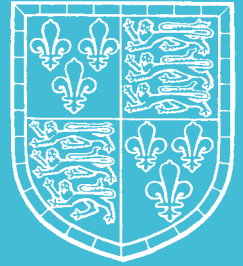


# pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 23 Easter Term 2012



## **Behind the Scenes at Christ's**

The Head Butler, the Head Porter, the Head Gardener and the Reverend.

## **Therapy for 21st Century**

Critchley (m. 2000), Burkeman (m. 1994) and 'self-help' books.

## **Going Green**

Sustainability in business and in College.





The Master with Dr Yusuf Hamied (Honorary Fellow) and Professor Phillip King (Honorary Fellow) in front of the 'Darwin' sculpture

## From the Master

Welcome to the Easter edition of *Pieces 2012*. As I write the students are hard at work sitting and preparing for exams. We wish them every success in their endeavours.

Whilst the students study, the College is still a hive of activity. On pages 7 and 8 we look at life behind the scenes at Christ's, with interviews with Jeremy Taylor, Head Porter, Paul Davis, Head Butler, Steve Griffiths, Head Gardener, and the Reverend Bernard Randall.

We also celebrate the achievements of students and alumni. On page 5 we have a careers profile of Dr. Ranjit Singh (m. 1989), who in February 2012 sat on the WHO panel for Patient Safety in Primary Care. In 'Performance Perfect' on page 4 Charlotte Higgins (m. 2011) tells us about winning 'SLAMBassadors', organised by the Poetry Society. On pages 8 and 9 we meet two authors Leo Critchley (m. 2000) and Oliver Burkeman (m. 1994) who have explored the issue of self-help in very different ways in 'Therapy for 21st Century'.

On page 11 Charlotte Hill (m. 2010), JCR Green Officer, talks about the College's green initiatives and on page 10 Oliver Balch, PhD student and freelance journalist on sustainability, discusses his writing. On page 13 we offer our thanks as a community to all the alumni who engaged with our recent Telephone Campaign and report on the ceremony to honour Dr Yusuf and Mrs Farida Hamied in recognition of their support for Christ's College and the University.

We are also proud of our Olympians, and on page 14 we explore how the Olympics 2012 are being celebrated in Cambridge and by members of Christ's. We hope you enjoy the latest edition.

Professor Frank Kelly FRS

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MA Graduands enter the Senate House for the MA Congregation, March 2012



## College and Alumni News



### Wadham and Christ's 80 Years Lunch

Guests enjoyed a convivial day (*pictured below*) at the Wadham and Christ's Lunch at Christ's College, 12 May, celebrating 80 years of friendship since the Colleges were twinned.



### Afternoon Tea with the Attorney General



By Natalie Granger (m. 2008)

On 15 March 2012, the Cambridge University Student's Pro Bono Society had the privilege of hosting 'Afternoon Tea with the Attorney General' (*pictured above*). The Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, gave a short speech about his career and how he has been involved with legally aided work throughout his time as a practising barrister. This was followed by an informal question and answer session where guests had the chance to quiz the Attorney in person. The event was designed to encourage students from across the University to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the importance of Pro Bono work. It also served as a great opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the programmes and schemes run by the society over the past year.

### Anthony and the Penguins



Anthony Smith (m. 2002), a professional artist and photographer who has carried out several commissions for Christ's, has been creating a 'penguin parade' during his one-month residency in the Falkland Islands. Working with the children at the community school in Stanley, he sculpted ten life-sized King penguins from wire, papier-mâché and plaster. The pupils then drew up their own designs for the penguins' decoration. The best ten were chosen and appeared in the streets and shops of Stanley. The penguins are currently on tour and later in the year will be auctioned off to help raise funds for other school projects.

Anthony's website: [www.anthonysmithart.co.uk](http://www.anthonysmithart.co.uk)

Photographs from his visit to the Falklands can be seen here: [www.anthonysmithphotography.com](http://www.anthonysmithphotography.com)

*Pictured above: Anthony sculpting one of the penguins.*

### Perfect Shot

In news from the Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps, congratulations to Vin Shen Ban (m. 2006) who became the Army Pistol Shooting Champion 2011 at Bisley. His achievement against the Army's top Regular and TA pistol marksmen had not been attained before by an Officers' Training Corps Student.

## Performance Perfect

*Charlotte Higgins (m. 2011) tells us about becoming one of the winning 'SLAMBassadors UK'*



My name is Charlotte Higgins, and I am a first year English student. I have been writing page poetry since I was very young, and in the last couple of years have become involved with performance poetry. Last Christmas, intrigued by this year's theme of 'identity', I entered 'SLAMBassadors UK', a performance poetry competition organised by the Poetry Society. SLAMBassadors aims to bring slam (the competitive art of performance poetry before a live audience) to a new generation of young poets. Of over four hundred entrants who submitted poetry films to this year's competition, I was lucky enough to be one of the eight winners.

The piece I entered, 'Things in my Childhood Bedroom', was inspired by the shifts in experiences and identities that come about during the transition from school to university, particularly when that transition involves moving away from home (as I did, coming from Northern Ireland).

The prize was the opportunity to attend a weekend masterclass with Joelle Taylor, performance poet and artistic director of SLAMBassadors UK. Over the course of two days of workshops with Joelle and the other winners, I had the chance to develop my writing and performance skills, had my ideas of what constitutes poetry (and especially where the line between poetry and music is drawn) thoroughly and rewardingly challenged, and produced several new performance poems.

I got the chance to perform three of those poems in the showcase performance at the end of the masterclass weekend. This performance, our first professional poetry gig, took place in the 100 Club on Oxford Street, London, on

1 April, and we had the privilege of sharing the stage with Joelle, Chris Preddie OBE (a former SLAMBassadors winner) and Dizraeli (of Dizraeli and the Small Gods).

The performance was an amazing, exhilarating experience. Performing poetry is a unique and exciting way to connect with an audience, and the audience on the night was wonderfully responsive. The feedback we received from them was both heartening and humbling.

As a result of the showcase performance, the SLAMBassadors winners were invited back to London this Easter to record love poetry with the actress Fiona Shaw for Peace Camp, a poetry project taking place this summer as part of the London 2012 Festival. SLAMBassadors has strengthened my desire to continue writing and working with poetry: this summer I am taking part in the Poetry Parnassus festival, and have been selected as one of the National Judges for 'Shake the Dust', one of the UK's largest youth poetry slams. I really look forward to getting involved with both projects and exploring poetry even further in the future.



*Charlotte Higgins (m. 2011) performing at 'SLAMBassadors UK'*  
Photograph: Hayley Madden ([www.hayleymadden.com](http://www.hayleymadden.com))



## Careers Profile

*Dr Ranjit Singh (m. 1989), physician and expert on a WHO Expert Panel on Patient Safety in Primary Care.*

*What are your memories of Christ's?*

My fondest memories are of my fellow students and their camaraderie and mutual support. The intimate scale of the College made for a feeling of being among family and friends almost all the time. Having my twin brother (Ashok m. 1989) with me also helped!

*Can you describe your career path?*

My career as a physician was launched as a Medical student at Christ's but I have to say that my research career began much earlier, in my youth. As teenagers, Ashok I worked closely with our father (an international expert on systems engineering) to develop risk analysis software for engineering and business applications. By the time we followed our elder brother Sonjoy (Selwyn m. 1984) to Cambridge we both knew that what we had learned was highly applicable to our chosen careers in medicine; to pursue this avenue further, we both took the Management Sciences Tripos before moving on to our clinical studies at Addenbrooke's. The lure of the United States came shortly afterwards leading to residency training in Family Medicine in Buffalo, NY. This was a time of single-minded focus on clinical medicine but just as it was ending, in 1999, the Institute of Medicine released its landmark report 'To err is human'. This report grabbed the attention of the US establishment and public, and grabbed ours too. The report highlighted the risks inherent in the healthcare system and the need to redesign these systems, acknowledging human fallibility. The time was right to resume the collaboration with my father and brother. We set up the Patient Safety Research Center at the University at Buffalo and began exploiting systems engineering approaches to improve patient safety. Over the years we have been fortunate to be funded generously by the Federal government and have enjoyed working together as a family.

*In February 2012 you were appointed to serve on a WHO Expert Panel on Patient Safety in Primary Care. Can you tell us more about it?*



The World Health Organization (WHO) has rightly declared that Patient Safety is a basic human right and that Primary Care settings, where the vast majority of care takes place, require greater attention than they have received. It therefore convened a meeting of 30 experts from across the spectrum of nations, to establish a research road map for the study and improvement of primary care safety. The group met at WHO Headquarters in Geneva in February 2012 and, as can be imagined, the issues raised were diverse and challenging. It was a delightful experience to be around so many energetic and passionate people from around the globe. One cannot help but be inspired by the experience of being surrounded by such individuals, with their diverse ideas and experiences. Understanding the challenges faced, and solutions employed (whether successfully or not) in other countries provides a perspective that can inform one's approach to one's own challenges. It was an honor to be asked to participate in the discussion and to share our ideas with the panel. We, the Panel, will be reporting our findings later this year.

*Do you have any advice for members of Christ's who would like to follow in your footsteps?*

I would suggest that we all take Michelangelo's words to heart: "The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark." The sky is the limit. I have a long way to go.

*Pictured left, from left to right: Ashok Singh (m. 1989), Gurdev Singh, Sonjoy Singh (Selwyn m. 1984), Ranjit Singh (m. 1989)*  
*Above: Ranjit on the roof of WHO headquarters*

Visit the Alumni Medical Association Page at:  
[www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumniassociations\\_and\\_groups/c\\_c\\_m\\_a/](http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/alumni/alumniassociations_and_groups/c_c_m_a/)

## Behind the Scenes at Christ's

### The Head Porter



After a career in the Merchant Navy from Deck Apprentice to Master I came to Christ's in December 1989 at the age of 41 as Head Porter. I have been fortunate to have shared my time here with world renowned academics like Sir John Plumb and Lord Todd, as well as students like Sacha Baron Cohen alias Ali G.

My favourite memories are of the College's Quincentenary Celebrations in 2005, in particular the outing to the London Guildhall and the Queen's visit to Christ's.

A typical day at Christ's starts with my bicycling into College arriving about 6.50 am. After a few exercises and a cup of coffee I start reading any emails and checking if anything untoward has occurred overnight. Usually if I come in with the intention of catching up with something in particular, within ten minutes the intentions have gone out of the window! There is no typical day which makes it so interesting working here. I believe we have a particularly good relationship with our students and the Lodge is always full of chatting students. It is very satisfying to see our students develop from their Matriculation to their Graduation and see the change in them.

Hopefully, as Porters, we make a difference to the lives of our students so that they can remember their time here with some fondness and after 23 years as Head Porter I hope the College regards me as a "Good Appointment".

**Jeremy Taylor**

### The Chaplain

**Bernard Randall** has been Chaplain of Christ's since September 2011

*What are your favourite experiences of Christ's so far?*

The Lent term sermon theme was "Poverty," and I invited the Head of a primary school in a deprived north-west town to come and talk about what the children experience. Hearing about children who live without basics that we take for granted – such as breakfast, or shoes with soles on them – really had an impact on everybody present (which was the plan, of course). The school works really hard to give children things they would never otherwise get, such as trips to the seaside (a third had never been, ever). Such was the impact, we've invited them to bring a class to Cambridge – hopefully it will give the children a chance to look beyond their current horizons, and see that the world has more to offer if they make the effort to take it. A reality check for us, an aspiration boost for them.

*Can you describe a typical day?*

Every day is different. Prayer and worship are central, naturally. There are varying combinations of seeing students, either as Chaplain or Director of Studies for Theology; preparation for services, including weddings; some studying of my own; admin; and also just being around sometimes. I haven't had to deal with a real crisis yet, but you never know what's coming next. That's part of what makes it interesting.





## The Head Butler



I have worked at Christ's for almost 31 years. In 1981 I worked as a casual, during evenings and weekends, to support the full time team. I continued this until John Bolton, Catering Manager, offered me the position as full-time Butler in 1982. John Grover, the College's Head Butler trained and guided me in this role. After about 16 years, it was natural for me to apply for the Head Butler's role when John retired and I have been in this position for just over 14 years.

I have many pleasant memories from my 31 years at Christ's. My two favourites are the times that I worked for Sir John Plumb at his villa in the South of France, when I spent two and a half weeks as his Butler, for six years in a row, and secondly having the privilege of serving the Queen and Prince Philip at the celebration of the College's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A typical day sees me organising staff to cover the College's food service delivery, ensuring efficiency from the kitchen to the table to the customer. I am responsible for all aspects of food service and room preparation for dining and meetings, making sure all are in order for the many events that take place throughout the day. I liaise closely with the Catering Manager, Executive Head Chef and other relevant College personnel to provide an efficient Front of House service.

**Paul Davis**

## The Head Gardener

**Steve Griffiths** has worked at Christ's for 21 years from Junior Gardener to Head Gardener; he started on 4 March 1991.

*What are your favourite memories of your time at Christ's?*

There have been so many great moments at Christ's, that it is really hard to pick just one. We have had the Queen's visit for the Quincentenary as well as all the festivities for it. In 1998 we had a great piece put into "The Good Gardener's Guide", which for us gardeners is a big deal. But I suppose what gives me great pleasure, is when a visitor, member of staff, Fellow, or even a student, says how good the gardens are looking.

*Can you describe a typical day?*

That is not an easy question to answer as one day is never like the next, all depend on the weather, time of year, staff, parties, conferences, exams, weddings. Our calendar is more of a yearly one than day to day, and trying to fit in a year's activities would take up too much space.



## Therapy for 21st Century

Tamsin Astbury spoke to two authors of self-help books about Christ's, their writing, and the help we need now.

Leo Critchley (m. 2000) co-authored and illustrated 'Skimming Stones and Other Ways of Being in the Wild'



Leo, pictured on BBC's 'The Culture Show'

What are your memories of Christ's?

All my memories of Christ's, from the mundane to the unrepeatable, are intertwined with a sense of something like family. We all had our own subjects, specialisms and oddities, but it felt like when you got down to it everyone was there for the same reason. That's something I've not felt at many organisations in the wider world.

The setting was a big part of it. Studying was novel and challenging, but College itself was comfortable and familiar. To this day the scent of lavender reminds me of the shrub in second court, which most of us will have passed several times a day but might never think of until a chance aroma rolls back the years.

The gardens at Christ's are magnificent, and in my third year I was lucky enough to overlook the Fellows' Garden. I think most of us know instinctively that a room with a view is somehow better for us, and this is deepened by a sense of meaning behind the landscape: this is turf that Milton trod, and it's easy to be moved by that. A real privilege to have been able to spend time there.

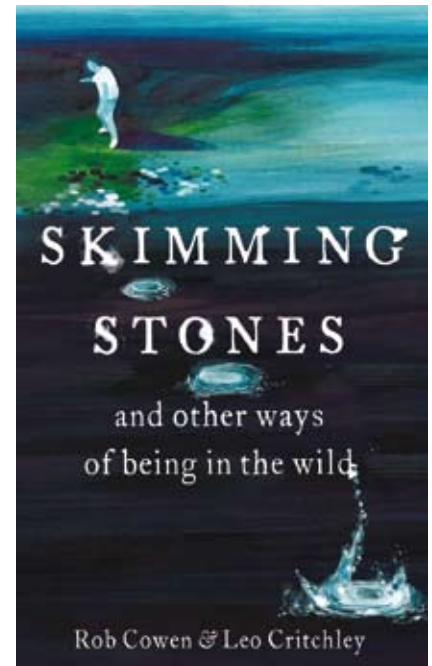
Can you tell me a little about your book and how it came about?

At its core, *Skimming Stones* is a book of advice on connecting with nature through simple outdoor activities. Each chapter spirals out into philosophy, history, culture and science that relate to the terrain in question. Hopefully, it acts as a lure into a richer, more contemplative way of engaging with the landscape.

The book grew out of an ongoing dialogue between me and Rob Cowen, my co-author, about the absence of nature in city life. Rob is a child of the Moors, whereas I'm a Londoner born and bred, so our approaches were very

different, but we both felt something was missing and were convinced that others did too.

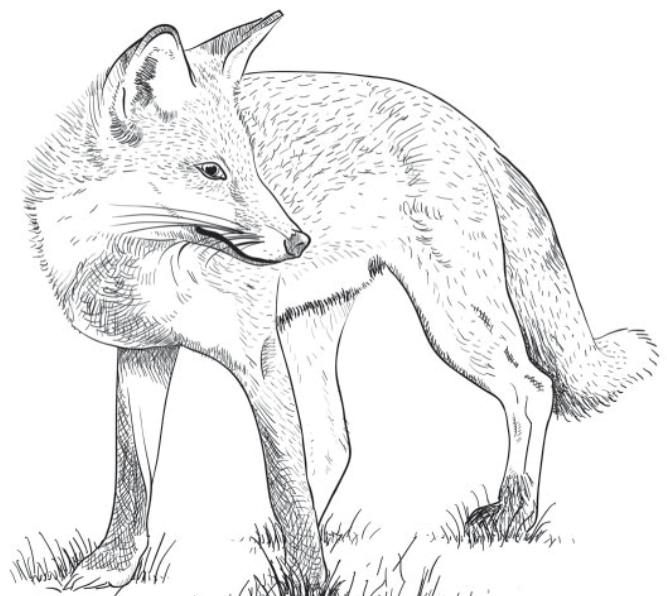
Justifying a print edition was difficult in the world of the Kindle. From the outset we wanted to make *Skimming Stones* an object worth owning, and part of that was illustrating it ourselves. Although my parents are artists, I had given up on drawing by the time I was eighteen, and Issam Kourbaj's life drawing classes at Christ's revived a skill which might otherwise have withered. It was really satisfying to put it to use.



Do you feel we have a specific need for this kind of escapism in 21st Century?

Certainly more of us need to make a conscious effort to reconnect. With so many living in cities, chance encounters with nature are a rarity, but this is not wholly new. Financial crashes in particular seem to engender a response centred on the simpler things in life; there were movements following the Wall Street Crash and earlier bubbles pushing for a return to nature.

Doom-mongers have been wrong before, but the difference in the 21st Century may be reaching fundamental limits to what the land can support, so it's more important than ever to value the wild spaces. In this respect it's not escapism. Once established, our relationship with the landscape isn't severed by stepping into an office block again, and if we value it then maybe we will take care of it too.



An illustration from 'Skimming Stones'.



Oliver Burkeman (m. 1994) is a writer and blogger about social psychology, self-help culture, productivity and the science of happiness. He has recently authored 'Help!: How To Become Slightly Happier and Get a Bit More Done' and 'The Antidote'. He writes for 'The Guardian', 'Guardian US' and 'Psychologies' magazine.



What are your memories of Christ's?

To be absolutely honest, they're dominated by working far too hard and getting ridiculously stressed about my degree. I don't blame Christ's for this, particularly; at that point I had yet to learn various truths (about the pointlessness of perfectionism, about how more work doesn't mean better work) that I'm somewhat better about now. And if you have to learn these lessons the hard way, as apparently I did, you could hardly hope for a more beautiful place in which to do so. Editing *Varsity*, meanwhile, was absolutely crucial experience for my subsequent work in journalism.

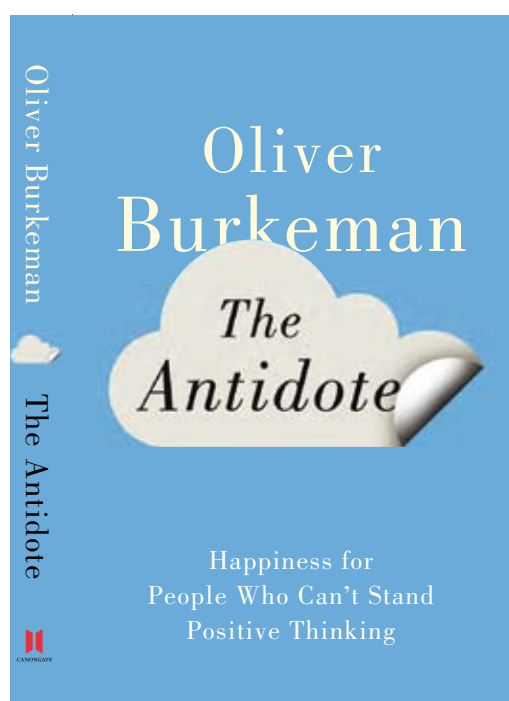
Can you tell me a little about your books and how they came about?

My 2011 book *Help!: How To Become Slightly Happier and Get a Bit More Done* is a collection of my columns from the *Guardian's Weekend* magazine. Writing the column is a form of therapy for me, essentially; I get to explore questions that fascinate me personally under the guise of journalism – a huge privilege. My new book, published by Canongate in June, is called *The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking*. It's an account of my adventures among psychologists, philosophers and

others who believe that "negative thinking" – pessimism, uncertainty, failure, that sort of thing – has a major role to play in happiness.

Why do you think we need this kind of help now?

I think that the way we approach all these questions – about happiness, psychology, therapy and self-help – has become far too ghettoised. We think of philosophy as something that's done in academic departments, therapy as something you seek when you've got a big problem, and self-help as a rather embarrassing, exploitative and pseudoscientific field of publishing that smart people would never be seen engaging with. But in ancient Greece and Rome, those boundaries didn't exist; philosophy was meant to be therapeutic, and self-help, though of course they didn't call it that, wasn't an intrinsically embarrassing pursuit. Everyone cares about questions of happiness and sadness, whether or not they admit it to themselves.



My new book tackles a related problem, which is the way we've come to think about happiness as a matter of ceaseless optimism and positive thinking. In fact, many psychology researchers and others will tell you, all this trying so hard to feel happy is part of the problem, not the solution. *The Antidote* isn't a celebration of grumpiness, but rather an attempt to explore the happiness that's hiding within such apparently unpleasant experiences as insecurity or failure or contemplating one's own mortality. The Stoics and the Buddhists recognised this, as do many modern-day psychotherapists and philosophers, but in contemporary culture it's been largely replaced with a relentless pressure to "think positive". Happiness can be so much more than that.

To read Oliver's blog and find out more about his books, please visit: <http://www.oliverburkeman.com/blog>

## Going Green

Oliver Balch (m. 1999) is a PhD student at Christ's. He is the author of 'India Rising' and 'Viva South America'. He is also a freelance journalist who writes for 'The Guardian' (specialising in sustainable business).



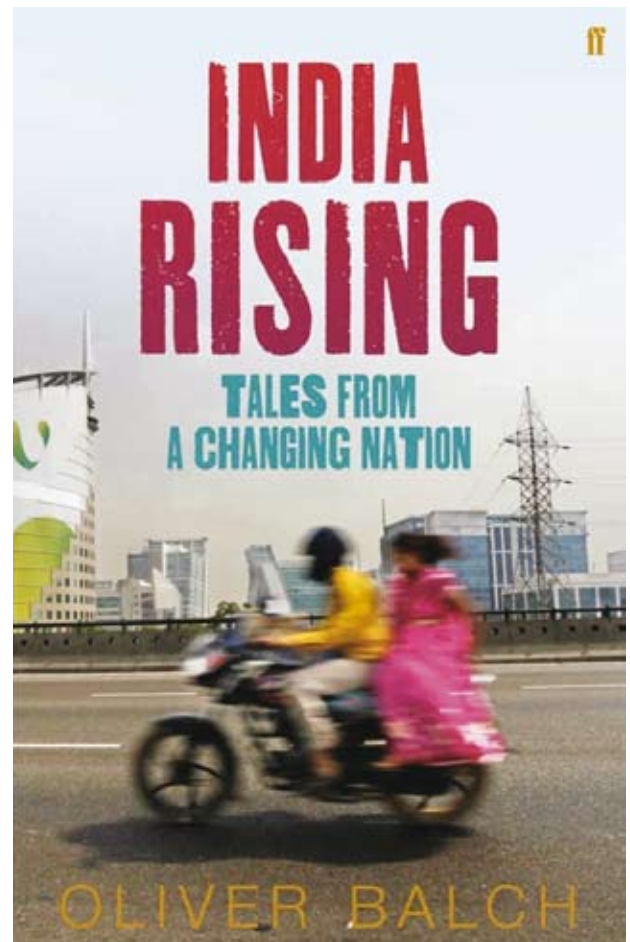
I studiously avoided the graduate milk round at university. Not because I didn't want a successful career. I did. I vaguely still do. Not because I was anti-business. I'm not. Just the prospect of losing my 20s to the gravy train didn't appeal.

My driving desire was to see the world, and – idealistic as it may sound – to change it a little for the better. But it turns out that 'making a difference' is actually quite difficult. What could a graduate with limited (alright, 'zilch') practical skills do to help combat glaring problems like global poverty and climate change?

More by accident than by design, I had picked up some work experience with Shell whilst at university. It was the summer of 1996, and the Anglo-Dutch oil major was reeling. The previous summer, its forecourts had been boycotted as environmentalists protested against its plans to dump a disused oil rig (the infamous 'Brent Spar') in the sea. Human rights campaigners, meanwhile, were causing a stink about violations in the Niger Delta. It was a sign of the times. The internet was just taking off. Anti-capitalists were storming the WTO. Alternative voices were getting heard. And corporations, at last, were being held to public account.

Back in Shell, the claxon of panic alarms were ringing loud. I was assigned to write a business case for what was then called "Issues Identification and Management": i.e. spotting the next crisis and trying to head it off. Back then, corporate social responsibility, or CSR, was all about defending yourself against business risks. Today, the agenda has come full circle. Mitigating your negative impacts is no longer considered sufficient. The question is, 'how can companies use their immense resources to resolve the big questions the world faces?'

I've channelled much of my energy over the last decade to finding answers to that question; first at a think tank, then at a boutique consultancy and more latterly as a journalist specialising on sustainable business. I'll be frank: the number of genuinely enlightened companies out there remain small. Yet their innovative, 'win win' (a horrible term, but it captures the idea) solutions have the potential to inspire others to follow. I like to think that writing critically about these examples helps in that process. Choosing journalism still leaves me bereft of practical skills. But it's a means, as I see it, towards making a small but practical difference.



Oliver's two books are published by Faber and Faber: Viva South America! (2009) & India Rising (2012). [www.oliverbalch.com](http://www.oliverbalch.com)

You can find some of Oliver's recent articles at: [www.guardian.co.uk/profile/oliver-balch](http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/oliver-balch)



# How Green is Your College?

*Charlotte Hill (m. 2010), JCR Green Officer on green initiatives at Christ's*



*Charlotte Hill (second from right, front) with the Green Team in Darwin's Garden*

Within the busy world of Cambridge, green issues aren't necessarily the first things on the agenda, so I was surprised and greatly encouraged when, on becoming Green Officer at Christ's, I found that staff, Fellows and students alike were prepared to work (and had been working) towards making College a greener place.

Christ's recycling system is still fairly new, but in the few years it has been in place, it has rapidly developed. Until recently, recycling bins for paper, glass, metal and plastics were placed in public spaces, gyp rooms and corridors around College where space could be found, and a dedicated team of twelve students worked in small groups, spending a little time each day sorting through the recycling – separating paper from card, sorting glass into the right coloured bins and emptying the growing number of bags that College produced – in exchange for a small discount on their College bills each term. This term, however, College has put in place a new recycling system, along with many other colleges, whereby the council collects all recyclable items mixed together and sorts them at a recycling plant, making recycling far easier for students, especially since student recycling officers are no longer required. With the steady increase of recycling, College has been able to reduce its general waste collection from 5 bins a day to 4, illustrating just how much is being recycled.

Part of the Green Officer's role is also the organisation of events promoting green and ethical awareness in College, and a FairTrade or Ethical Formal Hall has become a tradition at Christ's. This year's Ethical Formal Hall was run as part of the university-wide Green Week, with students from other colleges also attending to sample some of the ethical dishes Christ's offers, including a fair trade dessert, locally sourced meat, seasonal vegetables and sustainably caught fish. This was simply a reflection of the kind of ethical produce served up on a daily basis in Formal Hall and Upper Hall. We also held a small Clothes Swap, allowing students to swap their old clothes rather than just throwing them away.

On a wider scale, College is working more and more towards becoming greener, looking in particular at saving energy, for example by replacing old boilers with more efficient ones and installing energy-saving lighting solutions where possible when areas of College are renovated. Certainly, College has a long way to go before being an energy efficient place to live and work, but the positive steps that are being made point to a greener future for Christ's.

<http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/college-life/environment/>



## Cambridge 2012!

*Coming up to Olympics season, Christ's celebrates the great and the good of their sporting alumni.*



*Long Jump finalist Arthur comes in to land at the Olympics*

### Cruttenden's Long Jump to the Olympics

Arthur Cruttenden (m. 1943) was interviewed for 'Sports Think Tank' in the run up to the London Olympics. His main events were 1954 European Games, 1956 Olympics and 1958 Commonwealth. Between 1949–1958 he competed for England, Great Britain and the Commonwealth and held the GB long jump record, finally broken by Lynn Davies in 1960. He still holds the Sussex County Seniors long-jump record. To read the interview please visit: <http://bit.ly/LongJump>.

### Walk Like An Olympian!

Launched on 18 April a series of walks have been developed around Cambridge to showcase the sporting heritage of the city and links to the Olympic Games. The routes of the walks are available to download from the Walk Cambridge in 2012 website: [www.walkcam2012.co.uk](http://www.walkcam2012.co.uk). Christ's College features on the Yellow Walk.

### Old Library Exhibition

This summer's Old Library Exhibition 'Sporting Christ's', which opened on June 18, celebrates the Olympians and sporting heroes of Christ's. For more information please contact Graduate Trainee Librarian, Thomas Guest at [tdg29@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tdg29@cam.ac.uk).

## Carrying the Torch for Christ's

*In the run up to the 2012 Olympics two members of Christ's have been selected to carry the Olympic Torch. E A P Bircher (m. 1948), (pictured below), who was President of the CUBC, and won a Silver Medal rowing in the British VIII in the 1948 Olympics, carried the Olympic Torch in Paignton, Devon on Sunday 20 May. He was told that he should "run" from Torquay Road to Fortescue Road with the Torch held high.*

*The torch will travel through Cambridge on 7 July. Ed Roberts, J B & Millicent Kaye Junior Research Fellow since 2011 and one of the Cambridge torchbearers, tells us how he was selected and what it means to him:*

Every year the University Community Affairs team awards several students with the Volunteer Gold Award to recognize involvement in local charities and voluntary organisations. Last year I, and another Christ's alumna Emily Barker, were awarded Volunteer Gold Awards as a result of involvement with several local organisations. As a result of this the University offered us the opportunity to be nominated as two of their torchbearers. Unfortunately Emily wasn't able to take this up but the University subsequently put me, and two others, forward as torchbearers in the Olympic relay this Summer. I was extremely fortunate in that I was selected and now have the honour of being one of the torchbearers carrying the torch through Cambridge. The celebrations in Cambridge promise to be exciting and when it was revealed who else was selected I was pleased to find that two other people involved with Centre 33's Young Carers' project were also going to be involved which has led to quite some excitement down at the Charity's offices on Clarendon Street. I'm hoping that the Olympic Relay will be an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the amazing things local community groups are achieving in Cambridge despite the current challenging economic climate.





## Telephone Campaign

*Development Director, Catherine Twilley, reports back on the 2012 campaign.*



*Frances McDonnell (m. 2010) at the telephone campaign 2012*

The annual Telephone Campaign is now an established feature of the College's calendar. This year just after the end of the Lent Term, the Lloyd Room was a hive of activity as sixteen students worked as callers on the 2012 Telephone Campaign. The students very much enjoyed the opportunity to speak to alumni and to hear about their time in College and their life subsequently, in many cases receiving helpful careers' advice. The students were also pleased to be able to help raise funds for Christ's; in many cases they had benefitted from bursaries and other awards during their time at College and they knew first-hand the impact this kind of support from alumni can have.

Thanks to the generosity of Alfred Harrison (m. 1958) every pound given for student support during the Telephone Campaign was matched, meaning that each contribution was worth double the amount given. We are particularly grateful to Alfred Harrison for enabling us to run the matching scheme, and also to all those who supported the Telephone Campaign this year. More than 60% of those alumni to whom the students spoke made a gift, with many more saying that they would support the College in the future. At the end of calling we had raised more than £270,000, with most of that amount eligible for matching under the Harrison scheme. With the changes to higher education funding and the College's commitment to providing support to those who need it, this support from alumni is extremely welcome and important. We also sought support for the redevelopment of the Boathouse ([http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/boatclub/boathouse\\_redevelopment](http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/boatclub/boathouse_redevelopment)) with, amongst others, the current Men's Captain, contacting former members of the Club and updating them on the recent successes.

All of us at Christ's would like to thank our donors. Your support is very much appreciated and makes an enormous difference to everyone at the College.

## Honour for Yusuf and Farida Hamied



On 31 May we were delighted to welcome Dr Yusuf Hamied and Mrs Farida Hamied to College for a special ceremony in the Master's Lodge (pictured above). In recognition of their support for Christ's College and for the University, they were honoured with the Chancellor's 800th Anniversary Medal for Outstanding Philanthropy. The Chancellor of the University, Lord Sainsbury, presented Dr and Mrs Hamied with the Medal in front of the Master, the Vice-Chancellor, representatives of the Chemistry Department, Fellows of Christ's and some of their old friends from Dr Hamied's days as a student at Christ's.

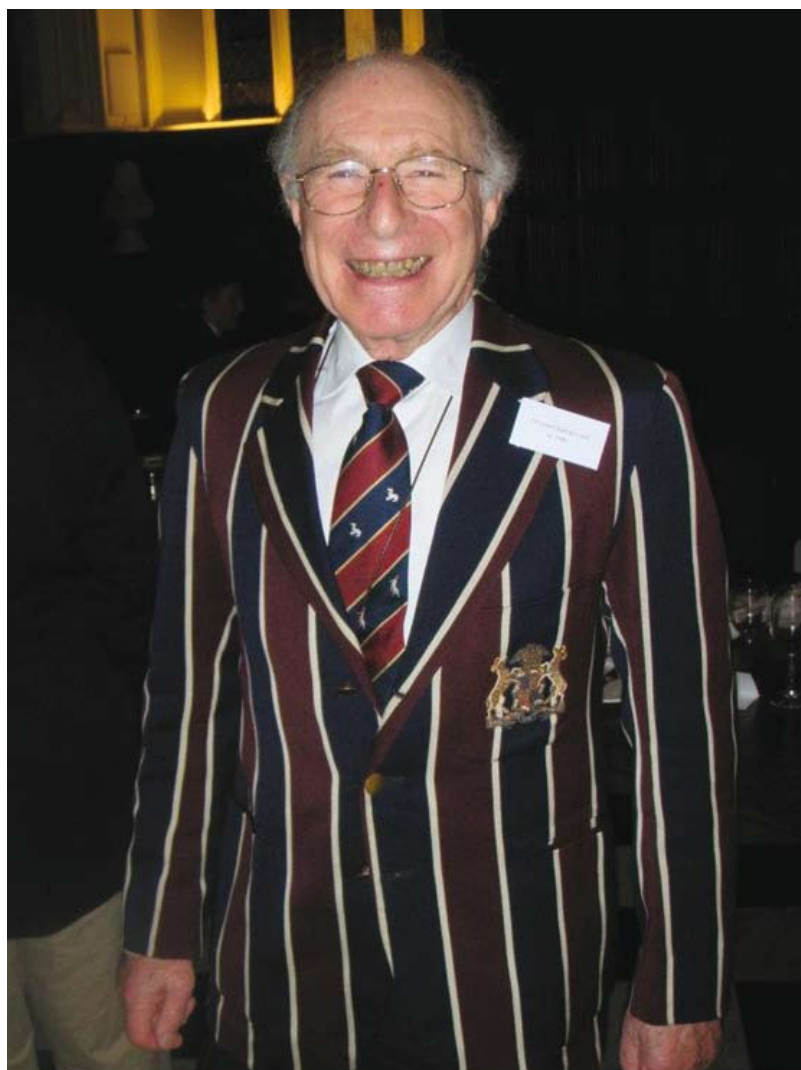


*Dr Yusuf Hamied (Honorary Fellow) and Mrs Farida Hamied*



M1 getting Blades in Lent Bumps

It seems that despite the ice, the cold and the wind of Lent Term crews were far from put off and rose to the challenge of Lent Bumps. This proved to be a successful week for Christ's Boat Club with an aggregate total of +12 across the five boats entered. M1 and M2's combination of explosive starts and determination earned both crews blades and the opportunity to row home with the Christ's Boat Club flag flying – a result which a Christ's M1 crew has not achieved since 1994. M3, the Fellows' Boat rose 2 places, W3 bumped up 1 place and after experiencing a few frustrating row-overs W2 finished +2. W1 set off from 5th and despite bumping up to 4th after the first day were unable to maintain their position and fell to 6th by the end of the week. Bumps proved to be a mixed week for the first women's boat but is a result which does not necessarily reflect the thought and determination that went into every day of rowing. Despite being disheartened at dropping a place in the Lent's the term will be remembered for their Robinson Head win, their epic Pembroke Regatta final and impressive amounts of crew spirit. Following this success, Easter Term has brought with it more unexpected weather with rising river levels resulting in strong streams and Bedford Regatta being cancelled. Despite this, crews have once again persevered, with 8 Christ's crews competing in the most recent race on the Cam. In addition to this, the ex-novice men reformed a crew to enter into the novice category of BUCS – held in Nottingham this year. They experienced 6-lane racing and finished 8th overall – a fantastic achievement against other University level crews. The end of Easter Term brings the excitement of May Bumps where the women will start in 3rd position on the river and have their sights set high following 2nd place in the Spring Head to Head and 3rd place in Champion of the Thames Eights Head. As well as all the on-water activity a naming ceremony for our new men's Stämpfli VIII was held in May and the club was honoured to welcome Dr Yusuf Hamied to name the new boat 'Todd of Trumpington'. I'd like to once again thank all of our coaches who have put huge amounts of time and effort to make Christ's a truly outstanding club, as well as our sponsors TwoTwoFive.



Dr Lionel Balfour-Lynn (m. 1946), at the Marguerites Dinner 2012, photo Andrew Nowell

## Marguerites Alumni Dinner

Jon Anderson (m. 2008), President of the Marguerites

The Marguerites alumni dinner was held on the 17 March and was attended by more than fifty members, past and present. Proceedings began informally with a gathering in the Buttery to watch the Six Nations match between England and Ireland (which set the majority of us in high spirits), before we moved onto the OCR and Formal Hall for drinks and dinner. It was a pleasure to see alumni from so many different sports and generations, and that many of friendships forged in sport at College had endured the test of time. Though the details might have become hazy over time, amusing stories of past sporting exploits were in abundance. After dinner, Dr Navaratnam introduced a former student of his, Mr Simon Roberts (m. 1980), a rugby Blue and former President of the Club, who now works as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, in particular as a sports injury specialist. Mr Roberts spoke most entertainingly of his sports career, including playing alongside one Rob Andrew MBE, and the course of events which saw him transfer to medicine, having come up to Christ's to study Maths. The evening was a most enjoyable occasion and we hope to hold a similar event with an even stronger turnout sometime in 2014.





# Christ's College Cambridge

## Personal Details

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## Online Giving

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

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Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711  
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## Christ's in New Zealand!



*The Master with Emeritus Professor Peter Tarling, m. 1949, at the New Zealand alumni Event, April 2012.*

## Looking for Hippos

The Hippolytans are currently compiling a database of former members and collecting information on the history of the club. They would be delighted if former Hippolytans could contact the Hippolytans' President, Becky Lane, at [hippolytans.president@gmail.com](mailto:hippolytans.president@gmail.com) to provide them with information. Becky hopes to organise a dinner next Easter for old members.

## Save the Last Dance

In the next edition of *Pieces*, we are planning to include some images and stories from the May Ball past and present. If you have any stories or photographs you would like to share with us for publication, please send them to the Publications Officer, Tamsin Astbury at [publications@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:publications@christs.cam.ac.uk), or to the Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge, CB2 3BU.

## Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 14 July 2012  
*Family Day and Summer Garden Party*

Saturday 8 September 2012  
*Reunion Dinner for alumni who matriculated up to and including 1952, 1985 and 1986*

Saturday 15 September 2012  
*Blades Dinner*

Wednesday 19 September 2012  
*Christ's Medical Alumni Association Meeting*  
6.30 - 8.30pm, Board Room, Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London, SW3  
(CPD approved 2 credits)

### Important Notice

The date for the Christ's Medical Alumni Association Meeting in London was incorrectly given in the last issue of *Pieces*. As printed above the date is **Wednesday 19 September 2012.**

Saturday 22 September 2012  
*Reunion Dinner for alumni who matriculated in 1987, 1988 and 1989*

For more information on any of these events, please contact Rosie Applin, Alumni Officer:

[alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk)

01223 768276



*A Parting Shot: Christening 'Todd of Trumpington' at the Boat Naming Ceremony 2012*

Connect Online

