

pieces

Christ's College Newsletter



Issue 24 Michaelmas Term 2012



Save the Last Dance

Memories from Christ's May Balls

The Men From Auntie

Two alumni reflect on their journeys
from Christ's to the BBC

Blades, back in the water

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College and Alumni News



Parisian Intersections



Helen Abbott's (MML, m.1997) book, *Parisian Intersections: Baudelaire's Legacy to Composers*, has just been published by Peter Lang.

The book, Helen's second monograph to date, analyses a key Baudelaire poem and 5 nineteenth-century song settings of it.

There is also an accompanying website with recordings of the songs, some of which have never been recorded before:

<http://bit.ly/19crecordings>

Further information can be found on Helen's research blog:

<http://helenabbott.wordpress.com/>

Birthday Honours

Christ's alumni have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Congratulations to Professor Dougal Goodman (m. 1970) who has been appointed OBE for services to science, to Mr Richard Turner (m. 1970), Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the Welsh Government, who has been appointed OBE, to Professor David Black (m. 1960) who has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia and to Professor Michael James (m. 1960) who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community of Sidmouth, Devon.

Environmental Award



and recognises the ethical and environmental practices within the Catering Department.

Congratulations to the Catering Department on being awarded a Gold Certificate Environmental Award. The award is presented by the Catering Managers' Committee of the University of Cambridge

Sixth-Form Scientists at STEM



The STEM Summer School was a residential event in August, jointly held with Sidney Sussex College for forty-three Sixth Form Students interested in studying Science at university-level. The intention was to dispel myths about Cambridge and encourage applications in Science from state schools. It was generously supported by the Simon and Jill Campbell Foundation and was the first of its type at Christ's.

Twenty-one students from state schools throughout our Link Areas of Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the London borough of Harrow, selected by their teachers on the basis of their academic ability, were resident at Christ's, whilst three Graduates and one Undergraduate assisted at the event. The sixth-formers, who will be applying for university places this autumn, sampled lectures, lab classes and small group teaching in the departments of Engineering, Maths and Physics, as well as attending general admissions and careers talks.

The feedback was extremely positive; a number who hadn't been considering a Cambridge application have now changed their minds. Some strong friendships have been formed and perceptions of Cambridge changed for the better.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Simon and Jill Campbell Foundation without which this event and the positive changes it initiated would not have been possible.

ERC Starting Grant



Congratulations to Fellow Dr Alessio Ciulli on being awarded a Starting Grant from the European Research Council. This five-year grant will support Alessio's group research on druggability of protein-protein interactions (PPIs) within multisubunit and multidomain protein.

Save the Last Dance! *Memories of Christ's May Ball past and present*

by lowering Marshall amps (with that shall obituary, April 7), which Pete Townshend trashed with his guitar. He then did his smashing-the-guitar routine, during which he cut his finger badly, but continued playing. Roger

'Trick of the Light'

In 1967, as reported by Nick Martin in 'TheTimes' (above), *The Who* headlined the Christ's College May Ball. In true rock and roll style Pete Townshend is reported trashing the Marshall Amps surrounding the stage, followed by smashing his guitar and badly cutting his finger. A true stoic Pete carried on playing, as did the rest of the band. As if the sparks and bloodshed was not enough, apparently half-way through the set, the College lights went out and Keith Moon was left playing in the dark for half an hour until the power came back on.

Daltry sang on unmoved. There were sparks all over place, and blood, and halfway through this wonderful piece of theatre the college lights (and those of the bus station next door) went out



Theme Park rehearsing for the 2012 May Ball

The 2010 Christ's Ball holds special memories for Sam Berkeley (m. 2005) and Ingrid Berkeley (née Burt, m. 2006)

"We met in February 2008 when we were both at Christ's, I was in 3rd year and Ingrid in 2nd. In 2010 the May Ball was on June 15 and Ingrid's birthday is June 16, so I thought what better time than to propose than at a May Ball exactly on her birthday. So at about 12.30am on her birthday we went out to the mulberry tree in the Fellows' Garden, where it was quiet, no one else was around and the lighting was beautiful. Thankfully she said yes straight away! Then it was great because we were able to celebrate with all our friends. We were married on July 7 this year."

'Fowl Play' at the 1984 Ball



In the early eighties, the smartest college balls always promised a piper at dawn. As a member of the Christ's 1984 May Ball committee, I was put in charge of publicity and decided our poster needed a novelty twist. Our ball was to offer a cockerel at

dawn. Arrangements for the night were proceeding well until, a few days before, someone suggested we should perhaps actually fulfil our promise. As a law student, and therefore dimly aware of the Trade Descriptions Act, I set off to find a kindly poultry breeder and persuade her to lend us one of her handsome male bantams for the night. Quite how I managed to sweet-talk her into going along with our plan I simply have no idea.

Much, much, later, around the time of the survivors' photo, I was again reminded of my publicised promise. I went to fetch said bantam from the garden where we had housed him, safely we thought. I could hear him going about his duty, albeit his tone was somewhat muffled and he was nowhere to be seen. After a thorough search of the foliage I had to give up my intention to parade him before the assembled revellers.

I returned later in the day to retrieve him and return him to his owner. Still he was nowhere to be seen, and now, of course, he was silent. Much to the mirth of my fellow committee members, I saw that I had some explaining to do.

At some point during my subsequent embarrassed phone calls, probably as I was promising to find a replacement bird while frantically flipping through the cockerel breeder section of the Yellow Pages (was there really such a thing?), the Cambridge Evening News got hold of the story. As the cutting suggests, the story did end happily after all. More or less.

We had wanted our ball to ruffle the feathers of a few rival colleges, but it was my (ahem) poultry attempt at publicity that gave the local paper its front page coop.

Paul Parker (m. 1982) Christ's 1984 May Ball Committee



THE mystery disappearance of a prize cockerel brought in to salute the dawn at a Cambridge May Ball has been solved — but it's left the owner with a new problem. As reported in the house next door to the college, but not before the red-faced Christ's May Ball committee had bought a replacement. "Now I have got two cockerels, and they began found by one of our gardeners. It had found a small hole in the wall of the walled garden where we had put it and gone to the warehouse next door." He said he and Mr

Blades, Back in the Water

Blades Gala Regatta and Dinner

A Gala Regatta and Dinner was held on Saturday 15 September 2012 to launch the Boathouse Redevelopment Fund. The plans have appeared in the College Magazine and the Christ's College Boat Club website and feature upgrades to equip the Boathouse for modern rowing, land training and facilities for women. The College was honoured to host Olympic gold medal-winner Kieran West (m.1995) as after-dinner speaker for the evening.

Kieran West (m. 1995) studied Economics and Land Economy at Christ's, where he also completed his PGCE in Mathematics. Having been a National Rowing Champion at the age of 15, he first rowed for the Blue Boat in 1999 and went on to be elected President of Cambridge University Boat Club in 2001, winning the Boat Race on both occasions. He represented Great Britain for the first time in 1998 at the Under-23 World Rowing Championships in Greece, was selected for the senior team the following year and won a silver medal at the 1999 World Rowing Championships. At the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games he was the youngest member of the first British Eight to win a gold medal since the 1912 Stockholm Olympics and the first member of Cambridge University to win the Olympic Games while still a student. He was subsequently awarded an MBE for 'services to rowing' in the 2001 New Years Honours List. Over the course of his rowing career West won every major international and domestic rowing event: the Olympic Games, World Rowing Championships, Rowing World Cup, Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, Head of the River Race, Head of the River Fours and Henley Royal Regatta.



Kieran West (m. 1995) giving the after-dinner speech.

The Dinner and regatta were extremely enjoyable events, with late-summer sunshine, medal-givings and the chance for Blades alumni to meet up and share stories of the Boat Club. More than one attendee had the chance to pose with Keiran's Olympic medal! Thank you to all who attended and made this such a pleasant day. We continue to raise funds for the important changes to the Boathouse, as we still have a long way to go. For more information on the improvements, and details on how to donate, please visit:

www.christs.cam.ac.uk/boatclub/boathouse_redevelopment_fundraising

Or contact Senior Development Officer Rebecca Pitcaithly: Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge, CB2 3BU (0)1223 761492, rjp93@cam.ac.uk

The Regatta in full swing





We were delighted to admit Dr Alan Smith (m. 1964) and Mr Terry Cann (m. 1954) as Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellows on 11 October 2012.

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 28 of November 2012
Alumni Winter Drinks Reception, Marble Hall at the Royal Society, London.

Thursday 6 December 2012
Varsity Match, Twickenham

Saturday 23 March, 2013
MA Congregation Ceremony for alumni who matriculated in 2006.

Saturday 6 / Sunday 7 April 2013
CCMAA Meeting with Dinner at the College: Speakers will include Professor Martin Johnson, Professor John Rees, Dr David Thomas, Mr Dylan Mac Lochlainn and the after-dinner speaker will be Dr Mike Knapton.

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

A YEAR IN CHRIST'S



Christ's College Yearbooks

The Assistant College Librarian, Steven Archer, would like to collate a full collection of Christ's College yearbooks. If you have any to donate please contact him at: 01223 (3)34905, sa377@cam.ac.uk.

Correction:

In the 2012 College Magazine, news about Cathy Wilcox and Manzur Maula (both m.1982) were included in the m. 1987 news section. We apologise for any confusion caused by this.



A Parting Shot: Assembling for the 2012 Matriculation photograph

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