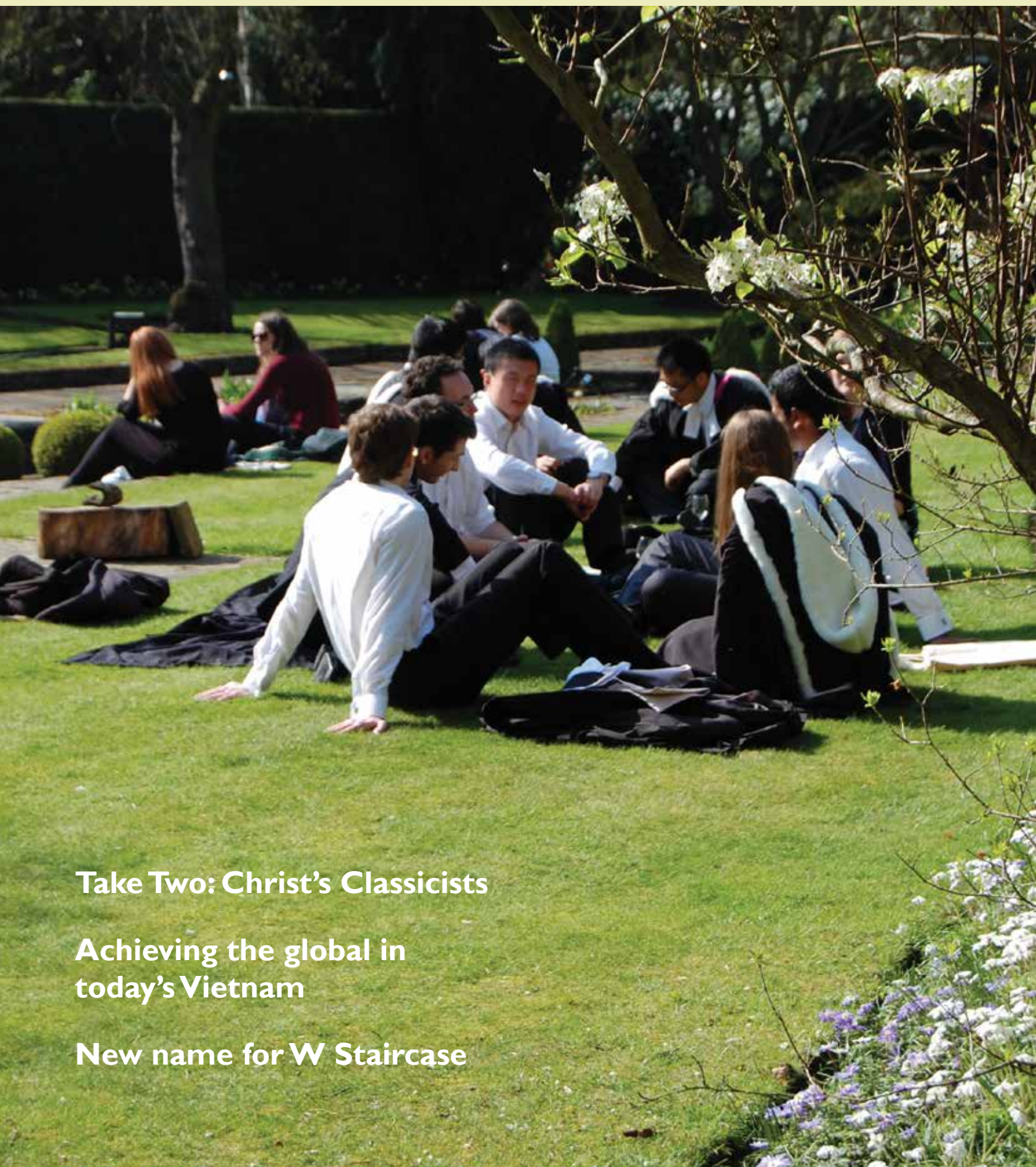


# pieces

**Christ's College Newsletter**



**Issue 27 Lent Term 2014**



**Take Two: Christ's Classicists**

**Achieving the global in  
today's Vietnam**

**New name for W Staircase**





## From the Master

Welcome to the Lent term edition of Pieces.

Jackie and I have just returned from China and Japan, where we were delighted to meet so many alumni at various gatherings. We are very grateful to Dr Chi Keung Lau (m.1984) for the Dinner he kindly organised for us in Hong Kong, and to our alumni in Japan, including Tim and Sara Hitchens (both m.1980) at the British Embassy, for their warm welcome. Around the same time our Senior Development Officer Rebecca Pitcaithly met with some of our alumni in Sydney for an informal get together and in May we will be hosting an Alumni Dinner in Paris. We now have an International Representative for France – Former Fellow of Christ's Beate Perrey. International connections are very important to us and the Development Office would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to become an International Representative for your part of the world.

International travel is also at the heart of two features in this edition. Natural Sciences student Tim Gordon reports on his research project on the Jewel Damselfish in Kenya on page 6 and on page 10 College Fellow Dr Susan Bayly provides a fascinating insight into her work on the culture of achievement in Vietnam.

We hear about the literary achievements of Helen Mort and Jane Rogoyska on pages 8 and 9. Helen has just released her debut poetry collection 'Division Street' and Jane has written a book on the photographic legacy of Gerda Taro.

College Fellow David Sedley will be retiring this year, and to mark this we have a Q&A on Classics with him and the writer and broadcaster Natalie Haynes on page 7.

I am sad to report that beloved College Fellow William Fitzgerald passed away in April (see page 3). He will be much missed by the College community.

Professor Frank Kelly CBE FRS

## Contents

### 3 Fellows' News

### 4–5 Alumni and College News

### 6 Fish Tales

Natural Sciences Student Tim Gordon (m.2012) reports on the Jewel Damselfish in Kenya

### 7 Take Two: Christ's Classicists

An interview with College Fellow Professor David Sedley and alumna Natalie Haynes (m.1996)

### 8–9 Christ's Authors

Alumna Helen Mort's (m.2004) debut poetry collection 'Division Street' and alumna Jane Rogoyska's (m.1983) book about pioneering photographer Gerda Taro

### 10–11 How to Forge a Creative Student-Citizen:

Achieving the Global in Today's Vietnam – College Fellow Dr Susan Bayly talks about her research into the culture of achievement in Vietnam

### 12–13 Alumni Events

A round up of recent College events

### 14 Sports News

### 15 Making a Gift to College

### 16 Forthcoming events





## Fellows' News

We are very sad to report that **Professor William Fitzgerald** died on 2 April 2014.

Professor Fitzgerald was elected a Fellow of the College in 1990, and served as a Tutor from 1995–99 and as Fellows' Steward since 1995.



He was Professor of Applied Statistics and Signal Processing in the University Engineering Department, and had recently won the EURASIP Technical Achievement Award for his work on applications of Bayesian theory in signal processing.



**Dr Jane Fruehwirth** has been awarded a 2013 Philip Leverhulme Prize to assist her research in applied microeconomics, social economics, education policy and policy evaluation.

Professor Gordon Marshall, Director of The Leverhulme Trust said "The standard of the nominated candidates was encouragingly high, and the eventual recipients of Prizes were judged by the panel

to be truly outstanding in their fields, with records of proven achievement, as well as telling promise for the future."

Dr Fruehwirth said "I am really grateful to receive the Leverhulme prize, and excited about the possibilities it creates for my research going forward."

**Professor Martin Johnson** has been awarded the 2014 Marshall Medal by the Society for Reproduction and Fertility.

The Marshall Medal is the Society's greatest honour and is awarded to "outstanding contributors to the study of fertility and reproduction".

**Dr Simon Campbell** has been recognised as one of the 100 leading UK practising scientists by the Science Council for his major contribution to the teams that discovered the drugs Cardura, Norvasc and Viagra.

**Professor Peter Landshoff** is Honorary Vice-Chairman of a new organisation that he helped to set up. Called *Cambridge Ahead*, it brings together the two universities, Addenbrookes, and some 20 of our largest companies, among them Marshalls, AstraZeneca and ARM. Peter is heavily engaged with one of *Cambridge Ahead's* first priorities, trying to improve the quality of life in Cambridge. [www.cambridgeahead.co.uk](http://www.cambridgeahead.co.uk)

Professor Landshoff also heads a consortium of a dozen organisations seeking to make improvements to the County's river system. They include various local authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Cam Valley Forum, the local Wildlife Trust, two water companies, and Cambridge Past, Present & Future (formerly the Cambridge Preservation Society). <http://cambridgeppf.org/river/>

Two Christ's Fellows have been awarded New Year's Honours:

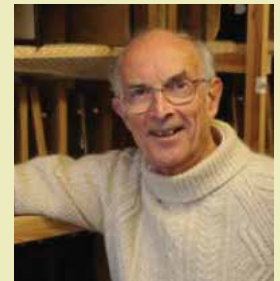
**Professor Michael Edwards** was appointed a Knight Bachelor for services to UK/France cultural relations.

**Professor Ash Amin** was appointed CBE for services to Social Science.

In September 2013 **Professor Bill Steen** celebrated his 80th birthday with a 'Steen Laser Summit' bringing together students and research colleagues from around the world.

Professor Steen's paper 'The laser: from burning paper to mainline manufacture' was circulated. The paper provided an insight into the first 40 years of the industrial application of lasers. Professor Steen said:

"The invention of the laser was as fundamental as that of the dynamo in giving engineers a new form of industrial energy – optical energy in large and controllable quantities. We all know how dependent we are now on electricity – soon the emphasis will be on optical energy."



**Professor Sir David Cannadine**, Honorary Fellow of the College since 2005 and Fellow between 1977 and 1992, has been appointed the new Editor of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. He will succeed the current Editor, Dr Lawrence Goldman, vice-master of St Peter's College, Oxford, on 1 October 2014.



## Senior Artist

**An exhibition of Bryan Senior's (m.1954) paintings from the period 1958/1961 was held in October in the Cork Gallery, London.**

**John Dalby (m.1954) writes:**

Although the exhibition set out to cover Senior's formative years it does not include the years spent at Christ's when his distinctive style was developed as is evidenced by a number of paintings in private collections. This was a time when the College included a number of undergraduates who were to become well known in the art world such as **Jeremy Moon (m.1954)** and **Phillip King (m.1954)** later President of the Royal Academy. The years chosen partly reflect the grim reality of life in the industrial Midlands, characterised by smoke and industrial decay.



*Picture: Primrose Hill with Lovers, 1961*

## Master of Wine



**Anne McHale (m.1999) has recently been named a Master of Wine by The Institute of Masters of Wine.**

At the Ceremony last November, Anne was also awarded the Taransaud Tonnellerie Award for excellence in the Production and Handling of Wine paper; The Bollinger Medal for outstanding tasting ability and The Institute

of Masters of Wine Outstanding Achievement Award. Anne, who read Classics and French while at Christ's, said "I had been studying for the MW for five years so was very glad to make it through this year – they don't make it easy. I was even more delighted to win three awards and am still enjoying the warm glow!"

I was involved in wine tasting at Christ's – I was a member of the University Wine Society which was the first society I joined in Freshers' week. But I still didn't know much about it, it was more for fun – and I didn't consider wine as a career but instead 'fell' into it by accident whilst looking for jobs that needed a French speaker. The awards will enable me to enjoy visits to Austria, Cognac and Champagne and in addition Bollinger have sent me a good supply of Champagne to drink so that I can keep the celebrations going."

Anne now works for historic London wine merchant Berry Bros. & Rudd as their Wine Education Specialist.

## Marriage Laws

**Dr Shalini Grover (m.1992)** has recently published a new book called "Marriage, Love, Caste, Kinship Support: Lived Experiences of the Urban Poor in India" which looks at the way marriage is reconfiguring in a rapidly changing India, where societal norms are in flux.



The book helps to understand the marital experiences of the urban poor in India, most of whom belong to the Scheduled Caste and live in one identified geographical space.

The book is the result of many years of research by Dr Grover, who read Law at Christ's and is now a social anthropologist/sociologist at Delhi University.

## Sporting Awards

On Friday March 14 Senior Tutor Dr Robert Hunt and **Professor Stephen Blyth (m.1985)** presented sporting bursaries to a number of Christ's sports men and women. These were:

**A C Blyth Sporting Award:** Megan Wilson (University Women's Cross Country Captain), **Wilfred Wooller Award:** James Hoad (Full Blue Cross Country, and Captain of CU Orienteering club), **Richard de la Hoyde Sporting Award:** Miranda Pottinger (Cambridge University Netball Starting Line), **Jeremy Taylor Award:** Ilanda Goodman (Full Blue in Tennis), **Garry Owen Sporting Award:** Zara Reid (Full Blue in Hockey) **W Blyth Sporting Award:** Andrew Aistrup (University and national Trampoline Gymnastics)





## Chemistry Connections

**Dr Yusuf Hamied (m.1954)** recently announced a major financial donation to the Royal Society of Chemistry to support an innovative chemistry education programme in India for school students, especially those from less-advantaged background.

Dr Hamied said: "I am very pleased to be working in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry to support the Hamied Inspirational Chemistry Programme. I believe the programme will make a real difference to the education and experience of students studying chemistry in schools all across India."

**Dr Simon Campbell**, former president of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow of Christ's, said "Yusuf has consistently demonstrated his driven ambition to make a positive impact on quality of life, and this unique programme is a significant educational investment with great potential to train the skilled chemists that will be vital for India's growth and social wellbeing."



*Dr Simon Campbell, Mrs Jill Campbell and Dr Yusuf Hamied*

## Goodbye W, Hello Blyth Building!

Christ's College is pleased to announce that it has decided to re-name W Staircase as The Blyth Building.

The building will be named in honour of **Professor Stephen Blyth (m.1985)** and his family, in recognition of Professor Blyth's exceptional financial support, particularly for students, teaching, outreach and endowment.

The Blyth family has a long connection with Christ's College, dating back to 1818. One of Professor Blyth's ancestors was the first Captain of the Christ's College Boat Club in 1830.

Professor Blyth himself read Mathematics at Christ's College from 1985 to 1988, graduating with First Class Honours as Third Wrangler. He was a keen sportsman as a student, serving as Captain of the College Football Club and playing in the Cricket 1st XI.

"Working at Harvard University I see the impact that financial support from alumni has on the University's ability to offer funding to its students. I believe that it will become increasingly important for UK universities to increase endowment funding to maintain their competitiveness.

My support for Christ's College aims to strengthen its financial position, so it can offer future generations of students access to the same educational experience and opportunities that I received."

The name will come into effect for the Michaelmas Term 2014.





# Fish Tales

*From early July to late September 2013, Natural Sciences student Tim Gordon (m. 2012) spent 11 weeks working as a marine biology research intern at A Rocha, an international Christian conservation organisation in coastal Kenya. Tim's trip and subsequent attendance at the RCUK conference was partially funded by College travel grants supported by members of College.*

The main work I completed in Kenya was an experiment investigating the effect of the territorial behaviour of the jewel damselfish on the growth rate of juvenile corals.

Previous research had shown that the jewel damselfish is one of a group of fish that aggressively defend small territories on the reef from other fish. They 'farm' these territories, weeding out non-edible filamentous species of algae in order to create lawns of edible fleshy algae as a constant food source in their territory. There has been relatively little previous research done on the effects of these territories on coral, and that which has been done suggests little effect on adult corals.

However, the percentage cover methods previously used overlook the effects on small juvenile corals, and my experiment used a frequency count method instead to investigate solely juvenile corals, showing that juvenile corals show highly significantly different survival rates outside of damselfish territories than they do inside, where they occur in far fewer numbers.



This could either be a direct effect of the fish via pecking away of juvenile corals to create space for algal growth, or it could be an indirect effect, via locally high populations of algae outcompeting juvenile corals; my experiment made no attempt to discover the cause, only to highlight the correlation.

This is an important result because the survival rate of juvenile corals on reefs is an important factor in reef resilience, or how quickly a reef recovers from climate change-induced bleaching events.

Another important aspect of my work involved producing a short promotional video for Watamu Marine National Park, the park in which I was doing my research. One of the most vital aspects of conservation is raising awareness of the local environment in the first place, and A Rocha and I both hope that this video can be used by A Rocha, Kenya Wildlife Service and many other organisations up and down the coast in order to do this.



I learnt a huge amount by simply living and working alongside a team of ecologists in an active field study centre for 11 weeks.



The logistics of carrying out high quality scientific research in a tropical, under-developed part of the world like the Kenyan coast are very different to that in a fully functioning lab in the UK, and I learnt a huge amount about working as a team, efficient planning, predicting and overcoming obstacles and the need to set realistic and achievable goals.

I feel very privileged to have spent this time in Kenya. I learnt a vast number of indispensable lessons in many areas. Practical research skills, specific knowledge about marine biology and coral reefs in particular; an understanding of how the world of scientific research works, new skills in underwater photography, video editing, sound recording and video narration, new levels of competence in SCUBA diving and boat handling, confidence gained in independent travel abroad and a wealth of experience gained from living and working with active scientists in the field are all valuable things which I feel that this trip has taught me.

In December 2013 I attended the RCUK (Reef Conservation UK)'s 16th Annual Meeting at the ZSL London Zoo. This was a conference where many eminent scientists from as far afield as Finland and Australia were presenting their recent discoveries in the field of coral reef studies. I was delighted and honoured to be given the opportunity to present both a poster and a short talk about my research project. My next plan is to liaise with my supervisor from Kenya and attempt to publish my project in a scientific journal.

I am completely thrilled with the outcomes of this trip, and I hope that the college travel bursary scheme will agree that this was a wise and worthwhile use of the money which I was generously given, for which I am very grateful.



# TAKE TWO...CHRIST'S CLASSICISTS

**David Sedley** is the Laurence Professor of Ancient Philosophy, which is the oldest chair of ancient philosophy in the world. He first became Director of Studies in Classics at Christ's in 1976 and has published extensively on the Hellenistic philosophers in general and recently on *The Origins of Stoic Theological Argument* (2005). He is also the current Praelector of the College so has presented many current and former members at their graduation and matriculation. He retires from the University this year.

**Natalie Haynes (m.1993)** has had a diverse career as a classics teacher, award winning stand-up comedian (she was the first woman ever to be nominated for the prestigious Perrier Best Newcomer Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival), and more recently as a writer and broadcaster.

## DAVID SEDLEY

### **Why do you think Classics continues to inspire students?**

The ancient Greco-Roman world is a microcosm of dazzling cultural, political and intellectual attainments, exotic and remote yet in all sorts of ways familiar too. The Greek and Latin languages can be acquired by the end of the Classics Part I course, and are a privileged entry route to that timelessly fascinating world.

### **Could you pick a favourite philosopher?**

Among the Greek and Roman philosophers, Epicurus is the one with whom I most often find myself in sympathy. But in the end my vote will always gravitate back to Plato – not only a profoundly seminal thinker, but surely the most brilliant and magical writer that Western philosophy has yet produced.

### **Do you have any plans for new research projects following your retirement from the University?**

First I have to finish things I've started. I plan to put together two monographs emerging from my recent and current research. One will be a series of studies of ancient Greek theology – a term which I interpret broadly enough to include atheism and agnosticism as well as positive belief. The other will be about Plato's dialogue *Phaedo*, on which I have by now been publishing articles for 25 years: it's high time I put those and other ideas together into a joined up book-length interpretation.

I am also supposed to be compiling several volumes of my collected papers for Oxford University Press. After that: who knows? It will all depend on whether my brain is still functioning by then.

### **What advice would you give to today's Classics students?**

Don't let anyone ever make you feel guilty because you have chosen to study your subject for sheer intellectual fulfilment. Our society's future economic prosperity will have no meaning unless it maintains its cultural richness too.



## NATALIE HAYNES

### **Why did you decide to study Classics at Christ's?**

I only ever wanted to study Classics. I took triple Classics A-levels (Latin, Greek, Ancient History), so I was pretty hardcore from the age of 16. I didn't know anything about Cambridge when I applied. Christ's looked like it was in the middle of town, so I figured that would be good...



### **A lot of your work has brought the Classics into the modern age – most obviously 'The Ancient Guide to Modern Life', but also 'Oedipusenders' – a documentary on Greek tragedy and soap opera on Radio 4. Why do you think it is important for Classics to maintain its relevance in our society and culture today?**

I think Classics is incredibly relevant today – just ask the soap writers (or Continuing Drama writers, to give them their fancy name), who study Aristotle's *Poetics* at the BBC's Drama Writing course. I get loads of mail from people who feel they have been robbed of a level of appreciation or understanding of all kinds of stuff, because they didn't have classics. They're often catching up in retirement...

In January, I recorded the stand-up bit of my new radio series, *Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics* (top tip – always get your name in the title. Makes it much harder to fire you) at the Radio Theatre at Broadcasting House. On a cold Friday in January, the place was packed out with people who just want to hear more about the Ancient World. The series ran in March on Radio 4. Also, I have pinched several Greek Tragedies for my new novel, *The Amber Fury*. It's a modern-day Greek tragedy about Alex, a woman who leaves London (where something awful has happened to her) and goes to Edinburgh to teach at a pupil referral unit. They're not keen on the Dramatherapy she is supposed to be teaching, but she wins their grudging interest in Greek Tragedy. But one of her pupils is learning a very different message from the one she intends...

### **What advice would you give to today's Classics students?**

I always worry that people can be fooled into thinking that Classics isn't 'useful', though I think (obviously) that you should study it because it's brilliant. The usefulness is a happy extra. But I have paid my bills with Classics for a very long time – being the reviewer or journalist or author or speaker who can combine a knowledge of Classics with anything makes you extremely valuable. I think potential employers see Classics, not as an intellectual cul-de-sac, but as a sign that someone is prepared to learn stuff for its own sake. That makes Classicists extremely desirable employees (in every way). So don't worry about studying something which isn't immediately vocational. You did the right thing. [www.nataliehaynes.com](http://www.nataliehaynes.com)

## Division Street



**Alumna Helen Mort (m. 2004) was recently described by Carol Ann Duffy as “among the brightest stars in the sparkling new constellation of British poets”. At the end of last year her debut collection, ‘Division Street’ was shortlisted for the prestigious TS Eliot poetry prize and she is currently the Poet Laureate for Derbyshire.**

### **What were the inspirations behind *Division Street*?**

My first collection gathers together poems written over six years, many of them inspired by a strong connection with Sheffield (where I was born) and Derbyshire (where I grew up), but it wasn't until I started to view them as a book that I realised many of them were also about conflicts of different kinds, whether political or personal. In particular, I realised I was inspired by the legacy of pit closure around the area where I used to live and the need to explore some of those damaging rifts. I chose the title *Division Street* because it's the name of a street in Sheffield so it reflects my obsession with place but because it seemed apt for a book dealing with divisions of different kinds.

### **How has being the Poet Laureate of Derbyshire influenced your work?**

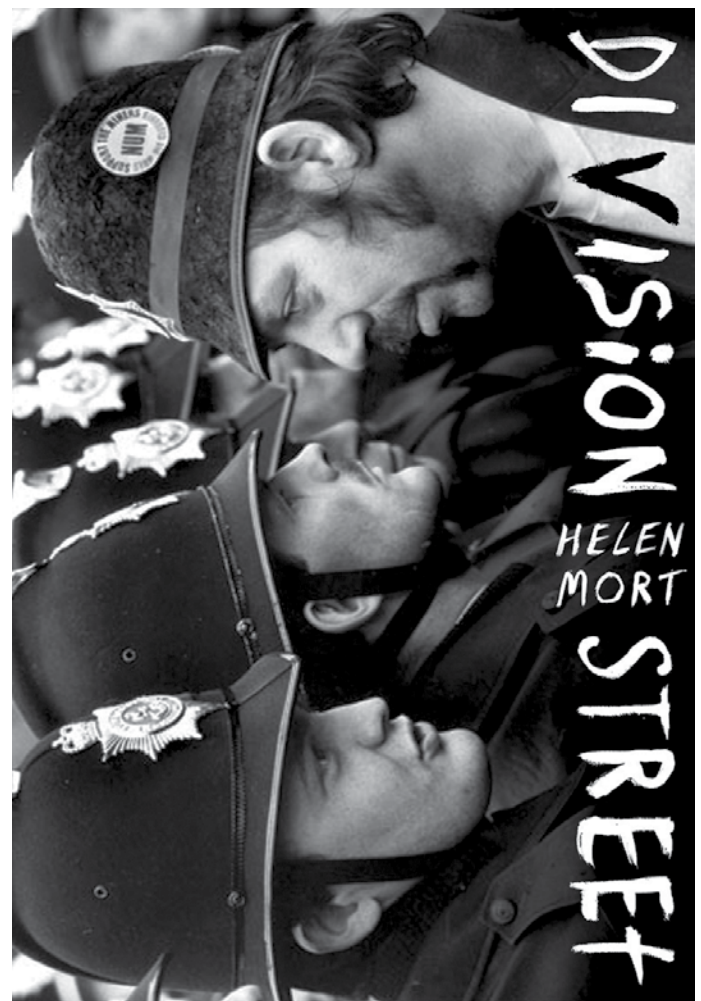
Since being appointed as a local laureate last year, I've been poet in residence at a football club, had my work translated into Japanese and written a 'Tour de Sheffield' to mark the Tour de France coming to Yorkshire. So it's fair to say that the role has pushed me to tackle themes I wouldn't otherwise explore! Also, because I'm writing poems for audiences who might not normally read much poetry (my favourite kind of audience!) I've learned to try and make my Derbyshire Laureate poems as direct and accessible as possible. It's easy to make something sound complicated. It's much harder to say a thing simply.

### **Your PhD research and blog ‘Poetry on the Brain’ explore the connections between writing and neuroscience. How has understanding the science of the mind informed your work?**

The more I read, the more mysterious it all becomes. When I started my PhD I was worried that learning a little bit about the cognitive structures that might underpin certain aspects of creativity would make me too self-conscious about my own writing. But there's no danger of that because I still know so little. And what little I do know has only highlighted what a beautiful, elusive thing the mind or the brain or whatever you prefer to attribute consciousness to really is.

### **What are you currently working on?**

I'm working on a sequence of poems that will hopefully form the spine of my next collection, themed around rock climbing and mountaineering. I'm a keen amateur climber and when I'm not writing or working I'm often found high on Stanage Edge, clinging to gritstone for dear life. One of the poems is a long, shape-shifting piece about the history of Mount Everest. One is about Heinrich Harrer and the first ascent of the Eiger. But most are about the story of women's mountaineering and the struggle for recognition some early female mountaineers faced.



[www.helenmort.com](http://www.helenmort.com)



# Pioneering Pictures

When Jewish emigre Gerda Phorylles met Hungarian exile Andrew Friedmann in 1930s Paris, the two reinvented themselves as Gerda Taro and Robert Capa, with Capa becoming renowned as the most important photojournalist of his generation.



Together Capa and Taro documented the rise of the Popular Front in France, selling their photos under Capa's name. In 1936, civil war broke out in Spain and Taro and Garda travelled to Barcelona. It was while covering the conflict in Spain that Taro was killed while on an assignment. Aged just 26, she was the first female photojournalist to die in combat. At the time of her death she had become a hero of the political left and her funeral was attended by thousands. Despite this, her work was overshadowed by the work of Capa.

Seventy years after Capa's death, a long lost suitcase was discovered in Mexico containing thousands of negatives by Capa and Taro. Upon closer inspection these photographs revealed that many images thought to be by Capa, were in fact by Taro.

In the light of this revelation, Christ's alumna **Jane Rogoyska's (m.1983)** book *Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa* traces Taro's fascinating life and the personal and creative relationship between her and Capa.



Top photograph and photographs on the right: © International Center of Photography/Magnum Photos

Bottom photograph: Gerda Taro and Robert Capa, Paris 1935 by Fred Stein. Credit: © Estate of Fred Stein, FredStein.com, courtesy of The International Center of Photography

"The rediscovery of Taro's photographs opens the door to more than just an insight into the brief career of a talented photojournalist. It allows us to re-examine the story of Gerda Taro herself and the partnership that so defined her.

Behind the melodramatic newspaper tale of the heroic girl reporter tragically killed in action lies a highly complex reality, a fascinating story of image and identity, love and loss in which little is as it first appears."



Republican militawoman training on the beach outside Barcelona, August 1936 by Gerda Taro



Navacerrada Pass, Negovia Front, late May early June 1937 by Gerda Taro



Jane (right) studied Modern and Medieval Languages at Christ's, studied film direction after leaving College and went on to write and direct many shorts, commercials, business and event films.

**Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa** is her first full-length book.

twitter: @janerogoyksa





# How to Forge a Creative Student-Citizen: Achieving the Global in Today's Vietnam

**Dr Susan Bayly has been a Fellow of the College since 1986; she is George Kingsley Roth Fellow and Tutor, and Director of Studies in HSPS and Archaeology & Anthropology. Her publications include *Asian Voices in a Postcolonial Age. Vietnam, India and Beyond* (Cambridge University Press).**

## How did you decide to do research on how achievement is experienced in present-day Vietnam?

A bit of context first. I started my academic life as an India specialist with a background in both history and anthropology. But my research now centres on Vietnam: still a socialist party-state where memories of revolution and wartime triumphs are keenly celebrated, but where there is also great pride in the nation's outstandingly successful 20-year history of decollectivisation and global market-entry. It's that mix of powerfully intertwined ideas about what citizens should value as attainments that provided the spark for my research on achievement as a key issue of personal and official concern in present-day Vietnam.

So in addition to my Department teaching and College duties, I spend part of every year conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, a wonderful amalgam of beautifully preserved traditional architectural sites and glossy new consumer-culture landmarks. For an anthropologist interested in the extraordinary transformations taking place in Asia's high-growth 'tiger economy' countries, Vietnam is an ideal choice for our kind of research. An anthropologist's version of fieldwork entails open-ended interactions with groups and individuals in their own settings and environments. Rather than relying on archival research, or one-off interviews and statistical surveys, anthropologists work by building relations of trust over long periods of time, so we can do what we call participant-observation.

That means relating and communicating collaboratively on a face-to-face basis, with people whose perspectives on the world we seek to understand in a spirit of respect and open-minded curiosity.

### *A busy research day in Hanoi.*

*This was a visit with a local colleague to the home of the distinguished artist Mr. Nguyễn Tư Nghiêm, whose famous painting *Giống* was brought to Cambridge as part of a landmark event co-sponsored by the College for the 2013 University Festival of Ideas.*

## So why achievement?

The project, entitled 'The Social Life of Achievement and Competitiveness in Indonesia and Vietnam' and generously supported by the UK's Economic & Social Research Council, grew out of an interest shared with an LSE colleague – Dr Nicholas Long, an Indonesia specialist – in something we felt would be an immensely productive basis for in-depth ethnographic study.

What we had in mind were not the kinds of issues that many psychologists have studied in predominantly Western contexts, such as how an individual's 'achievement orientation' might be fostered in the school or workplace. We wanted to enhance and complement such research by expanding the study of achievers and achieving to our two very different Asian contexts. And in doing this, we've been concerned to understand as much as possible about what it actually means to pursue success on a national as well as personal basis, looking out particularly for situations where the understanding of what achieving and success may entail is far from clear-cut and agreed upon, either personally or officially.

We knew the places where we do our fieldwork to be immensely achievement-conscious in a host of ways, with deep concerns being expressed and acted on about such things as how state schools are succeeding or failing to prepare young citizens to be competitive 'human resources', with the capacity to bring credit to their families and nations in today's high-stakes global knowledge economy.

But we also believed that while the whole world seems to be talking about achievement issues, as in the recent UK media uproar about British schoolchildren's alleged under-achievement compared with their Asian counterparts, fine-grained ethnographic research on real-life achievement experience could contribute in valuable ways to the framing and nuancing of such debates.





## What did you find out about achieving in Vietnam?

We both worked intensively with school pupils and parents, and with a wide range of other people with an interest in gaining and using an achiever's credentials in today's world of fast-changing ideas about what counts as a creditable way for a motivated citizen to win, gain and prosper. In Hanoi, through extended discussions of what families and individuals thought of as their successes and failures in past and present life experience, what I discovered was an intense sensitivity about the morality of achievement.

The schoolchild who wins the race or is garlanded for outstanding merit in an international maths or physics olympiad must take her bow in a spirit of proper modesty which connects very closely with the country's enduring pride in its socialist heritage. Such a student has set a standard for others to meet or surpass, and must not crow, or fail to acknowledge the teachers, proud parents and other exemplars who equipped her to strive successfully on behalf of the 'collective' (still an important word in Vietnamese: tập thể).



*Official mobilization-campaign posters now contain striking new images of the exemplary citizen, with the goal of 'creativity' (sáng tạo) exemplified here by the man in the wealth-generator's suit and tie, shoulder to shoulder with the more conventional heroes of the achieving nation.*

What this has led to is a flourishing private-sector market in confidence-engendering skills training, to which parents commit significant chunks of their domestic budgets, with mixed and sometimes alarming results. It has also produced a determination on the part of state agencies to foster 'creativity' (sáng tạo) within and beyond the classroom, most notably through the invention of a new kind of creativity-testing exam. These novel testing modes are now a highly controversial element of the country's high-pressure public university-entrance examination system.

This has been one of the most fruitful areas of my recent research. What I will be doing in Hanoi over the next few months will be to explore even more of the ways these interacting visions of old and new-style achievement culture are impacting the search for ways to foster an acceptably moral and patriotic way to be a 'creative' achiever in today's Vietnam. My focus will be on a particularly tricky aspect of Hanoi achievement culture: the question of whether to seek an overseas or safe-option home-based education for one's 'creatively' gifted and achieving child.



*What's come to be called visual anthropology is a fast-growing area of the discipline – one key strand of the project has been an exploration of Hanoi's many colourful 'strive and attain' posters.*

Yet Hanoi people are passionately devoted to the idea of Vietnam as a top-quality achieving nation and to a goal of pressing ever onward with what the international league tables so excitingly report for the nation at large: a record of extraordinarily rapid achievement, starting with the country's leap from extreme poverty in the pre-independence period to today's life as one of the world's leading post-collectivisation 'transition societies'.

So I encountered deep fears in a host of Hanoi contexts that the modest and therefore moral child who eschews a Western-style or 'individualistic' claiming of credit for her attainments will lack the drive and confidence that are now widely seen as critical factors in the making of a modern citizenry, fit for competitive life in the global knowledge-economy.



*Achievement on display in a Hanoi classroom.*

**More information about the project:**

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-000-22-4632/read>



# Alumni Events

The Development Office have organised a range of interesting alumni events over the last few months and it has been a pleasure to meet a great number of alumni and guests at them.

Please don't forget to use our new alumni website **[alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk](http://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk)** to update us with your contact details so that you don't miss out on event invitations and other communications from College.

## **Young Alumni Event 8 November 2013**

### ***Chocolate and Wine Tasting at Vinopolis, London***

2013's event for alumni who graduated in the last ten years was a delight for the senses as we learnt about the union of chocolate and wine and the different elements of taste that caused some combinations to work and others to be slightly less palatable!

This was a great opportunity for younger alumni to meet up with College friends and enjoy a fun evening in central London.



## **Winter Drinks Reception 28 November 2013**

### ***Oxford and Cambridge Club, London***

Around 80 alumni and guests from a range of vintages met at the 'Smoking Room' at the Oxford and Cambridge Club for drinks and canapés in the run up to the festive period.





**Distinguished Speakers Dinner:  
'Changing Banking for Good' with  
Lord Turnbull KCB CVO  
21 October 2013**

***Oxford and Cambridge Club, London***

For the third Distinguished Speakers Dinner we were joined by Honorary Fellow of Christ's, **Lord Turnbull (m.1964)**, who gave a very interesting talk about his work as a member of the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards.

We are delighted that this new initiative has been so positively received and are already looking forward to two more Distinguished Speakers Dinners this year. On April 29, College Fellow Professor David Reynolds FBA will be speaking on "The Long Shadow" – Exploring our perception of World War I in its centenary year. On 25 September Dr Charles Saumarez Smith CBE will be joining us to give a talk on "Arts Funding: Public or Private?" on the pertinent topic of arts funding in a time of fiscal restraint.



**MA Congregation Ceremony  
29 March 2014**

Alumni who matriculated in 2007 returned to College to collect their MA certificates from the Senate House, enjoy drinks in the sun dappled Master's Garden and later a special Reunion Dinner in Hall.



**To keep up to date with all forthcoming events make sure to take a look at the events section of the alumni website: [alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/eventcalendar](http://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/eventcalendar)**





## Sports

### Women's Football Success

For the second year in a row the Christ's Women's Football Team have won Cuppers. This year they played against Jesus College in the Finals and won 1–0. The Captain was **Charlotte Bull (m. 2012)** who also plays Blues.



### 10 Decades of Christ's Rugby Captains

On 8 March a group of alumni from the last ten decades met up for a Rugby Match against the current student team. Pictured are eight of the Captains, including **Aidan Devane (m. 2010, third from left)**, who has been selected to play for the Ireland Squad for the Student Four Nations in April. The Old Boys took an early two try lead and led at half time but the current students clawed back and ultimately edged the Old Boys in a very closely fought match.



### Boat Club Steering Committee Vacancies

The Boat Club Steering Committee has a number of positions available for alumni volunteers, including Chairman, Alumni Treasurer, Blade Coxswain and Alumni Member.

If you are interested in taking on any of these roles as a volunteer, please contact the current Chairman Tom Swallow for more information: [tom.swallow@csiltd.co.uk](mailto:tom.swallow@csiltd.co.uk)

### Boat Club Training Camp

**John Beckett, Boat Club Captain 2013–2014**

A winter training camp is a relatively recent addition to the Christ's College Boat Club calendar, having first been run in 2011.

This January, we headed down to South-East France for the fourth time in search of some flat water and good facilities to kick-start our Bumps campaign. The Boat Club took 26 rowers, 3 coxes and 2 coaches to Lac d'Aiguebelette for five days of hard training. Over these five days, we managed twelve sessions on the water, ranging from long technical paddles to fiercely competed side-by-side races.

Many of those attending were novices, and the opportunity to train and to race with the more seasoned athletes of the sport was both invaluable and enjoyable. We were blessed with perfect weather; a relief after some difficulties with the cold and fog in previous years, which made being on the water in any crew a pleasure the whole week long. All in all, Aiguebelette was an ideal backdrop to our training, being both well equipped and a beautiful place to row. We made great advances as a team, and there is nothing quite like training on a sunny mountain lake for motivation.

The camp was also an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other; and we spent a lot of time in the evenings socialising after long hours on the lake, and an evening meal in Chambéry was enjoyed by all. If nothing else, travelling together for 15 hours across Europe is a bonding experience in itself.

Overall, the camp was a great success and will prove vital to our Bumps campaign. We owe our thanks to the College Council and the Boat Club, who once again agreed to support us in funding the camp. A notable mention must also go to Kate Hurst, our Boathouse Manager, who drove all the way across France with a boat trailer in tow.

Thanks also go to the lake for hosting us, Les Tilleuls for accommodating us and to Cambridge Tours for transporting us both across France and daily to and from the lake.

A fundraising event will be held later in the year to build additional funds for this trip, and discussion has already begun about a similar camp next year.







# Christ's College Cambridge

## Personal Details

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Matric Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

From time to time we publish lists of donors, please tick this box if you wish your gift to be anonymous ☐

## Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat all donations I have made to Christ's College, Cambridge (Registered Charity Number 1137540) since 6 April 2009 and all donations I make on or after the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Regular Gift

Standing order mandate

Name of your bank \_\_\_\_\_

Address of your bank \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ on the same day each month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) on the \_\_\_\_\_ (day) of \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year) until further notice OR until \_\_\_\_\_ payments have been made (delete as appropriate)

For Office Use: Please make the payment to  
Christ's College Acc No 03322253 at Lloyds TSB,  
3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BQ  
Sort code 30-91-56 quoting reference no. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

## Legacy

- ☐ I would like information about leaving a bequest to the College  
☐ I have included a bequest to the College in my will

## Single Gift

- ☐ I enclose a cheque / CAF donation payable to Christ's College Cambridge for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge £ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit Security Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Located on the signature strip on the back of the card. For security reasons you may wish to phone, email or send separately.

Please return this form and direct any enquiries to:

The Development Office  
Christ's College  
Cambridge CB2 3BU UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1223 766710

Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711  
email: [development@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@christs.cam.ac.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1137540



# College Calling...



This year's Telephone Campaign 2014 Calling Team and Year Group Representative for 1954 Lawford Howells enjoying a moment in the sunshine before the start of the campaign. We hope those of you who received a call this year enjoyed talking to the bright young undergraduates who took part. For more information about the campaign please go to: [alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/telephonicampaign](http://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/telephonicampaign)

## Dates for your Diary

**For more information and to book a place at any of these events, please go to [alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk](http://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk)**

**Wednesday 21 May** Paris Dinner

**Saturday 14 June** May Bumps Picnic at Osier Holt

**Saturday 21 June** Reunion Garden Party and Buffet Lunch for alumni who matriculated from 2000–2005

**Saturday 28 June** Annual Association Dinner (open to all alumni and guests)

**Saturday 5 July** 1954 Reunion Dinner

**Sunday 13 July** Family Day and Summer Garden Party

**Saturday 6 September** Medical Alumni Association Meeting and Dinner

**Saturday 20 September** Blades Regatta and Dinner

**Thursday 25 September** Distinguished Speakers Dinner with Dr Charles Saumarez Smith CBE

**Saturday 27 September** Reunion Dinner for alumni who matriculated up to 1955 and in 1964

## ...and it's goodbye from me!

This is the last edition of Pieces I will edit as I am leaving Christ's in May to begin a new job in communications.

It has been such a pleasure to meet many of you at alumni events over the last five years and it has been my privilege to hear your memories of College and learn more about the traditions and history of this incredible institution.

Thank you in particular to the year group representatives who have helped so much in supporting our events and communications, and thank you to everyone who has been so friendly and receptive towards the alumni relations initiatives we have put into place.

Best wishes,  
Rosie Applin

