



pieces

from Christ's College Cambridge



The Olympian
Kieran West

The Historian
Quentin Skinner

The Presenter
Richard Whiteley

The Chairman
David John

The Lawyer
Mary Redmond

Events and reunions

| |
|---|
| Saturday 2 July 2005, 6.45 for 7.00pm |
| Christ's College Association Annual Dinner (open to all) To request an application form, please contact the Steward's Office on 01223 334962. Master's Garden (sherry), Hall (dinner). |
| Wednesday 6 July 2005, 5.00pm |
| Lady Margaret Lecture III (open to all) Sir Mark Tully “ <i>India and the certainty of uncertainty</i> ” (Admission free, £10 for supper) The lecture is at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |
| Saturday 9 July 2005 |
| Quincentenary Ball (all welcome). A few tickets are still available for this stunning event. |
| Saturday 16 July 2005, 1.30-5.00pm |
| Family Day (open to all) An afternoon of entertainment for children and adults, including storytelling and magic, followed by High Tea. Fellows' Garden (Hall and Upper Hall if wet) Reserve your place with the Alumni Office. |
| Saturday 17 September 2005, 6.45 for 7.30pm |
| Reunion Dinner For members who matriculated in years up to 1947 & 1950. Fellows' Garden (sherry), (Upper Hall if wet) and Hall (dinner). |
| Friday 23 – Sunday 25 September 2005 |
| University Alumni Weekend (open to all) Further details available from the University Alumni Office. Members of Christ's attending the weekend will be invited to a buffet lunch in the Master's Lodge at 12.45pm on Saturday 24 September. |
| Saturday 24 September 2005, 6.45 for 7.30pm |
| Reunion Dinner For members who matriculated in 1955, 1960, 1965 & 1970. Fellows' Garden (sherry), (Upper Hall if wet) and Hall (dinner) |
| Sunday 9 October 2005, 4.00pm |
| Quincentenary Concert II (open to all) Jeffrey Tate CBE (Piano) Damon Ploumis (Bass-baritone) (Admission £15, £5 concessions, £10 for supper) The concert is at the West Road Concert Hall, 11 West Road, Cambridge & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |

Events and reunions

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| Wednesday 12 October 2005, 5.00pm |
| Lady Margaret Lecture IV (open to all) Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE “ <i>The Family, past and future</i> ” (Admission free, £10 for supper) The lecture is at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |
| Sunday 23 October 2005, 4.00pm |
| Quincentenary Concert III (open to all) Alexander Baillie ('Cello) (Admission £15, £5 concessions, £10 for supper) The concert is at the West Road Concert Hall, 11 West Road, Cambridge & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |
| Wednesday 16 November 2005, 5.00pm |
| Lady Margaret Lecture V (open to all) Baroness James of Holland Park “ <i>The survival of the Book</i> ” (Admission free, £10 for supper) The lecture is at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |
| Sunday 27 November 2005, 4.00pm |
| Quincentenary Concert IV (open to all) The Florestan Trio (Susan Tomes – Piano) (Admission £15, £5 concessions, £10 for supper) The concert is at the West Road Concert Hall, 11 West Road, Cambridge & is followed by a Buffet Supper in College. For information and tickets please contact the Development Office. |
| Michaelmas Term 2005, 6.00pm |
| Christ's College Business Briefing #8 An early evening seminar in the City focussing on a key business sector and featuring leading professionals. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for this event, or would like to host or participate in a future Business Briefing, please contact the Alumni Office. |

Editorial

Christ's College celebrated its 500th Anniversary, to the day, on 1 May, marking 500 years since the granting of the letters patent by Henry VII. Photographs of the day can be seen on pages 2 and 11.

This issue of *pieces* focusses on members of Christ's who have reached the pinnacle of their various fields of work. As Chairman of three major companies (not to mention the College's Quincentenary Campaign Board), David John talks about his rôles in industry over forty years (p8). With an Olympic Gold Medal to his name, Kieran West reveals how rowing has become his way of life (p9), and Mary Redmond discusses her work as a top employment lawyer at Arthur Cox in Dublin (p7).

One of the best-known Christ's alumni is Richard Whiteley, who talks about editing *Varsity* and presenting *Countdown* (p10). The distinguished historian, Quentin Skinner, who has been a Fellow of Christ's since 1962, talks about his research in intellectual history, and his work as Regius Professor of Modern History in Cambridge (p5).

What these people all have in common is Christ's College, which has been of great significance to all of them. In this Quincentenary year it seems fitting to celebrate the achievements of such people who have achieved distinction in their various fields.

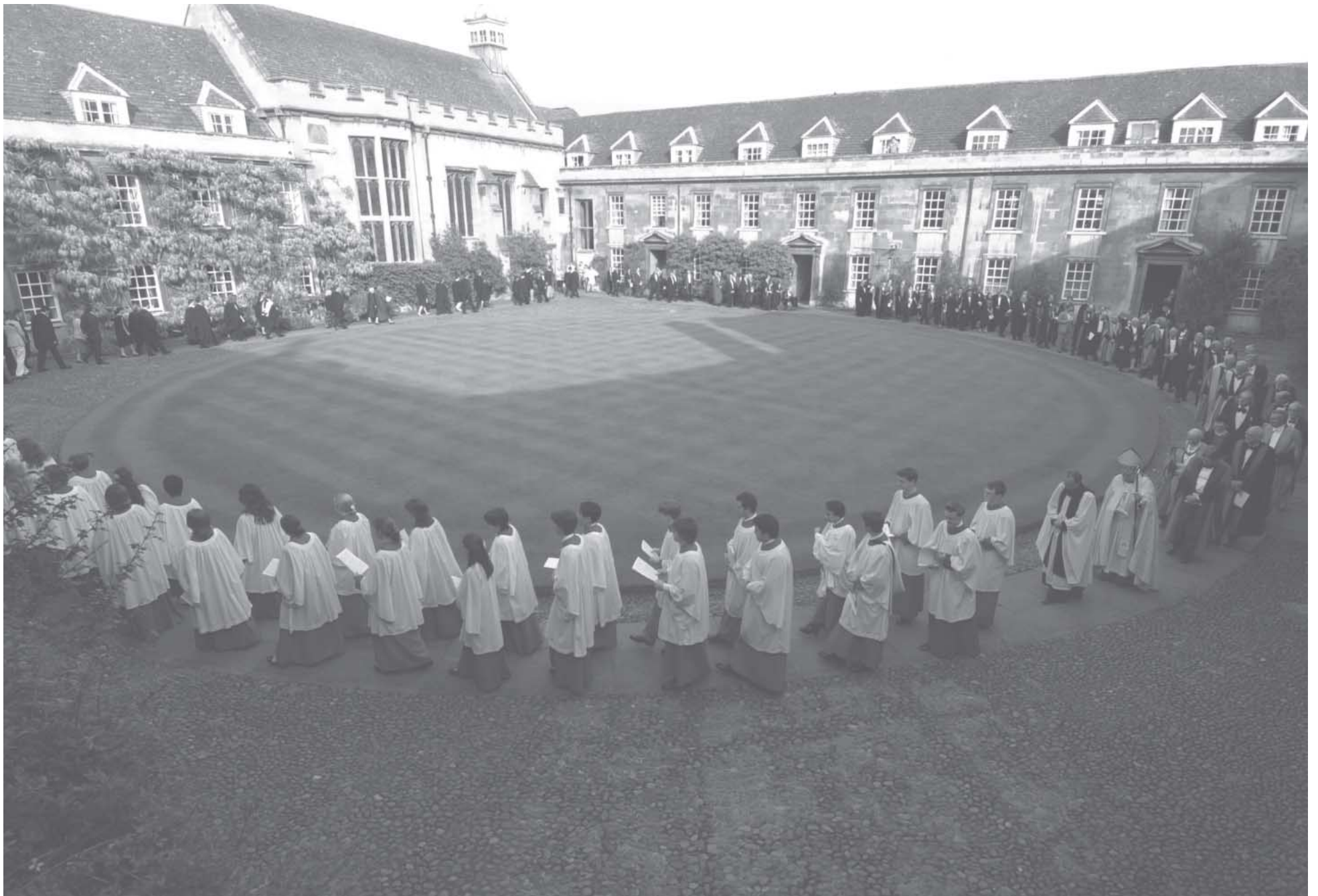
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The editor welcomes
all comments on *pieces* and suggestions
or material for future editions. Please contact:
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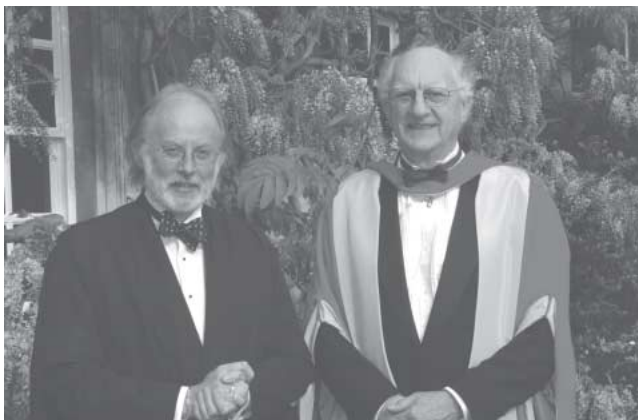
Front cover picture
1st Court during the 1 May Procession

Acknowledgements
Christ's College is very grateful to Sir Martin Sorrell, Group Chief Executive, WPP Group plc, for facilitating the original design of *pieces*; and to John Murray, President and CEO of Globalbrander.com, for additional advice. Thanks are also due to Quentin Skinner, Mary Redmond, Sir David John and Kieran West for permission to reproduce photographs.



I May Celebrations

500 years of Christ's College



Above: the general scene in First Court during the procession.

Left (clockwise from top left): Professor Bill FitzGerald and Professor John Clarke, Mr Henry Button, Members of the Choir before the service, and Professor Sir Hans Kornberg with Professor Alison Richard, the Vice-Chancellor.

Continued on p11



Christ's at



**Elizabeth Norris,
Development Director
writes:**

“Sunday 1 May 2005 was a very special day in the history of our College. The Fellows and students along with special guests including the Vice-Chancellor and the Master of St John's, our 'sister' college, celebrated the passing of exactly 500 years since our Letters Patent were issued on 1 May 1505. The celebrations began in chapel with festal evensong, which included a procession around First Court to mirror the one which took place in 1905, and continued with a feast in Hall. The restriction on numbers unfortunately meant that alumni could not be invited to take part in the occasion, but I hope that instead you will celebrate by coming back to Cambridge for some of the other events, such as the ball, the lectures and the concerts that are still to take place.

1 May was, of course, a time to look back with pride at the long history of Christ's and at the many achievements of Christ's alumni through the centuries; we must not forget, however, that it was also the start of our second half-millennium. We must look to the future and take steps now to ensure that we safeguard the College as a place of education, learning and research for future generations. We need to increase our endowment in order to support teaching and research, to offer bursaries to students who otherwise could not afford to study here and we need also to offer enhanced facilities for sport, music and the arts and endow the amalgamated clubs for the foreseeable future. You will recently have received a letter from the Master thanking you for gifts already made and asking for your financial support. The College is very grateful to everyone who has made a contribution to the Quincentenary Campaign. If you have not yet given or, of course, if you are able to give again, please do take action now. As one alumnus, who has given generously within his means said recently, 'Is giving nothing at all really an option?' All gifts, whatever their size are of vital importance. Christ's will always be part of your life; please help others to experience its unique environment in the years ahead.”

Your support

Your gift to Christ's makes a genuine difference. If you would like to help guarantee the future provision of the key aspects of College life – financial help for students in need; College-based, small-group teaching; and up-to-date facilities for extra-curricular activities – by contributing to the Quincentenary Campaign, please use the form below, or contact the Development Director, Elizabeth Norris, who will be delighted to hear from you.

Gift Form

I would like to help future generations of students to benefit from a Christ's College education

Name _____ Matriculation year _____

Address _____

I would like my gift to support:

☐ Bursaries ☐ Teaching ☐ Sports, Music & Arts ☐ Unrestricted Endowment

UK Please return this form to The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Christ's College Cambridge

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card number _____ Amount £ _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

Please treat this donation as a Gift Aid donation. I have paid, or will pay, an amount of tax equal to the amount I am asking the College to reclaim (currently 28p for every £1 given under Gift Aid).

Signature _____ Date _____

USA Please return this form to Cambridge In America, P O Box 9123 JAF BLG, New York, NY 10087-9123.

I recommend that the Directors of Cambridge in America exercise their discretion and allocate my gift to support Christ's College.

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Canada Please return this form to The Cambridge Foundation, 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge CB5 8AB, United Kingdom

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to the University of Cambridge

Please send me a receipt for income tax purposes. This gift is intended for Christ's College.

Other Please return this form to The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU, United Kingdom

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to Christ's College Cambridge

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card number _____ Amount _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

☐ Please send me information on leaving a legacy to Christ's

Thank you for your support

For further information on any aspect of the Quincentenary Campaign please contact The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1223 766710, Fax: +44 (0)1223 766711, Email: campaign@christs.cam.ac.uk
www.christs.cam.ac.uk/quincentenary

UK

Christ's College welcomes gifts of listed **shares and securities**. New measures which came into force in April 2000 make donations of this kind particularly attractive to donors. Gifts of listed shares and securities by UK taxpayers attract full relief from Capital Gains Tax and, in addition, allow the donor to claim Income Tax relief on the full value of the shares or securities at the time they are transferred to the College – a double tax saving. For further information, please contact the Development Director, who will be pleased to assist. You can also nominate Christ's to receive any of your **tax repayment**. Our code is XAA24KG.

USA

If you are resident in the USA, you can make a tax-efficient gift to CAMBRIDGE IN AMERICA (CAM). Simply send your check, made payable to 'Cambridge in America', to: Cambridge in America, PO Box 9123 JAF BLG, New York, NY 10087-9123, USA and suggest that the Directors of Cambridge in America exercise their discretion and allocate your gift to support Christ's College.

Canada

In order for a charitable gift to be tax-deductible in Canada, it must be to a 'prescribed university outside Canada'. The University of Cambridge is prescribed for this purpose in the Canadian tax code. To make a donation, please use the form opposite.

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The Historian



Quentin Skinner,
Regius Professor of Modern History at the University
of Cambridge and Fellow of Christ's College

“The question for me is,
What are writers *doing* in
putting forward their
systems of thought?”

“In my research I’ve always been concerned with intellectual history, and more specifically with the history of philosophy, mainly in the Renaissance and Reformation periods, but also in the period of the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century. I’ve also been preoccupied by questions about historical method, and particularly about the need, as I see it, to write the history of ideas in a particular way. When I first became interested in intellectual history, there was a strong disposition to write about the subject simply by focusing on a procession of allegedly canonical thinkers. For example, in the history of moral and political philosophy – in which I have specialised – you would have expected a book about the early-modern period to consist of linked chapters on Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Hume and so on. My aspiration was to write a different kind of history, to try to situate such leading writers within the intellectual culture out of which their works arose. My underlying aim has always been to suggest that, far from producing trans-historical systems of thought, most major thinkers in the western tradition have been motivated by a desire to engage in some kind of dialogue within their own society and culture.”

Quentin’s research has also involved the study of art: “a large number of Renaissance paintings can be thought of as texts of moral and political theory. I eventually wrote a book about painting in the early Renaissance, in which I tried to show that a number of Giotto’s and Lorenzetti’s works can be viewed as contributions to a particular way of thinking about republican politics that was prevalent in Italy at the time.”

“I’ve long been interested in the concept of the State, and what it means to place this impersonal agent at the heart of our politics.” Another strand of Quentin’s research has been concerned with the development in early-modern Europe of a theory of absolute sovereignty. Recently, he published a book about the relationship between absolute States and the rights of citizens within, and potentially against, such States. One key figure within Quentin’s work has always been Thomas Hobbes, who, for Quentin, “remains the most important, as well as the pioneering, theorist of the impersonal State, through his fictional figure of *Leviathan*.”

A further and connected interest of Quentin’s (the subject of his main current teaching in the History Faculty) is the idea of representative government, and the emergence of this concept in the English revolution of the seventeenth century. “The course I teach includes a lot of material about Thomas Hobbes, whom I take to be the great counter-revolutionary philosopher of his age. I now see his masterpiece, *Leviathan*, as an attempt to challenge and overturn the radical and democratic theories of rights and representation that first came to prominence in the English revolution.”

Speaking about why he is an intellectual historian, Quentin says, “Most of the concepts we use to describe our common life have a variety of interpretations, and there is always an historical explanation to be given of why any one interpretation becomes predominant at any given time. It becomes part of the moral task of the historian to ensure that specific understandings of these concepts are

not allowed to seize and occupy the whole conceptual space. One of the tasks of intellectual history is to stop philosophy from ossifying into ideology, and to do so by keeping alive an understanding of the different ways in which such concepts as rights, freedom, representation and the State have been understood.”



The Lawyer

Mary Redmond,

Consultant, Arthur Cox

Born 25 August 1950.

Studied Law (PhD) at Christ's

College, 1978-80. Fellow 1980-

1985, Honorary Fellow from 2004.

"I came to Christ's in my mid-twenties, I was lucky enough to get a research scholarship from Christ's – you can't underestimate the value of that in terms of one's whole career, it meant I wasn't just at Christ's for a year, but I could stay and do my doctorate. Because of my being so happy about having the opportunity to do my PhD, I completed my thesis on comparative dismissal law in two years!"

A brief spell as the first Fellow in Law at Churchill College ended with a telephone call at about 10pm one evening in the middle of Mary's first year in post. It was Jack Plumb, suggesting that "they'd very much like me to come back 'home' to Christ's" and Mary clearly remembers how he ended the telephone call, "have we any reason for hope?" Mary returned to Christ's in 1980 as the College's first woman tutor, teaching and supervising in many areas of law; "It was a question of putting your head down and getting on with it – that was a very good experience for me in life, as I came from a situation where people would tend to say 'this is my subject' –they would teach their subject and almost nothing else."

Mary left Cambridge in the mid-eighties to set up her own legal practice in Dublin. She reminisces: "If you are teaching a law subject that you have never studied in depth before, you get into the 'why not?' mindset, you get this fearlessness. I remember one of my mentors saying to me at the time, 'if I were you Mary, I would go into one of the big law firms in Dublin, and learn the ropes' and I said, 'No, I'm not going to do that, I will start my own practice and learn as I go along.'" Mary's practice grew to an enormous size, and a welcome change from advising on collective redundancies and entrenched work practices occurred when she was responsible for the contracts of the Irish Rugby Squad – "You can imagine the experience of having all the Squad players in one room, explaining their contracts of employment to them, to the accompaniment of appreciative growls and whistles!" At that stage, Rugby went from being an amateur sport to being professional – history in the making!"

Because of the size of her practice, Mary eventually joined one of Ireland's big law firms and is now Consultant for Arthur Cox with offices in Dublin, Belfast, London and New York. Her work results often in her being an independent third party adjudicator. "One of my philosophies, when I'm practising employment law, is that litigation is a sign of failure. It can so affect an individual and their lives; if I get someone coming in, if they absolutely have to go to court, and there's utterly no other avenue, that's fine, but if it can be avoided by exploring alternative routes, that's a much better plan."

A turning-point in Mary's career came with an invitation to dinner: "I remember being invited to a dinner by the Governor and the Chief Executive of the Bank of Ireland, I was told it was a theme dinner. I truly believed it was a theme dinner, I think we were to discuss something like consumer trust in financial services, anyhow, shortly after the dinner I got a call and I was invited to join the Court of Directors!" Since then Mary has been clocking up extensive business experience as a non-executive director of high profile listed and private companies.

Mary has also come to prominence in Ireland by founding and carrying through to success the Irish Hospice Foundation and later on The Wheel (for networking the community and voluntary sector), two national not for profit organizations which are highly successful.

When asked to talk about the College in 2005, Mary has this to say: "if you have been out of college for a while, come back this year, and remind yourself how wonderful Christ's has been, and the extent to which what you are doing now in your life is due in large measure to your time here at Christ's. Whether it's the nice pieces of advice somebody gave you, or whether it's the self-confidence that it gives you, or the friendships, or whatever it is – remind yourself of all that, and think then in terms of what the College could give to other people, like yourself; and be generous in your giving back to the College. It is the Alumni, more than anybody else, who have experienced the value of Christ's, who can help it to continue what it is doing, and to do even more!"

"Christ's has given us so much. We should give something back."



The Chairman

Sir David John KCMG, Chairman of Balfour Beatty, Chairman of BSI and Chairman of Premier Oil. Born 20 July 1938, Studied Natural Sciences at Christ's College, 1959-1962

Coming up to Christ's after National Service, David was sent out to live in digs in his first year, "it was an interesting time, those who had come from their National Service tended to keep their friends from the army, and being a scientist, out in the labs all the time, you didn't really get that adherence to the College, which I think is very important."

Leaving Christ's in 1962, David went into the Steel industry in Sheffield – "those were the days that when you graduated, you had five or six job offers. I liked the idea of working for United Steel because they had a first-class training scheme. You joined on a Friday, checked into your room, and that night you were on night shift in the melting shop, as a fourth-hand melter! The formal lecture part of the training scheme didn't start for six weeks, they wanted you in there on the shop floor, which was a brilliant way of doing it. The men on the shop floor knew you'd be managing them in nine months, so of course they took the mickey out of you unmercifully – which was the whole idea!"

After completing an MBA from Columbia University, New York in 1966, David moved to Manchester to join the board of a chemical company, Harden & Holden – "it wasn't making much money, so it was known as 'Hard up and hold up!'" In 1981 David was working for Redland in Hong Kong and Singapore when he received a call from London telling him to get on a plane to the Middle East that night. When he landed in Bahrain at 2am, he asked why he had been told to come, and he was told "because you're running it here from tonight!" The following six months involved a Hong Kong – Bahrain commute while David ran both operations.

A later spell in the Middle East saw David looking after the oil field machine shop in Oman, "it's all built up now, but back then, it was just miles and miles of empty desert, with this huge oxford blue machine shop standing out there in the middle of nowhere! One of the non-executive directors said to me, 'it's exactly the kind of thing that Inchcape should *not* be involved in,' and I said 'it's exactly the kind of thing that Inchcape *should* be involved in, because the local competitors are selling the equipment and walking away, but someone has to be there to do maintenance on the oil field machinery!' After I left Bahrain, the shop became known as 'David John's Barn!'"

Chairing BOC Group from 1996-2002, David became chairman of Premier Oil in 1998, BSI Group in 2002, and Balfour Beatty in 2003. On being a Chairman, David says: "the rôle has changed enormously. If you look at the rôle of the Chairman over the last ten years, I think the chairman's job has become a great deal more professionalised, you get a much clearer understanding of what's expected of the chairman. It's a very different job to being chief executive of a major group, it needs a very light hand on the tiller, and you spend a lot of time thinking about the future strategy of the business, as opposed to daily operations. As chairman, what I think you have to keep your eye on most is the rôle of safety, because a safely-managed company is also a well-managed company."

David is also the Chairman of Christ's College Quincentenary Campaign Board, "I would like to see Christ's build on its academic reputation, which is excellent, not only in rating tables, but also in the composition of the Fellowship. It's sad to see the lack of understanding in certain quarters of the uniqueness of the college system. I'd like to see Christ's last for another 500 years!"

"The chairman's job has become a lot more professionalised over the last ten years"

The Olympian

Kieran West MBE, Olympic Gold Medallist.
 Born 18 September 1977. Studied Economics and
 Land Economy at Christ's College, 1995-98,
 PGCE 1998-2001.



When Kieran West came to Christ's in 1995, he was physically a long way from being an Olympic Champion. Recovering from a back injury sustained while rowing at the under-18 level, it took him two years of intensive physiotherapy exercise before he was even in a position to get into a boat, although he put his experience as a junior National Champion to good use coaching Christ's crews.

"It's not just a sport, it becomes a way of life – everything you do is reflected in rowing." Once Kieran was back in a boat he didn't waste any time; in Christ's First Boat for the 1997 Mays, he made the Goldie Boat the following year. That summer he won the British sculling trials and the possibility of a position in the GB team suddenly opened up.

"If you want to go to the Olympics, Christ's will support you all the way". Of the 1998/99 season Kieran recalls: "I had an absolutely blinding year, I was physiologically breaking personal bests all over the place, beating everyone in the squad on the rowing machine, in the gym, on the water. Something just dropped into place, I don't know what it was – I wish I could work it out". It may not have been a formula he could bottle but it assured him of the key 6 seat in the Blue Boat, and that summer he was picked for the British Eight.

By now Kieran was half way through his PGCE course, and asked the College if he would be able to take a year out from his studies in order to train for the Olympics. Permission was duly granted and a rigorous programme began. "We trained in the morning for a couple of hours on the water.

That would be finished by about 10 o'clock; we would all go home and come back in at 4. The evening would be an hour on the rowing machine plus a weights session. The main focus was technique; the idea was that whatever work we put down had to be as efficient as possible so we could get the most out of the boat – like all the best ideas, it was really rather simple."

"What you can't do is control how fast anyone else is going". As the season went on it became apparent that the Eight were in with a strong chance of success and "there was a massive feeling of confidence". Kieran only turned 23 during the Olympics, and looks back on his inexperience as being an advantage: "I had no preconceptions about who was better than me and who was worse".

The Eight did not attract the media attention of the Four (Steve Redgrave would famously be knighted after winning his fifth successive gold medal in Sydney) but the amount of support generated from friends at Christ's was enormous. On the night of the final a reunion dinner was being held in College and the proceedings were halted in order for those in attendance to watch the race. The British Team went out to a strong lead and held their position right through to the end. As Kieran became an Olympic Champion "in a funny way nothing really changed although in another way it had completely. We won our medals and walked off back into our lives."

Kieran may not think of himself as a superstar, but there cannot be many Christ's alumni who go to sleep with an Olympic Gold Medal and an MBE insignia on their

bedside tables. When he came back to complete his PGCE after the Olympics, the medal was kept in the safe in the Porters' Lodge – truly a first for the College!

"I believe myself to be a Cambridge man in a British vest". On his return to Cambridge, Kieran took on a new role as President of the University Boat Club, which provided another focus at a time that could have proved anti-climactic. Another year of astonishing success followed, with victories for both his Goldie and Blue Boats. Recently, times have proved more difficult for Kieran: 2004 saw Athens but sadly no repeat of the success of Sydney. This disappointment has spurred Kieran on to aim for Beijing, and at the time of writing he is waiting to hear if he has been accepted onto a PhD course at Cambridge, which will enable him to come back to train and study full time. It is important for him to come back to Christ's: "It's my College. I walk into the Fellows' Garden and I think 'I'm home.'"

"If something's worth doing, it's worth doing properly and I'll do whatever it takes to try to achieve it".

The Presenter



Richard Whiteley OBE DL,
Television presenter. Born 28 December 1943.
Studied English at Christ's College, 1962-65.

Richard Whiteley is one of the best known of all Christ's alumni; in fact he is one of the most recognisable faces in Britain. With over 12,000 appearances on British television, from his twenty years as a news presenter on Calendar and over 4,000 episodes of Countdown, he is thought to have made more appearances on our screens than any other individual, apart from perhaps Carole Hersee, the girl who appears on the testcard. The rise of the 'celebrity programme' means that Richard is turning down offers of programmes every week, which range from the sublime to the ridiculous – we are unlikely to be seeing him on Big Brother or I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! in the near future! But he volunteered to go on Celebrity Mastermind and Celebrity Spelling because he wanted to be able to empathise with Countdown contestants; a terrifying experience of which he recalls "I haven't felt that level of nerves since my finals here – total panic!"

"I slid in under the kitchen door", says Richard – something that would never happen today! Having failed the Oxford Round in the December of 1961, Richard feared that his Oxbridge dreams were over. An ancient link between his school, Giggleswick, which historically always has a Fellow of Christ's on its Board of Governors, gave him a second chance. When the headmaster of Giggleswick, Owen Rowe, went to visit Christ's to inspect the College kitchens in order to obtain some ideas for Giggleswick's own refurbishment plans, he got chatting to one of the Fellows. He was asked if Giggleswick had any good candidates that year and suggested Richard, who was then invited down for interview and admitted in 1962. Richard recalls with a laugh the 2000 headline in The Independent when Christ's came first in excellence in a story

about the top Cambridge colleges, compiled over a twenty year period of League Tables. "The headline ran – 'College which produced John Milton, Charles Darwin and Richard Whiteley' ...The question is, how did those other two scrape in?"

Academia may not have been Richard's first love whilst at College, but his three years at Varsity, as sports editor, news editor and finally editor-in-chief meant he had a significant role to play in the University, which "brought the College some prestige". He oversaw a golden age in the student newspaper; in 1965, forty years ago, "we produced the biggest ever single issue of a student newspaper. It was 48 pages plus a 20 page colour section – it sold 6,000 copies. It was a fantastic end to my career as a newspaper editor." It was perhaps Richard's journalistic experiences at College which helped him to win an ITN traineeship which he started in July 1965. "It was a fantastic salary – £945 a year".

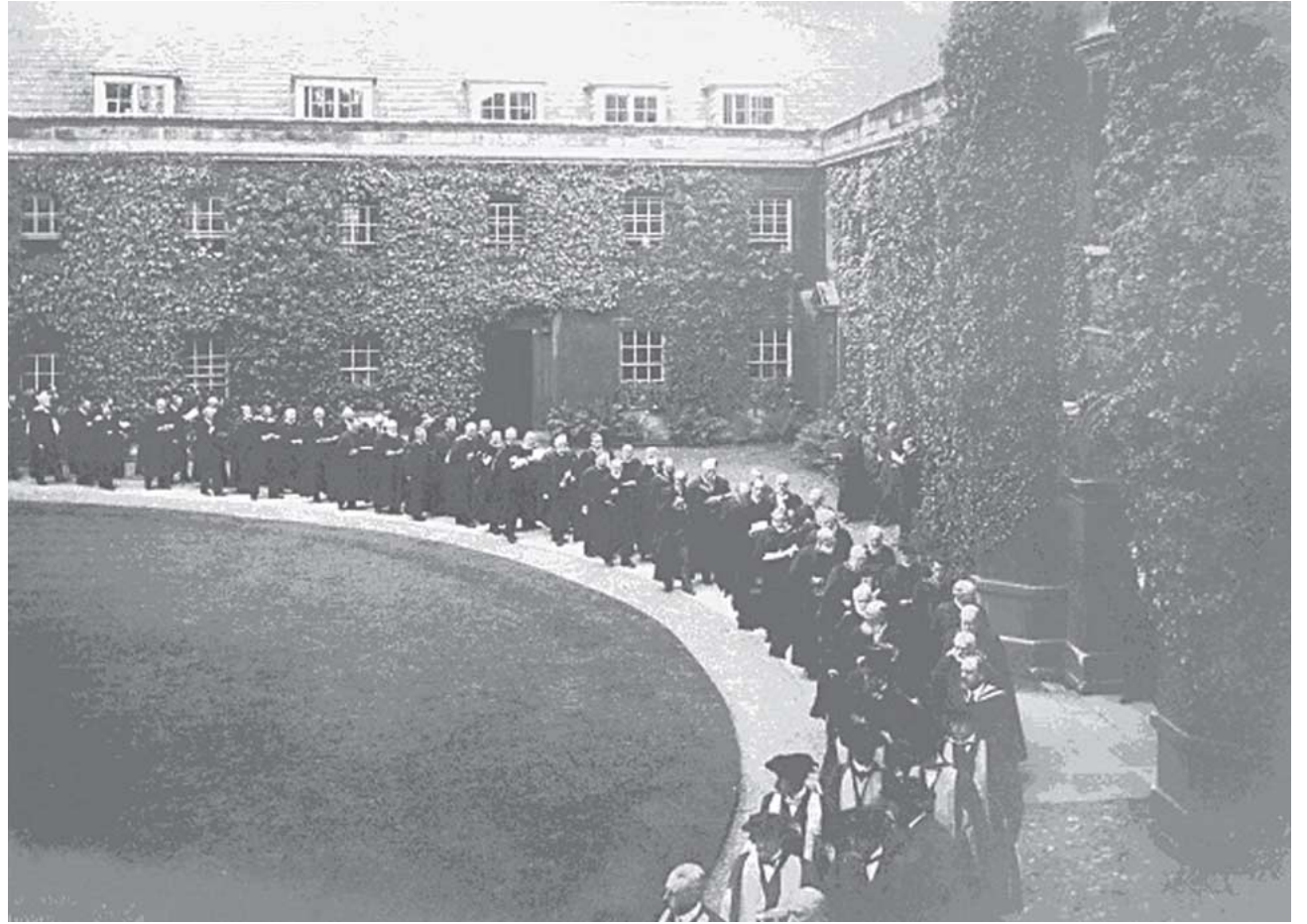
"Countdown was just a hobby," Richard went up to Yorkshire in 1967 as part of the team that started Yorkshire Television. When his new boss selected him to read the news on Calendar he made a wise choice; Richard fronted the programme for twenty years and during that time "interviewed every Prime Minister, every person of substance in the '70s and '80s – the authors, the pop stars, the entertainments stars, royalty..." A five week experiment in 1982 saw the introduction of a new game show, Calendar Countdown. The choice of Richard to front the show meant that he became the first face on the new Channel 4, and 23 years later the show is still going strong. "There's no reason for it not to be on – you're never going to run out of

letters or words or hopefully contestants. As long as people like doing word games which it seems they're always likely to do, there's no reason for it to come off."

Countdown's success has assured Richard a place in the annals of broadcasting history. His own achievements have brought him national recognition; Richard was awarded the OBE in 2004, and is also one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Yorkshire. Despite the increasing levels of demands on his time, he has no plans to reduce his commitment to Countdown: "People are very affectionate about it – it's part of the national fabric."

"I cannot think why people do it, but they're queueing up to get on Countdown – all sorts of people."

Richard Whiteley has been unwell recently and thus has been unable to review this article. We wish him a speedy recovery.



Top-bottom, Left-right:
 Dr Alan Munro, Professor Richard Perham (Master of St John's College), The Master;
 Lord Irvine of Lairg (Honorary Fellow);
 The Chaplain with the Rt Rev'd Michael Marshall;
 The Master and Professor Sir Hans Kornberg with some of the Honorary Fellows.

Right above: The procession in 1905
 Right below: The procession in 2005

William Paley

We are all aware that 2005 marks the 500th anniversary of the foundation of Christ's College, but how many of you were conscious of the fact that 2005 is also the 200th anniversary of the death of one of Christ's most influential alumni, William Paley?

William Paley was the author of several extremely influential books on philosophy and Christianity. His best known work is *Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, Collected from the Appearances of Nature* (1802). In this book, Paley introduced one of the most famous metaphors in the philosophy of science, the image of the watchmaker. He argued that as one might infer the existence of a watchmaker from the complexity of a watch, the complexity of the natural world implies the existence of a benevolent Creator.

Another work of Paley's, *A View of the Evidences of Christianity* (1794) was required reading at Cambridge University until the 20th century. When a young Charles Darwin came up to Christ's in 1828, he moved into College rooms that had been previously occupied by William Paley. Many historians of science hold the mistaken view that this coincidence was ironic, given that Darwin's theory of Natural Selection came to be accepted as refuting Paley's arguments for the existence of a benevolent dictator. In fact, Darwin had been deeply impressed with Paley's arguments when he had read *Evidences of Christianity* as part of his undergraduate course, and commented in his autobiography:

"The logic of *Evidences* and, as I may add, of [Paley's] *Natural Theology*, gave me as much delight as did Euclid. The careful study of these works...was the only part of the academical course which, as I then felt and as I still believe, was of the least use to me in the education of my mind. I did not at that

time trouble myself about Paley's premises; and taking these on trust, I was charmed and convinced by the long line of argumentation. By answering well the examination questions in Paley, by doing Euclid well, and by not failing miserably in Classics, I gained a good place among the *oi polloi* or crowd of men who do not go in for honours."

Although Paley's arguments have long since been rejected by philosophers and scientists alike, we must recognise his enormous influence on modern thinking. Richard Dawkins' choice of *The Blind Watchmaker* as the title for one of his pro-Darwinian books, poking fun at modern creationists, was probably a naïve one. Even though Paley's concept of God as designer is very different from Darwin's theory of Natural Selection, Darwin took from his reading of Paley a belief in adaptation – that organisms are somehow fit for the environments in which they live, and that their structure reflects the functions they perform throughout their lives. Where Paley ran into difficulty was trying to reconcile the pain, suffering and waste in the world with the existence of a good God; he was forced to conclude that the positive aspects of life simply outweighed the negative. Darwin departed from Paley by suggesting Natural Selection as a process that could produce adaptation and design without the all-encompassing intervention of a benevolent designer, but it could be argued that Darwin may never have got this far without Paley's influence.

It is generally acknowledged that Darwin has played a crucial role in shaping modern scientific thought. Let us not forget that other Christ's alumnus, William Paley, and let us pay tribute to his influence on this significant anniversary of his death.

Katy Astley, Alumni Officer



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