

Issue 9 Easter Term 2006

# pieces

from Christ's College Cambridge



**First on the Cam**  
Kat Astley

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**Cutting Edge**  
A Touch of Magic

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**Rugby Brothers**

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**College Legend**  
Ruby Hunt

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# Come and Join Us!

Reunion Garden Party and  
Dinners

Association Dinner

Business Briefings

Alumni Weekend Lunch



Friends of the Old Library events



Family Day

May Bumps Picnic

Lady Margaret Lectures

MA Congregation

Christ's in The City

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# Editorial

Sport has long been a tradition at Christ's and our teams have performed well this year. A joint Christ's-Peterhouse basketball team won both the men's League and Cuppers competition, recording a 100% success rate for the season, and the women's team reached the final of Cuppers. In rowing, the first men's VIII overbumped St Catharine's on the Wednesday of the Lent races – only the 7th time since the 1880s that an overbump has occurred in the men's 1st division. The men's rugby team had a very successful cup run, overcoming opposition from higher divisions to reach the Cuppers final.

This edition of *pieces* features two interviews with a sporting theme, proving that academic success and sporting achievement continue to flourish in Cambridge. Christ's scored a first with Cambridge graduate Kat Astley becoming the first female 'boatman' on the river (page 10). Christ's successful rugby team includes the Akinluyi brothers, David and Didi, (pages 8–9). Both are studying Engineering but the world of professional sport beckons.

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Kat is one of the young members of the current staff but many alumni will recall Ruby Hunt (page 11) who looked after generations of students on D staircase. Ruby recalls life as she remembers it in an interview with one of 'her' former students, The Marques (Michael) de Lendinez (m. 1958).

Christ's Fellowship is regularly enriched by the admission of Junior Research Fellows, outstanding young academics at the very start of their career. Our 'Cutting Edge' interview on page 5 is with one of them, Dr Catherine Rider, who talks about her interest in topics such as medieval magic, impotence and canon law!

**The editor welcomes**  
all comments on *pieces* and suggestions  
for future editions. Please contact:  
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**Front cover picture**  
Lent Bumps 2006 1st Men's VIII on the way to overbump

**Acknowledgements**  
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# in the news

## New Year's Honours

Dr Michael Lynch (1983) was awarded an OBE for services to enterprise. Dr Lynch is the Founder and Group CEO of Autonomy Corporation plc, a leading provider of enterprise software.

## Outstanding Young Scientist

Dr Luke Skinner, Junior Research Fellow of Christ's since 2005, has been chosen as the Outstanding Young Scientist for 2006 by the European Geosciences Union. The award, which recognises achievements by scientists under the age of 35, was made "for the application of multidisciplinary palaeoceanographic studies to investigate questions such as the conditions of deep ocean water circulation and changes in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere". Dr Skinner works on climate change in the University's Department of Earth Sciences.

## English Golf Union President

Donald Steel (1957), a former England international, accomplished golf writer and course architect, has taken the post of the President of the English Golf Union for 2006.

## Lady Margaret Beaufort Fellow hosts President Clinton

President Bill Clinton has visited the Cipla factory in Goa run by Yusuf Hamied (1954), Lady

Margaret Beaufort Fellow of Christ's. The HIV/AIDS Initiative of the Clinton Foundation has teamed up with Cipla and other drug makers to provide antiretroviral drugs to the developing world for as little as 10% of the price paid in the West. In his diary, Clinton described how as many as 50 million Indians could die of AIDS before 2050 without the vital contribution that Cipla is making. Cipla has also been granted a licence by the Indian government to distribute a generic version of Tamiflu, the drug used to fight bird flu.

## Honorary Degree for Honorary Fellow

Dr Rowan Williams (1968), Archbishop of Canterbury and Honorary Fellow of Christ's, will receive an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from the University of Cambridge on 27 June 2006. Dr Williams studied Theology at Christ's, receiving his BA in 1971. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the College in 2002 and preached the sermon at the Commemoration of Benefactors service on 2 December 2005. A copy of that sermon is available on the college website via [www.christs.cam.ac.uk/development/events/sermon](http://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/development/events/sermon)

## Lomonosov Gold Medal for Honorary Fellow

Sir Peter Hirsch, Isaac Wolfson Professor of Metallurgy at the University of Oxford and Honorary Fellow of Christ's, was awarded the Lomonosov Gold Medal for 2005. The Medal is the highest award of the Russian Academy of Sciences and has only ever been awarded to five

British scientists, including Lord Todd, former Master of Christ's. The citation states that the award has been made for an "outstanding contribution to physics of solid state strength and plasticity as well as experimental discovery of dislocation motion therein". Sir Peter Hirsch was a Fellow of Christ's between 1960 and 1966, and was made an Honorary Fellow of the College in 1978.

## New Sports Ground

From October 2007 students will benefit from improved facilities at a new sports ground, sharing with St Catharine's College. The ground on Huntingdon Road that Christ's has shared for many years with Sidney Sussex falls within a much larger area of land which has been zoned for development in the City local plan and the various owners of the entire space have jointly decided to sell for development. The new facilities include a cricket square, two football pitches for men, one women's football pitch, a rugby pitch, an all-weather (Astroturf) hockey pitch, three Astroturf tennis courts, two squash courts, a badminton court and a recently refurbished pavilion.

## Chapel Service Broadcast on BBC Radio

BBC Radio 4 broadcast its flagship Sunday Worship programme live from Christ's College Chapel on 7 May 2006. The service explored themes of exile through readings, commentary and music from the Christ's College Choir.



The Development  
Director writes:

# Thank you

very much to all of you who have given so generously to the Campaign and helped us approach our target of £15 million. Your gifts are already being used to support the work of the College, its teaching and our students.

It is clear, however, that we need to continue fundraising if we are to secure the financial future of our college and retain the edge of excellence at Cambridge in both academic and sporting fields.

Many of us benefited from a virtually free education at Cambridge – but do you realise its true cost? To educate one undergraduate for just one year at Cambridge now costs around £13,500 averaged across subjects – over £40,000 for an average three year course. Student fees and direct government support together contribute only about £7,500 per annum. You may not be able to repay the real cost of your education here in full, but you can help. Every single gift, whether it is £10, £100, £1,000 or significantly more, makes a difference. No gift is ever too small (or too large!). Please consider giving something back to Christ's, whether by a one-off donation or perhaps even by making a regular commitment to a monthly or annual gift.

You are probably aware that the University has launched its 800th Anniversary Campaign and I am delighted to say that a gift to Christ's will also be counted towards the University's campaign target.

# 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, please use the form below, or contact the Development Director, Elizabeth Norris, who will be delighted to hear from you.

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# A Touch of Magic

It all started with an undergraduate dissertation on magic, romances and love magic at University College London. I had always liked history and during my teens enjoyed reading King Arthur stories. It is amazing how many medievalists say that! I took a course on 'marriage in the Middle Ages' during my undergraduate years; it was a way of getting into proper history through fun things, reading romances.

After that, I moved to King's College (London) to do an MA. At that time I went back to my old tutor at UCL wanting to find out if there was scope for a research project on medieval love magic which would link up with my undergraduate dissertation. He said that there was quite a lot of material on magic causing impotence in medieval canon law and suggested it as a possible research topic. At first I thought he was just teasing me, but it then turned into quite an interesting topic. It is the sort of thing that you would only discover if you had a tutor who had already come across it. It turned out to be a really good topic because there were several sources out there that have never really been studied before. Although trawling through primary sources can be tedious, it is during that process that interesting things come to light. On one such occasion I discovered a manuscript which provided a classification of magic – magic that works on its own, magic that works by demons and magic that works by a combination of the two. Nobody else has found anything similar.

Although not everyone finishes their PhD and starts publishing books, I knew I wanted to do that even before I had finished my thesis. As soon as my viva was over, we approached Oxford University Press and I was lucky – they said yes! The thesis itself needed some revision in order to improve what was already there and I spent most of my first year at Christ's working on that. The reactions to the book have all been positive and everyone has been very supportive, although some did think it a slightly mad topic! However, it is not a dry historical, chronological book so it makes a fun read.\*

When I was applying for research fellowships I did not have a preference for a particular Cambridge college, because I did not know very much about them. It turned out very well because it has been lovely being a member of Christ's; I especially appreciate the collegiate environment which is so different from UCL. It generates a sense of community which is so important for people coming in not knowing anybody. I also enjoy the sense of tradition

which makes Cambridge what it is.

My current research is focusing on several areas that

I came across during my doctoral work. One of them is a 16th century medical text which talks about how to cure illnesses caused by magic. It is a wonderful text, almost like reading the Brothers Grimm. There are such fantastic recipes for poisoned apples etc.

It then helpfully also lists cures that can be applied by doctors. The study of this aspect of magic should allow for a line to be drawn between magic that is bad and the good magic practised by doctors, because it all looks very similar from our perspective.

It is hard to tell from the sources how important magic was in everyday life; there is just not enough information about it. Magic in relation to impotence was more something that people knew could happen (but not very often). On the other hand, using charms and incantations to cure illnesses was very common. Eventually, from the 13th century onwards, the Church started to become involved because it worried about such practices. This is also the time when the educated churchmen started writing manuals for priests. I want to study these in more detail to see what they say about magic.

People were doing all sorts of strange things and only once the church started listening to confessions a bit harder than it had been, did it suddenly realise that all manner of crazy practices were so common. There is a fantastic book by a French historian who writes about a Dominican prior in the 13th century who goes out into a village where people are venerating a dog as a saint. He is scandalised, pulls down the shrine and writes about how bad a practice it is. So the other part of my current research is going to be to look into confessional and preaching manuals, and magic which should allow us a better insight into what ordinary people were doing at the time.

The sources are not easy to find. Some have been printed either recently or in the 16th and 17th centuries. There is quite a lot of material in the British Library in London, and in Cambridge and Oxford. The material on the Continent, however, has been less well catalogued so it is more of a guess as to what may be available out there.

Overall, such research touches on many interesting questions about relationships between the laity and the clergy, and the popular ideas about religion. I would like to



**Dr Catherine Rider**  
Junior Research Fellow  
in History (since 2004).



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# Rugby Hooked on



**David Akinluyi**, Born 10 February 1984, Ilesha, Nigeria. Studied Engineering at Christ's College, 2002–06.





# Brothers

# Engineering

**Emmanuel (Didi) Akinluyi**, Born 17 October 1986, Benin, Nigeria. Studying Engineering at Christ's College, 2005.



When David Akinluyi came to Christ's in 2002, he was a long way from being physically fit with an ankle injury keeping him off the sports field for his entire freshman year. By the time his younger brother, Didi, came to Christ's in 2005, determination and a simple desire to be fit again had seen him become a strong, well-established member of the Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club squad. Early on, Didi was to prove himself to be equally gifted. In Didi's first term at Cambridge, David had been selected by the Blues' rugby coaches to represent the University and Didi would be playing in the U21s Varsity side. They would both be going to play at Twickenham. For David, this meant winning his first Blue.

Tuesday, 6 December 2005 at Twickenham remains a memorable day not only for the brothers but also for Cambridge who triumphed over Oxford, winning the 124th Varsity Rugby Match by 31-16. The Light Blues' last win was in 2002. Didi, having already played that day, recalls his brother's performance as left wing in the Varsity Match, "I was watching with the rest of the under twenty-ones right in the corner where David scored a try. That was a great moment."

It was hardly surprising that the two Engineering undergraduates would excel in sport. The Akinluyis come from a family of sportspeople. A national youth record for running held by their Nigerian father, a mother who played hockey at state level in Nigeria and an elder brother, Sam, who has played for Loughborough and Harlequins (and may end up becoming a student at Cambridge, too).

Under such circumstances, what could be considered surprising is that both applied to read

Engineering at Christ's with its traditionally academic reputation. What is clear, however, is that the brothers take their studies with the upmost seriousness. With typical determination David remarked, "I saw the prospectus and Christ's was at the top of the table. I think if you're going to go to university you should probably think about the academics before the sports." Later in the interview, he continued, "I remember reading in a prospectus when I was applying that Christ's people work hard and play hard."

Born in Nigeria, their family left West Africa when the boys were four and two and settled in Kent. Their enthusiasm for the game began at St Olave's Grammar School in Orpington, where both were Head Boys, though they would be the first to admit that "neither of us really liked rugby", favouring athletics instead. (David and Didi have been members of CUAC.) "Rugby was the main sport at school. The more you play, the more you get to enjoy it." "I played some reasonably high level rugby in my final year at school," noted David.

While at university, David's talent attracted the attention of the Premiership scouts. As he completes his Masters in Engineering this summer, he contemplates a future with Northampton Saints as a professional rugby union player next season. The offer came at the start of 2006 after David's successful participation in games like the ones against Samoa, a pre-season warm up match in preparation for a Samoa vs England game, and the Varsity Match. "I did a lot of thinking. It was very difficult," he commented, yet the pressure to accept was made easier knowing that he had the full backing of his family and that once his

contract at Franklins Gardens came to an end he had the option to resume another of his passions in life, namely engineering. A consultancy job with Mercer Oliver Wyman is being kept open for him in the City. His ties with Cambridge may also continue beyond 2006 as he considers embarking on a part-time Engineering post-graduate degree whilst with Northampton Saints.

On the other hand, Didi's talent cannot be underestimated. He was part of the rugby team that took Christ's to the Cuppers Final against St John's in March (see photo). A minor injury kept David from participating in the final.

Didi has another three years at Cambridge to consider his future. Whether he opts to pursue a career in rugby or achieves his ambition to set up a charitable organisation with his two brothers, only time will tell. One certainty, at the moment, is that at the end of his second year he intends to specialise in something other than Electrical and Electronic Engineering, David's specialism.

Central to everything that the Akinluyi family does, is their resolute Christian faith. David begins, "My beliefs are the first thing and then everything else subjugates under that. I wouldn't rank anything under that. I'd just say it's that..." "...the other things you do, are things you occupy your time with", finishes Didi. In their short lives, these young men who began life in Ilesha, "somewhere you'd probably struggle to find on the map", and Benin have managed to occupy their time in remarkable ways and Christ's can be justifiably proud of their contribution to college life.



# Boathouse Manager



**Kat Astley, Boathouse Manager for the Christ's College Boat Club, CUWBC 1996–98 M.A. Cantab.**

Kat joined Christ's this winter as the first ever woman boathouse manager/boatman on the River Cam. With her strong background in College and University rowing it seems that the College struck gold. For three years in a row Kat stroked Cambridge University Women's Boat Club crews to victory against Oxford (1996 Blondie, 1997 & 1998 Blue Boat), the last one marked by her Presidency. More recently, upon her return to Cambridge, she became involved in coaching the University Women's squad with particular focus on the Lightweight boat. The effort was rewarded this year when the Lightweight VIII was the only CUWBC crew to reap victory at the Henley Boat Races setting the new course record (6 mins flat), held by Oxford since 1999. The last CUW Lightweight win against Oxford dates back to 2001.

Although she was very well received in the boatmen circle on the river, there were a few raised eyebrows. "But they are exceptions", says Kat, "and everyone has been really supportive. I think it is just amusing and there is no consequence for what they have said except that it will make them look silly when my crews bump their crews...which they will!" She may not have been pointedly looking for this job, but "has been toying with it for a while".

"While I was still at University I was often asked to coach because of my experience with CUW, but I did not have any confidence in my ability to do so. I was embarrassed to try and more often than not refused. When I came back to Cambridge, a friend of mine was rowing for Emmanuel 1st Women's VIII. They were struggling with coaches, their performance was faltering, and she really pressed me to help. Eventually I agreed, it went very well and I really enjoyed it. They won the Fairbairns and went Head of the River in the following Lent Bumps. And that is how I got the bug for coaching. I learned the link between being enthusiastic about something yourself and bringing the message across. It is all about engendering a positive atmosphere in which people try to learn something. Eventually the more enthusiasm and effort you put in, the more you get back. I always wanted to do something where I felt that my personality and effort made a difference."

Christ's College Boat Club is doing reasonably well with strong financial support from the Friends\*, but there is always room for improvement. One of the things Kat would like to see happen soon is more integration between the men's and women's sections. "There seems to be a discrepancy in the sense of ownership of the club between men and women. The boatman could play a key role in bringing the two together, instilling club discipline, setting realistic goals and

providing the sense of stability and continuity. If you look at Caius or IMEC, in both of those college clubs the boatmen were instrumental in their long-running success. I see myself as a team manager of sorts, trying to get good performance out of the squad."

"The men's side of the club is fairly strong. We just have to make sure that we let everybody know how well they are doing, both on and off the water. In the past few years, the 1st Men's VIII have been stacked with exam Firsts (most notably 1st May VIII in 2000 – all eight plus cox (ed.)). That is an incredible achievement but I am not sure that it is widely known. The men need support to keep up with their efforts. We also need to continue developing the depth through lower boats. Karthik (CCBC Captain) has set a goal of going up two places in the May Bumps. I think that is quite achievable. They should do well!"

"It is a little bit different in the women's club. It needs more work to develop the depth and integrate them into the overall club, developing that sense of ownership. And we may have a spark of good things to come in the making. Although they got spoons in the Lent Bumps, over the course of those four days they made tremendous improvements. Now we have to build on that. There are enough women to make up a good boat for the May Bumps and there is no reason why they should not do as well as they did last year when they won blades. What is really important is to keep involved those from the 1st Lent boat who do not make it into the 1st May boat. They should make the core of a 2nd boat, around which we can start building some depth for the future."

Although Christ's does not have any returning Blues, predictions for the May Bumps are encouraging and, in any case, Kat thinks that crews do not always benefit from University rowers returning. "Quite often it takes a long time to adapt. You can end up with conflict in style, expectations etc. Uninterrupted continuity of crews such as the Men's 1st VIII can be very good."

Kat says she would like to carry on working with the CUWBC squad for the foreseeable future. "Provided that the College thinks I am juggling the two commitments well, I will stay involved with CUWBC. It should also bode well for the CCBC, because I will keep working with and learning from some of the best coaches in the country. There is so much subtlety about coaching and crew selections, things I was not aware of when I was rowing in the squad."

Kat's energy and enthusiasm are infectious and

# The Bedder

Many Christ's graduates appreciate that it was the College servants who were a major influence on their lives in College. Who can forget the Head Porter and the team in his lodge, the buttery man, the carver in Hall, the gyps and most of all the bedders. Without the support of the College servants, life would be most difficult.

Ruby Hunt is one of the longest serving and best known bedders in the history of the College. She worked on D staircase, Second Court, for more than forty years before transferring to the Fellows' Staircase where she remained for another decade.

Ruby is now 87 and has a host of memories of the young men and Fellows she worked for. Naturally she is of the old school and does not mince her words. Not for her the political correctness of the 21st Century. For example, during her years of service comprehensive education did not exist and so the undergraduates were either from public or grammar schools.

Ruby always preferred working for Public School rather than Grammar School boys because 'they knew how to treat servants'. Ruby has scant regard for today's political correctness – a servant is a servant and to this day she regards herself as a contented College servant.

Ruby's sister Vera worked as a bedder at Christ's and in 1953 Ruby joined the College staff in the same job. Vera worked on F staircase, Second Court, and so Ruby was allocated D staircase. An incident on the first day almost led to Ruby's abrupt departure from the College. Filled with enthusiasm she knocked on the door of the first room, a deep voice said 'Enter'. She went in and there lying on the bed was an undergraduate as naked as nature intended. He introduced himself without a care in the world but Ruby bolted from the room and ran to her sister in the next staircase. She told her if this was how undergraduates behaved then she would resign, as D staircase to her innocent eyes was a den of iniquity. Vera calmed her down and told her that although she would see many strange sights she must always act as if she had seen nothing. Vera said that in future they would work the two staircases together and this they did until her sister left a couple of years later. By that time Ruby had become a hardened veteran and nothing ever shocked her again.

Over the decades, life at Christ's has changed. Ruby remembers the days of the annual cricket match between the servants, male and female, and undergraduates. Every run scored by the servants was doubled and so it was a most exciting game. Ruby was a mean bowler and her

greatest feat was when she clean bowled a Cambridge Cricket Blue much to the annoyance of the great star. After the game he came up to her and asked her to autograph his bat. After the game the teams repaired to College and the players were served a feast followed by a humorous show put on by the undergraduates.

Ruby's philosophy towards her young men was to regard them in exactly the same way as she would treat her son. This perhaps made her the only bedder who never reported any of her charges. She never asked questions, never snooped in wastepaper baskets, and never entered a room if there was a note on the door asking her not to. This meant that she can put her hand on her heart and say that she was never aware that any female had ever spent the night on D staircase.

Ruby remembers those who got into trouble. She helped all who asked, considering this to be part of her duty of care to her charges; in other words she became a surrogate mother to her charges. Her gentlemen included many distinguished alumni.

She spent the last ten years at Christ's on the Fellows' staircase and she adapted swiftly to the requirements of the distinguished Fellows whose number also included the Chaplain. Many are the stories she could perhaps tell of the Fellows but they are best left unreported, she says. Dr Cannadine is one of her favourites and she was delighted that she and her husband, Gordon, were invited to his wedding; all the more because the bride was a Fellow living on the same staircase.

On 4 October 1986, Ruby and Gordon were invited by some of those who lived in her staircase to a dinner in the Mountbatten Room. It was a momentous evening.

Ruby remembers both Dr Pratt and Dr Plumb well. During most of Ruby's service Dr Lucan Pratt, who is about to become a centenarian, was the Senior and/or Admissions Tutor; by chance his daughter attends the same Cambridge Church as Ruby and afterwards they always exchange words about life in Christ's during the Pratt regime. She is a great admirer of Dr Pratt and recounts a story of when one of the ways of climbing into College after hours was through a window in his house. One evening a clumsy young man climbed in and made such a noise that Dr Pratt came down to investigate, determined to give the student the fright of his life. He knew that the undergraduate was hiding behind a sofa, so he sat down on it and read a book for an hour. Then Dr Pratt is reported to have spoken the unforgettable words "I don't know about you



**Ruby Hunt**, Born 1919,  
Bedder at Christ's College  
1953–95.

but I am tired and am about to go to bed. Please turn the light out when you leave."

Ruby has had a contented life and looks back at her time at Christ's with affection. She returned in December to attend her first College Carol Service after which the pensioners were served a traditional dinner in Upper Hall and given a Christmas pudding to take home.

Despite her hankering after the good old times, Ruby has to admit that the present day educational system has enabled three members of her own growing family to attend university and their graduation photographs take pride of place



# Access

By Helen Flanagan, Access and School Liaison Officer for Homerton, Jesus and Christ's Colleges.

It has been another busy year for the Christ's College Access Initiative, the project which began just three and a half years ago. Having taken over in September 2005, it was straight into planning the next programme of Oxbridge events and widening participation activities for schools in our target region of Lincolnshire.

This year we have organised and attended several major Oxbridge events in both the North and South

of the county and in Lincoln itself. The events attract excellent Year 12 students from schools throughout Lincolnshire providing them with direct contact with tutors and current undergraduates, demystifying the admissions process and providing encouragement for the A-level exams.

For younger students in Years 10 and 11, we have recently piloted a new Access Tour organised jointly with the JCR Access Officer, Stuart Pearson (1st year SPS). The end of the April vacation saw six undergraduates, representing Christ's and Jesus Colleges, arrive in the coastal Lincolnshire town of

Grimsby. Conducting twelve sessions over three days, we saw around 300 students from schools in the North East Lincolnshire region. Many of the students had little or no background of Higher Education and the sessions certainly helped to highlight the many options these students have available to them. Some of the sessions were also attended by sixth formers from the region keen to find out more about Oxbridge and the courses and opportunities available.

As well as these larger events, I have also responded to numerous requests for visits to schools and helped arrange opportunities for schools to visit Christ's College. One such visit took place at the end of March with 25 students from South Lincolnshire attending a day of tours, talks and even mini-lectures at the University.

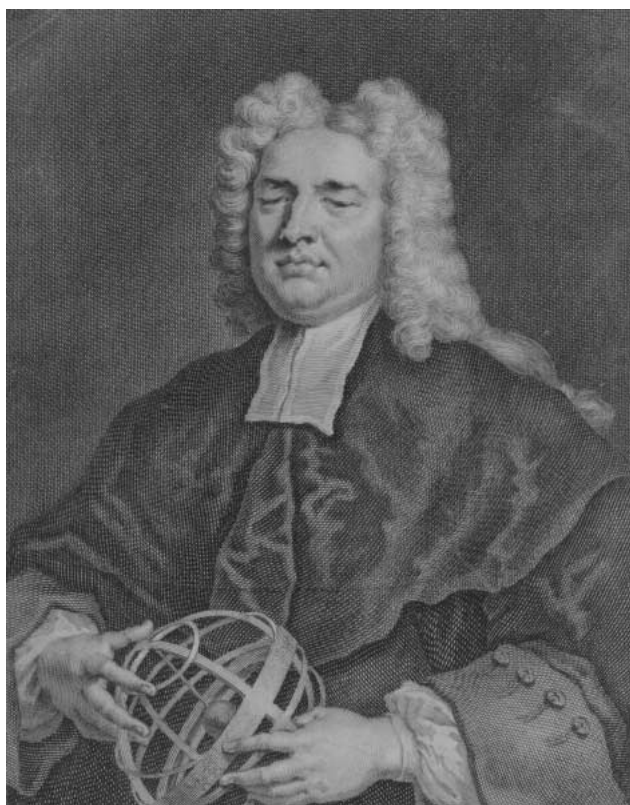
With so many events for students, teachers have not been left out. January saw several staff from the Lincolnshire region attend a two day inter-collegiate conference on the Cambridge Admissions process.



The staff invited from our target region praised the event as hugely informative, providing clear and practical advice on how they could best support their own students.

The Lincolnshire schools liaison project has reached over 1500 students and staff across the county so far this year and with several more visits and the busiest season of Open Days to come,

# Nicholas Saunderson



This July will see the showcase of a production titled No Horizon. It is a biographical musical about Nicholas Saunderson (1682-1739), the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, written by Andy Platt

(Vibe Theatre). Saunderson's is an amazing story of a mathematical genius who overcame his humble origins and blindness (as a consequence of smallpox) to become a university lecturer without any formal qualifications.

Christ's played a crucial part in his success as it was the college which recognised his talent and potential. A friend brought him to Christ's in 1707 to share his rooms and he remained in College for the next sixteen years. The Lucasian Professor William Whiston was impressed with his abilities and very soon Saunderson was lecturing to students. Following a petition of Cambridge Colleges to Queen Anne, Saunderson was awarded an MA in 1711 and almost immediately appointed Whiston's successor (some years later King George II conferred an

LLD on him). In 1719 Saunderson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Only towards the end of his days, and under pressure from friends and colleagues, did Saunderson start putting together his teachings for print. The two volume Elements of Algebra was published posthumously by his family in 1739.

More recently, Christ's has also played an important role in the making of the musical itself when Andy Platt (then a teacher in Saunderson's home town of Penistone) decided to take his pupils on a residential visit to Cambridge. The Master welcomed the 35 pupils to the Lodge. From here, Platt took his idea to two friends, the businessman Max Ried and a former lawyer, Dominic Hirst, and with their support the musical was born.

Following the premiere in July, the production team's goal is to take the show to the West End and ultimately to film. If you would like to learn more about the production or would like to get involved visit [www.vibetheatre.com](http://www.vibetheatre.com)



# Events and reunions

## Saturday 1 July 2006

### Christ's College Association Dinner (open to all alumni)

To request an application form please contact the Steward's Office on 01223 334962.

## Saturday 15 July 2006, 1.30-5.00pm

### Family Day (open to all alumni)

An afternoon of entertainment for children and adults, including face-painting and bouncy castle, followed by high tea. Reserve your place with the Alumni Office; early booking is advised.

## July 2006

### Choir Tour of Australia and New Zealand

For more information please contact Margaret Hartley (meh43@cam.ac.uk) and Helen Walter (hmw41@cam.ac.uk).

## Saturday 16 September 2006

### Reunion Dinner

For members who matriculated in 1956, 1957, 1961 and 1962.

## Saturday 16 September 2006

### Drinks in Toronto

Lunch-time reception in Toronto with Dr David Jones, Fellow and alumnus. Details will be circulated to Canadian alumni shortly.

## Friday 22 - Sunday 24 September 2006

### University Alumni Weekend (open to all alumni)

Further details available from the University Alumni Office.

Members of Christ's College attending the weekend are invited to a buffet lunch in the Master's Lodge at 12.45 on Saturday 23 September.

## Saturday 23 September 2006

### Friends of the Old Library Event

A talk in the Master's Lodge. Details will be circulated to all Friends. If you are not a Friend and would like information on how to join please contact [REDACTED] in the Alumni Office.

## Saturday 23 September 2006

### Reunion Dinner

For members who matriculated in 1971, 1972, 1976 and 1977.

## Wednesday 24 January 2007

### CP Snow Lecture

To be given by Professor Linda Colley FBA. Further details will be available nearer the time.

