

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 20 Easter Term 2011

A Tale of Two Colleges

Wadham event and Colin Dexter

Investing in Potential

Bequests and bursaries

Painting Politics

Anna Trench and
Matthew Hancock MP on
politics, art and political satire

Portrait of the Master

Interview with Emma Wesley and
history of the Master's portrait





Many former Mathematics Part III students, including the Master, collected their MMath and MAST degrees on 30 April 2011

From the Master

Welcome to the Easter edition of *Pieces*. As I write the students are enjoying a well-deserved rest after their efforts in the recent round of exams. Those graduating this year leave with our very best wishes for their future careers.

Christ's as usual has been a hive of activity. In March we welcomed groups of Year 12 students for our first Schools Law Moot. Investing in potential is an essential part of College life and on page 7 we hear from Edward Roberts (m. 2004), newly-elected J. B. and Millicent Kaye Research Fellow on what the Fellowship means to him and his research. We also hear from Marcus Heritage (m. 1961) who reflects on his experience at Christ's, and why he is leaving a bequest to the College.

An unusual and fascinating experience for me in the last term has been to sit, or rather stand, for a portrait by Emma Wesley, one of Britain's foremost young portrait painters. On page 8 Tamsin Astbury asks Emma about the process, and Professor William Steen, gives an overview of portraits of the Master over the years. Our Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Student Anna Trench has also been working hard over the past year in the Visual Arts Studio. In 'Painting Politics' on page 10 Anna talks about her work and drawing political cartoons. To get the politician's point of view we also have an interview with Matthew Hancock MP (m. 2002).

The College aims to stay in touch with as many alumni as possible and to keep you updated with news. On page 12 we introduce you to our new e-newsletter. If you have not heard from us for while, do send us your up-to-date email address. We hope you enjoy the latest edition.

Professor Frank Kelly, FRS

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Wisteria in First Court – Adam Kent, Development Assistant

College News



Sporting Awards

The Old Members' Sporting Bursaries Fund made thirteen awards to students. The four major awards were awarded to, left to right (Senior Tutor Robert Hunt centre): Marthe Klocking (Richard de la Hoyde Sporting Award) second-year Natural Scientist and rowing half blue has won blades twice in the College women's first boat and is in the lightweight squad for the race against Oxford; Cameron Johnston (Wooller Sporting Award) second-year Historian and tennis blue is ranked number 1 in the University; Ollie Wolfe (A.C. Blyth Sporting Award) first-year Geographer is a member of the University rugby squad and beat Oxford 20-5 at Twickenham; Nicholas McCloughlin (W. Blyth Sporting Award) fourth-year Mathematician and waterpolo blue, is former captain of the University Waterpolo team and member of a number of College teams.

First Liturgical Performance of New Cantata

On Sunday 22 May Christ's College Choir performed, for the first time liturgically, a new composition by the composer Sir Philip Ledger. 'The Risen Christ: An Easter Cantata' for choir and orchestra is a celebration in words and music of the season of Easter. Some of the texts are newly written and the music attempts to portray three different appearances of the initially unrecognised Risen Christ: to Mary Magdalene, to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to Simon Peter at the Sea of Tiberias.

There have only been two previous performances – the US premiere on 7 May at Washington National Cathedral and the UK premiere on Sunday 8 May at Canterbury Cathedral. However, neither of these was in the context of the liturgical framework devised by Ledger, as it was in Christ's. The performance was directed by the composer and the organist was David Rowland.

Old Library Exhibition

Christ's at War exhibit runs until the end of October. The exhibition includes a reconstruction of a First World War shelter provided by Christ's College in Flanders. A report will follow in Michaelmas Pieces 2011.

Christ's Artists in New York

Anthony Caro (m. 1942)

Sculptures by Anthony Caro are currently featuring in the 2011 installation on The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden by The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibition will continue until 30 October 2011 (weather permitting).

For more information: <http://bit.ly/Caromet>

Earlier this year **Lachlan Goudie (m. 1995)** first holder of the Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Studentship and **Issam Kourbaj**, Christ's Artist-in-Residence were also exhibited in New York.

Charles Blackham Music Prize

On 7 May, Christ's College Music Society held what is hoped to be the first of a long tradition of recital competitions, in honour of the Society's late Chairman, Charles Blackham.



The competition was opened in April 2011 to all students of Christ's College, of any standard, on any instrument or voice, to perform in front of a panel of judges for the £200 prize. The judging panel was chaired by Dr David Jones, President of Christ's College, alongside Roxanne Summerfield, Senior Organ Scholar, and Revd Christopher Woods, College Chaplain. Four candidates performed music including J.S. Bach's Adagio and Fugue from Sonata No. 1 for solo violin to Rachmaninov's Prelude in C# Minor. The candidates were: violinist Benedict Broy, 3rd year; pianist Nathan Hudson-Peacock, 1st year; pianist Alex Greaves, 3rd year; and violinist Kirsty Macpherson, 2nd year. The standard of performance was exceptionally high. Congratulations go to Nathan Hudson-Peacock, the first winner of the Charles Blackham Recital Prize. The winner was announced by Mrs Sally Blackham, to whom sincere thanks is extended and without whom the competition would not have come to fruition. The society hope to repeat the success of this recital next year, when the competition will happen again in Lent Term.

Fashioning Connections

Global Threads: Asian Textiles and Fashion

Young people from Preston are currently working as curators, researchers, designers and stylists to create a new fashion exhibition at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad celebrations.

Joanna Costin (m. 2010) joined them

I got involved last summer, a couple of months after the project began. Our project is based around 18 textile books called 'The Collection of the Textile Manufacturers of India', put together by John Forbes Watson in 1866. He used spare textiles in the then India Museum where he was curator (later absorbed into the V&A) to create 20 sets of samples, what he called 'portable industrial museums'. One set was sent to Preston, which is what we've used as a starting point. Our exhibit is going to use the historic textiles alongside contemporary textiles that use similar techniques and styles.

I've spent a lot of time cataloguing the individual textiles in the books – previously all 18 books were catalogued as a single item, despite containing about 700 textile samples within them. There's a website under development which will make the database we created through cataloguing the textiles fully searchable, including a photo of each textile. I've also been involved in meetings to discuss how the exhibition will progress, and have done a lot of research into John Forbes Watson and historical Indian textiles.

As part of the programme, we visited a couple of other museums, to see how they displayed their textile collections. We've also had experts come to Preston to assist with the project. We also did a photo shoot to create a publicity booklet for the exhibition – most copies have been sent out to fashion designers and coordinators of fashion courses at universities. The photo shoot was fantastic fun, I'd never done anything like it before and was able to take some of the photos. We had assistance from Gavin Fernandes from the London College of Fashion, but all the photos were taken by young people.

Congratulations

To Abteen Mostofi (m. 2002) who has been awarded the Gedge Prize for Physiology in recognition of his research on cerebellar function.

To newly elected Fellows of the Royal Society:

John Morton (m. 1954)

Simon Tavaré, Fellow

Sean Munro, son of former Master Alan Munro

Christ's Connections

by David Carr

In the 2009 edition of *Pieces* (Issue 14) I read the article by Rebecca Duckworth who was in charge of the Ely Cathedral 'Outreach' programme and the 'Ely Imps' (a Cathedral group of young singers) to encourage children singing in schools. I was impressed by her obvious enthusiasm and because I had written a piece, with a colleague, David Gaukroger, for children to sing, I thought I would contact her.



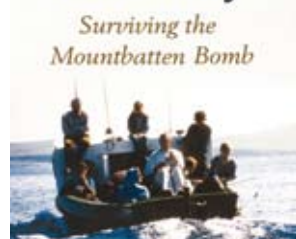
David Carr (m. 1956) and Rebecca Duckworth (m. 1983)

I did this for two reasons, first because Rebecca was a member of Christ's as I was (though divided by a generation), and second because I thought it would be great if the piece could be sung in such a wonderful setting. The work was called 'Romany Wood' and is a musical fantasy for children about a mystical woodland and the animals who live there. Originally from a book by 'Beshlie', a Romany artist, it had previously been performed in Cathedrals including Worcester and Chichester, and in various other halls and schools round the UK including the Birmingham Symphony Hall and Blackheath Halls in London. It also was used to open the new Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury, and has been broadcast on Classic fm. The aim in writing it was to raise £1m for children's charities and it has had the backing of many names including UNICEF(UK), NSPCC, The Archbishop of York, Sir Digby Jones, Adrian Chiles and Howard Goodall. It has also recently had a ballet attached to it choreographed by Kit Holder of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and has had a Royal Command performance. We have gone a good way towards our target and are still working towards it.

When Rebecca replied it was to tell me that she had already been contacted by Cambridgeshire Music who wanted to put it on at the Cathedral and also in Swavesey Village College. And so it happened on April 7th and 8th 2011. Rebecca met me in the Cathedral and I was amazed to find, as we chatted, that 600 children were appearing to sing with the orchestra provided by peripatetic teachers from Cambridgeshire music. Rebecca's job was to prepare them and get them singing which she did with huge enthusiasm and humour. I narrated the piece and the audience consisted of parents and friends. The next day it was repeated with 200 children at Swavesey, and on each occasion it was sung with great gusto and delight. Although this was not a Christ's College production, a College partnership had helped everyone find their way through 'Romany Wood'. Serendipity indeed.

Book Reviews

From a Clear Blue Sky



From a Clear Blue Sky Surviving the Mountbatten Bomb

by Timothy Knatchbull

Review by Tamsin Astbury

On the August bank holiday of 1979, 14 year old Timothy Knatchbull went out on a family boat-trip. In the next few moments the boat blew up, killing his grandfather, Lord Mountbatten, his grandmother, Lady Brabourne, his identical twin brother, Nicholas, and local teenager Paul Maxwell. The IRA had detonated a bomb under the deck. After time Timothy's physical wounds healed but it was a much longer journey to come to terms with the emotional impact and the loss of his twin, Nicholas Timothy. In his account of the attack and the fall-out of the following years, Timothy offers a loving elegy to his family and a striking insight into the social context of the unrest in Ireland, allowing you to trespass on private lives in their time of most vulnerability and exposure. The path to writing this book was one not easily travelled. In August in 1979 Timothy was too injured to attend his twin's funeral. Years later returning for the first time to Ireland he was able, as he says, to finally say goodbye. He writes in the preface to his book that before setting out on the journey he was frightened that by returning and seeking the truth he would do more harm than good. Had he known what he does now he would have taken a more direct route. This motivated him to share his story with others who have suffered trauma and grief. He hopes that by describing his path, he will help others to find their own. In the opening pages Timothy quotes C.G. Jung 'The great events of world history are profoundly unimportant ... the essential thing is the life of the individual ... In our most private and most subjective lives we are not only the passive witnesses of our age, and its sufferers, but also its makers'.

From a Clear Blue Sky demonstrates how Timothy Knatchbull and his family remade their lives in a painful and moving recovery.

INVISIBLES by Ed Seigle (m. 1988)

www.edsiegle.com

Review by Carey McKenzie (m. 1988)

One night in Brighton, Joel Burns sees a man on the news who seems to be his Brazilian father Gilberto, from whom he was separated as a boy. His mother Jackie is reluctant to relinquish the comforting certainty that Gilberto is dead. Joel gets on the next plane to Rio de Janeiro. There he encounters a down-and-out musician, Nelson, who offers to help him find his father, for a price. Siegle moves the narrative deftly between Brighton and Rio, past and present. The story of Jackie's troubled marriage to Gilberto, a rising talent in the 60s bossa nova scene, adds resonance to Joel's quest. The author's passion for Brazilian culture – food, music, football – makes this an entrancing read. Siegle's reflections on life and love are fresh and insightful. His sense of place is extraordinary. A skilful blend of authentic detail and evocative imaginings makes 'Invisibles' a lively and engaging novel. Siegle has also laced his debut with gentle humour. "The devil plays for Argentina", but the angels are backing Brazil.



What about the Villa?

by Joe Gray (m. 2000)

Review by Tim Muttukumaru (m. 2000)

Those of us lucky enough to know Joe well will not be surprised by the title of his first book. *What about the Villa?* is a little gem of a book, tracing the history of the British Baseball League through its inaugural season. The title should not fool one into thinking that this is some 'season review' of the 1890 league. Rather, this is a cracking piece of social history. Joe's book opens a new window on the late Victorian world, showing it to be a rich and varied place, complete with an enviable cast of characters. James Cowan of Aston Villa was a "granite-faced and sternly muscled" batter, while Will Bryan of Derby was reputed to be the "third fastest man" in his native United States. Even the future Edward VII makes an appearance, commenting that "The Prince of Wales has witnessed the game of Base Ball with great interest and, although he considers it an excellent game, he considers cricket as superior". It would be a shame if we were to be so dismissive. I thoroughly enjoyed *What about the Villa?*, as I am sure will anyone with a passing interest in sports history or the Victorian period. <http://www.fineleaf.co.uk/>.

Hope for Humanity

How understanding and healing trauma could solve the planetary crisis

by Malcolm Hollick (m. 1963) and Christine Connelly

My eclectic interests were significantly shaped by my years at Christ's. My course left lots of time to explore, and mixing with students from other disciplines helped to develop deep concern for the world. *Hope for Humanity* is the latest expression of that concern. It argues that trauma underlies many of the world's problems, affecting most of us to some extent. It stunts our development, warps our personality, blights our health, damages our relationships, and limits our potential. And it traps civilization in a self-perpetuating cycle of domination, violence, and greed. My wife and I document these issues before proposing strategies for change.

The book is a Herculean achievement ... A shattering but ultimately hopeful read.

David Lorimer, editor – Scientific and Medical Network

www.humansolutionsnow.com

A Tale of Two Colleges

Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer

In 1932 Christ's College, Cambridge and Wadham College, Oxford established 'A Treaty of Friendship', twinning the two Colleges. In honour of this connection, on Saturday 21 May, around 60 Christ's alumni and their guests met up with their Oxford counterparts at Wadham for a wonderful lunch in the College's beautiful Hall.



College President, Dr David Jones speaking before the lunch began

Guests enjoyed pre lunch drinks in the Cloisters Gardens, during which time they were presented with 'The Other Place Quiz' – a test of knowledge about Christ's for Wadham alumni and vice versa. The prize was a bottle of wine from the College cellars, and it was most pleasing to observe that many more Christ's alumni got all the right answers... (the Christ's winner, drawn from a hat was Richard Berkley (m.1984) – congratulations Richard!)



Christ's and Wadham team up to answer questions on 'The Other Place'



Leslie Quie (m. 1952) and Colin Dexter (m. 1950)

We were absolutely delighted to be joined for this inaugural occasion by Mr Colin Dexter OBE, who studied Classics at Christ's matriculating in 1950. Colin is best known as the creator and author of Chief Inspector Morse, Oxford's famous detective. Guests were treated to a very entertaining post-lunch talk which featured anecdotes from his time at Christ's – classics exams, returning to Christ's after the war to take his Certificate in Education, and the great sense of pride and enjoyment he got from representing College in sports (he was a member of the Marguerites and secretary of the Hockey society). Colin also acknowledged the kind hospitality of Wadham – not just for this event, but as it has also been the backdrop to several episodes of *Morse* and its successor series *Lewis*.



Colin Dexter giving a post-lunch speech

Following the success of this event, we are planning to repeat the lunch next year here at Christ's. We hope to make it a regular fixture of our events calendar – watch this space!

<http://bit.ly/wadhameventphotos>

Investing in Potential

Tamsin Astbury speaks to Marcus Heritage (m. 1961) about leaving a bequest to the College, and meets Edward Roberts whose Fellowship is supported by the JB and Millicent Kaye bequest



Marcus and his wife Kathleen in the Darwin Rooms on a recent visit to College

What are your memories of Christ's?

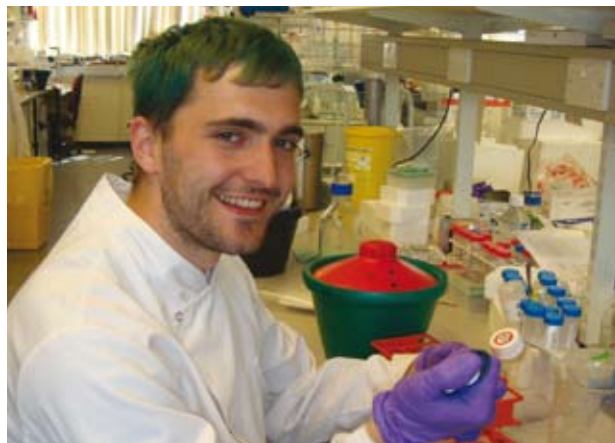
Meeting many wonderful and very bright people, many of whom I can still call my friends today. It was a time when I felt my mind expanding with the huge flow of new information and new horizons. This process was not without some pain however, particularly as my brain tried to cope with some of the less intuitive concepts of physics. Rowing with the "Random Variables" provided a wonderful antidote to brain fatigue.

What did you do next?

Shortly after completing my PhD at the Electrical Engineering Department in 1968, I was on a plane bound for the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, USA as a postdoctoral student, where I was able to continue my research, albeit in a very different environment from Cambridge. Then, within a year, I took a position at the IBM Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. At that time it was one of the top Science Research Centers in the world – a status the laboratory almost certainly still holds today. Little did I realize that I would spend the next thirty years of my life working for IBM in the United States, moving out of active research, getting an MBA at the University of Denver, and eventually becoming a business oriented executive.

Why are you keen to support Christ's?

To me, education is the key to a fulfilling life. My time at Christ's not only gave me the specific knowledge for an exciting career, but the tools to handle the equally important issues of interacting with other people, and being able to analyze and develop plans to handle the many issues that life throws at one. Setting up a bequest to benefit others, so that they might experience these same rewards, is very important to both my wife and myself. Helping people reach their full human potential is the very best investment that any of us can make.



Edward Roberts, the newly elected J. B. and Millicent Kaye Research Fellow, whose fellowship has been made possible by a bequest from the Kaye family

It was a great honour to be elected as the new J. B. and Millicent Kaye Research Fellow in Cancer Studies earlier this month. Having studied Natural Sciences for my undergraduate degree at Christ's College between 2004–7 I have great memories of living and studying at the college. As an undergraduate I have vivid memories of being a representative of the JCR at Governing body meetings during the year Rachel Cherry was JCR President and am looking forward to returning as a Junior Research Fellow.

After my time at Christ's I moved to King's College to join the Wellcome Trust 4 year PhD programme in Infection and Immunity. After the first year in which I worked in a variety of labs covering subjects from bacteriology through to stem cell development my interest was piqued by how tumours survive in the face of an active immune response. As a result I moved into the lab of Professor Fearon for my PhD project and started looking at the role of the FAP-expressing stromal cell in maintaining local immune suppression at the tumour site (this work has since been published in *Science* in 2010). I developed a new mouse model allowing the *in vivo* imaging of these cells and found them in a variety of sites leading to my current research focussing on the normal physiological roles of the FAP-expressing cell and examining how this is altered during cancer development. Currently I am investigating whether FAP-expressing cells are lost from peripheral sites during tumorigenesis and whether this accounts for the development of cancer cachexia, a debilitating complication arising in a large proportion of advanced cancer patients.

Christ's always provided a friendly and varied environment during my time as an undergraduate and I was pleased to see, during my admittedly limited experience, that this extends through to the Fellowship who have been extremely welcoming. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in this community in the next few years as a Junior Research Fellow at the College.

As you can see legacies can have an enormous impact on the College and its people. If you would be interested in leaving a bequest to Christ's please contact Catherine Twilley, Development Director, (0)1223 748856, cmt23@cam.ac.uk

Portrait of the Master

Over the past few months artist Emma Wesley has been working on a portrait of the Master Professor Frank Kelly, FRS. Tamsin Astbury watched the work in progress and asked her about the art of portrait painting.



What stages do you go through painting a portrait?

It starts with drawing, like the early Flemish painters. I had four sittings with the Master working out the basic composition and the setting. I then transferred to board, I always work on wood. Then I move on to painting. I've had 4 or 5 sittings so far, and a couple of sessions working on the background. Finally I'll finish up in studio. Despite being influenced by the early Flemish painters I work with very modern materials; acrylic on plywood. Acrylics are particularly versatile, offering a cross between water-colour, egg tempura and oil paint.

You originally read English at Selwyn, what were your experiences of Cambridge?

I really enjoyed my time studying English at Cambridge. It was an excuse to spend three years reading lots of books. I was also painting at the time, friends, family and other students. A good thing about the English course is that it allows you to pursue your own interests, such as writing about the relationship between literature and the visual arts. The nice big rooms also mean it's possible to set up an easel in the corner of the bedroom. Having come to portrait painting from English, I like to paint meaningful, symbolic paintings.

For more details of Emma's work, please visit:
<http://www.emma-wesley.co.uk/>

What interests you in portrait painting?

Partly I enjoy focussing on small things, a face, a hand, a personality for a length of time. I'm also very interested in people and attempting to catch character in a line, or paint. I like painting people surrounded by the tools of their trade, or at home surrounded by the things they collect. I am also interested in the Flemish and Dutch painters.

Who are your influences?

I'm aware of working in a long tradition. I'm inspired by Van Eyck and others, the Dutch Masters, English school painting and also early twentieth-century painters, Stanley Spencer and Eric Kennington. People haven't changed very much, in the Early Flemish work you see faces that you can recognise nowadays. Portraiture continues to fascinate, a good portrait painter can transport you across centuries, taking you to the moment between the sitter and the painter.



The Portraits of the Masters

by Professor William Steen

The College has had 37 Masters and now holds images of 21 of them. Their portraits contribute to the record of the history of the College and present a positive image for the sponsor. Thus the portraits both depict the individual and also something of the fashion, style or expected image of the Master at the time they were produced.



As time has passed the age at which the Master was painted has got younger. The first portrait that of our first Master, Syclyng (pictured left), was taken after his death and is a funeral brass etching sited under the altar in the Chapel. The early Masters do not feature in our collection but when shown, usually as published engravings, are clerics oozing gravitas and with significant qualifications such as Doctor of Divinity.

Later at the time of the Commonwealth and Restoration Cudworth and Covel have left us

two fine oil paintings in this serious style of people with whom one would hesitate to argue. Between 1800 and 1840 two Masters, Barker and Graham had themselves portrayed as miniatures with either two other Fellows (Barker) or in the case of Graham with eleven undergraduates – as a gift from an undergraduate artist; making a striking contrast in approachability.

In 1880 Swainson (pictured right) left us a superb pastel sketch of himself showing an efficient administrator rather than a well qualified cleric. Public subscription paid for the magnificent portrait of John Peile by Sir George Reid, currently hanging in the Mountbatten Room.



His successor Shipley was painted by de Lazlo in what was considered by de Lazlo as his best portrait (pictured right), it is certainly one of the finest portraits owned by the College and now hangs in the Hall. Both portraits show friendly but authoritative faces.



A break in style came with the use of photography until Raven was painted during World War II. All subsequent Masters are shown both in oil paintings and photographs. The images shown are of approachable people who are in authority as opposed to the more aloof previous style.



The delightful picture of Plumb at his desk by Laurence Gowing (pictured above) is one of our best examples; though the fine and strong colouring of the Munro portrait by Annabel Cullen (pictured below) shows the modern trend in art as well as showing the Master in control as the administrative head of one of the top educational establishments in the world.

For a chart including a full list of portraits and the medium they were rendered in, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/Portraits-Master>





Painting Politics



The Artist

Anna Trench (King's, m. 2007) is the current Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Student. In August she had a series of political cartoons published by 'The Guardian'.

Why did you become an artist?

I wouldn't refer to myself as an 'artist'. That's not because cartoonists or illustrators can't be artists, it's just that I've always felt ambivalent about the associations of the word. I like to draw and write. My dad was a writer; my mum's an artist. Combining the two always seemed the natural thing to do. Whether financial realities make it unnatural in the next few years is something I'll just have to wait and see about...

How has the Levy-Plumb Visual Arts Studentship been so far?

The space and time the studentship gave me was in theory a dream come true. But for the first few weeks I just sat in

the corner of this massive white studio and didn't dare turn around. It was a little bit intimidating. Coming straight from a structured English degree with regular deadlines into a year where my progress relied on complete self-motivation was a bit of a shock. Then suddenly one day I stopped worrying, made a mess and got drawing. And it was incredible. Having commissions always helps to get you going. I also went on a research trip to San Francisco which really inspired me. I feel very, very fortunate. This year has been invaluable.

What are your plans for the future?

Hopefully I'll keep on doing the same thing. I've got some projects lined up. And a shed – sorry, studio – in Bethnal Green to make them happen in.

What interested you in political cartoons?

Like the court fool, political cartoons can say the unsayable. Ever since I was a child I'd flick to them first in the papers. Then as an undergraduate I drew the editorial cartoons for Varsity and interviewed my favourite political cartoonists. They're this unique hybrid of text and image, the beautiful and the grotesque. They're very aggressive, not only in their treatment of politicians, but in the way they feed on other media, alluding to and appropriating high and low art and culture, constantly pillaging their own tradition, and then regurgitating it all for a laugh.

What do you think makes a good political cartoon?

A good political cartoon should amuse and educate. But ultimately it should dissipate power. If you laugh at our leaders whether for their physical or their political imperfections, you take back some power, however small that may at first appear. A good political cartoon makes you look at the world from a different perspective.



The Art – Anna talks us through one of her images



“It is not all doom and gloom” – ‘The Guardian’, 5 August 2010, pen and ink and watercolour (Detail below)



In early August 2010, three months into the coalition government, David Cameron announced his plan to end lifetime council tenancies. George Osborne had just presented his new budget and the cuts were coming thick and fast, but Cameron reassured the nation that “it is not all doom and gloom”. I’ve always liked Gainsborough’s *Mr And Mrs Andrews*, they look so pleased with their lovely landscape, but you get the impression Gainsborough didn’t think too much of them. I replaced Mr and Mrs Andrews’ lush green estate with some concrete ones, separated from the happy couple with a cut-out-and-keep line. Instead of a hunting dog, there’s a fat cat. Gainsborough’s work was unfinished, with a blank spot left in Mrs Andrew’s lap. Make of that on Clegg what you will.

For information on the Visual Arts at Christ’s please visit:

<http://bit.ly/visual-arts>

The Politician

Matthew Hancock (m. 2002) is the MP for West Suffolk.



Why did you become a politician?

There are many problems in the world and the solution to them has to come through politics, whether we like it or not.

Of course it’s a messy and difficult process. But it’s fascinating and it brings together every element of humanity and human behaviour. So it’s the most interesting and rewarding thing I could think to do with my life.

Could you describe your career path?

I worked at the bank of England for five years. I was a professional economist and then I was asked to work for the Conservative Party straight after the 2005 election. We had to build an economic policy from scratch. I decided then that this is what I wanted to do in the long term, and here I am.

What’s a typical day for you as an M.P?

I always try to have breakfast with my family. It’s a cliché but no day is typical. I normally get to the office at 9.00 and spend an hour or so answering letters and working on my diary. I then have meetings with constituents or other MPs and then if there’s big news in an area I’m working on I might be asked to comment to the media, or I might go to a Select Committee meeting and grill civil servants on how they spend public money. In the evening there’s often an event I’ll be speaking at and I vote most nights at 10pm. I either cycle home, or I try to hitch a lift with someone who has a Ministerial car, because that way I can be home by 11.

Do you have any advice for aspiring politicians amongst our students and alumni?

Yes. Get stuck in. Politics is a career for self-starters: for people with enthusiasm and tenacity, so make that phone call and take whatever’s offered, even if it’s menial. That way you’ll learn, make contacts and get to know how the system works.

What’s your opinion of political cartoons, are they a help, or a hindrance to politics?

They are a huge help. One of the best things about British democracy is that we love to bring our leaders down a peg or two. It’s a bulwark against pomposity. Political cartoons are a crucial part of this culture, and help keep our politics grounded.

Publications @ Christ's

The e-newsletter and Pieces' requests

'You are receiving this email because you are a member of Christ's College ...'

If you are on our mailing list this Spring you will have received the first of our reformatted e-newsletters (pictured right). We had a successful mailing contacting over 4'000 alumni around the world. The system we use provides us with statistics for how many emails were opened, indicating when the e-newsletter is read, in which countries, and which links in the e-newsletter were most popular. For instance we had 3 opens in Argentina, 55 opens in Canada, 93 in Australia and 284 in the US! The most popular link by far was for Christ's College website, followed by the Blades Association page.

Unfortunately some of our emails didn't get through to you, because we have the wrong email address, the email address we have is slightly wrong, or your inbox is too full. If you haven't heard from us for a while, but would like to stay in touch and receive the quarterly e-newsletter, please contact me, Publications Officer Tamsin Astbury at **publications@christ's.cam.ac.uk** with your preferred email address.

If you would also like to comment on the content of the e-newsletter, there are a couple of questions below, which you could either email, or post your responses to: Tamsin Astbury, Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU. **To complete this survey online please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C2F5WFT>**



Detail of the Christ's College e-newsletter, Spring 2011

E-newsletter Survey

1. How frequently should the e-newsletter be published?

- a. Termly
- b. Monthly
- c. Annually
- d. More frequently

2. What information would you like to be included?

- a. Events
- b. College news
- c. Alumni news
- d. Student news
- e. Awards / Publications
- f. Other (please specify)

3. Any other comments, or suggestions for stories?

Look forward to hearing from you. Tamsin Astbury

Request from the Editor

We would like to collect your **wartime memories of Christ's** for the Michaelmas edition of *Pieces*. A sample will be used in *Pieces* with others reproduced in full on a College website.



If you would like to share your stories please send them to Tamsin Astbury, Publications Officer:

publications@christs.cam.ac.uk

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

(Above – Mark Fearn, Building's Supervisor in the reconstructed World War I shelter, part of the Old Library Exhibition)

A Point of Law

Christ's College Schools Law Moot 2011

On 21 March Christ's held the first Christ's College Schools Law Moot. Sixth-formers attended from The Priory Academy LSST in Lincoln, and John Leggott Sixth Form College in Scunthorpe. The day offered a unique opportunity for high academic achievers hoping to study law or other arts subjects to collaborate with students at Christ's. **Ed Sharpe, Schools Liaison Officer** gave us an insight into the day

The scenario for the moot was prepared by the College's Director of Studies in Law, Ms Sarah Steele. Along with the scenario each attendee was given a pack containing all the necessary statutes and case law. The sixth formers collaborated, with undergraduates providing guidance and interpretation to put together a three to five minute presentation putting the case for or against each of the plaintiffs and respondents.



After a break for lunch in Upper Hall (where lively discussion between Christ's students and our visitors continued!), there was a final opportunity for each group to polish their arguments and get ready for their presentations. After quick rearrangements turning the theatre into a court room, the submissions began. Despite some nervousness, the judges were impressed by the quality of the submissions; it was clear that the undergraduates had been able to provide clear advice and, under questioning by the judges, that the Year 12's had understood the necessary elements of law and constructed their arguments solidly.

As well as getting a taste of an activity that most students do not get a chance to participate in, the sixth formers had the opportunity throughout the day to talk to Christ's undergraduates about what it is like to study in Cambridge. They were also given a brief introduction to the University's Law course by Ms Steele, and had the chance to ask the Director of Admissions and Schools Liaison Officer more general admissions questions.



The day was a great success. As they left the College for their minibuses, there was an enthusiastic discussion of the day going on in both school groups and the feedback from both schools has been extremely positive.

'Just wanted to say thanks to everyone for yesterday. The students really enjoyed it, Nick had most of them in his lesson today and they were full of it. Seeing them being challenged and coping with it was great.'

The Priory Academy LSST

'I would just like to send our sincere thanks to all involved in organising and delivering yesterday's law moot. The event took students out of their comfort zone and really challenged them. On the return journey when I discussed with the students what they had just achieved there was a real buzz on the mini bus and lots of happy students. Thanks so much, these events are extremely valuable to students and for breaking down the barriers to HE which many of our students experience.'

John Leggott College



The event was made possible by the generosity of Mr Martin Rapaport (m. 1965). The schools involved and others are enthusiastic to send pupils to a similar event next year.

Sport



CCAFC XI vs. 1980s 'Pure Silk' Alumni XI

Oliver Kay (m. 2008)

After a stint on the 2010 Alumni Telephone campaign, current undergraduate Oliver Kay harassed Adam Cohen (m.1988) for an entire year to ensure the biggest match of the season would go ahead – the current CCAFC XI vs. the 1980s 'Pure Silk' Alumni XI. The event was a great success – Christ's immaculate sporting grounds playing host to a glorious Saturday afternoon's game of football, with spectators paying a visit from all over the country. The 'Old Boys' squad consisted of a fine array of footballers from the late 1980s and early 1990s – the glory days of cult hero Dominic Wong, Paul 'the Butler' (now Head Waiter of Christ's) and Steve Palmer (the last Cambridge graduate to go on and play professional football – for Ipswich Town, Watford, and QPR). The current CCAFC put in a dogmatic performance and clawed a 5–0 victory; perfect preparation for the relegation decider with St Catharine's the next day (which they won 2–0). The match ended with a penalty shoot-out, 'Pure Silk' edging the competition after two great saves from Steve 'The Cat' Ford. Post-match celebrations continued in the Buttery and curry house, followed by a late night warm-down at the local night-club, Ballare. The weekend was a wonderful opportunity for some old members to return to College, share some stories, and have a casual drink in a relaxed atmosphere, and the current CCAFC are extremely grateful to Adam Cohen for providing full memorabilia kit for both squads, and all the 1980s 'Pure Silk' squad for making it such a memorable day.



The 1st Men's VIII at Bedford Regatta

Boat Club *Lucy Griffin (m. 2008) & Charlie Heron (m. 2005)*

It has been a busy few months for the Club between racing Lent Bumps and preparing for the May Bumps. We had an overall successful Lent Bumps with M1 and W2 going up 11 places between them. Unfortunately our other crews struggled to maintain position due to having strong crews around them. However, the net result of up 6 shows the strong position the club is currently in. Following on from the Lent Bumps, W1 and W2 continued to train for the Women's Head of the River Race in London. The start of the Easter term saw our 6 University trialists return to bolster the Women's squad. Our crews have generally performed well at the races this term. Particularly of note are the results from Bedford Regatta where W1 made it to the final of the College Eights competition, M1 won the College Eights Plate competition and made it to the semi-final of the IM3 category. W2 and M2 also competed at Bedford and performed well against some stiff competition. It was an enjoyable day with a great club spirit fostered by having so many club members racing together away from Cambridge. With what has been a successful year for the Boat Club coming to an end, we hope that the training and planning will all come to fruition with a strong performance from all our crews in the upcoming May Bumps. You can stay up to date with all of the Club activities on the website: www.christsbc.co.uk. We'd both like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped make this year successful, particularly our Boathouse Manager, Nick Acock and our coaching team. We'd also like to thank the members of the Administrative & Steering Committee for their time, energy and advice.

Cricket Season 2011

Graeme Cade (m. 2008)

In the group stage Christ's secured convincing victories against Clare, Trinity and St Edmund's as Christ's finished top of the group. Meeting local rivals Sidney Sussex in the first knockout round, Christ's restricted Sidney to a score of 100 exactly. In response, Christ's needed only three batsmen to complete the job with over 5 overs remaining. Moving on to the quarter-final and tough competition awaited from the highly rated Caius side. However, chasing 138 to win, Christ's once again cruised to victory. The semi-final will be played against Robinson College, with hopes running high for a second consecutive cuppers final appearance.



Christ's College Cambridge

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Please return this form and direct any enquiries to:

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Cambridge CB2 3BU UK
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Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711
email: campaign@christs.cam.ac.uk

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Dates For Your Diary



Alumni enjoying last September's reunion

10 July

Family Day Summer Garden Party

3 September

(m. 2001) 10 year Anniversary Dinner

10 September

Reunion Dinner
(m. 1940–1950, 1975 and 1976)

17 September

Medical Alumni Association Meeting and Dinner

24 September

Reunion Dinner
(m. 1977, 1978 and 1979)

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



A Parting Shot ... *Cleome spinosa* in Second Court



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