination to contribute to improving the world by reducing unemployment and poverty, and I very much believe that this is still what we should be trying to do. During my period at Christ's I organised a series of research projects which tried to compare the effectiveness of alternative strategies for public housing provision. Doing this showed me how important it was to look at both the overall costs of a particular policy and its impact on individual households: I don't think the economist should ignore the wider consequences of his policy recommendations. I would hope that my students over the years have also reached the same conclusion.

The Improbable Bishop; Ian Ramsey of Durham

Ian Ramsey was Chaplain of Christ's in the 1940s. His son Paul Ramsey (m. 1964) later attended the College. Chaplain Christopher Woods reviews Ian Ramsey's biography by John S Peart-Binns

The Improbable Bishop would be a biography of interest to anyone who remembered the Revd Ian Ramsey when he was an undergraduate at Cambridge in the 1930s or as Chaplain of Christ's College, in the 1940s. The large proportion of the biography deals with the characteristics and attributes of the overall person and indeed most especially after he became the Bishop of Durham in 1966.



Bishop Ian Ramsey pictured with his son Paul (m. 1964) and wife Gail on their wedding day. The Bishop married the couple on 17 April 1971 and is pictured wearing the Durham Coronation Cope.

What is especially attractive is the way in which Ramsey is presented as 'Everybody's Bishop' throughout the study, but not least in the chapter with this title. It is clear from Peart-Binns's biographical research that Ramsey's character flourished as bishop of Durham and he was both a 'Prince Bishop' yet at the same time, a 'People's Bishop'. This cannot be said of all those in Episcopal orders! In Chapter 9 of *The Improbable Bishop*, we read "[Ramsey] did not recognise boundary fences. He gave himself unsparingly to the people of Durham but also to everyone else" (p119). This hits at the root of Ramsey's ministry and is an accurate summary of the man, the priest and the bishop.

Peart-Binns charts the life of Ramsey, at first rather briefly as a Lancashire-born child, and skirts very quickly over his early career in Cambridge and at Oxford. This is a shame, but the insight gained from the more concentrated chapters of Ramsey the bishop more than makes up for the early lack of detail. There is interesting detail and research on Ramsey the political bishop, most notably as a member of the House of Lords, but also as a prominent figure in the northern England marches against poverty.

The biography has some small inaccuracies but is largely well-researched and informative. It contains some very

amusing and attractive photographs of Ramsey and his various entourages at various stages in his ministry and personal life. One particularly charming photograph is of Ramsey surrounded by young children in a night club! Well worth a read if you remember and were fond of the late Ian Ramsey, priest and bishop.

Highlights of Chapel Events, Easter Term



Easter Sunday, 24 April at 6pm: Festal Evensong for Easter Day with the unveiling of the De Freston altarpiece. The College celebrates its feast of Title (The Resurrection) with a special service of Evensong with music from the College Choir, including Howells St Paul's Canticles and Vaughan Williams' beautiful Easter anthem 'Rise Heart!' During the service we will unveil a new reredos, painted by the Leverhulme artist in residence, Tom de Freston, entitled 'Deposition and Resurrection'. (For further details see p.3)

Sunday 22 May at 6pm: 'The Risen Christ': an Easter Cantata by Sir Philip Ledger will receive the first liturgical performance in the world in Christ's College Chapel, in the presence of the composer, having been performed only twice before in May 2011 in Washington and Canterbury in concert contexts. All are welcome to this service which will include readings and prayers. 'The Risen Christ' is a setting of music by the composer and former Director of Music at King's College, Philip Ledger, with texts specially chosen by him. The work portrays three appearances of the risen Christ. The first of these is to Mary Magdalene at Christ's tomb, the second to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus, and the third to Simon Peter at the Sea of Tiberias. On each of these occasions, he is at first unrecognised. In the opening and final choruses, the words of Christ are sung by the choir.

Sunday 5 June at 6pm: The preacher at Choral Evensong will be the new Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway. He will also dedicate and bless a newly written icon of Our Lord, Lady Margaret Beaufort and St John Fisher, donated anonymously and crafted and written by Roy and Jenny Summerfield of Lincoln.

Expanding Horizons ...



Holly East conducting marine research with Operation Wallacea

Aside from the academic aspects of the trip, travelling to such a remote location proved to be a fantastic and unforgettable experience. The journey to the island was an experience in itself with a fifteen hour flight to Jakarta, four hour internal flight to Kendari, five hour 'speed ferry' to Baobao and fifteen hour 'slave boat' journey. On the island we were accommodated on the beach in wooden huts on stilts, to which such wildlife as rats, large spiders and geckos were frequent visitors! My trip to Hoga was an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience both academically and otherwise. It is incredibly rewarding to know that my work has the potential to have a lasting impact in conserving the reefs and the life that they support. Furthermore, the repercussions of my trip promise to extend beyond my dissertation and the Part II coral reefs course as I'm currently investigating the prospect of a pursuing a Masters course in marine environmental management.

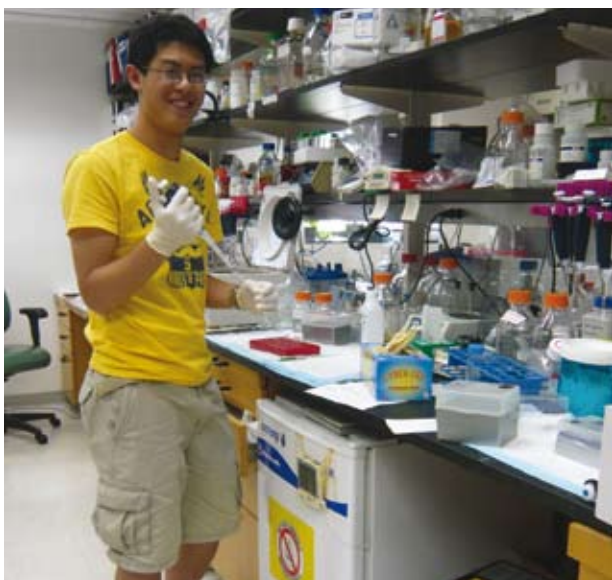
Report by natural sciences student Matthew Tsim (m. 2008). Sir Hans Kornberg Fund

I spent 10 weeks from 21 June 2010 to 27 August 2010 in the Laboratory of Lymphocyte Biology at the Rockefeller University, New York. This lab is headed by Dr F Nina Papavasiliou. I also worked in conjunction with the lab of Dr George Cross who is the André and Bella Meyer Professor of molecular parasitology at the University. This work was undertaken as part of the Rockefeller University's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. During my time in New York, I was given a project to undertake independently. I worked on a project investigating the factors that influence the switching rate of glycoproteins (known as VSGs) on the surface of trypanosomes. This switching mechanism is an antigenic variation mechanism that allows trypanosomes to survive in the blood-stream of the host and subsequently cause the diseases sleeping sickness in humans and nagana in cattle. The project work involved cloning into and the handling of trypanosomes in media. Whilst undertaking my project work, I learnt new lab skills, including cloning, reverse transcription and the handling of RNA, magnetic- and fluorescence- activated cell sorting, tissue culture and the use of radioactive probes. As part of the SURF

Report by geography student Holly East (m. 2008). College Vacation Travel Grant

Between 8 July and 20 August I collected data for my Part II dissertation at Operation Wallacea's internationally recognized centre of marine research on Hoga Island, South East Sulawesi, Indonesia. Operation Wallacea is an organization that conducts biological and conservation management research in remote locations around the world. Thus, the data has also contributed to Operation Wallacea's ongoing research and management of the region, as a part of the Wakatobi Marine National Park. My dissertation concerns the insular biogeography of fish on coral patch reefs. Using a mixture of snorkelling and SCUBA diving, data was collected regarding species richness, abundance, diversity, community stability, residence and transience, and adults and juveniles. That is in relation to the isolation, surface area, rugosity and biological complexity of each patch. As patch reefs may be regarded as habitat islands, surrounded by contrasting matrix, the data will be analysed to test the applicability of MacArthur and Wilson's classic 1967 monograph, the theory of island biogeography. If the theory is found to apply in this instance, this information could be used in determining size and placement of artificial reefs to encourage optimal colonization. Furthermore, such data from the intertidal zone is of great importance in assessing its conservation value at the local scale. In order to minimise experimental error, I undertook a one week intensive coral reef ecology course (affiliated by PADI and Operation Wallacea). Days were dictated by the tides as data was only collected in the high tide period so as to minimise the confounding variable of depth. As such, I would be in the water from as early as 6am for periods of up to six hours each day, which at times left me extremely wrinkled! Out of the water, time was occupied by fish identification to species level and subsequent recording of the findings in an extensive Excel spreadsheet. In addition, throughout my time on the island I worked on a report on my research to be sent to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. I also worked on a presentation of my findings, which I gave at the end of the trip to the scientists and other volunteers.

program, I attended a series of lectures given by Rockefeller University faculty members and weekly journal clubs with other students. In the journal club I worked with other students to give a presentation on a research paper we studied to fellow SURFers. At the end of the summer program I presented a poster on my project and answered questions regarding the project from other scientists. I was also able to travel to Washington D.C. for a weekend. It was an eye opening trip for me. Overall, my experiences over the summer have been extremely valuable. Along with learning new lab techniques, I was given the chance to perform independent research work alongside scientists who are at the cutting edge of their field. I met other research-minded students from a variety of backgrounds. The talks and journal club sessions allowed me to gain an insight into the American research environment and improve my own presentation and team work skills. This summer was my first trip to America. I enjoyed having the experience of living in New York and the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. I would like to thank the Managers of the College Travel Awards for their generous



Matthew Tsim conducting project work

grant from the Sir Hans Kornberg Fund. My thanks also go to Dr F Nina Papavasiliou and Dr George Cross for allowing me to spend time in their research labs. I am also grateful for the funding provided by the Rockefeller University's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. I have benefited a great deal from the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, and the travel grant has enabled me to gain a firsthand experience of the American research environment.

*Report by modern languages student Anna Brooke (m. 2006).
Jack and Margaret Thornton Travel Award Report*

Last summer I spent two weeks in Morocco taking part in a project, run by a small, local organisation. My time there was one of the most fantastic experiences I have ever had abroad. I spent the first week living in a host family and going to Arabic lessons in Rabat. I learnt to read and write the Arabic alphabet and some basic words and phrases to use



Market Stalls in Morocco

with my host family. I felt very privileged to be so warmly welcomed into a local family and to have the chance to experience how people live there. One of the most eye-opening experiences I had with the family was going to the local hamam (Turkish baths) with two of my host sisters, Amal and Meena. We carried everything we could possibly need - buckets, bath mats, plastic stools, pots, flannels and back-scratchers, plus the two babies - from the house, up the narrow street to the main road. The little children playing in the street and sitting on the doorsteps called out: 'Coucou, salut Anna, salaam! ...La bes? How are you? ... Bienvenue au Maroc!' I have a lot of admiration for cultures where people learn to speak many languages, so I was very excited when they all came in one go! We passed by market stalls on the way and bought thick waxy soap and henna powder. Once inside the hamam - a maze of dark, hot, steamy rooms - we filled the buckets and doused the floor around us, washed and soaped ourselves, made a muddy mix from the henna and water and covered ourselves in it from head to foot. Then we scrubbed each other's backs and began the whole process over again. And again... and again.... It lasted three hours in total! Going with Meena and Amal certainly meant I experienced a truly Moroccan back scrub (ouch!) and I got to practise some Arabic to the amusement of the other women there, but it also allowed me a small glimpse into how important the hamam can be for Moroccan women, as it is one of the few spaces where they can spend time away from men and their families. One of the sisters described how she used to spend hours and hours in a hamam before she got married. Judging by the twinkle in her eye when she said this, she certainly seemed to associate going to the hamam with a liberating experience. We were lucky that her husband had allowed her to come this time, she told me quietly afterwards. After my time in Rabat, I went trekking in the High Atlas Mountains. We spent six days up in the mountains, walking through Berber villages and staying in refuges. It was the height of the walnut harvest and whole families were out in the orchards, shaking down the walnuts from the trees. On the final day we climbed to the summit of the highest mountain in North Africa, Mount Toubkal, 4167 m. We left the base camp refuge just before sunrise and climbed as the sun came up over the tips of the mountains around us and bathed the rocky landscape in deep orange light. I would like to thank the Jack and Margaret Thornton travel fund again for enabling me to go on this fantastic trip. Shukran!

Write of Passage ...

Roger Stennett (m. 1969) is a professional dramatist and screenwriter. He has written for Film, TV, Theatre, Radio Drama, Radio Features, Poetry and Animation. He is also a Psychotherapist and Supervisor in Bristol. On a cold weekend in November he offered his time to run a two-day drama Writing Workshop in Christ's, attended by members of the newly founded College writing group. Tamsin Astbury asked him about his career.

What were your experiences of studying here ?

An 'intense' time. Cambridge seemed a fairly radical place then, and I well remember Red Flags flying from The Old Schools during a sit-in. My teachers were a pretty amazing lot, especially Simon [Schama], and the wonderful Roy Porter, who sadly died some years ago. I enjoyed Cambridge History, and its methodology has served me well as a Dramatist for more than three decades. I am pretty good at 'filleting' chunks of information when I research plays and films, and a lot of my dramatic fiction has a documentary, biographical or historical dimension. I remember how chilly I found Cambridge, freezing days training at the Athletics Track at Milton Road (I was an International and Athletics Blue) and wondering 'why on earth'. But I also remember the sheer beauty of the place, especially in the Spring. Most of all I remember my chums, many of whom I am still in touch with. We now meet up each year in Christ's for the Association Dinner. All apart from Chris Woodward, my 'best friend' from Grammar School, who sadly died a few years ago, but whose memory is still very much with me.



What are you working on at the moment ?

I have three Feature Film scripts, including one with Film Council development finance. I am giving each a final 'polish' before my Literary Agent lets them loose on the world in the Spring. One of these, "Paradox Road", is set in Cambridge and Christ's has a 'cameo role' in it. I also have two new screenplays I am developing this year: "Beginners Please" which is set against the backdrop of late 1950's Variety Theatre, which was the backstage world in which I grew up, since my father is the comedian, Stan Stennett. The other, which is called "Transference", is about my 'other life'. It's a drama about a Psychotherapist and a female Client. A published stage play "Out Of The Sun" is set for a tour later in 2011. Finally, I have a Live Action/ Animation TV series commissioned by ITV for transmission in 2012, and a Radio Drama ("Butterfly Dreaming") in development about a reincarnated Samurai and Haiku Poetry. I also run Writing Workshops at several universities, including Oxford, Bristol, and Manchester. I do like to think that I'm just 'getting into my stride' at the tender age of 61.

What is the relationship between the two strands of your career?

Formally none. But as well as functioning as a creator of fictional lives for 35 years, for the past five years I have also spent 2,000 hours sharing, one-to-one, with real people, working two days a week as a Psychotherapist and Hypnotherapist in a busy Practice in Bristol. It's an intensely "Confidential" world. I am what is called a Person Centred Therapist but also trained in other 'modalities' including Solution Focused Brief Therapy, Mindfulness Based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, N.L.P and Gestalt. Recently I qualified as a Clinical Supervisor, mentoring a group of other therapists, month on month. Less formally of course there is a powerful synergy between my worlds. In many ways my experience creating fictional characters, back-stories, 'inciting

incidents', protagonist/antagonist and 'third-act' resolutions of dramatic lives helps when dealing with 'truth', which is always stranger than fiction. Sometimes I will choose to use a psycho-theatric approach with clients, or use role-play and improvisational techniques, if I believe they will serve a useful therapeutic purpose. I am also a long-term student of Buddhism, and often bring Eastern "Mindfulness" based concepts into my consulting room. I think that everything, including creativity, therapy, spirituality and even my own martial art of Aikido, are simply different facets of a life force and 'energy' that we all try to handle in the world, hopefully to some point and purpose. Dramatic storytelling, when it reaches its deepest and widest, is based upon human 'Universals' in terms of key themes. Love. Hate. Death. Passion. Loss. Betrayal. Hope. After so many hours of working with Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, Addiction, Abuse, Self-Harming, Fear and Despair, I've seen my fair amount of 'Universals' in my Consulting Room, so my two 'worlds' do actually run in parallel.

Why do you write?

"Because it's there." Writing is my own 'Everest', to be climbed 'just because' Having been a freelance almost all my working life, I really am 'feral'. I've never worked in an Office, and despite an education second to none, I chose not to become 'A Captain of Industry'. I write because I can't not write. It is a passion. It's a vocation. It's certainly a life choice, and I think a real privilege in terms of how I am able to spend my time. But it comes at a price. That price is mostly financial, but sometimes the strain and stresses of the uncertainty manifest. Occasionally I wonder why I didn't become a Doctor, which was my alternative reality. Most times though I just know why I did become a Writer. Maybe in the next Life I'll be a Brain Surgeon. I'll try to remember to let you know. I passionately believe in the artistic and healing power of creativity, and the need for everyone to discover their own distinct 'Voice'. That's one of the reasons I enjoy working with

'baby writers' of all ages and circumstances, from Primary kids through to university students, with several forays into my other world, such as running writing groups with NHS Schizophrenic patients on the theme of hearing voices.

When and where do you write?

I often quote novelist John Steinbeck who said "I only ever write when I am inspired, but I see to it that I am inspired at 9-00am every morning". Most writers trying to make a living from their 'pen' work office hours, and certainly if you want to produce a screenplay, which is around 120 pages, it doesn't magically appear on the computer screen without a fair amount of gluing yourself to the seat. I have a writing room in my house near Bristol. It's crammed full of books on Therapy, Writing, Poetry, Martial Arts, Zen, and has walls covered with Japanese 'kanji' and the odd 'katana' (Samurai Sword). But I also write on trains, in buses, in pubs and often in my head. The work is what is important, not the 'where' of the work. If you have something important to say, it will come calling for you to see if you can come out to play. Dramatic characters can be like The Mafia, gathering you up, and telling you the stories they want you to bring into the world.

Have you any advice for new writers?

Write. Just do it. Don't simply talk about writing. Write. Learn the tricks of your trade from working professionals, courses and books, but never forget that "Writers write". Nothing replaces the experience of trying, and failing, and trying again.

Plan. Don't just race into a script or a screenplay. I am a great believer in 'Treatments' and 'Blueprints' before you let the words run free. New writers seldom write good Plot and good Dialogue at the same time. Create a 'skeleton' first, and then stretch the 'flesh' of words over the bones. **Enjoy.** It's meant to be life enhancing. It is a gift and a joy to be able to use words to express a point of view. Make every word count. **Be Original.** The world already has many fine writers. Don't be Version 2 of them. Be Version 1 of you. **Share.** Find others of like mind, and support each other; maybe even reading each other's work out aloud. That's the moment when a dramatist learns so much about a script. When he/she hears it spoken by others. **Watch and Listen.** Go to the Theatre, see movies and listen to radio Plays. Know what other practitioners are doing, as well as learning something about the 'market' that might support you. Encourage places of learning to bring in working writers to run workshops and share tales of the real world of writing. Academics are all very well, but try listening to the advice of someone who doesn't have a regular salary cheque coming in at the end of the month, and who has to make writing work or starve. Way back in 1985, Ted Hughes wrote me a kind letter saying "Are you managing to stay away from Employers? I hope so. Force 'writing' to evolve to support you". I'm still trying...



Jack Belloli (m. 2009) studies English and heads the newly founded Christ's writing group. The Group meets on Thursday evenings as a forum for creative discussion, support and collaboration and attended Roger's workshop. Tamsin Astbury asked Jack about being a student writer.

What are your experiences of Christ's?

It's amazing how many writers Christ's seems to attract. During Ruth Padel's tenure as Poet-in-Residence, it was striking to attend workshops where I was sharing my poetry not only with other undergraduates, but also my practical criticism supervisor and one of the College librarians. More recently, Issam Kourbaj's 'Intimate Distances' project has had the same effect (page 11).



What do you write?

I'm interested in exploring connections between faith and language - the recent quinqucentenary reading in Christ's Chapel was inspirational. A few years ago, I wrote 'The Zebra Did It' a surreal one-act play which some friends put on at a local amateur theatre. Since then, I've developed some shorter stage-plays, most recently staying up all night to write for the '24 Hour Plays' at the ADC Theatre! I'm currently completing the treatment for 'All in the Gutter', a radio script for CAM-FM.

Why do you write?

In drama I'm fascinated by the way actions encode power dynamics. So many actions we take for granted - eating, reading, making announcements - can speak volumes about our relationships with others if drama puts pressure on them.

When?

Matthew Caley described writing as 'a marginal, fragile, grubby, fugitive business' - which I use as my justification for not having any sense of routine and discipline! I write best when I know I've got a clear few hours absolutely spare, or some sort of goal or commission.

What are your hopes are for the future?

To keep writing and keep enjoying it. Part of me wants to get out into the world to try and write professionally, but part of me wants to stay on in postgraduate study and find a way of writing on the side. I've got some ideas for a play about John Leland - an antiquarian and Christ's alumnus who was driven mad cataloguing the books destroyed during the Reformation - which I'd like to get on paper (at least) before I leave.

Jack (above) giving notes to CADS actors at the writing workshop. Roger with CADS actors giving a reading at the workshop (left)

For details of Roger's work, please see his web site: web.mac.com/roger.stennett Or please contact him at roger.stennett@gmail.com

Michael Kearns

is Professor of Computer and Information Science, University of Pennsylvania and Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Christ's College. He gave the Lady Margaret Lecture 'Strategic Behavior and the Science of Social Networks' on February 2, 2011. Michael introduces himself and offers a synopsis of his lecture.

I'm Michael Kearns and I'm honored and delighted to be a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Christ's through Summer 2011. I am visiting from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where I am Professor of Computer and Information Science. My research interests are broad and interdisciplinary, and include topics in machine learning, artificial intelligence, social networks, algorithmic problems in game theory and economics, and quantitative finance. One of my primary motivations in visiting Cambridge - aside from its incredible beauty and history - is to collaborate with Christ's Fellow and Professor of Economics Sanjeev Goyal, with whom I share interests in game-theoretic models of social networks.

I've brought my entire family with me to Cambridge - my wife Kim, daughter Kate (soon to turn 10), and son Gray (soon to turn 8). Having them along brings me full circle on one path in my life: in 1969, when I was in the first grade, my father (a chemistry professor) came to Cambridge on sabbatical. We lived in the Clare Hall housing off Grange Road and my older sister and I attended the Shrubbery School. I had half-hoped to place my own children there as well, but alas they closed in 1984... a fact I learned, of course, from an alumni page on Facebook.

Strategic Behavior and the Science of Social Networks *Synopsis of the Lady Margaret Lecture*

The modern ability to carefully measure large-scale social and other networks has driven new empirical studies and theoretical models of growth, dynamics, influence, and collective behavior in such systems. This emerging science is inherently interdisciplinary, with key contributions coming from sociologists, computer scientists, mathematicians, physicists, and economists.

One of the primary claims of this new science is that despite their many differences of origin, growth, and function, many large-scale networks - social, economic, organizational, technological, even biological networks - share in common a number of striking "universal" structural properties. Perhaps the best known of these is the notion of networks with small diameter; first popularized in the concept of "six degrees of separation" in social networks, but more generally entailing the idea of the distance between a typical pair of individuals in the network being much smaller than the overall population size. Other apparent universals include the presence of "connectors" - individuals in the network with a number of neighbors or connections far exceeding the average - and link clustering, or the phenomenon of "friends of friends" also being friends.

Empirically observing the frequent appearance of these properties in diverse networks is one thing; providing simple and appealing mathematical models for network growth that explain their presence is another, but has seen notable progress in the last decade or so.

For example, a network formation model known as preferential attachment provides just one explanation for the appearance of connectors, and is based on a "rich get richer" dynamic in which individuals with more friends are more likely to make even more friendships in the future. Such general principles are appealing because they can explain the presence of connectors in non-social networks as well - a business in a particular industry might come to dominate its competitors in a similar manner; with the preferential dynamic being that having more clients than others begets even further clients.

While much of the empirical investigation so far has focused on documenting the common structural properties of social networks, less is understood about how such structure *matters* - that is, in what ways network structure influences behavior and collective outcomes. For the past several years, the research group of Professor Kearns at the University of Pennsylvania has been conducting controlled human-subject experiments in strategic behavior in social networks to uncover the relationships between structure and outcome. Sample findings include that small but well-connected minorities in a social network can ritually influence the outcome of a biased voting game against the will of the greater majority, and that even closely related but distinct tasks can induce very different levels of difficulty for human subjects - strongly suggesting that social and organizational network structure must be tightly coordinated with the objective in order to induce effective behavior.

If you're interested in learning more about my research and professional interests, please visit www.cis.upenn/~mkearns. But please also contact me via email (mkearns@cis.upenn.edu) to just grab some tea or a pint, for a chat.



((above) Camera Obscura principle demonstration with hand)

Fellow **Dr Gavin Alexander**, reflects on the project.

John Locke, in 1690, famously compared the mind to a camera obscura, lit up by sense impressions from without and the play of ideas from within. 'Would the pictures coming into such a dark room but stay there,' he said, 'it would very much resemble the understanding of a man, in reference to all objects of sight, and the ideas of them.' By photographing the transitory images projected through pinholes on to the walls of darkened College rooms, Issam hauntingly completes Locke's analogy. Each room is like a mind engaged in an effort of imagination – glimpsing the projected image of something beyond the here and now. The room is transformed by the image that passes through it, and the image is transformed in return.

We can look at neither the inside nor the outside of our College's spaces in the same way once they have been cast into this beautiful dance with each other. The book that complements the exhibition adds a further dialogue: for each image, a poem or short piece of prose by a member of the College – staff, students, Fellows, past and present. The text and the image stand face to face, the text literally as well as figuratively reflecting upon the image. To hold the book is exhilarating and disorienting. Are you looking out or are you looking in? Which way up are you? Does the text reflect the image or the image reflect the text?

Some of those verse or prose reflections keep their imaginings within the magical inside-outside space of the image; others take flight to other places and spaces, objects and ideas, memories. But all see one thing and think of another. Or, rather, they see two things at once, as we can in the pictures. Our thoughts can only proceed by making comparisons and juxtapositions: by saying that this is this and not that, but also by recognising the ways in which this is like that and that is like this. We think with images, as Aristotle had said and as Locke agreed; and we think with similes and metaphors. This wonderful, collaborative project brings to visible life the ways we think, and the ways we think about thought.

Window by Gale Burns (m. 1972) - *Alumnus contributor & Poet in Residence @ Sydenham Arts Festival*

Homage to the word, lit on a page,
to minds jostling, to cantilevered
associations – a privilege; to privilege;
to my home this room, laid bare
like a body, for the learning of bodies.

Through a window, an eye: outside in,
downside up, trapping the Court where I
ground pavements, evaded Chaplaincy rooms,
ruminated beans from the Buttery;
where lived the only black student
I knew, and his yearned-for girlfriend.

Flowers descend like candelabra,
cushions and chairs lighter than air;
I've abandoned my bones, am adrift
in a broad-beamed boat, tumbling
through sea; dreaming, dreaming
of home.

For info on Gale & his
publications please visit:
www.galeburns.co.uk

Distances

Last summer **Issam Kourbaj**, Christ's Artist in Residence, ran the 'Intimate distances' photography project with Hannah Newton (m. 2009) and Sophie Skarbek (m. 2008). Issam describes the project and the resulting collaboration between alumni, students and staff.

According to the Camera Obscura principle, creating a darkened space with a single pinhole window to the day lit world outside you inevitably get a projection of that external panorama on the back wall of your darkened room - but upside-down. As your eyes accustom themselves, they see the true colours of everything, the movement of the trees and traffic and sky, but the people are walking on the ceiling - upsetting to our sense of gravity! It's easy to come to terms with when the screen the image is projected on is a plain white sheet, or wall; these were the conditions with which I had been working, as the College's artist in residence, in the deliberately utilitarian rooms comprising Christ's Visual Arts Centre. (The exhibition venue). The images of King Street and Malcolm Street, banal themselves, filled our plain workspaces with glowing magic. Now, just imagine what it would be like if you projected into some of the historic and richly textured spaces of the main buildings of the College the beautiful views available outside the windows, the courtyards and chimneys, the lawns and trees: what a rich perplexity and palimpsest there would be in the meshing of the two seemingly opposed images.

My two student assistants, Hannah, Sophie and I created each camera obscura in various College rooms. We selected the richest images for the exhibition; but often only at the last minute decided which orientation. The visual images called a literary counterpoint, and so we invited a literary response from Christ's staff, students and alumni writers. Twelve responses became part of the launch, with readings by the poets from the catalogue. On the night we were also rewarded with sound pieces by the College choir; and live viola performance by Gavin Alexander.



Image, by Issam Kourbaj 2010, 'fellow's room and second court' & (left) poetic response 'Window'

Gandhi and the Rev. Philip Lea (m.1924)

John Lea (m.1960), son of Rev. Philip Lea describes the return to India of his father's correspondence with Gandhi

Rev. Philip Lea (m.1924)

(also uncle of Lord Lea of Crondall, m. 1957) was Principal of CMS College in Kottayam, Kerala, South India in 1938 during the height of the Gandhian civil disobedience movement.

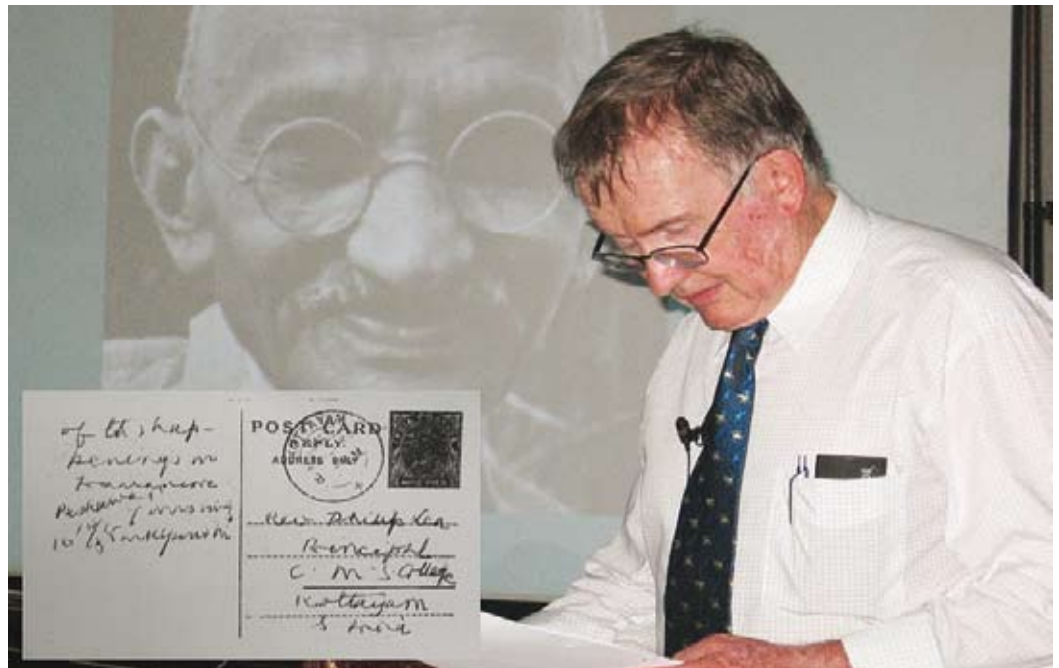
Some of the college students became very agitated indeed in October 1938, marooning Philip Lea and his wife Mary (a Newnham graduate) in their house on campus and disrupting classes. Philip Lea had met Gandhi the previous year and wrote to him suggesting that some students were prejudicing the educational prospects of all those at the college by their at times violent behaviour. Gandhi's handwritten reply by postcard sent from Peshawar on 16 October 1938 has remained buried among Lea family papers for the past 72 years. It reads: Side 1. "Dear Friend, I am issuing a statement as suggested by you. It is sad to think that the students should have resorted to rowdyism. I wish I had the influence you credit me with. Do please send me your report" Side 2. "of the happenings in Travancore. Yours sinly, 16 10/38 MK Gandhi."



Rev. Philip Lea (1906-1965)

True to his word, Gandhi issued a national press statement the following day (17 October 1938) in which he chided the student leaders for instigating violence on campus. In part the statement read:

"Obstruction, rowdyism and the like are naked violence. I am credited with influence over students. If I have any, I would ask them to observe non-violence in thought, word and deed. If, however, the forces of violence cannot be controlled



Dr John Lea and the Gandhi postcard, Kottayam, Kerala

by those who are in charge of the movement, it may be a question for them whether in the interest of the movement itself, it is not wise to suspend civil disobedience."

Philip Lea's son, Dr John Lea (m.1960) who is now a Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney, was invited to deliver the annual Benjamin Bailey Memorial Lecture in honour of the founder of CMS College, Kottayam (now part of the Mahatma Gandhi University of South India) in October 2010. He took the opportunity to donate the Gandhi postcard back to the college where it was received with much local publicity.

Sadly, Philip Lea did not live to learn that K.R. Narayanan, a student for whom he arranged a merit scholarship in 1938, a boy from a poor dalit family, later went on to become Indian Ambassador in Washington and the 10th President of India (1997-2002).



CMS College Principal Dr Korah Mani (left), Dr John Lea (centre) and Bishop Samuel (Chair of the College Governing Committee)

Development News

Library Court Development

For the past couple of years the College has been exploring the options for improving the College Library. The present building doesn't provide sufficient space for readers, and the staff offices are completely inadequate.

Having taken advice from a number of architects, the College Council concluded it would be best to demolish the College Library and rebuild it, in preference to erecting a new building separate from the Old Library.

As the result of a thorough selection process, Rick Mather Architects were commissioned to produce a feasibility study. They have previously worked for Oxford colleges and attracted praise for their new extension to the Ashmolean Museum. Rick Mather presented the study to the Governing Body in March 2010, and it was greeted with enthusiasm. Two months later the Governing Body confirmed that the study should be used to help raise the funds required to move on to the construction stage. As well as paying for the feasibility study, Dr Yusuf Hamied, Honorary Fellow, very generously enabled a planning application to be prepared. This is nearly complete and should be ready for submission by the end of March. We hope to have planning permission by the end of the summer.



Trial pits and bore holes being dug outside the library

To make this exciting yet essential project a reality we are seeking support from alumni and friends of the College. The new building will boast outstanding, spacious library facilities, an improved entrance from First Court, and a variety of study spaces, meeting rooms and an exhibition space. A café will also be created by placing a roof over the Court, providing

for the first time a social hub where students, Fellows and support staff can meet.

For further information about the project, please contact Catherine Twilley, Development Director: cmt23@cam.ac.uk (0)1223 748856.

Green Routes

A Green Careers Talk took place on Friday 12 November 2010 with Gareth Kane (m.1990) and Andrew Robinson (m.1988) pictured below with Holly East (m.2008)

"It was so interesting to meet college alumni and hear how their experiences at Christ's impacted on their future careers. There are surprisingly few green careers events around Cambridge so I think everyone found it to be a really useful evening." Holly East



The Development Office are currently planning a programme of more careers talks and would love to hear from interested alumni. For more information, please contact Rosie Applin: alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk



Could you be a Friend of the Old Library?

The Foundress of Christ's College, Lady Margaret Beaufort, donated the first books to Christ's College Library. Following in this tradition, the Old Library has become a home for over five centuries' worth of donations, amounting to a rich collection of treasured manuscripts and rare printed books including first editions of works by Darwin and Milton.

The FOL scheme was set up a few years ago with the purpose of bringing together alumni and friends who share an interest in books and history to support the upkeep and care of the Old Library. A yearly subscription of £50 single membership, £70 for a couple's membership or £20 for current student membership helps to fund the Old Libraries subscription to the Cambridge Conservation Consortium. This subscription enables us to purchase a dedicated number of hours from expert conservationists for the repair and preservation of the rare books collection.

Friends are invited to two talks a year on subjects as diverse as Darwin and Henslow, Calligraphy, Book Illustration, Persian and Arabic manuscripts and much more. The next FOL event is scheduled for Saturday 12 March and is about the architectural brain behind the Old Library, G.F Bodley. These events also include privileged access to fascinating Old Library exhibitions. For more information on the Old Library and the FOL scheme visit: www.bit.ly/friendsoftheoldlibrary2011. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please do get in touch with Rosie Applin, (Alumni Officer) alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk 01223 768276.



Sport

Football

Graeme Cade

Two new developments have taken place within men's football this term. For the first time, the club have secured weekly training sessions on local floodlit astro turf pitches (at Abbey Pool Leisure Centre). During the short winter days this is proving to be of immense value as it provides an opportunity for the club to hold structured training sessions away from the daytime demands of lectures and supervisions. In addition, the club have entered into the inaugural season of the CUAFC 5-a-side league. These short and fun games are very popular amongst the club members as well as allowing for fitness and skills training that will hopefully pay dividends in the regular format.

Cricket

Graeme Cade

Bi-weekly nets sessions at Fenner's are running throughout the Lent term, helping the team to practice and bond over the winter months. With an already strong squad from last season bolstered by the addition of several promising Freshers, the summer cricket season should be one to look forward to. A number of friendly fixtures against local and national companies have already been arranged for the Easter term to complement what promises to be an exciting cuppers campaign.

Sponsored Row for Training Camp in Aiguebelette

On Saturday 4 December, 63 past and present members of CCBC took part in a sponsored row to raise funds for the boat club's pre-Lent Term training camp in Aiguebelette Lake in France. Two women's Vllls and two men's Vllls, accompanied by coaches, attended a successful training camp in early January. Many thanks from CCBC to all those who contributed. You can see some footage of the action by following this link: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/boatclub.

Christ's College Boat Club – Lent Term 2011

Lucy Griffin and Charlie Heron

Prior to the beginning of Lent term the Boat Club had a training camp which had become common place prior to each term, however, this camp had a certain extra appeal. It was held at Aiguebelette Lake, near Chambéry in France. It is the first time in the Club's history that a training camp has been held abroad. Holding the training camp on a specialised facility abroad afforded us excellent conditions to train. The lake on which we trained provided a 3km straight course with calm conditions and beautiful scenery, being situated in the foothills of the Alps. A common problem we have had with U.K. based training camps in January is the

river freezing over – that was not a problem with surprisingly warm and dry weather throughout the week. With over four crew's worth of people all living, training and socialising together for the week a tremendous club spirit developed. It was felt that this year was an appropriate time to invest the effort and finances into having a training camp abroad. With both our Women's and Men's squads confronted with significant challenges over the next coming terms, a foreign training camp gave the club the kick start it needed this term and will, no doubt, have knock on benefits to Easter term and the May Bumps. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the College and Boat Club Steering Committee for their support in organising and financing the camp – without which it would not have been possible. Also, we'd like to thank our alumni (Eddie Surtees m.2006 & Duncan Bull m.2005) who took time to come and coach. The training camp has already proved beneficial with strong results in the delayed Senior Fairbairns from Michaelmas term. This was held a few days after returning from our training camp, W1 came 7th, M1 4th & W2 1st in their respective categories. A strong start to what we hope will be a strong term. Keep up to date with the latest results on the website: www.christsbc.co.uk. We'd also like to take this opportunity to mention that the Boat Club is proud to have recently found a new sponsor, Smart Global Trading (SGT). We are looking forward to working closely with SGT over the coming years.



Christ's College boat club training camp at Aiguebelette Lake



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Centenary of J H Plumb

Jack Plumb was born on 20 August 1911. A Fellow of Christ's for over fifty years and Master in 1978-82, he also held a personal chair in the University as Professor of Modern English History. Plumb was best known for his works on various facets of 18th-century history, including the Pelican history *England in the Eighteenth Century*, biographical volumes such as *The First Four Georges and Walpole*, and studies at the intersection of political, social and cultural history, notably *The Growth of Political Stability* and the co-authored *Birth of the Consumer Society*. He was also in his heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, a leading public intellectual who disseminated history to a general audience on both sides of the Atlantic, both through his essays and reviews and also through the pioneering TV series *Royal Heritage*.

To mark the centenary, we are holding two major events in 2011.

Saturday 2 July – *J.H. Plumb and the Writing of History* – an afternoon symposium exploring his life and writings against the background of how the historical discipline has changed over the last half-century. Sessions will address:

- Plumb and the 18th century
- Plumb and social/cultural history
- Plumb and the historian as public intellectual

The symposium will be followed by a dinner in Hall where Professor Barry Supple (Honorary Fellow) will be the speaker.

Monday 31 October – a gala fundraising dinner at the National Portrait Gallery, London with guest speaker Simon Schama (Honorary Fellow), one of many distinguished historians mentored by Jack Plumb.

Invitations will be sent out shortly but for further information or to register an interest please contact Catherine Twilley, Development Director, at cmt23@cam.ac.uk

Dates For Your Diary

26 March

MA Congregation Ceremony and Reunion Dinner

24 April (Easter Sunday)

Unveiling of New Altar Reredos

21 May

Lunch reception at Wadham College, Oxford

18 June

May Bumps Picnic

25 June

Reunion Garden Party and Buffet Lunch

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



J H Plumb outside the Master's Lodge

