



**WRITING WOMEN INTO OUR
FUTURE WITH SANDI TOKSVIG**

**OUR DISTINGUISHED
VISITING SCHOLARS**

**IN CONVERSATION WITH
PROFESSOR SADIAH QURESHI**



Pieces

ISSUE 46 • LENT TERM 2024

welcome

FROM THE MASTER

Welcome to this issue of *Pieces*.



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One of my favourite facts about Christ's (drawn to my attention by **Robert Hunt**) is that floral colour brightens First Court every day of the year. The yellow winter jasmine (*jasminum nudiflorum*) has had scant company for most of Lent Term but now the quince (*chaenomeles japonica*) outside Chapel is in full vermillion bloom. And the sun is rising earlier than most of our early risers. Spring is around the corner.

I have four updates this issue. First, despite the slowness of marking last year's exam papers and unease at the idea of league tables, it is clear that Christ's outstanding academic performance continued in 2023. Forty-two percent of Tripos results were Firsts, and Christ's remains the top performing College academically in Cambridge for First and 2:1 degrees combined.

Second, the competition to choose an architect to design a replacement library in Bath Court has almost concluded. A steering group of Fellows will make a recommendation to Governing Body's next meeting. When the five practices presented their ideas, all made the same basic point: producing a high-quality building (which we want) in such a confined space (which we cannot avoid) will be expensive.

Third, the Choir released their second CD of music by **Annabel Rooney** (m. 1991). *Like to a Flower* is gorgeous. I downloaded my copy from iTunes (very last decade, I concede). The Choir also played their full part in this term's polyglot Evensong. Over eight weeks, students read Bible passages in eighteen languages, and the Choir performed in Cantonese, Czech, German, Latin, Latvian, Occitan and German.

And finally, after a year characterised more by sporting spirit than athletic prowess, our rowers are celebrating success in the Lent Bumps. W2 won their blades, bumping Emmanuel W3, Clare W2, Downing W2 and Queens' W2. M1 registered their first bump (against Caius M2) since before the pandemic and M2 bumped Trinity Hall M2. Getting up before dawn in all weathers and turning up when you feel under the weather teaches you discipline and team-building but it's lovely also to have something tangible as proof of your efforts!

Sum 17/15

McDonald of Salford

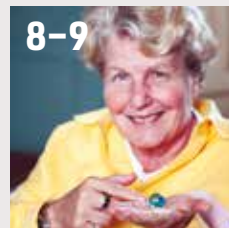
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FRONT COVER IMAGE: Fellows' Building through the trees, Paul Everest

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DESIGN AND PRINT MANAGEMENT:
H2 Associates, Cambridge



Pieces is printed with vegetable based inks on paper containing material sourced from responsibly managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council®.

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The wall paintings in the loft space

Rare medieval wall paintings, discovered in a loft space during restoration of our fifteenth-century First Court, feature three crowned motifs on a plain white background: a red Lancastrian rose, a portcullis and what appears to be the Prince of Wales's feathers. Likely dating to the early sixteenth century, the partially obscured design is

located in the roof space of what was probably the original Library's north-west wall. The last known recorded sighting of the wall paintings was around 1738, and the College has obtained specialist advice about how to protect and conserve the paintings during the ongoing restoration and in the future.

Dr Harriet Lyon – Christ's Fellow, Lecturer and Director of Studies in History – commented, "It was a privilege to view these paintings, which connect us to the earliest phase of the College's history and which have not been seen in almost three hundred years."

Read more:

www.christs.cam.ac.uk/news/rare-wall-paintings.



The new JCR Committee is planning to refurbish and refresh the JCR over the Easter/Summer holidays, which made us wonder how the space has changed over the years. We're keen to hear from alumni about their experiences of the JCR during their time here. Please send your photos and memories to alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk.

CHOIR TOUR



The Choir at the top of Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill, 2019

After a thrilling and slightly sweltering summer spent in Canada in 2023, the Christ's College Choir are looking forward to touring New Zealand for three and a half weeks this summer. Swiftly following graduation, they'll be hopping

on a plane and flying for two days to arrive into Auckland on 3 July for two packed days of concerts and sightseeing. They will then slowly wind their way down the North Island – with a stop in Hobbiton, of course! There are concerts and a day off planned in Hamilton, and another in Wellington, for which they're all very excited. A flight to Blenheim on 17 July will begin the slightly shorter half of the tour in the South Island, where they will work their way to Christchurch, with a cheeky wine-centred day off. On 23 July they will fly back to Auckland and make their way home, swapping the New Zealand winter for the (potentially no warmer!) British summer.

We will share the final dates with all local alumni, but if anyone would like to get involved, please get in touch: alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk.

news



Sir Patrick Vallance, Chair of The Natural History Museum and former Government Chief Scientific Adviser, delivered the 2024 Christ's College Climate Lecture on 18 January.

While acknowledging that scientific evidence is not an absolute truth as new discoveries can be made at any time, Sir Patrick asserted that "science advice should be at the heart of all government decision making". He proposed greater resilience planning – with the UK Government learning from other nations'

experiences of dealing with challenges associated with climate change, such as extreme weather events – and emphasised the need for public and political attention on biodiversity to be comparable with that given to achieving net zero emissions. He also discussed the role of natural history museums in engaging policy makers and the wider public in the stories of nature and climate in the context of a planetary emergency.

Simon McDonald, Master of Christ's, said of the lecture: "In the Yusuf Hamied Theatre, Patrick Vallance proved once again (to me) that no one is so persuasive as an articulate scientist. He set out the task of scientists advising ministers – not merely to gather evidence but also to present it in a form digestible to decision-takers, and not merely to help in practical policy formation but also to devise and implement robust monitoring of those decisions. The proof of Patrick's effectiveness is that I remember his key points more than a month after he delivered his lecture!"

Read more and watch the lecture:
<https://bit.ly/VallanceClimateTalk>

BOAT CLUB UPDATE



The Christ's College Boat Club's two Spanish-speaking captains – Mateo and AnaRosa – negotiated a fantastic January training camp this year in sunny Seville. The warmer weather and clear water were a welcome change from the usual chaos of morning traffic on the Cam, and the training camp once again proved essential for the progression and retention of novice crews. Thank you to everyone who donated to the 24-hour Ergathon in October, which helped

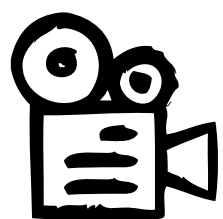
support the trip; it was a fun challenge resulting in a total of 287km being rowed.

Lent Term has seen higher than average river levels – and, in turn, a higher number of dreaded yellow and red flag days. "It's been sad to trudge out before sunrise only to discover that

your crew can't go out," said **Georgia Denham** (m. 2021), Captain of Boats. "Despite this, our rowers have made the most of unexpected land sessions and extra-long outings when the flag permitted." As mentioned in the Master's welcome message, this dedication led to impressive Lent Bump results.



ERRATUM



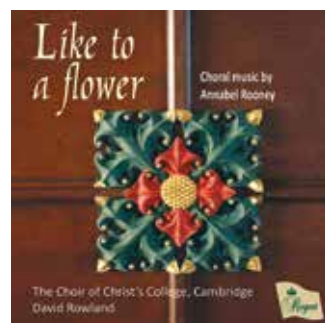
The student-run cinema Christ's Films – featured on pages 10–11 of the Lent Term 2023 *Pieces* magazine – was not founded in the early '70s, as printed in that article, but rather in the late '60s by **Dr John Beech** (m. 1967) and **Professor David Blackburn** (m. 1967). During their time at the College, before New Court existed, films were shown in the Lloyd Room.

A new CD – *Like to a Flower* – recorded by the Christ's College Choir and featuring choral music by composer and alumna **Annabel Rooney** (m. 1991) was released on 9 February 2024.

Annabel, who studied music at Christ's and has written more than 40 choral works as well as instrumental pieces, said, "It was very inspiring hearing everyone working so hard on my music, and with such enthusiasm and good humour!"

As a Seed Bursts Forth, also featuring Annabel's compositions, was recorded in 2019 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the admission of women to Christ's College.

Read more:
www.christs.cam.ac.uk/news/new-choir-cd



The Choir with Professor Rowland and Annabel Rooney at the end of the recording in 2022

MA NOTICE

This year we welcomed back alumni from 2017 to attend their MA Congregation and join us for a celebratory lunch and dinner in College. The majority of you will have gone through this same process, but even if you missed out collecting your MA with the rest of the cohort, it's not too late! Whether you graduated in 2017 or earlier, you can still have your MA conferred, either in a ceremony here in Cambridge or in absentia. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.



STAY AT CHRIST'S COLLEGE

Alumni are welcome to stay with us at a discounted rate. During term time, two single-occupancy student rooms are available, each with basic furnishings and shared bathroom facilities (with one student in residence), and guests can stay for a maximum of three nights at £54 per night. There's a greater variety of rooms available in the vacation period, including double and twin rooms, and alumni are entitled to a 10% discount on all rates.

The 2024 Easter vacation runs from 21 March to 13 April and the Summer vacation from 6 July to 26 September. Due to the nature of College buildings, we are unable to accommodate children



under the age of 18. If you would like to book or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Accommodation Office, who will be delighted to assist you. Email reservations@christs.cam.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1223 334926.

CHRIST'S 'COFFIN BOFFIN'

Egyptologist and Lady Wallis Budge Fellow Dr Alex Loktionov, who uses papyrus and pottery to understand conflict over ancient Egyptian coffins, helped host the recent *Coffins in Context* conference.

Ancient Egyptians often went to court to dispute ownership with family members or to prosecute thieves, and Dr Loktionov is astonished by the scale that exists in the source material of litigation involving coffins. "So far," he says, "I have discovered 36 different texts mentioning coffins in legal settings, which means that they were among the most common triggers of judicial dispute."

Made by highly skilled craftsmen and containing precious metals like gold, coffins were expensive items that were regularly bought, sold, broken up or stolen. They were inscribed with spells from the *Book of the Dead*, a guidebook to help the deceased navigate the underworld judgement and find eternal happiness. Those who failed could expect to be eaten up by the monster

Ammit – one third lion, one third hippo and one third crocodile. Dr Loktionov explains that "being devoured in this way was called 'dying a second death' and represented utter destruction forever."

Since only the earliest Pharaohs like Khufu were buried in the pyramids, rich Egyptians were often buried in coffins placed inside stone sarcophagi within tombs grouped together in a necropolis (city of the dead). A tomb was built as a 'house' for the dead and would be filled with everything the deceased might need in the next world, including models of servants or ships. Prayers or offerings made by relatives were believed to turn pictures of food on the walls of the tomb into actual nourishment.

"FOR A VERY LONG TIME, WE HAVE THOUGHT OF COFFINS AS SOMETHING TO DO WITH DEATH (LIKE IN OUR OWN CULTURE), BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD THINK OF THEM FAR MORE AS SOMETHING TO DO WITH LIFE AND WEALTH." – Dr Loktionov

From 22–24 February, Christ's College hosted the *Coffins in Context* conference in collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum. Over 40 scholars from Egypt and around the world presented the latest findings in Egyptian coffin research from a wide range of perspectives, including material culture and laboratory analysis, textual studies and online strategies for making the field more accessible to non-specialists. Topics ranged from pigment manufacture to the *Book of the Dead*, with one contribution on identifying animal remains even featuring prehistoric sloths!

"Overall, the conference was a fine demonstration of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of modern Egyptology," Dr Loktionov says, "and everyone left in high spirits despite the funerary nature of the topic. We are now very much looking forward to working on the proceedings volume."

Listen to Dr Loktionov discuss his research on Cambridge 105 Radio – <https://bit.ly/CamRadioCoffins> – and read a longer interview with him on the College website: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/news/christs-coffin-boffin.

Conference group photo in the Fitzwilliam Museum



© FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Dr Loktionov giving the welcome address at the conference dinner



© FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

STUDENT WELFARE

Our College Nurse and Wellbeing Advisor, Ana Rodrigues, joined Christ's last year directly from the NHS.

Her appointment reinforces the commitment of the College to the wellbeing of its students and the creation of an inclusive community to ensure students have the best possible experience while studying with us. Ana has extensive experience supporting adults with a range of mental health conditions, and her last role was with a busy Crisis Team. Ana is convinced that early intervention is key to best help people who experience difficulties with mental health, and she is keen to lay strong foundations for the next generation of researchers, thinkers and leaders.

"I am so excited to have joined Christ's," Ana says, "and I am looking forward to continuing to work together with both students and colleagues to develop a Health and Wellbeing provision for our

community that truly represents the College's values of an integrated model of student support, where academic excellence and wellbeing are paramount."

Ana will continue to develop the College's Health and Wellbeing provision alongside the Senior Tutor, and this year she has introduced the following support to students:

- Fresher induction appointments to get to know students who may have disabilities or a physical or mental health condition to ensure adequate support is in place
- Wellbeing drop-in sessions to preventatively tackle difficulties students are facing early on before the issue becomes bigger and more impactful



- Physical health appointments for non-urgent health issues or to review ongoing conditions
- Counselling and a listening ear in a safe, non-judgemental setting for those students experiencing mental health difficulties
- Timely referral for specialised help or treatment via the NHS, the University Services and other professional organisations.

Welfare and wellbeing are also key priorities for the JCR Committee, which has been working tirelessly on new and existing student welfare initiatives.

Welfare Officers Zain and Chris drew an amazing turnout for the first Alt-Bop of Lent Term – an alternative to the College bops at which alcohol is served – during which students relaxed with music, board games, snacks and soft drinks. Other notable events from Lent Term included a Movie Night with a thriller shown in the TV room and a Just Dance Party. Both events were stacked with pizza, snacks and sweet treats and provided opportunities for students to release any stress and unwind in a comforting environment.

For the popular Valentine's Day event, students sent messages attached to roses to each other's pigeonholes. To ensure all students joined in on the fun, sweet Valentine's treats were left in every undergraduate's pigeonhole as a reward for their hard work and to boost their spirits.

The JCR continues to offer welfare drop-in hours, during which students can discuss pressing concerns or queries with a peer or simply engage in a friendly chat with someone outside of an academic setting. Additionally, weekly Welfare Walks around Cambridge encourage students to get fresh air while exploring the wonderful quirks and character of the city and other colleges.

The Dog Therapy event held in the Buttery in Michaelmas Term was so well received that Zain and Chris are organising a similar event in the near future. There are also plans to begin a new weekly, collaborative event with books, warm drinks and biscuits for students who want to engage in literature beyond their reading lists and academic work.

With crêpes, puppies and ice cream all in the works for Easter Term, the JCR Committee is looking forward to continuing to offer students fun and relaxing reprieves from academic and co-curricular responsibilities. More importantly, through these events the JCR aims to improve every student's wellbeing by ensuring that they feel at home here at Christ's.

Sandi Toksvig OBE, the award-winning author, broadcaster, entertainer and founder of the Women's Equality Party, has been elected a Bye-Fellow of Christ's College and awarded the inaugural Qantabrigian Q+ Fellowship by the LGBTQ+ research programme in Cambridge University's Department of Sociology, whose founding Director is Christ's Fellow Professor Sarah Franklin.

WRITING WOMEN INTO OUR FUTURE

The Q+ Fellowship enables distinguished Cambridge LGBTQ+ alumni to spend time in Cambridge to conduct research or incubate a new idea, and Sandi has chosen to develop the Mappa Mundi project – a digital resource documenting women's positions, achievements and struggles across the globe.

She landed on this venture after setting out to write an atlas of women to address the gender imbalance of current records. After she'd written 220,000 words, she realised this couldn't be done in a book.

Instead she turned to modern technology and is now working with computer scientists and other academics across the University to make an interactive, multi-layered globe that is searchable on a country-by-country basis and by other keywords and categories.

Explaining the importance of the project in the Cambridge Union debating chamber in November, Sandi said, "It matters because AI is coming. And if it comes to age on such a skewed diet of the knowledge that we have now, we are in danger of women being written not only out of the past but out of the future."

Working in partnership with Women of the World (WOW), of which she was a founding committee member, Sandi has convened a series of events, workshops and meetings to promote and progress the initiative with Cambridge staff and students. She also gave a talk at Tate Britain at the end of March to Christ's alumni following a private viewing of the acclaimed *Women in Revolt!* exhibition, spanning 100 years of feminist art in Britain.

To avoid a Eurocentric viewpoint and ensure different nationalities tell us directly about what their country looks like, the project will set up a group of women in each country who will curate the atlas.

Sandi is a firm believer of the power of change through collaboration, and she hopes the project – which she says will be "story-led, data driven and allow women from all countries to present their stories, their hardships and their triumphs" – will change the world by learning to see it differently. Instant access to statistics and stories of women, displayed on a three-dimensional, interactive view of the globe from a female perspective, will open up new ways of connecting with audiences and sharing knowledge integral to countering the gender bias of existing major online directories.

Six months into her time at Christ's, Sandi is delighted with the progress made and the collaborators she has met. "I've particularly enjoyed working with the Department of Computer Science and Technology over recent months. Two groups of students have developed two prototypes for how the finished product might look; it's incredibly exciting to see the Mappa Mundi project coming to life!"

She has also hugely valued the experience of living in College over the last six months. "College life naturally fosters collaboration and lively discussion and I've enjoyed meeting students, Fellows and alumni alike. Christ's has given me the warmest of welcomes."

Keep an eye on your inbox for updates on Sandi's progress in our alumni e-newsletters. You can also watch a recording of her speech in the University's debating chamber on the Cambridge Union's YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/STCamUnion>.



OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLARS

Each year Christ's welcomes several international academics as Distinguished Visiting Scholars, and they spend up to a year here while on sabbatical from their own institution. They are proposed and supported by Christ's Fellows, who collaborate with them on events to enrich College life, and at the end of Lent Term we caught up with two of them – Professor David Fox and Dr Thant Myint-U – to hear about their experience of the role and how their research is progressing.



Professor David Fox



Dr Thant Myint-U

CAN YOU SHARE A QUICK SUMMARY OF YOUR CAREER?

DF: I finished my MS (1995) and PhD (1999) in the Department of Geological Sciences and the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Michigan and then spent two years as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Earth Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 2001 I began my current position in Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota.

TM-U: After my PhD in History at Trinity College, I became a Research Fellow there (1996–2000), writing my first book on the nineteenth-century Burmese kingdom. Since then I've written three more books, all on Asian history and politics. I've also served on United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia (1992–93) and the former Yugoslavia (1994–96) and then worked for seven years at the UN in New York, including as the head of policy planning in the political department. From 2009 to 2021 I worked in Burma as a presidential adviser, peace negotiator, the founding chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust (on conservation and urban planning) and the chairman of U Thant House (an education and discussion centre). I'm also the recipient of one of India's highest civilian honours.

WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF CAMBRIDGE CITY, THE UNIVERSITY AND CHRIST'S COLLEGE?

DF: We very much love living here! Being right in the city centre is convenient, and more or less everything we need is within a short walk. That alone is quite different from most cities in the USA, but we also love the old buildings and narrow lanes through the shops and colleges. The University offers an endless choice of seminars to choose from, and my family and I have enjoyed exploring the museums. Christ's College is beautiful and the gardens peaceful, and we have enjoyed meeting students and Fellows at dinners. As someone who studies evolution, it's a thrill to see the places Darwin called home in Christ's and in Cambridge.

TM-U: Cambridge has always held a very special place in my memory and it's wonderful to be back after more than two decades. Christ's has been incredibly welcoming.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH PRIORITIES?

DF: My research focuses on the connections between changes in environmental conditions through Earth's history and changes in the composition and structure of organismal communities. Most projects focus on terrestrial ecosystems over the last 23 million years and modern ecosystems with an emphasis on mammalian communities and grassland ecosystems. Research in my group is expressly interdisciplinary and relies on data, methods and theory from stable isotope geochemistry, sedimentary geology, traditional paleontology, ecology, evolutionary biology, comparative anatomy and biogeography.

TM-U: I am writing a new book on the UN in the '60s focused on the Congo, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam and the Six Day War. It is told through the story of my grandfather, U Thant, who was Secretary-General at the time, and is partly based on recently declassified archives. There's a false notion that the UN was paralysed during the Cold War. The UN was actually at its most dynamic at the height of the Cold War, led by the newly decolonised states of Africa and Asia; it's a story that's been almost entirely airbrushed from history.



© PROFESSOR DAVID FOX

Collecting a sample of volcanic ash for dating a Miocene fossil site and extracting plant microfossils in eastern Oregon

WHAT LED YOU TO THIS RESEARCH? WHAT ARE YOU HOPING THE IMPACT OF IT MIGHT BE?

DF: Initially I wanted to be a paleoanthropologist, but by the time I graduated university I realised that questions about the evolution of communities and ecosystems were more interesting to me than those about the evolution of a single lineage, even our own. I hope our work can explain the histories of specific ecosystems, particularly the grasslands of central North America and eastern Africa and their associated mammalian communities. More generally, I hope my research can help understand how communities and ecosystems will respond to anthropogenic climate change in the coming centuries.

TM-U: There's nothing we need more today than a new global agenda for peace; a different perspective on the past will, I hope, give us fresh ideas about the present and future of peacemaking.

WHAT HAS BEING A DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR AT CHRIST'S ALLOWED YOU TO DO THAT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO OTHERWISE?

DF: I've had the chance to interact with a new community of scholars and students, both within the College and more generally at the University, particularly in the Zoology and Earth Sciences departments. I hope some of these interactions – particularly with Christ's Fellow Professor Daniel Field and his research group – will lead to new collaborations.

TM-U: It's been so important for me to have a home in Cambridge and a stimulating place to write. Conversations with colleagues have been invaluable.



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U Thant with Nikita Khrushchev

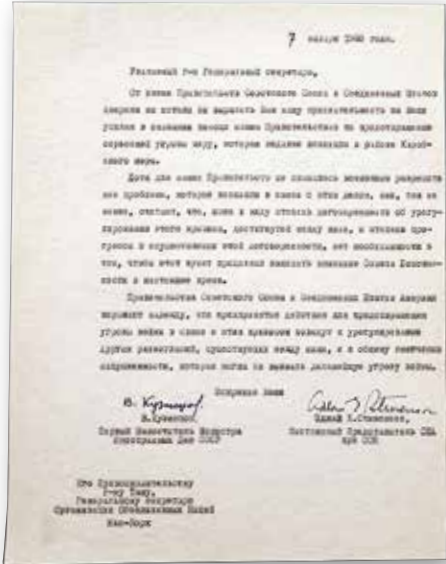
WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN INTERESTS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA/ HOW DO YOU UNWIND?

DF: I buried my backyard vegetable beds under thick layers of leaves when we left the US, and I have missed gardening while here. Cooking and feeding family and friends are two of my main hobbies, and I have been able to do those to good effect in our flat on Jesus Lane. Other interests include history and travel, and we have satisfied those so far with trips in England outside Cambridge to Castle Rising, Norwich, Ely, Bury St Edmunds, Duxford and London and abroad to Normandy, Paris, Salzburg and just recently to Madrid, Toledo and Seville – and we have more trips planned yet.

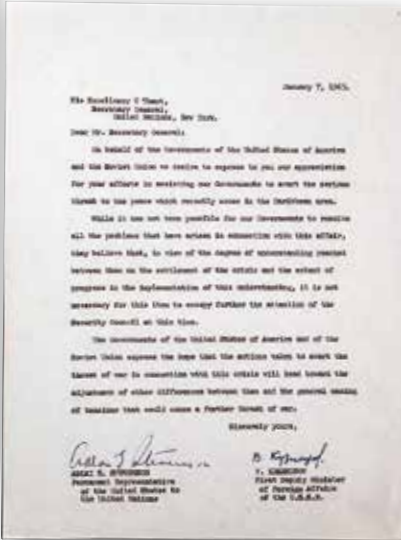
TM-U: I read, watch TV (especially crime thrillers), go to the cinema, walk our neighbour's labrador and play tennis.



Dr Myint-U with Barack Obama during Obama's visit to Rangoon in 2014



An unprecedented joint US-USSR letter to U Thant thanking him for his role in resolving the Cuban Missile Crisis



© UNITED NATIONS

A MASTER, A SQUIRE, A SPORTING LEGEND AND A KNIGHT

AUTHORS: LUCY HUGHES, ARCHIVIST, AND PENNY KENDRICK, ARCHIVES VOLUNTEER.

What do all these characters, and many more, have in common? **The answer is hats!**

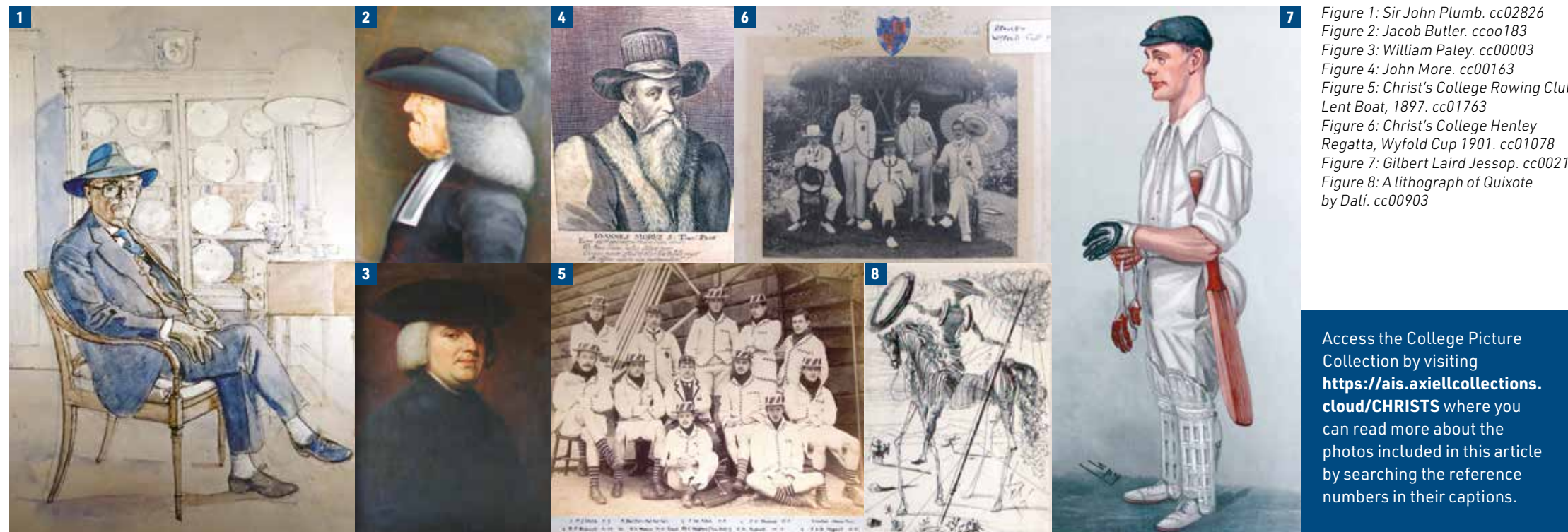


Figure 1: Sir John Plumb. cc02826
Figure 2: Jacob Butler. ccoo183
Figure 3: William Paley. cc00003
Figure 4: John More. cc00163
Figure 5: Christ's College Rowing Club
Lent Boat, 1897. cc01763
Figure 6: Christ's College Henley
Regatta, Wyfold Cup 1901. cc01078
Figure 7: Gilbert Laird Jessop. cc00218
Figure 8: A lithograph of Quixote
by Dalí. cc00903

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Collection by visiting
[https://ais.axiellcollections.
cloud/CHRISTS](https://ais.axiellcollections.cloud/CHRISTS) where you
can read more about the
photos included in this article
by searching the reference
numbers in their captions.

Hats make a statement about the profession, occupation and status of the wearer. Whether worn through personal choice or through the automatic adoption of a uniform, they identify the wearer as part of a social group or, conversely, assert individuality. When a fedora hat worn by our former Master Sir John Plumb (1911–2001) (figure 1) was discovered in the Development Office, we found a portrait in the College's Picture Collection of him wearing the very same hat. A subsequent search revealed many Christ's College characters, sporting legends and famous and infamous people wearing hats – a selection of which we highlight here.

The tricorne

Very fashionable in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and depicted in at least two paintings of alumni in our collection, the tricorne has a broad brim which was pinned up in three places to form a triangle. It was once favoured by the military and is still worn today by Chelsea Pensioners.

Jacob Butler (figure 2) was admitted as a pensioner in 1698 at the age of 16, and after graduation he became a barrister. He inherited Abbey House in Barnwell, Cambridge, with much of the surrounding land from his father and became known as the Squire of Barnwell. He was a 'larger than life' character being well built and 6'4". An impressive figure in court and fond of litigation, he owned the land where Stourbridge Fair was held and was a stickler for rules, ensuring that stallholders stuck to them. If traders were still selling after hours he was known to drive his carriage through the stalls, spoiling and smashing goods. However, he was also noted for his benevolence and eccentricity, and he was reputed to have ordered a huge oak coffin for himself, which he upturned and used as a card table until it was needed!

Philosopher and author **William Paley** (figure 3) graduated from Christ's in 1763 and became a Fellow in 1766. His

The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy was published in 1785 and *Evidences of Christianity* in 1794. He became a well-respected clergyman in Cumberland (now Cumbria), was made an Archdeacon in Carlisle and later in his career was given positions in both Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals. A great supporter of the abolition of slavery, his *Evidences of Christianity* remained a set text on the Cambridge syllabus until 1921 and was read by Charles Darwin when he was studying theology.

What a hat!

John More (figure 4) matriculated in 1560 and was elected a Fellow of Christ's College in 1568. Considered a 'godly and learned man' with strong puritanical views, after Christ's he was appointed minister of St Andrew's

Church in Norwich, where he soon courted controversy by refusing to wear a surplice. Although this caused More to be convened before John Parkhurst, the Bishop of Norwich, he was allowed to continue his ministry. However, when More and other Puritan clergy from the Norwich area petitioned against the imposition of ceremonies, he was suspended from his ministry by Archbishop of Canterbury Matthew Parker. Known as the 'Apostle of Norwich', More died in 1592 and was buried in the churchyard of St Andrew's. In the College portrait, which possibly dates from 1602, he sports a beard considered to be the longest beard of his time, and he is wearing a very distinctive large hat most unlike the capotains later worn by Puritans during the years of the Commonwealth.

Caps and boaters

The boater was much favoured by college boat crews and caps by the rugger teams in the late nineteenth century.

The Christ's College Boat Club wrote the most informative club news for the College *Magazine*, and their blow-by-blow description of the 1897 Lent Bumps includes the good news that the Lent boat then moved into the first division (figure 5).

In 1901 our crew were runners up to Trinity Hall by one and a half lengths in the Henley Regatta, Wyfold Cup. The *Magazine* reported that they considered the result satisfactory as they had been beaten by an exceptionally high-class crew (figure 6).

In 1898 **Gilbert Laird Jessop** (figure 7) was the *Wisden* Cricketer of the Year. He read Theology at Christ's, although he only completed seven terms. He is recorded as first playing for Christ's in 1896, when he was described as a most brilliant batsman and an excellent fast bowler with a wonderful knack of bumping.

He played for and captained Cambridge University and took 6 wickets for 65 in the first innings of a Varsity match in 1897. He also played in test cricket for England 1899–1912 and captained his home county of Gloucestershire. In his time, he was reputed to be one of the fastest run scorers in cricketing history. In fact, in Jessop's obituary in the *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* of 1956, Sir Jack Hobbs wrote, "He was undoubtedly the most consistently fast scorer I have seen."

A magic hat?

After a knight and some legends, we have a legendary knight! Neither Dalí nor Cervantes were alumni of Christ's and yet we have this drawing of Quixote wearing a hat. In *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, Cervantes describes how delusional Quixote is convinced that the shiny metal helmet a barber is wearing is the pure gold helmet of the fictional Moorish king Mambrino, which will protect the wearer from any harm. This magical hat is actually the barber's brazen basin, which he had put on his head to protect his hat from the rain, and when Quixote charges at him he flees and leaves it behind (figure 8).

How the College acquired this drawing is not recorded. However, there is a tenuous link between Salvador Dalí and former Fellow John Brande Trend, who held the first Chair of Spanish at Cambridge University 1933–53. Spain was his second home and he visited from 1919 to 1937. While there he would frequent the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid, where he socialised with many Spanish cultural icons, including the poet Federico García Lorca and the composer Manuel de Falla. As Dalí was also a resident, perhaps Trend met him while visiting the Residencia, bought the drawing after his return to Cambridge and then donated it to his College?

Trend left Spain – never to return – in 1937 when the Civil War started and he became instrumental in helping many Spanish refugees find sanctuary in the UK. He was often seen around College wearing a beret, though no picture survives. It is possible the beret was connected with his Basque connections, in particular with his admiration for the Basque poet Miguel de Unamuno.

IN CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR SADIAH QURESHI

Appointed Professor of Modern British History at the University of Manchester, alumna Sadiah Qureshi (m. 1997) is one of only a few Pakistani women professors in British academia. Here she tells us about herself and her passion for public history.

In particular, studying with Christ's Fellow **Professor Jim Secord** was a profound blessing. During both my undergraduate and postgraduate degree, he helped me lay the foundations for an academic career.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT TEACHING?

Teaching is a rare chance to be transformative. My English teacher Mrs Nelson and the late Tim Brighouse changed my life by making Cambridge a possibility for me. If I can achieve a fraction of what my teachers did for me for anyone, I would be overjoyed.

WHAT DO YOU RESEARCH?

My research explores how humans create hierarchies of value within the context of shifting ideas about race, science and empire.

My first book *Peoples on Parade* (2011) explored how foreign – often colonised – peoples were regularly imported to nineteenth-century Britain to perform songs, dances and other ceremonies in ways that showcased their ethnicity. Originally consisting of single performers or small groups, displayed peoples were quickly imported in their hundreds to live in purpose-built 'native villages' within world fairs. I argue they informed new ideas about who counted as human at the time and were fundamental to the emergence of anthropology as a discipline.

My second book explores shifting ideas about extinction. Although extinction is a common thread in debates about life on Earth within the Anthropocene, it is an exceptionally modern scientific idea rooted in research done in revolutionary Paris in the 1780s. I trace the legacies of historic ideas about extinction in shaping imperial politics in the modern world.

WHY IS PUBLIC HISTORY IMPORTANT?

Making widely known the histories of politically relevant themes – whether the roots of racism, Black and South Asian histories of Britain, museums or the current biodiversity crisis – has always been important to me, and my conviction is often confirmed by public responses. I once gave a talk at a community centre, after which a woman came up to me and, without a word, gave me a bear hug. I will never forget her joy at learning more about a history she cared about.

COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND AND EARLY EDUCATION?

I was born in Kashmir but grew up in some of the most politically neglected and deprived areas of Birmingham. Despite the economic disadvantages endured by state schools, my teachers were dedicated and remarkable. My parents and teachers always encouraged my curiosity, incessant reading and desire to learn.

I first visited Cambridge when I was 15. Like many tourists, I wandered along the Backs and visited the Wren Library. Unlike many state school students, I never assumed Cambridge was not for me. I wanted to go, I worked hard and I was exceptionally lucky.

I was the first person in my family to attend university and, to my knowledge, the first in my sixth form to attend the University of Cambridge. Now I believe I am the first Pakistani woman to achieve a Chair in history in Britain.

WHAT KINDLED YOUR INTEREST IN HISTORY?

One of the most wonderful things about the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge is the option to study the history and philosophy of science in the second year. That subject resonated with my lifelong interest in the humanities and convinced me my future could not be as a research scientist.

I still had no idea I might become a historian, but the Department of History and Philosophy of Science quickly felt like the intellectual home missing from my life. The department was full of gifted scholars whose teaching transformed so many lives, including mine.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS: CONTRIBUTING TO COLLEGE COMMITTEES



More than ten skilled alumni volunteers currently sit on committees at Christ's, playing a vital role in the success and long-term future of the College. We greatly appreciate the independent expertise they bring to discussions and the impact they have on the College's practices.

Our Bursar, **Michael Parsons** (m. 1983), commented, "The College has for many years benefitted enormously from the presence of alumni on our Development Board and Investments Committee, bringing their knowledge and expertise to bear on our deliberations. This year, we have also recruited alumni to join the Remuneration Committee and the Finance, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee. I am delighted with this development, which has already proven its worth in bringing additional insight to the committees' discussions on pay, financial planning and strategic risk management. The roles are unremunerated, so we are

indeed fortunate that we have alumni willing to volunteer their time to support College in this way."

After making a valued contribution to the Investments Committee over many years, **Alison Puhar** (m. 1988) is stepping down. We therefore have a vacancy on the Investments Committee, which meets quarterly and provides strategic oversight of the investment of the College's £170m endowment.

We would love to hear from alumni who have Private Equity investment management experience and are interested in joining the Investments Committee. Please email alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1223 366710 for more information.



"I really enjoyed my time on the Investments Committee. It was intellectually stimulating and when external investment managers made their presentations to the Committee I was learning from being on the other side of the table compared to my 'day job'. It was a great opportunity to regularly return to Christ's, and I'm pleased I could contribute my investment experience as well as taking away many good memories of the people I worked alongside over the years."

Alison Puhar (m. 1988), Head of Portfolio Management for European Real Estate at Fidelity International.



"Being on the Development Board has been an enjoyable, interesting and rewarding experience. It has given me a greater insight into the challenges facing Christ's, and it has been a huge privilege to meet two Masters and several of the Fellows. It has made me even more appreciative of the wonderful experience I had at Christ's as a student but also of the ongoing benefits of being connected to an extraordinary community."

Jennifer Haywood (m. 1989), Barrister since 2001 and CEDR accredited International Arbitrator and Mediator at Serle Court Chambers since 2011.



"Serving on the College's Investments Committee has been a real pleasure. Coming back to College reminds me what a wonderful time I had at Christ's!"

Alan Brown (m. 1971), formerly Group Chief Investment Officer at Schroders (2005–12) and now holding a variety of non-executive positions.

Stay connected

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024	13 APRIL CCMAA Conference and Dinner	20 APRIL Head of the Cam and Boat Club Dinner	13 JUNE Alumni Evensong	15 JUNE May Bumps Picnic	22 JUNE Old Members Reunion Lunch for 2000–05 matriculants	22 JUNE JCR Committee alumni dinner
	23 JUNE Fisher Society Lunch	29 JUNE Association Dinner (open to all alumni and guests)	30 JUNE Family Day Picnic	7 SEPTEMBER Reunion Dinner for all matriculation years up to and including 1964, and 1974	14 SEPTEMBER Blades Regatta and Reunion Dinner	21 SEPTEMBER Reunion Dinner for 2006–10 matriculants

2025–2028		JUNE GARDEN PARTY	FIRST SEPTEMBER REUNION	SECOND SEPTEMBER REUNION
	2025	2011–15	Up to and including 1965, and 1975	1970–74
	2026	1968–70 and 1977–79	Up to and including 1966, and 1976	1980–84
	2027	1985–89	Up to and including 1967, and 1977	1990–94
	2028	1995–99	Up to and including 1968, and 1978	2000–05



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